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Organization of the
United Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session - Quarantième session - 40.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 3-8 July 2017
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
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ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session Quarantième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-8 July 2017 Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017 Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
3 July 2017

The First Meeting was opened at 16.03 hours
Mr Hamoud Al Hasni,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 16 h 03
sous la présidence de M. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera reunión a las 16.03
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to call to order the first meeting of this Commission. I am delighted to have been elected to chair Commission I. I place great stock by the trust vested in me for chairing this Commission which contributes to the substantial technical work performed in this Organization.

I would also like to bid a warm welcome to the two Vice-Chairpersons elected by the Conference as reflected in the First Report of the General Committee, Mr Royhan Nevy Wahab, Indonesia and Mr Francois Pythoud, Switzerland.

So we shall do our utmost to ensure that this Commission works as smoothly as possible. After consultation with the various Regional Groups, we have nominated the following Members of the Drafting Committee:

Mr Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos from Greece and the Members from the following countries are also Members of the Drafting Committee: Australia, Canada, Ecuador, Thailand, Sudan, Sweden, China, Canada, Congo, Kuwait, Kenya, Mexico, and New Zealand.

May I take it that our Commission agrees to the proposed membership to the Drafting Committee?

It is so decided.

Subsequently, we will announce the time table of work for the Drafting Committee. I would also like to remind delegates on the outset that budgetary matters arising from the reports we will discuss in this Commission had already been considered by Council, so our discussions and report only have to focus on substantive policy and regulatory matters, so that we may keep to our schedule.

For this purpose, you are requested to be brief and focus on the salient points. You are also invited to speak to resource speed for the benefit of interpretation. I would also like to remind you that to ensure more accurate interpretation and timely production of verbatim records and with a view to posting statements on the Conference website, delegations are requested to submit the electronic version of their statements to the following email address: conference-statements@fao.org , or please alternatively give hard copies to the messengers.

Following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I shall draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report.

Finally, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important for all of our meetings to start on time and for you to be present in the room at the times indicated.

Item 10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from Regional Conferences**Point 10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports des Conférence régionales****Tema 10. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los informes de las Conferencia Regionales****CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)**

So we shall now start with Item 10 on our Agenda, *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from Regional Conferences*.

Before moving to the specific Regional Conferences, I would like to give the floor to Mr Laurent Thomas, Deputy Director-General for Operations, to make an introductory statement on these Regional Conferences.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Deputy Director-General Operations)

I have five points to share with the Members of Commission I as an introduction. The first point is that the five FAO Regional Conferences were held in 2016. They were extremely successful from our perspective and in particular, a high level of participation, including from private sector and civil society which provided input and contributions and very much enriched the discussions.

The second point is that with the Regional Conference becoming part of the FAO Governance structure, their importance has considerably increased. Regional Conferences are now key components of the decision-making process of the Organization.

The third point is that I am pleased to report that FAO is now moving full speed toward the preparation of the Regional Conferences in 2018 in all regions, the Deputy Regional Representatives have been appointed as Secretaries of the Conferences. We are working closely together with the support of a brand new manual that clearly defines roles and responsibilities for smooth preparation of the forthcoming cycle of Regional Conferences.

Fourth, as with standard procedures, the Regional Conferences report to both the Council and the Conference, in June 2016 the Chairpersons of the Regional Conferences reported on the programme and budget matters to the Council which endorsed the conclusions of each of the five Regional Conferences.

Today, the Chairpersons will report to the Conference on Policy and Regulatory Matters. I would like now to give the floor back to the Chair to proceed with the report.

Item 10.1 Report of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa (4-8 April 2016)

Point 10.1 Rapport de la vingt-neuvième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (4-8 avril 2016)

Tema 10.1 Informe del 29.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para África (4-8 de abril de 2016)

(C 2017/14)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We shall now move on to Item 10.1, *Report of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa* held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. You are invited to take up document C2017/14. I give the floor to M. Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Côte d'Ivoire so that he may introduce this Agenda Item.

M. Mamadou Sangafowa COULIBALY (Président de la 29^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

Cette 40^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO me donne l'occasion de vous transmettre les chaleureuses salutations du Président de la République de Côte d'Ivoire, Son Excellence Monsieur Alassane Ouattara, pour la confiance que, de façon générale le système des Nations Unies, et particulièrement la FAO, a toujours placée en notre pays. En effet, grâce au soutien de vos capitales respectives, notre pays a été élu le 2 juin 2017 comme Membre non-permanent du Conseil de sécurité pour la période 2018-2019.

Cette confiance a permis à mon pays d'abriter la 29^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, qui s'est tenue à Abidjan du 4 au 8 avril 2016. Grâce à votre sollicitude à tous et de l'avis général, cette conférence régionale a été un franc succès. En effet, elle a enregistré une participation record de 49 pays sur 54 États Membres avec 46 ministres et 426 délégués. Plusieurs institutions et organisations partenaires, dont les organisations de la société civile, représentées au plus haut niveau, ont pris part à la Conférence régionale d'Abidjan.

Pendant ces assises, le thème «Partenariat public pour une croissance agricole inclusive» a été au centre de nos discussions. À ce sujet, la Conférence régionale a recommandé aux États Membres, premièrement, de noter l'importance des économies d'échelle, des transferts de technologie, et des autres retombées positives qui découlent en général des partenariats public-privé; deuxièmement, de noter que, malgré leur potentiel avantage, les partenariats public-privé ne sont pas une panacée et que les pays devraient conclure des partenariats adaptés à leur propre réalité; troisièmement, de créer un environnement porteur afin d'attirer des investissements privés permettant d'améliorer la sécurité alimentaire, les moyens d'existence, l'emploi des jeunes et la croissance économique au sens large; quatrièmement, de noter l'importance des producteurs dans le processus de partenariats public-privé; cinquièmement, de reconnaître l'importance d'une croissance inclusive et de l'intégration de petits exploitants à tous les niveaux des partenariats; sixièmement, que toutes les parties prenantes soient

appelées à partager équitablement aussi bien les avantages que les risques associés aux partenariats public-privé selon une stratégie de gouvernance transparente; septièmement, de noter combien il est important de disposer de cadres institutionnels, juridiques et réglementaires efficaces et de systèmes de suivi et d'évaluation adaptés; huitièmement, de remarquer que les incertitudes et les risques étaient nombreux dans le secteur agricole et de bien noter la pertinence des stratégies de gestion des risques tenant compte de la situation particulière des petits exploitants; neuvièmement, de faire observer que les partenariats public-privé devraient permettre de développer les activités apportant une valeur ajoutée, d'améliorer la qualité des produits et des marchés, de garantir des prix justes et d'assurer un revenu décent aux acteurs les plus faibles; enfin, dixièmement, de noter que les institutions agricoles devraient fournir des résultats de recherche et de stratégie qui répondent aux problèmes du secteur privé et encouragent les partenariats public-privé.

La Conférence régionale s'est également prononcée sur les tendances et enjeux dans l'alimentation et l'agriculture pour une action régionale et nationale dans le cadre des objectifs de développement durable (ODD).

À ce sujet, elle a recommandé aux États Membres, premièrement, de prêter attention aux questions cruciales que constituent le chômage des jeunes, l'urbanisation et la migration et aux avantages que l'Afrique peut tirer de la proportion importante et croissante de jeunes dans sa population; deuxièmement, de faire part des mesures prises par certains pays pour encourager les jeunes à s'intéresser au secteur agro-alimentaire et à contribuer au développement rural après l'examen de cette question par la Conférence régionale lors de la 28^{ème} session; troisièmement, de recenser les facteurs qui entravent une participation effective des jeunes au secteur agricole en Afrique, à savoir notamment les difficultés d'accès aux facteurs de production, en particulier la terre et le financement, l'insuffisance des infrastructures nécessaires au développement agricole et rural, la faible rentabilité des activités agricoles et des conditions de travail difficiles; quatrièmement, de reconnaître que les avantages associés à la jeunesse de la population africaine n'étaient pas automatiques et qu'un environnement favorable propre à chaque pays devrait être mis en place pour en tirer parti; cinquièmement, de noter qu'une nette évolution en matière de protection sociale était essentielle pour une transformation économique globale; sixièmement, de noter qu'il est important de créer des synergies plus efficaces entre les politiques et les stratégies visant l'agriculture et celles qui intéressent d'autres secteurs, et cela afin de renforcer les effets positifs à l'échelle du secteur et d'améliorer la croissance économique globale; septièmement, d'insister sur la nécessité d'une croissance inclusive, fondée sur la parité hommes-femmes et l'autonomisation des femmes, et d'un développement fort et équitable des filières; huitièmement, de noter qu'il fallait mettre au point de solides systèmes de suivi et d'évaluation qui permettent d'avoir un retour d'information sur les résultats obtenus et sur l'impact des mesures prises; neuvièmement, de prendre note des défis constants à relever dans le contexte du changement climatique et de la protection de l'environnement, et d'insister sur la nécessité de mettre en place des stratégies appropriées de gestion des risques, notamment en matière de lutte contre les sécheresses, la pénurie d'eau et les feux incontrôlés, et de donner les indications et des avis sur les synergies concernant les défis à relever et les activités à mener dans le cadre de la stratégie de mise en œuvre de la Déclaration de Maputo, des objectifs de développement durable et des objectifs stratégiques de la FAO.

La Conférence régionale a également recommandé à la FAO de continuer à mettre à la disposition des États Membres ses connaissances et ses compétences spécialisées. Concernant les délibérations du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), la Conférence régionale a encouragé la mise en œuvre des résultats du CSA relatifs aux politiques régionales et nationales visant à assurer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle pour tous.

Les problématiques abordées au cours de la Conférence régionale d'Abidjan restent d'actualité sur le continent. Il s'agit, entre autres, de la réduction de la faim, de la malnutrition, de la réduction de la pauvreté par la création d'emplois attractifs pour les jeunes, et de la place des femmes dans les économies agricoles. Il s'agit aussi, et surtout, de l'impact négatif du changement climatique sur le secteur agricole.

Concernant le changement climatique, il me faut rappeler que le continent africain n'émet que 4 pour cent des gaz à effet de serre et pourtant, sur les 50 États de la planète les plus touchés par les effets du changement climatique, 36 se recensent sur le continent africain. Cette réalité et ses conséquences plus larges sur l'économie agricole de notre continent nous amènent à soutenir des initiatives majeures en cours sur le continent et dans le monde. Nous encourageons toutes ces initiatives, et en particulier l'initiative liée à l'Adaptation de l'agriculture africaine (AAA). Cette dernière initiative propose, en effet, de mettre l'agriculture au centre des négociations sur le climat. Elle appuie par ailleurs le principe de rééquilibrage entre le financement pour l'atténuation et celui de l'adaptation aux effets du changement climatique.

Permettez-moi de saluer la tenue du prochain sommet Union européenne - Union africaine qui se tiendra dans mon pays, la Côte d'Ivoire, au mois de novembre prochain. En tant que Président en exercice de la Conférence régionale, cela constitue pour nous une opportunité de continuer le plaidoyer sur l'agriculture africaine.

Je voudrais par ailleurs saisir l'opportunité de cette tribune pour remercier les Ministres de l'agriculture de l'Union européenne et de l'Union africaine pour l'organisation de la réunion des ministres de l'agriculture d'hier en préparation du sommet d'Abidjan. Cette réunion nous a permis de proposer des solutions concrètes pour le sommet d'Abidjan et de faire en sorte que le secteur agricole soit au centre des débats du sommet d'Abidjan.

Pour clore mon propos, je voudrais vous rappeler que, conformément aux délibérations issues de la Conférence d'Abidjan, la 30^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique sera accueillie par la République sœur du Soudan, du 19 au 23 février 2016.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Egbal ABDELMAGID ABDELRAHMAN ELSHEIKH (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to convey our thanks and deepest gratitude for the trust which African countries have placed in our country for hosting the next session of the Regional Conference in February 2018 in the Republic of Sudan.

This trust is very dear to our hearts, the trust vested by the African countries. In this regard, we would like to announce that Sudan has already started preparing for this Regional Conference, a Conference which is of crucial importance for us because it will be an opportunity to promote African ideas for agriculture and to go through all of the key issues we face.

Ms Terri SARCH (United Kingdom)

The United Kingdom welcomes the Report on the Regional Conference for Africa. We note that the Regional Conference has recommended that FAO continues to improve the results and impacts of its programmes.

We support that recommendation. We agree that FAO's Country Programme Frameworks should be focused on driving forward the Organization's Strategic Objectives and we would like to see these aligned with the work of other UN agencies, with particular attention to the work of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs).

Consultation between RBAs on each agency's strategy development could start with a pilot in a number of countries. This could identify opportunities and build on existing areas of strategic collaboration, for example, a Joint Agency Resilience Framework.

We welcome the efforts made by FAO in continuing the improvement of its Decentralized Offices. This network is essential to increasing impact at country level.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to underline our concern about the fall armyworm which is spreading through the Africa Region. The UK will co-host a side event on the fall armyworm with

Ghana, South Africa, and Zimbabwe tomorrow evening. The objective is to raise awareness about this threat and how FAO is supporting African governments to respond to the threat.

We believe that FAO should take a lead role in monitoring this increasingly global threat and coordinating effective action for controlling and preventing this pest. I would like to take this opportunity to extend an invitation to everyone here to attend the side event tomorrow evening at 19:00 hours when the sessions of the Conference close.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Minister for his excellent speech which underlines the high quality of the Report of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa which contains many practical recommendations.

China also believes that public-private partnership is important. How to promote the interaction and cooperation between governments and private sector is also important for agricultural development. China stands ready to actively support Africa's efforts to develop modern agriculture within the framework of South-South cooperation and promote the agricultural production capacity in Africa.

We also would like to invite you to a side event on South-South cooperation in which FAO Representatives will also be present.

M. Mamadou Sangafowa COULIBALY (Président de la 29^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique)

Permettez-moi de commencer par le Soudan. Je note avec satisfaction que les concertations qui ont commencé avec nos ambassadeurs ici, à Rome, ont permis en avril 2016 d'arriver à une conclusion pour tenir la 30^{ème} session de la prochaine Conférence régionale au Soudan. Ainsi, le Soudan se prépare à accueillir cet événement et je voudrais faire savoir que nous restons disponibles pour appuyer le Soudan et pour partager notre expérience, acquise lors de l'organisation de la 29^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale.

Pour ce qui est de l'intervention du Royaume-Uni, je voudrais saluer la pertinence de cette proposition. En effet, la chenille légionnaire fait des ravages dans une partie de l'Afrique. Nous sommes très sensibles à ce sujet et j'invite tous les délégués du continent qui sont présents dans cette salle à bien vouloir participer à cet événement parallèle, qui aura lieu comme vous avez dit demain à 19 heures.

Je me réjouis également de l'intervention de la Chine, qui est un partenaire privilégié de l'Afrique, et de ce que la Chine est toujours disposée à appuyer le continent, notamment dans le renforcement de ses capacités de production, et surtout dans la structuration de la modernisation de son agriculture. Vous avez aussi un événement parallèle qui a trait à la coopération Sud-Sud. Il ne reste qu'à indiquer la date et l'heure pour que nous puissions inviter les délégués ici présents à participer à cet événement.

Monsieur le Président, comme je n'aurai peut-être plus d'autre opportunité de prendre la parole, veuillez m'autoriser à dire un mot de conclusion. Je voulais en particulier adresser nos félicitations à M. Tijani, Sous-Directeur général pour la région Afrique, basé à Accra, avec qui nous avons eu d'excellents rapports de travail, d'abord pour organiser la 29^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale, ensuite pour le suivi des conclusions de cette Conférence régionale. Nous avons bénéficié de son appui inestimable et je profite donc de cette occasion pour lui adresser nos chaleureuses félicitations.

Vous-même, Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous remercier pour la façon dont les débats ont débuté et dont vous avez tracé le cadre pour qu'ils soient circonscrits.

Mr Bukar TIJANI (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Africa)

Let me also thank His Excellency, Minister Coulibaly from the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire for chairing the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Africa. I wanted to take a minute to add a little bit more to the comments made by the United Kingdom on the fall armyworm in Africa.

FAO has taken a full responsibility to coordinate at a leading role. I want to place four things so the Conference will know what we are doing.

We have rapidly moved to develop a Programme Framework, which will be presented tomorrow evening, and afterwards we will also have a meeting of experts. This will be a global meeting of experts from the Americas and Africa, to discuss the Programme Framework so that we can move ahead with making concrete programmes for the sub-regions and countries in Africa.

We will also present this to partners. We have been in contact with partners to get their comments so that we can move forward.

Then we have been in touch with the Africa Union. They have agreed that we should assist the Africa Union and Member Countries on this and immediately after that, we want to follow with making concrete contact with partners to see – especially financial partners as well as teams, national teams and task forces to move forward with one, proper control and second with management.

It has been indicated from the Americas that the fall armyworm is a worm that cannot be eradicated but it can be managed.

Following this, we are currently working on technical instanced messages which would like to share across. I am sure after the side event, it will come out.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Regarding the conclusions, I will submit my conclusions in English if you will allow me.

Continues in English

The Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. Also it expressed its gratitude to Côte d'Ivoire, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

Continues in Arabic

With this, we conclude the discussions of item 10.1 of our agenda.

Item 10.3 Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe (4-6 May 2016)

Point 10.3 Rapport de la trentième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (4-6 mai 2016)

Tema 10.3 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Europa (4-6 de mayo de 2016)

(C2017/16)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

And now we move to Item 10.3 *Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe*, that was held in Antalya, Turkey, from 4 to 6 May 2016. I would like you to make sure you have in front of you document C 2017/16. I would like to call upon Mr Faruk Celik, Minister of Agriculture in Turkey, to present this item.

Mr Faruk ÇELİK (Chairperson, 30th Regional Conference for Europe) (Original language Turkish)

Mr Chairperson, distinguished Members, ladies and gentlemen, first of all I would like to extend you greetings and wishes for success from the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mr Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. On behalf of European and Central Asia countries, it is my pleasure to present the outcomes of the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe held in Antalya, Turkey from 4 to 6 May 2016.

The Regional Conference for Europe was attended by forty-three Members from the Region along with fifteen observer organizations, with seventeen Members being represented at Minister and Deputy Minister Level.

The Regional Conference Report is available as Conference document C2017/16 which outlines the summary of the main recommendations that require the Conference's attention related to the global and regional policy and regulatory matters as well as other matters.

I will therefore limit myself to a short introduction and presentation of some of the highlights of the debates at the Regional Conference for Europe.

At the Ministerial Roundtable, the Delegates debated about the Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia Regions.

The participants noted the importance of collaboration among Members in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the role of the Regional Conference in this context and underlined that agriculture, fisheries and forestry play a crucial role in contributing to the achievements of the SDGs as well as the climate change adaptation and mitigation and responsibility of all actors along the food chain, including farmers, retailers and policy makers.

Sustainable land use, protection of biodiversity and educational training were highlighted as important areas for achieving SDGs as well as the importance of tackling food losses and waste as a contribution to sustainable development.

The important role of FAO's normative work, including contribution to a common understanding of sustainable agriculture, was also highlighted by the Members.

The Regional Conference further stressed the important role of the Region in implementing the SDGs through research and integration, exchange of knowledge and experience and capacity development in the food and agriculture sector and emphasized that trade is an important means to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, the Regional Conference for Europe urged the mobilization of the private sector and civil society in supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

Regarding the Agenda Item on pulses for improving balanced nutrition and healthy food systems in Europe and Central Asia, the participants discussed as part of the International Year of Pulses 2016. The Regional Conference underscored the multiple benefits of pulses and their contributions to sustainable agriculture, nutrition and human health and underlined the environmental benefits of growing pulses and their role in maintaining healthy soils as well as their contribution in lowering the carbon footprint.

It also encouraged the Members to apply policies that fit best in developing pulses' value chains and together with FAO, to continue raising public awareness on the importance of pulses for food security and nutrition.

The outcomes of the Committee on World Food Security, an update on its major workstreams, was also discussed by the Delegates who welcomed the progress achieved, in particular the endorsement of the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems and the framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises.

The Regional Conference acknowledged the main recommendations of the Report of the 39th Session of the European Commission on Agriculture, namely on innovation in family farming, combatting land degradation for food security, gender sensitive analysis of social protection programs and addressing the social and economic burden of malnutrition.

With regard to the other matters, the Regional Conference accepted that also the reports from the two Regional Commissions, namely the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission and the European Forestry Commission (EFC) become an integral part of the ERC in line with the recommendation of the Assessment of FAO Governance Reforms.

The Regional Conference for Europe recognized the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission as a good platform for research on topics such as fish migration in European inland waters, predator invasion and invasive species as presented in its report from the 28th Session held from 17 to 19 June 2015.

And furthermore, the work underscored the need to better link the work of the Commission to important global issues such as food security and better align its mission and work plan with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In line with the outcome of the debate of the Joint Session of the 38th EFC and the 73rd Session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Regional Conference highlighted the importance of forests and sustainable forest management in contributing to many of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the importance of boreal forests and their role in regulating global climate and urged FAO to explore further possibilities for enhancing its work on boreal forests.

Finally, the Regional Conference expressed strong support for the initiative of the delegation of Slovenia to declare 28 May as World Bee Day, stressing the importance of bees for agriculture and food security.

I would also like to inform that the Session of the Regional Conference was preceded by a consultation meeting of the civil society organizations and Committee on World Food Security (CFS) multistakeholder dialog.

The representatives of civil society organizations attended the Regional Conference and their contributions were fully integrated in the discussions.

With respect to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Russian Federation has offered to host the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Europe which will be held from 14 to 18 May 2018.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The delegation of the Russian Federation thanks the Minister for presenting the main conclusions and recommendations of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe which we fully support. We also express gratitude to Turkey for organizing this event in Antalya and thank them for the hospitality.

We also commend the roundtable regarding sustainable development in the agricultural sector in Europe and Central Asia. We agree with the importance of FAO's work on issues such as combatting rural poverty, assistance to smallholder farmers and intensification of production, encouraging rational use of natural resources, establishing strong agricultural systems and ensuring there is nutrition for all of the population and the development of agricultural production.

We also think that there has been relevant analysis of key areas of development of agricultural regions submitted by the Secretariat to this Conference.

We support the proposal to hold or carry out two regional initiatives for this geographical area in supporting smallholder farms and agricultural trade.

We endorse the adoption of a third initiative on sustainable management of natural resources in the context of climate change. In the preparation of this, we would call on the Secretariat to pay due attention to the question of rational use of soils and boreal forests.

We call for continuing close cooperation between the European Regional Group and FAO and the Regional Office in Budapest with respect to the useful practice of informal meetings of Member Countries prior to the Session of the Regional Conference.

We also agree that there is a need to strengthen links between the Regional Conference and the sectoral work of FAO and Europe. We are satisfied with the last Regional Conference. We again stress the importance of stepping up the use of the Russian language in the Organization, particularly the growth in number of Russian publications.

This is in line with the recommendation of the 38th Session of Conference in 2013 as well as dictated by the need to disseminate the Russian language publications in a whole host of countries so – to receive FAO's assistance. We call upon the Conference to endorse this recommendation in the final report of our session.

The Russian language is committed to strengthening regional cooperation, including integration through the Eurasian Economic Union. We call for broad exchange of experience on implementing activities in our countries and the best format for this is interaction within countries of the Region and also exchange for advanced experience amongst sub-regions in the light of country realities.

We feel that FAO has the necessary potential and arsenal to foster that process. In conclusion, we would like to report that we are delighted that the Russian Federation will be hosting the next 31st Session of the Conference for Europe in May 2018.

Mr Boitshoko NTSHABELE (South Africa)

This statement is being delivered on behalf of the African Regional Group. The African Regional Group welcomes the outcomes of the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe held in Antalya, Turkey and looks forward to their implementation.

The group supports the issues raised by the Director-General in his opening statement in Antalya that food and agriculture are fundamental means to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and that FAO's mandate and its five Strategic Objectives were closely linked to the SDGs.

We also agree that if we are to successfully implement and achieve the 2030 Agenda, we need to find new innovative ways to pull together relevant policies to maintain targeted programmes and most importantly, the much needed investments by involving different ministries and public institutions as well as private sector, including civil society.

Furthermore, the group takes note of the long list of items that are emanating from the Regional Conference that are being submitted to Conference for its attention.

We look forward to receive feedback on their implementation at the next Conference in 2019.

Many of the issues emanating from the Regional Conference for Europe that are being submitted to Conference for its attention are relevant to other regions as well. We think, for example, of issues such as the recently completed CFS evaluation, the issue of Decentralized Offices, and regional priorities. As these issues affect all of us and are essential if we are to end poverty and hunger by 2030, we appeal to all regions to focus on their implementation.

The Africa Group is most appreciative of the important role that FAO plays to improve food security in the nation. We therefore urge FAO to continue with its efforts to foster cooperation between countries to ensure sustainable farming and food systems to the benefit of all.

Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan wishes to make two brief observations on the Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe. Before that, Afghanistan wishes to thank the Government of Turkey for hosting the Regional Conference for Europe in Antalya.

First observation, we commend the Ministerial Roundtable on Sustainable Development Goals and their implication for agricultural development and rural transformation in Europe and Central Asia.

The other five Regional Conference had no such roundtables on the SDGs. However, the agricultural trends and challenges of the five regions were discussed with full cognizance of the SDGs.

Second observation, paragraph 23 and 24 of the Report discuss priorities for FAO's work in Europe and Central Asia. Considering that the region consists of fifty-three countries with diverse levels of development, natural resource endowment, institutional capability, market infrastructure, financial strength and cultural heritage, it would have been advisable to go deeper into priorities by sub-regions such as those for the countries of Central Asia and also for the countries located in the Caucasus.

Unfortunately, this does not come out in the report. In this connection, Afghanistan has praise for the reports of the Regional Conferences in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean in which priorities were distinctly listed by sub regions.

With these two observations, Afghanistan endorses the Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe.

Mme Hélène GONNET (Suisse)

La Suisse souhaite s'exprimer sur deux points que la Conférence régionale pour l'Europe porte à l'attention de la Conférence.

Concernant la table ronde ministérielle et les objectifs de développement durable, ainsi que leur incidence sur l'agriculture et le développement rural dans la région Europe et Asie Centrale, nous souhaitons particulièrement appuyer le point e) du paragraphe 16 et la mention sur la protection de la biodiversité, le point g) et la prise en compte des femmes et des jeunes qui assureront la production alimentaire de demain, le point j) et le rôle normatif essentiel de la FAO pour avoir une compréhension et une approche commune de ce que doivent être l'alimentation et l'agriculture durable.

Concernant le point k) du paragraphe 16, nous relevons la demande de mobiliser le secteur privé et la société civile. La Suisse appuie cette demande en précisant que la FAO doit notamment continuer à promouvoir les approches novatrices telles que les partenariats multipartites.

En ce qui concerne le rapport de la 39^{ème} session de la Commission européenne d'agriculture, nous souhaitons souligner l'importance de la recommandation visant à ouvrir l'agriculture familiale à l'innovation. Cette innovation doit prendre place tant dans les laboratoires que sur le terrain et dans les champs. Cela implique la mobilisation des agriculteurs et des communautés locales pour développer des solutions innovantes, pragmatiques et adaptées aux différents environnements.

La FAO doit concentrer ses efforts sur le renforcement de cette innovation locale dans les domaines où elle a un avantage comparatif en ne craignant pas de penser différemment et de sortir des sentiers battus.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States welcome the Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe which was kindly hosted by the Government of Turkey in Antalya from 4 to 6 May 2016.

We support the conclusions taken at the Regional Conference, especially those in relation to the Ministerial Roundtable discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals and their implications for agriculture and rural development in Europe and Central Asia.

We welcome the focus on sustainable agriculture, including mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, self-preservation, improvement of water use management and sustainable land practices.

Fisheries and forestry should also remain high on the Agenda, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda process. In addition, we consider it very important that FAO ensures mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment in all activities in the region and we look forward to specific proposals.

We support the priorities of major areas of work in the region, including control of animal diseases, plant pests and food safety hazards. In particular, we underline the importance of applying and implementing the CFS Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of national food security.

The CFS RAI Principles as well as the voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

In this respect, we encourage FAO to give due consideration to CFS products in all of its present and future partnership agreements with civil society and the private sector.

In general, we agree with the current regional initiatives related to the empowering of smallholders and family farmers, including among indigenous peoples and local communities as well as to agro-food trade and market integration.

We would none the less like to underline that FAO's work on trade related issues in the region requires a cautious, neutral and balanced approach. We recall our reservations about the trends in

agricultural trade policy for our region that we described in the paper on the European Research Council Agenda, in particular with regards to trade integration potential of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Many countries in the region are either Members of the EU or are in the process of ascension to the EU or have agreements with the EU. This should not be underestimated.

At the same time, we want to underline the urgent importance of keeping a critical mass of expertise within FAO Headquarters to retain and improve FAO's comparative advantage as a knowledge Organization.

This must be a guiding principle for the planning of staff allocations. Moreover, it is crucial to make sure that the work of the Regional Offices is consistent with the normative work done at the Headquarters, so as to ensure the recommendations agreed upon in Rome are implemented on the ground.

Another guiding principle is that the overall cost of the Decentralized Network Budget should not increase.

Mr Faruk ÇELİK (Chairperson, 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe) (Original language Turkish)

I would like to thank all the delegates, especially the representatives of the Russian Federation, South Africa, Afghanistan, Switzerland and Estonia who have taken the floor and provided their contributions to my statement as the Chairperson of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe.

The main theme of the Regional Conference last year was the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. I would like to indicate that a strong support was provided to a strong process.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the SDGs are very important. It is a must that under the FAO and under the relevant international organizations all the relevant parties have to fulfill their role. It is no longer useful for us to count the number of those that are hungry. We can all see this. We do not need to count the number of people who are hungry but we need to focus more on targets that aim to feed the hungry and we need to be quicker with that.

I would like to extend my regards to the participants once again.

Mr Vladimir RAKHMANIN (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia)

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Government of Turkey, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, to Ministries working on the Regional Conference and personally to Minister Celik and his team who contributed a lot to the very thoughtful discussion at the Regional Conference in Antalya in 2016.

The number of comments at this discussion reflects the importance of what has been discussed in Antalya. I am looking forward to preparations with the Russian Federation to the next Regional Conference and this discussion that we have today also will contribute to our deliberations within the next seven or eight months in preparation to the Conference.

I want to express my great gratitude to all the comments that you provided, very thoughtful ones from the countries, not necessarily from our region but it seems that what we are doing in the region reflects our global Agenda and the issues that are very important for all of us.

We have the largest number of countries covered in the region. We have very diverse countries but I am proud to say that we keep everybody together. We have very good discussions. We would definitely reflect on all the comments that have been told here and I can tell you and assure once again that whatever we are doing we are doing in a very transparent, very accountable way in a strong partnership with our constituents.

On specific issues I will have an opportunity to discuss this on 6 July 2017 with the European Regional Group and I will be happy to provide my responses if necessary. So just to say that I am grateful for your support. We are looking forward to our future work together and stronger partnerships.

CHAIRPERSON

My summary conclusion regarding this item is as follows. The Conference endorsed the *Report of the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe* and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Turkey, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

Item 10.2 Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (7-11 March 2016)

Point 10.2 Rapport de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (7-11 mars 2016)

Tema 10.2 Informe del 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (7-11 de marzo de 2016)

(C2017/15)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I would ask you to move on to item 10.2, *Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*. This meeting was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 7 to 11 March 2016. I will ask you to take document C 2017/15.

I will call now upon Mr Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, Minister for Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry.

Mr Tajuddin ABDUL RAHMAN (Representative for Chairperson, 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

On behalf of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, it is an honor and pleasure for me to be here today and have the opportunity to address the Conference regarding the outcome of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific which was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, 7-11 March 2016.

The Regional Conference was attended by 193 delegates, including 13 Ministers and 10 Vice-Ministers representing 44 Member Country delegations plus 71 delegates as observers. The final Report includes a summary of the means recommendation for the attention of the FAO Council and for the attention of the Conference.

In reference to the Agenda Item on the State of Food and Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific Region including future prospects and emerging issues in the framework of SDGs, the Regional Conference:

Appreciated the progress made in the region in reducing the proportion of those suffering from hunger but expressed concern that nearly half a billion people remained undernourished, 90 million children remain stunted and obesity is a growing problem in varied sub-regions.

Emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable agriculture to strengthen food security and nutrition.

Noted the need for increased investment in agriculture to support the achievement of the SDGs, including from the private sector and non-traditional sources.

Encouraged Member Countries to expand and create social protection programmes. Requested FAO support while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by assisting Member Countries in: reflecting SDGs in national policies and programmes, enhancing food safety, controlling transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases, developing food value chains and reducing food loss and waste; monitoring and evaluating progress towards achievement of the relevant SDGs; developing robust data collection systems and capacities for analysis; developing and strengthening policies, institutions and technical capacities to enable countries to double their agriculture productivity and to manage climate change risk and disasters; facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experiences with good practices.

Regarding the Agenda Item on revitalizing the rural economy through enhanced linkages within small scale agriculture production and value chains, the Regional Conference:

Emphasizes the critical importance of rural organizations as means to integrate smallholders into value chains.

Drew attention to the market opportunities afforded by the heritage product, geographic indication and community branded products.

Enforce the need for enabling the environment to facilitate public, private partnership.

Requested FAO's support in the following areas related to the integration of rural smallholders, fishers and herders into value chains.

(a) Development of policies that will enable men and women to access appropriate levels of technology and business skills.

(b) Creation of enabling policies and regulatory frameworks.

(c) Policies for a sustainable value chain.

(d) South-South Cooperation for access of technology and experiences.

(e) Documentation, publication and dissemination of information on successful development of inclusive value chains.

Considering the agenda item to promote national nutrition policies and investment and to integrate nutrition objective into food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation, the Regional Conference:

(1) Highlighted the importance of ensuring food availability by promoting growth in food production and trade while giving greater emphasis to food quality and nutrition.

(2) Appreciated the numerous initiatives and action taken in the region related to strengthening nutrition sensitive agriculture and food systems, education and awareness raising and national multi-sectoral coordination.

Encouraged Member Countries to incorporate explicit nutrition and food safety goals, objectives, targets and measurable indicators in food and agricultural policies, programs and investment programs with clear baselines and data for monitoring the impacts. Encouraged Member Countries towards improving multi-sectoral collaboration on nutrition issues through effective national coordinating entities, joint strategies and integrated approaches at both national and local levels.

Encouraged Governments to mainstream nutrition and food safety in food and agriculture by enhancing institutional and technical skills, forging partnerships, strengthening data collecting and measuring skills, building awareness of healthy dietary habits and strengthening nutritional education. Calls on resource partners to make voluntary contributions to support FAO's work in the region to advance Governmental nutrition action and initiatives.

Requested FAO support in promoting and integrating nutrition objectives in food and agriculture policy, programme design and implementation through:

(a) Sharing good practices and lessons learned in implementing nutrition sensitive food and agriculture intervention.

(b) Alignment of national agriculture and food policies to the ICN2 Framework of action and the SDGs to upon request, strengthen food safety and nutrition outcomes with clear measurable indicators.

Regarding the Agenda Item on Blue Growth, the Regional Conference noted the critical need for accelerated and concerted action to eliminate illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, reduce all exploitation of fish and other aquatic resources, minimize habitat damage, pollution and other factors that reduce the contribution made by fisheries and agriculture to food security, nutrition and economic growth.

Recognized the high degree of synergy between the new guiding document for coastal fisheries management in the Pacific. The new sign for coastal fisheries, pathways to change, and FAO's

voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.

Recognized the five internal strategies of the Blue Growth Initiative, which combine policy and institutional reform with on the ground action of long-term prospects for driving sustainable resource management of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, allowing economic growth and food security to be reconciled with the conservation of aquatic resources.

Acknowledged that pathways to implementing the Blue Growth Initiative will contain specifics and should be tailored to the social, environmental, cultural and economic characteristic of each subregion.

Emphasized the importance of regional collaboration and cooperation between FAO and other regional partners to enhance synergies and avoid duplication in the implementation of Blue Growth activities and initiatives.

Recommended that FAO's Blue Growth Initiative be expanded to cover marine inland fisheries and ecoculture in the Asia and Pacific subregions. Requested FAO support for resilient proving fisheries and ecoculture production system, effective management of small scale coastal fisheries, building capacity to eliminate illegal and unreported, unregulated fishing, developing cost effective ecoculture production systems, building capacity for effective implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and improving management of small scale fisheries and aquaculture.

In reference to the Agenda Item on resolving priorities for FAO in Asia and the Pacific Region, the Regional Conference looked forward to continued improvement in FAO's Organizational effectiveness including through more focus Country Programming Frameworks, contributing to achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives and SDGs.

With respect to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Fiji has kindly offered to host the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2018, which will be held 30 April – 4 May 2018.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Your Excellency, Minister Tajuddin Abdul Rahman. Deputy Minister. I am very sorry at the beginning I mentioned that it was the Minister who was going to present the report however the Minister was unable to attend. It is the Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia who presented this Report.

Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

First of all let me begin by thanking the Deputy Minister from Malaysia for a very comprehensive summary of the outcomes of the last Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We particularly noted many of the initiatives and recommendations highlighted, also areas of high priority for the Asia Pacific Region and, in particular the small island states of the Southwest Pacific.

The emphasis around Blue Growth, the cross-cutting nature of nutrition and the initiatives and support that FAO is providing in the region particularly addressing the major challenges around nutrition and reducing food loss and wastage are very important initiatives and well worthy of emphasis.

The Report also highlighted the major challenges concerning sustainable development and managing the vast fishery resources in the Region. FAO has played a very important role in coalescing various initiatives in the Region and we support and welcome that.

The Government of New Zealand also welcomes the emphasis on increased collaboration in the region, particularly at the regional level. There is a number of agencies at the regional level, which have the comparative knowledge and expertise, the synergies between FAO and the regional organizations are going to be important to sustain and support effective implementation of the programmes.

Finally, we would like to recall the emphasis of FAO in strengthening its regional footprint and the continuing initiatives around decentralization and emphasis around country programmes. Overall we

are very pleased with the outcomes and recommendations of the Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific. We welcome the proposal to have the next Conference in Fiji.

Ms Qian LI (China)

China has the honor to make this statement on behalf of the Asia Group.

We would like to thank FAO especially our Regional Office in Bangkok for all the endeavors they have made. Our gratitude also goes to Malaysia for hosting the imminently successful Regional Conference in March 2016.

The Report of the 33rd Session of APRC is significant in that it highlights our achievements in the Region and also underlines the aspects of concern. We are facing the fierce fact that among people suffering from chronic hunger in the world 62 percent of them, 490 million are in our region and 60 percent are stunted children, 94 million are also in our region.

Food insecurity and malnutrition in our region are endemic and further exacerbated by various challenges that we continue to face including the negative impacts of climate change and frequent natural disasters, local productivity and food loss and waste along the entire value chain, etc. The Region has a growing population which would demand higher levels of food production from the limited resources.

China reiterates our original priorities in the Report and request the continued efforts from FAO in the following aspects: first, strengthen the capacity and increase the livelihood of vulnerable groups including smallholders, family farmers, pastoralists, fish folks with special attention to women, youth and indigenous people.

Second, further promote the sustainable agricultural approaches and practices in particular globally important agricultural heritage systems.

Third, facilitate and coordinate stakeholders in the infrastructure development and investment in agriculture sectors as key needs.

Fourth, explore innovative, cooperative models to realize the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG one and two at regional and country levels, including establishing demonstration parks or zones of agricultural cooperation, setting up pilot city to city programs and building up regional information networking via Internet plus tools.

Fifth, build resilience particularly in combatting climate change, prevention and control of transboundary animal and plant pests and diseases.

Having said this, there is a need for further strengthening capacities at the regional and country levels. In China's view, strong regional, sub-regional, and country offices can add to the overall strength and delivered capacity of FAO and make it more relevant to the developing countries for achieving food security and nutrition. It is imperative to ensure the adequate provision of technical capacity as well as resources for the above-mentioned offices.

We concur with the recommendations in the report and encourage FAO to continue working with members through multiple mechanisms including South-South and triangular Cooperation to share knowledge, technologies, experiences, and to facilitate members to maximize the synergies among their national development strategies and initiatives. We look forward to an equally fruitful and engaging Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Fiji in 2018.

Mr Suseno SUKOYONO (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to highly appreciate His Excellency Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia for the excellent presentation which highlighted the important outcomes of the meeting. Indonesia also congratulates Malaysia for the successful meeting.

Indonesia would like to second the aspiration of the Asia Group as conveyed by the Chinese delegation. In this forum, the Indonesian delegation would like to thank the Asia and the Pacific

Region for its continuous effort in stimulating and enhancing the development of sustainable agricultural development, including fisheries and forestry development in the region.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

Australia is pleased to be represented here at Commission I today to contribute to the discussion of the important issues before us this week, as indeed we were very pleased to be represented at the Regional Conference in Malaysia last year. We support the outcomes of the report of the Conference and its recommendations.

As the co-Chair of the Southwest Pacific sub-region of FAO, we were particularly pleased by the fact that the agenda, the papers and the discussions for the Conference contained explicit discussions of items directly relevant to the Southwest Pacific Subregion.

Australia would like to reiterate our commitment to working closely with the Director-General and members of the Southwest Pacific Subregion in particular to ensure that the Pacific is well represented in FAO.

I would like to also thank the Director-General for the report, and the Government of Malaysia for having hosted the Conference, and the Government of Fiji for having kindly offered to host the next Conference in 2018. I would also like to extend Australia's thanks to our friends and colleagues of New Zealand who have always been very helpful in co-Chairing the region with us here in FAO Headquarters.

The FAO key stated priorities for 2016 – 2017 will be helping countries in the region to pursue the SDGs. It is essential that the general prioritization of the FAO work continues, as Australia thinks that this will ensure the use of resources of multiple issues and activities are applied strategically.

However, we would like to stress once again that adequate staffing levels are critical to deliver the work of FAO. The expertise of FAO particularly needs normative work, data, statistics, and technical capacity which is one of the critical enablers for the regional growth. It will help regional governments to set the foundations of prosperity. It is important that FAO supports the regional priorities for agriculture, food, forestry and fisheries to reflect this context.

FAO, we think, must continue to prioritize its work while it maintains a competitive advantage by supporting its members through policy advice, technical information, and standard setting. Australia believes that the region can greatly benefit in the areas of the protection of plant resources for pests and diseases through appropriate development and implementation of sanitary measures, agriculture policy advice, increasing agricultural productivity through knowledge sharing, and the support of the work of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and Codex Alimentarius to develop standards that support trade.

FAO's recognition through its work on the Regional Initiatives, especially for the Southwest Pacific, play a critical role in policy governance and institutional dimensions that we believe can result in successful programme implementation. The proposed Regional Initiatives, in particular those that focus on sustainable growth of agricultural productivity to support local producers and provide consumer choice will be vital to the region in the future.

We would also like to encourage FAO to coordinate its efforts with other donors in the Pacific. We encourage FAO to work with regional organizations as well as partner governments in the Pacific to ensure that FAO's work complements rather than duplicates existing efforts.

We are very pleased to have seen initiatives that are specific to the Southwest Pacific included, such as Blue Growth activities. Australia has a long history of supporting ocean-based economic growth in the Pacific. We consider them valuable economies and emerging priority for Indian Ocean economies. Clearly Blue Growth is very relevant to this area of FAO and it is one of those areas in which FAO must continue to prioritize its work.

Finally, we would like to encourage developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Island countries within the context of broader market opportunities for Pacific Island agricultural products.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand associates itself with the statement made by the Chinese delegation on behalf of the Asia Group. We thank Malaysia for reporting on the outcomes of the Regional Conference. We request FAO to support the implementation of the regional initiatives.

Thailand needs to cooperate with the international community in consolidating SDGs into action by adopting the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy by our late King Adulyadej as a guideline. We highlight the role of the public – private partnership in promoting investment in infrastructure as well as the promotion among farmers on the use of information and communication technologies to access markets.

We support the mainstream of nutrition into national food and agriculture policies that are difficult to implement. The developing countries require assistance from FAO to build and develop their capacity.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

We are very grateful for the presentation of the main outcomes of the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We also express our appreciation to Malaysia for organizing this important event on its territory.

We support the recommendation of the Regional Conference regarding the need to pay due attention to the questions of social protection and investment in the agricultural sector in the context of implementation of the goals of the Agenda 2030 to eradicate hunger.

We note the importance of FAO's work in the Asia and Pacific Region. The situation there is largely decisive for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind the fact that more than half of the total number of people suffering from chronic malnutrition live in this geographical area, also bearing in mind the high socioeconomic potential in those countries.

We commend the results of the discussions which took place at the Session on enhanced linkages between the small-scale agricultural producers and value chains, as well as sustainable management of fisheries and the integration of the theme of nutrition in food and agricultural policy.

We support the continuation of the efforts of the FAO Regional Initiatives for the Asia Pacific Region, including the Zero Hunger Programme, assistance to rice farming, sustainable intensification of aquaculture in the context of Blue Growth, and help in the development of local value chains among the other issues, which, in our opinion, would be topical for FAO's activities in the region.

We note encouragement of rational use of natural resources, the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector, guaranteeing food safety and quality, combatting animal diseases, as well as cooperation in the field of studying boreal and temperate forests.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China is in agreement with the Asia Group. We thank His Excellency Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry of Malaysia for his presentation.

It is very important to highlight South-South cooperation, which is very important, as well as GIAHS, and both of them can contribute to new types of partnership in order to better mobilize resources.

China is convinced that by working together very specifically and concretely we will be able to improve agriculture in our region and we ask the FAO Regional Bureau to, on a regular basis have contact with the local members and, when applicable, organize evaluation missions in order to better underpin the regional development for agriculture.

In the framework of FAO, we are convinced that efforts made in our region will enable us to reach SDGs earlier.

Mr Tajuddin ABDUL RAHMAN (Representative for Chairperson, 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

On behalf of the Government of Malaysia, allow me once again to extend our appreciation to all Member Nations for your support and commitment during the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional

Conference for Asia and the Pacific. I also welcome the interventions by New Zealand, China, Indonesia, Australia, Thailand, and Russia.

I would like to talk about what to do. What we are to do to provide, to ensure security - food security. We always have the same common mission, but we can only achieve this if we are true to ourselves, to what we see; and to give full commitment to what we see.

First of all, the governments of Member Countries should give more allocation from their budget to the agricultural sector.

Some of the countries in the past, I am sorry to say, recognized the agricultural sector as a sunset industry. Because of that, policies and financial resources were not particularly focused on agricultural development and food development. The emphasis was on industrialization, manufacturing, producing goods and manufactured goods. Food production was more or less neglected.

In Malaysia we are allocating a large budget to agriculture. I am proud to say that in Malaysia, we feed our people. We have no cases of hunger. Even though there are challenges from climate change, natural disasters caused by flood, drought, but there is not a problem of food security.

I would like to call upon Member Countries, our colleagues, our brothers and sisters in this Organization, to give more emphasis in terms of policies, as well as resources, including financial resources, to give priority to agriculture, which is very important.

To be fairer to smaller countries with little money, and lack of financial resources to be able to invest in infrastructure, irrigation, research and development, the international community and the institutions of international groupings should look into this setting off as a flash in the pan.

The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asia Development Bank should have given a priority to give money, loans, soft loans, easy loans to develop infrastructure in the agricultural sector.

Otherwise, many countries will have problems, being short of money, short of funds. Some developed countries like Australia, maybe, New Zealand, have a lot of money, but smaller countries do not have much money to spend, because infrastructure development, research and development, analytical change needs a lot of financial resources, if you want to help a few hundred million people out of this situation known as what do you call food insecurity.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Thank you very much, Your Excellency Deputy Minister, for these words, for having given us an overview of the efforts made in your country to feed everyone in Malaysia. Your experience is truly fruitful and should become widespread.

Now we will give the floor to Ms Kundhavi Kadiresan, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific.

Ms Kundhavi KADIRESAN (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)

Again, let me just take this opportunity to thank the Malaysian Government. It hosted us on this very important event. They will also be hosting us again for a buyer technology conference in September. So for both of that, we really appreciate the Ministry of Agriculture for the last Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC). It also provided us an opportunity to hear from you all and providing us some strategic direction and priorities, particularly in the backdrop of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

It has really provided the regional offices an opportunity to be more strategic, selective, and be very focused through the Regional Initiatives. It came through in the endorsement that you provided just in the last few minutes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to also let you know that the Regional Office, the Subregional Office, and the Country Offices are at your disposal. If there are any areas that we would need to be really deepening the work, please do not hesitate to let us know.

One other area that we took note as part of the APRC was working very closely with the regional bodies, and that is something that we are really taking a very serious effort in terms of some of our work with respect to the nutritional agenda.

And we also currently commissioned a major piece of work which you asked us to do with respect to the demographic shift, urbanization, climate change agenda, the impact on food and agriculture because of that in the region. This we are doing currently with a number of regional research centers and we will be looking forward to the report as part of the sidelines of the next APRC.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Government of Fiji for stepping up to help us in hosting the next event. We are already preparing them and we look forward to seeing you all. Again, thank you very much for the strong endorsement.

Item 10.4 *Report of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (29 February-3 March 2016)*

Point 10.4 *Rapport de la trente-quatrième session de la Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (29 février - 3 mars 2016)*

Tema 10.4 *Informe del 34.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (29 de febrero –3 de marzo de 2016)*

(C 2017/17)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

In so far as the conclusions drawn within the framework of examining this point, our conclusion is – the host country for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

So this brings us to the end of this item and we will move directly to item 10.4, *Report of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean* held in Mexico City from 29 February to 3 March 2016.

Mr Jose Eduardo Calzada Rovirosa, Minister for Agriculture, Livestock Raising, Rural Development, and Fisheries of Mexico.

Sr. José Eduardo CALZADA ROVIROSA (Presidente de la 34ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

A nombre del Secretario de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación de México, José Calzada Rovirosa, es un honor dirigirme hoy a la Conferencia en representación de los países de América Latina y el Caribe para presentar un resumen de las recomendaciones de la Trigésima Cuarta Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, que tuvimos el honor de hospedar en mi país, México, del 29 de febrero al 3 de marzo del 2016. Agradecemos la participación de 32 Estados Miembros, 25 Ministros y 13 Viceministros de diferentes carteras, quienes ratificaron el compromiso de continuar con los esfuerzos para la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza extrema en nuestra región. Todo esto con el apoyo de la FAO.

La Conferencia en México identificó y consideró como desafíos de política relevantes para la región las siguientes tres temáticas: la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional en el marco de la transición desde los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio hacia los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible; la transformación del Sector Rural, en particular, el desarrollo territorial rural, la agricultura familiar y la inclusión socioeconómica e innovación; y punto número tres, el uso sostenible de los recursos naturales, la gestión de riesgos y la adaptación al cambio climático dentro del nuevo marco de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Para enfrentar estos desafíos, la Conferencia destacó la importancia de la nueva Agenda 2030, materializada en los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, y reiteró el valor, tanto del Marco de Acción de la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2), y de la COP21. En ese marco, y en relación a los asuntos sobre políticas y regulación, la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe invitó a que esta Conferencia examine y ratifique los siguientes puntos:

1. Ratificar la importancia de la Agenda 2030, el Marco de Acción de la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición y dos importantes compromisos regionales: la Iniciativa América Latina

y Caribe Sin Hambre 2025 y el Plan de Seguridad Alimentaria, Nutrición y Erradicación del Hambre 2025 de la CELAC. Ambos compromisos constituyen un marco fundamental para la aplicación del Programa de Trabajo de la FAO en la región para los próximos años.

2. Fortalecer la gestión de la FAO en América Latina y el Caribe para prestar apoyo en la creación de capacidades nacionales para la elaboración de indicadores y sistemas de información asociados a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y al papel de los bosques, la pesca y la acuicultura para hacer frente a la inseguridad alimentaria y nutricional.
3. Ratificar la importancia de seguir apoyando en la región el desarrollo de mecanismos de coordinación interinstitucional y gobernanza que faciliten la articulación de políticas y el diálogo entre los gobiernos, la sociedad civil y el sector privado, con el objetivo de lograr la transformación socioeconómica del sector rural, preservando el liderazgo de los estados y dando especial atención a las mujeres, a los jóvenes y a los pueblos indígenas.
4. Reafirmar el papel que desempeña la FAO en las secretarías técnicas de las comisiones regionales y acoger las recomendaciones de las Comisiones para América Latina y el Caribe, en particular, la Comisión Forestal, la de Desarrollo Ganadero, la de Pesca Continental y Acuicultura y la Comisión de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-Occidental. Todas estas comisiones contribuyen a resaltar la contribución de los bosques, la ganadería, la pesca y la acuicultura, a la reducción de la pobreza y la inseguridad alimentaria, así como a la sustentación de los medios de vida de la población, especialmente los agricultores y las agricultoras familiares.
5. Respalda las estrategias de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular para apoyar el desarrollo de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles y saludables y la reducción de la pobreza rural en la región.
6. Profundizar el apoyo a políticas diferenciadas, tanto para el sector forestal y las poblaciones más vulnerables, que dependen de los bosques como para la pesca y la acuicultura, con particular referencia a la pesca artesanal.
7. Ratificar la necesidad de impulsar políticas de agricultura familiar y desarrollo rural, con enfoque territorial agroecológico, con especial énfasis en la articulación de políticas en materia de producción sostenible y consumo responsable, gestión de riesgos de desastres, seguros agrícolas, asistencia técnica, extensión y comunicación rural, protección social y empleo de las comunidades rurales.
8. La Conferencia Regional respalda la importancia de apoyar los sistemas nacionales de sanidad agropecuaria e inocuidad de los alimentos, e invita a desarrollar programas que fortalezcan los esfuerzos regionales de prevención, control y erradicación de especies invasoras, plagas y enfermedades.
9. La Conferencia Regional también consideró fundamental que la FAO propicie espacios de diálogo político e intercambio de experiencias entre los países de la región, todo esto para promover una mejor articulación entre las actividades de adaptación al cambio climático y la reducción de riesgos en desastres.
10. Asimismo, la Conferencia Regional invita a esta Conferencia a ratificar la necesidad de apoyar la prevención, mitigación y respuesta ante eventos climáticos humanos extremos, lo que incluye el desarrollo de resiliencia, particularmente entre las poblaciones que viven en situación de vulnerabilidad.
11. Al respecto, destaco la sesión sobre cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular, que se llevó a cabo en el marco de la Trigésima Cuarta Conferencia Regional en mi país, y en la que a iniciativa de México se abordó la situación del Corredor Seco Centroamericano. En dicha sesión, se resaltó el efecto que el ciclo 2015-2016 del fenómeno climatológico El Niño tuvo en la seguridad alimentaria y la nutricional de la población local. Se reconoció el impacto del cambio climático en el panorama agrícola y alimentario de esta región y la necesidad de abordar el reto con un enfoque que combine respuestas al corto, mediano y largo plazos. Se reconocieron también esfuerzos de los países del Corredor Seco, la complejidad del reto, el rol central de los gobiernos locales y el valor de la colaboración entre las Agencias del sistema Roma, Agencias de cooperación internacional, otros organismos internacionales y países con experiencia y capacidades en la materia.

Y, finalmente, se resaltó que cualquiera acción dirigida al Corredor Seco Centroamericano debía considerar la creación y fortalecimiento de la resiliencia de las poblaciones afectadas.

Todas estas áreas son fundamentales para la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza extrema en nuestra región. En el marco de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, por lo cual externamos la necesidad de seguir contando con la cooperación técnica de la Organización y la movilización de recursos necesarios para la implementación de recomendaciones de esta Conferencia Regional y el logro de las metas propuestas.

Finalmente, y a nombre del Presidente de México, Enrique Peña Nieto, y de mi Ministro, mi Secretario de Agricultura, en su calidad de Presidente de la Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, agradezco nuevamente a los Países Miembros y a la FAO la confianza depositada en México para la realización de este importante evento en marzo del año pasado en mi país.

Sr. Carlos Alfredo ANGULO OLIVARES (El Salvador)

Hago esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Agradecemos a México la presentación de los resultados del Trigésimo Cuarto período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Estos resultados evidencian la consolidación por parte de América Latina y el Caribe de los esfuerzos para erradicar el hambre en nuestra región en el último bienio. Por ello, refrendamos la invitación a la FAO a seguir trabajando en la orientación para la formulación de políticas ecosistémicas que promuevan una agricultura, silvicultura, pesca y acuicultura sostenibles en sus tres dimensiones: social, económica y ambiental.

Cabe recordar que durante la Conferencia Regional surgió la propuesta del Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales. La cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular es una realidad desde hace varios años en nuestra región. Existen muchos ejemplos en marcha destinados a erradicar el hambre y la malnutrición. Uno de ellos es el del Corredor Seco Centroamericano. Esperamos que esta cooperación sirva para apoyar el desarrollo de sistemas agroalimentarios sostenibles y saludables y la reducción de la pobreza rural en la región. Igualmente, que la cooperación nos sirva para alcanzar dos importantes compromisos regionales: primero, la Iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre 2025, y el Plan de Seguridad Alimentaria, Nutrición y Erradicación del Hambre 2025 de la CELAC.

Nuestra región hace enormes esfuerzos en la medida de nuestras capacidades, reflejo de la responsabilidad hacia nuestros pueblos. Sin embargo, en nuestra región las capacidades varían para reforzar nuestras acciones y cómo se mencionó en los trabajos de la LARC 34, es importante contar con mecanismos de medición de resultados y estadísticos sólidos. Reconocemos la pertinencia del informe sobre la necesidad de impulsar políticas de agricultura familiar y desarrollo rural, con enfoque territorial, con especial énfasis en la articulación de políticas en materia de producción sostenible y consumo responsable, gestión de riesgos de desastres, seguros agrícolas, asistencia técnica, extensión y comunicación rural, protección social y empleo rural.

Apoyamos la idea de fortalecer la gestión de la FAO en América Latina y el Caribe para prestar apoyo en la creación de capacidades nacionales para la elaboración de indicadores y sistemas de información asociados a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030. Estamos seguros de que contaremos con el apoyo de la FAO y de la comunidad internacional para alcanzar las metas planteadas en la Agenda 2030.

Finalmente, a nombre de los países participantes, agradecemos al Gobierno de México la organización de la Trigésima Cuarta Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, cuyos resultados sustantivos serán en beneficio de nuestra región. En esta declaración, el GRULAC reconoce la notable labor del Embajador Claudio Rozencwaig de Argentina y el Señor Julius Ross de Antigua y Barbuda como relatores de la Conferencia.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina quiere agradecer en primer lugar al Gobierno de México por haber sido anfitrión de esta Conferencia Regional. En segundo lugar, la República de Argentina hace suya la declaración realizada recientemente por el Gobierno de El Salvador en nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el

Caribe (GRULAC). La Argentina acoge con satisfacción la alineación y armonización de los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, lo cual constituye una contribución de la Organización a los esfuerzos de los países por alcanzar las metas y plazos establecidos en esa agenda.

Asimismo, la Argentina considera muy positivo que las organizaciones internacionales, agencias y programas que trabajan en alguna de las dimensiones de desarrollo sostenible se involucren con los estados para establecer de qué modo pueden alinear de sus estrategias en pos de contribuir a la implementación de la Agenda 2030, respetando siempre la titularidad nacional de los procesos de desarrollo. Argentina valora también que en el Informe del 34° período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe se haya hecho referencia a los compromisos regionales asumidos en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición a través del Plan para la Seguridad Alimentaria, la Nutrición y la Erradicación del Hambre en la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC).

Asimismo, queremos subrayar que, en el año 2015, habiendo ya alcanzado la meta 1c de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, los países de la región se comprometieron a través de ese plan a erradicar el hambre en 2025. Es decir, cinco años antes de la meta acordada en la Agenda 2030.

Por último, la Argentina desea señalar que estime importante que la FAO priorice sus acciones en los países y regiones que presentan mayores desafíos en relación al hambre y la pobreza rural, pero siempre teniendo en cuenta las necesidades de ciertos países que siendo considerada de ingresos medios y/o altos, aun así enfrentan desafíos en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, así como índices de pobreza altos en algunas regiones. En ese sentido, Argentina se complace con los resultados del Informe del 34° período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional.

Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)

Costa Rica desea acoger el discurso precedente que ha pronunciado El Salvador en su calidad de Presidente Pro Tempore del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) y reiterar la felicitación a México por la exitosa organización de la Conferencia Regional, así como su agradecimiento por haber tratado en especial el tema del Corredor Seco Centroamericano, del cual hace parte una importante porción del Pacífico norte de mi país.

Con respecto al contenido del informe en sí, esta Delegación desearía realizar una única observación en el apartado 49.b, se hace mención a un ente denominado PARLACEN. Sobre esta referencia, Costa Rica solamente desea reiterar su posición histórica en cuanto a no reconocer la existencia de esta institución y desea que ello conste en el verbatim de esta reunión. Para Costa Rica, es suficiente con que se haga mención al SICA. No se pretende abrir el informe de la Conferencia, ni tampoco modificar el contenido del texto. Únicamente quisiéramos dejar patente esto en el registro de la reunión.

Sr. José Eduardo CALZADA ROVIROSA (Presidente de la 34ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Hemos escuchado con atención las intervenciones de Costa Rica, Argentina y El Salvador. Simplemente reiterar el interés que México tiene para contribuir con acciones de cooperación, con programas y con, desde luego, la ayuda de la FAO a incrementar el posicionamiento de los países respecto a su capacidad y construcción de esta capacidad en cooperación técnica para poder llevar adelante los programas y las metas de los objetivos, tanto globales como locales, en cada uno de los países.

México reitera su compromiso de apoyo y su liderazgo también, para contribuir a que los objetivos planteados por esta Conferencia Regional puedan cumplirse a cabalidad y todo ello con apoyo de la FAO.

Sr. Julio Antonio BERDEGUÉ SACRISTÁN (Subdirector General, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Quiero solamente agradecer al Gobierno de México por el excelente trabajo de preparación y realización del 34° período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, asimismo reconocer el compromiso permanente de México con el desarrollo de los países vecinos de

América Latina y el Caribe, a través de programas de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular, como por ejemplo el programa Mesoamérica Sin Hambre.

Quiero aprovechar la oportunidad para reiterar el compromiso de la FAO en cada una de sus oficinas nacionales, subregionales y nacional, para dar cumplimiento a las orientaciones y mandatos que emergieron del 34. período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional en cada uno de los tres puntos de su agenda.

Quiero ponerme a la disposición de los Países Miembros, con toda la Organización, para atender las prioridades nacionales y subregionales de la mejor forma posible.

Finalmente, aprovecho esta ocasión también para agradecer al Gobierno de la Commonwealth de Bahamas, que ha ofrecido hospedar el 35.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional el próximo año.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me conclude this item as follows: the Conference endorsed the Report and took note of the recommendation presented therein, and expressed its gratitude to Mexico, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

Item 10.5 Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East (9-13 May 2016)

Point 10.5 Rapport de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (9-13 mai 2016)

Tema 10.5 Informe del 33.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (9-13 de mayo de 2016)

(C 2017/18)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

With this, we conclude item 10.4 of our agenda, and now we move to item 10.5, *Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East* which was held in Rome, Italy from 9 to 13 May 2016. We have document C2017/18.

I would like to invite His Excellency Ghazi Zeaiter, Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon, to present the Report.

M. Ghazi ZEAITER (Président de la 33^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient) (langue originale arabe)

C'est un honneur et un plaisir pour moi d'être ici avec vous aujourd'hui pour vous faire rapport quant aux conclusions de la 33^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour le Proche-Orient, qui était organisée à Rome, en Italie, du 9 au 13 mai 2016.

La Conférence a vu la participation de 151 délégués provenant de 25 États Membres, cinq observateurs, cinq organisations des Nations Unies, cinq organisations intergouvernementales, trois organisations internationales non-gouvernementales, trois organisations de la société civile et deux organisations du secteur privé.

Mon rapport va mettre l'accent sur le point de l'ordre du jour relatif aux questions de politiques et de réglementations. La Conférence régionale a traité de quatre grands points. Tout d'abord, les contributions de l'élevage à la sécurité alimentaire dans la région Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord, pêche et aquaculture avec notamment l'initiative en faveur de la croissance bleue, autonomisation des petits agriculteurs et des femmes dans la région Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord, et enfin informations actualisées sur le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale.

Pour ce qui est du point relatif aux contributions de l'élevage à la sécurité alimentaire dans la région Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord, la Conférence régionale a présenté les recommandations suivantes.

Les participants ont invité instamment les pays à renforcer la gouvernance des services vétérinaires, à mettre en œuvre le Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques et les ont encouragés à

intensifier l'utilisation de variétés fourragères à haut rendement, résistantes à la sécheresse et adaptées aux sols salins, y compris dans des pâturages et sur les parcours; ils ont demandé instamment aux pays, avec l'appui de la FAO de renforcer les capacités et d'assurer une meilleure sensibilisation aux problèmes de la résistance aux antimicrobiens, conformément à la résolution 4/2015 de la Conférence; et ils ont demandé aux pays de renforcer la gouvernance des services vétérinaires, avec l'appui de la FAO et de ses partenaires afin d'assurer effectivement la prévention des maladies animales, la lutte contre ces maladies et leur éradication aux niveaux national, régional et mondial.

Ils ont aussi demandé instamment à la FAO, en collaboration avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE), l'Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) ainsi que d'autres organisations internationales, de renforcer l'appui fourni aux États Membres en les aidant dans les domaines suivants, à élaborer des stratégies de collaboration et des plans pour la gestion des risques de maladies animales transfrontalières, en particulier en temps de crise, en misant sur un signalement plus efficace des maladies, sur la surveillance des déplacements du bétail, sur le renforcement des systèmes de quarantaine et sur la recherche et le dialogue entre les pays; à mettre en place des systèmes de production d'aliments d'origine animale qui soient viables et centrés principalement sur les populations rurales pauvres tout en favorisant leur intégration dans les chaînes de valeur nationales; à renforcer le lien entre les interventions d'urgence et les activités de relèvement dans le secteur de l'élevage, en particulier dans les États Membres touchés par des conflits et des crises prolongées, et cela en élaborant des projets nationaux et régionaux visant à répondre aux menaces liées aux maladies animales transfrontières et aux zoonoses et assurer la protection et la reprise du secteur de l'élevage; à développer durablement le secteur de l'élevage et notamment améliorer la production de viande, de cuir et de laine et ajouter de la valeur aux races locales en renforçant les capacités et en facilitant le partage entre pays de l'expérience acquise; à mettre en place la Commission de la production et de la santé animales pour le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord, en tant qu'organe établi en vertu de l'article VI de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO.

En outre, la Conférence a encouragé les pays à investir dans le développement durable du secteur agricole afin d'améliorer la production locale, en mettant particulièrement l'accent sur la fertilité des ovins et à collaborer sur la question du commerce intra- et interrégional et le transfert des technologies et des meilleures pratiques. Elle a demandé aux pays de renforcer les politiques à l'appui des activités face aux urgences ou des activités de redressement dans le secteur de l'élevage et de promouvoir les systèmes de gestion des ressources naturelles.

La Conférence s'est également félicitée de l'offre de la Jordanie visant à établir un centre d'urgence pour les maladies animales transfrontalières et a recommandé d'éviter les mesures unilatérales non-conformes au droit international, y compris à la Charte des Nations Unies, qui mettent en danger la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition telles qu'établies dans la Déclaration de Rome de 1996 et d'accélérer les initiatives visant à faire face aux situations qui prévalent dans certains pays de la région.

Pour ce qui est du point de l'ordre du jour «Pêche et aquaculture: application de l'initiative de la FAO en faveur de la croissance bleue», la Conférence régionale a recommandé les points suivants.

Les participants ont demandé aux pays d'accélérer les efforts qui sont fait pour lutter contre les effets du changement climatique et de la pollution; ils ont prié les pays de préserver les intérêts des communautés de petits pêcheurs traditionnels face à la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée; et ils ont appelé les États Membres à signer l'Accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port visant à prévenir, contrecarrer et éliminer la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée.

Les participants ont pris note de l'offre du Koweït, qui s'est proposé de devenir le pays de référence pour l'Initiative en faveur de la croissance bleue, et de l'assistance technique de la FAO dans le secteur de la pêche et l'aquaculture, qui vise aussi à favoriser l'ajout de valeur tout au long de la chaîne d'approvisionnement en poisson dans la région.

Les participants ont également demandé à la FAO d'appuyer les États Membres en organisant des événements de partage de connaissances et d'expériences et de renforcer les capacités pour développer des secteurs de la pêche et de l'aquaculture solides et viables dans la région.

La Conférence a également demandé à la FAO d'aider les pays à évaluer les ressources halieutiques tant au niveau des pays qu'au niveau régional, de favoriser le partage, la compilation et la diffusion des

informations par un centre régional de suivi de la pêche, qui sera le dépositaire des données et des informations.

La Conférence a également demandé d'établir des directives relatives aux études visant à mesurer l'impact des projets aquacoles sur l'environnement, de promouvoir les connaissances et les capacités techniques dans les domaines de la pêche et de l'aquaculture, en particulier au moyen de la coopération Sud-Sud et d'aider les pays à lutter contre les maladies relatives aux poissons dans la région.

Pour ce qui est du point «Autonomisation des petits agriculteurs et des femmes dans la région Proche-Orient et Afrique du Nord», les participants à la Conférence régionale ont demandé aux pays d'intensifier l'utilisation, avec l'appui de la FAO, de variétés de plantes à haut rendement, résistantes au stress et à la sécheresse, y compris dans les pâturages et sur les parcours, et a demandé à la FAO de renforcer la coopération avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour le développement industriel (ONUDI) et d'autres organisations internationales en vue de la mise au point et de l'introduction de machines agricoles et de technologies adaptées, dans le but d'accroître la productivité dans le secteur agricole et tout au long de la chaîne d'approvisionnement.

La Conférence a également encouragé les États Membres à renforcer leur soutien aux familles d'agriculteurs, à investir dans les programmes visant à réduire la pauvreté rurale et à améliorer les possibilités de débouchés des familles d'agriculteurs, ainsi que leurs moyens d'existence.

La Conférence a également demandé à la FAO de promouvoir la coopération Sud-Sud à l'appui des familles d'agriculteurs et de fournir une assistance technique afin que les pesticides, herbicides et engrais soient utilisés de manière sûre, suivant les bonnes pratiques agricoles inspirées par les normes et les textes apparentés du Codex Alimentarius.

Pour ce qui est du point de l'ordre du jour «Informations actualisées sur le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA)», les participants ont encouragé toutes les parties prenantes à diffuser, promouvoir et utiliser les principes pour un investissement responsable dans l'agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires, le Cadre d'action pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition lors des crises prolongées et les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers.

Les participants ont également encouragé toutes les parties prenantes à donner suite aux recommandations issues des tables rondes qui étaient consacrées aux pertes et gaspillages de nourriture dans un contexte de système alimentaire durable, à la durabilité de la pêche et de l'aquaculture au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition et à la contribution de l'eau à la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition.

Les participants ont également encouragé les États Membres à prendre part activement aux activités que mène actuellement le CSA au titre de son Programme de travail pluriannuel pour 2016-2017, en particulier dans les domaines qui sont de plus en plus importants dans la région, comme les ODD et la nutrition.

Monsieur le Président, Excellence, au nom du Liban, premier pays à avoir signé un Accord de bureau de pays avec la FAO en 1977, j'aimerais, si vous me le permettez, féliciter la FAO à l'occasion du 40^{ème} anniversaire de ces bureaux de pays. En effet, le réseau des bureaux de pays dans notre région a été essentiel dans la mise en œuvre de beaucoup des recommandations de notre Conférence régionale dans le cadre du programme de travail mené au fil des ans. C'est dans cet esprit que j'aimerais exprimer au nom de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient tout notre appui en faveur de l'orientation stratégique de la FAO et sa réactivité très dynamique face aux besoins de ses Membres.

J'attends avec intérêt de pouvoir vous faire rapport sur la prochaine Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord qui aura lieu dans mon pays, le Liban, en avril de l'année prochaine.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Sherif EL GAMMAL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, I would like to commend His Excellency Ghazi Zeaiter, Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon for his introduction and we wish all the best to Lebanon in hosting the Regional Meeting.

The delegation of Egypt would like to commend the efforts taken by FAO in the Near East Region, which is facing a number of challenges, especially the role of FAO in enhancing resilience of the agricultural sector in facing the effects of climate change, compounded by water scarcity.

We would also like to thank the Organization for promoting its role with the development partners to ensure further agricultural development in achieving food security and creating employment in a region with a rising youth population representing more than half of the overall population and its due effect on rural migration.

We would like to thank for the coordination between FAO and the World Food Programme in conflict zones and the importance of coordination between the Rome-based agencies and other international agencies.

With regard to the discussion items, we would like to read the following.

First, the importance of the international and the regional initiatives on water scarcity, the role of small-scale farmers in comprehensive development, food security and nutrition in terms of guaranteeing the safety of food and the trade in food commodities.

On the other hand, we would like to reaffirm the importance of providing resources through joint action by FAO and its Member States to obtain the necessary funding from development partners, including international financial institutions, regional development banks as well as regional and national implementation programmes.

In conclusion, we would like to request the Secretariat to oversee the implementation of the Regional Conference recommendations on the reinforcement of human resources in regional and country offices in the Near East Region in terms of personnel and professional qualifications to best deal with many challenges facing the number of states of the region, as well as with regard to lowering a number of vacancies at the Cairo Regional Office.

Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan wishes to limit its intervention to two topics that were discussed in the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East, which are livestock and food security and the productivity of smallholder food producers.

A major share of agricultural Gross Domestic Production (GDP) in countries of the Near East is generated by the livestock sector. In Afghanistan, this share is 39 percent of agricultural GDP. With rapid increase in urbanization, the demand for livestock products in Afghanistan is rising sharply.

To meet this demand, Afghanistan gives priority to four aspects of livestock development: controlling contagious animal diseases; rehabilitating the range for improved grazing; assisting farmers to increase the productivity of cultivated forage; and raising animal production and productivity with particular emphasis on dairy development.

In February 2016, a national livestock development conference was held with participants from all thirty-four provinces of Afghanistan. This conference identified priorities for a five year Strategic Plan for livestock which is now under implementation.

With regard to productivity of smallholder food producers, like other countries of the Near East Region, Afghanistan has to overcome obstacles in promoting small scale farming, raising the contribution of rural women to agriculture and food sectors, generating productive employment for young rural boys and girls.

The policy of the Government of Afghanistan is to: enhance the capacity of smallholder farmers and livestock producers to achieve higher productivity and production; strengthen the capacity of small producers to benefit from integrated labour intensive agroindustry production; develop microirrigation

suited to small producers; assist smallholder farmers in adapting to climate change; and the importance of South-South cooperation, especially in empowering rural women.

With these comments, Afghanistan endorses the Report of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for the Near East.

Mr Abdessalam OULD AHMED (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for the Near East) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank you at the outset for the valuable report and for the support shown in terms of cooperating with FAO. I would like to say that all of the recommendations taken in the last Conference will be followed up upon by the different sections of FAO.

I would like to comment with regard to many initiatives mentioned which represent a high point of priority for the Organization and which will be followed up at the regional level through the regional and subregional offices, starting with the priority of water scarcity and smallholder farmers and supporting their resilience, especially in the areas that were affected by conflicts and wars, namely the Blue Growth Regional Initiative.

With regard to the Regional Initiative on water scarcity, I would like to say that it is acquiring a large amount of support by the development partners and this is something that we are witnessing at the level of the Organization where this is a strategic point of interest and it will be the subject of a side event that will be held during this Conference with attendance of all of the agricultural ministers of the League of Arab States.

The FAO garnered USD 28 million approximately to support this initiative from a number of Gulf States and to support countries like Yemen, for example in addition to Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco. This is an initiative that is acquiring a lot of support and it is being implemented as intended and we would like to see the results in the next few years.

Also with regard to the smallholder farmers, as you may well know, there is no transformation without the involvement of the smallholder farmers in markets and with their enhanced productivity and therefore this is a matter of focus that is required in order to achieve quality transformation and development of agricultural productivity in a structural manner.

This is a matter of focus for us and we are coordinating our efforts in FAO in this regard to support the productivity chain. The focus is on integrating agricultural productivity and livestock production in the value chains and this is going to lead to further progress in this domain.

We thank all of the development partners who are joining their efforts in this initiative. We see a great deal of support to the Organization, in cooperation with the United Nations programmes, including WFP.

Many countries which are facing wars and conflicts, first and foremost Yemen, Syria and Iraq, these countries have many effective activities where we are also garnering support and gathering data because this is the most important aspect of these programmes and interventions in order to drive the decision-making and appropriate policies.

We are also working on the damaged environment in these contexts in cooperation with other development partners and we would like to issue a report in due time.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

The Conference endorsed the report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. Appreciation was expressed to the Government of Lebanon for hosting the Regional Conference.

Item 10.6 *Input from the Fourth Informal Regional Conference for North America (21-22 March 2016)*

Point 10.6 *Apports de la quatrième Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (21 et 22 mars 2016)*

Tema 10.6 *Aportación de la Cuarta Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (21 y 22 de marzo de 2016)*

(C 2017/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We would like to conclude this discussion on the item with regard to the Regional Conferences and now we move onto item 10.6, *Input from the Fourth Informal Regional Conference for North America* held in Ottawa, Canada from 21 to 22 March 2016.

I would like to recall the importance of the document C 2017/LIM/1, which is in front of you.

Now I invite Mr Frédéric Seppey, Chief Agricultural Negotiator, Trade Agreements and Negotiations, Agriculture and Agri-Food of Canada to introduce this item of the agenda.

M. Frédéric SEPPEY (Président de la quatrième Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord)

J'aimerais intervenir au nom de la région nord-américaine.

Le Canada et les États-Unis, étant donné qu'ils sont les deux représentants de la région nord-américaine de la FAO, ont choisi de tenir des rencontres régionales informelles. En tenant des rencontres informelles, notre région est à même de partager ses vues au sujet du programme et des travaux généraux de la FAO sans pratiquement aucun coût pour l'Organisation. Il est dans nos attentes que les vues de notre région continuent d'être prises en compte dans les priorités, les budgets ainsi que la bonne gouvernance de la FAO d'une manière similaire à celle qui émerge des processus régionaux plus formels.

Continues in English

The Informal Regional Conference for North American, known by the acronym INARC, came together for the fourth time from 21 to 22 March 2016 in Ottawa. The meeting was very successful.

In addition to convening representatives from Canada and the United States, senior FAO officials joined the INARC via video conference. The Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Washington DC also participated in person.

The INARC expressed appreciation for FAO work on the following elements: first, normative work in activities related to standards, guidelines, and practices to enable countries to make smart decisions; second, the State of Commodity Markets Report and other work that supports agrifood trade and farmers' opportunities to earn better incomes; third, climate change; and fourth, the need to protect livelihoods during national and regional crises.

The INARC commended as well FAO for hosting the Symposium on Biotechnology in 2016. The symposium provided farmers, academics, and others from around the world with an impartial forum to share information and raise awareness about how biotechnology is enabling farmers to increase their productivity and earn better incomes. The INARC expressed support for FAO's continued work to align its strategic objectives and indicators to the 2030 Agenda while staying on course with the Strategic Framework.

The INARC also agreed on eight key priority areas for FAO work going forward, including: first, the promotion and use of science-based measures and international standards to protect human, animal, and plant health, as well as the environment; second, the provision of impartial evidence-based information to help small farmers increase productivity and production in a sustainable manner; third, the need to increase the Organization's work on the relationship between trade and food security, including better linking smallholder farmers into agricultural trade networks; fourth, increasing FAO's work to inform the Member States about the facts concerning biotechnology. We further called on the

FAO to build trust and bridge the gap on views concerning agroecology and biotechnology; fifth, the impact of fishing agreements on small-scale fisheries; sixth, the need to avoid duplication across UN systems, and in particular with the Rome-based Agencies and the Committee on World Food Security; seventh, the need to improve coordination and collaboration between the Rome-based agencies and other stakeholders, including the public and private sectors. Multistakeholder and inclusive partnerships can help the Organization achieve its Strategic Objectives and help countries reach targets in the Sustainable Development Goals; and finally, eighth, North America also stressed the importance we place in FAO mainstreaming gender equality in all areas and levels of work of its work program as per the FAO Policy on Gender Equality and in order to achieve greater impact.

In conclusion, we value FAO's work in global contributions. On behalf of Canada and the United States, I would like to thank FAO officials for their cooperation and participation in the Fourth Informal Regional Conference for North America.

We look forward to receiving a report of the progress of implementation of the North American regional priorities in anticipation of the fifth INARC that will take place in the United States in 2018.

Mr Boitshoko NTSHABELE (South Africa)

This statement is being delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group. The Africa Group welcomes the outcomes of the Fourth Informal Regional Conference for North America and looks forward to the implementation.

Africa welcomes the recommendations emanating from the Conference requesting FAO to continue to provide impartial, evidence-based information to help smallholder farmers increase productivity and production in a sustainable manner, including through the use of biotechnologies.

As you are aware, Africa has a substantial number of smallholder farmers, producers, and we believe they would also appreciate the support to increase their productivity and production levels.

We see from the Report on the Regional Conference that the North American Region stressed the importance of FAO avoiding duplication across the UN System, in particular with the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) and the Committee on World Food Security and with other international organizations and instead to build effective partnerships in support of policy synergy and coherence on the SDGs and the international commitment on climate change focusing on its value add. Africa supports this recommendation.

You are aware that the issue on the need for closer collaboration between RBAs has been raised in various meetings of all three agencies over a period of time. The Africa Group would like to add its voice to that of the North American Region in calling for the closer collaboration in order to achieve the SDGs.

Each of the three agencies has its own unique expertise which are mutually reinforcing and the three are in a unique position of being able to make a huge difference should their efforts come together.

Some of the issues raised at the North American Regional Conference are applicable to all of the other regions as well and it could be useful for regions to share experiences and best practices.

We therefore welcome this report and look forward to receiving feedback at the next conference in 2019 on the progress made in this regard.

CHAIRPERSON

I do not see that there is any request for the floor from Mr Seppely and my conclusions for item 10.6 are as follows.

The Conference took note of the Informal Regional Conference for North America that was held to allow Member Nations of the Region to make inputs into the Organization's priority process.

Continues in Arabic

This concludes agenda item 10.6. With this, we conclude all of the items under agenda item 10 on the Regional Conferences.

- Item 13. Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals/ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**
- Point 13. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne les objectifs de développement durable et le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030**
- Tem 13. Progresos realizados en relación con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible**
- (C 2017/30)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We will now start with the next item in our agenda for this sitting which is Item 13, *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals/ the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Please ensure that you have document C 2017/30 in front of you. I now invite the Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, Mr Maria Helena Semedo, to introduce this item.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources)

I have the honour to present the progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)/ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I think it has been said throughout the opening and this afternoon that food and agriculture are critical in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, FAO has been fully engaged in the process since its inception. The Director-General reminded us this afternoon about the fact that the reason we have SDG 2 is because the three RBAs worked very close with the Ministers and the Member States to come up with a Goal on eradicating hunger and sustainable agriculture.

We believe we have substantially contributed to the consolidation of this comprehensive framework. The document I refer to we have an overview on how FAO has aligned itself with the SDGs and identified priorities with full integration of the SDG's targets and indicators in FAO Results Framework chain.

We in FAO have supported. We are supported because it the implementation of the SDGs is a process. Our Strategic Programme Leaders have been assisting countries to identify and operationalize priorities. We are also supporting the development, monitoring and reviewing systems especially through the 21 agreed SDG indicators for which FAO is a custodian. As you all know, FAO is a custodian of 21 indicators and we have to support the countries to reinforce their statistics in a way they can generate reliable data.

We are providing evidence and policy assistance on the follow-up and review of the SDGs at national, global and regional level. We are mobilizing the means of implementation, leveraging through partnership alliance and how we can mobilize additional resources out of the ODA.

I would like to share with you some highlights on what FAO is doing at different levels. At strategic level as I have said, FAO has aligned its Strategic Framework to ensure that all our work is aligned and harmonized with the 2030 Agenda. Indeed we have five Strategic Objectives and all of them follow the same process as the SDGs. They are integrated. They are cross-cutting and we broke the silos.

At a country level, we work very closely with the governments as they are domesticating SDGs, showing ownership, commitment and requested coordinated and timely assistance from the United Nations and other stakeholders.

FAO is not working alone. FAO is working at a country level as part of the United Nations country team, the United Nations family and other stakeholders in the countries.

As I said, we work in close collaboration with the UN and non-UN partners. We assist the countries in identifying priorities, revising their sectoral policies and strategies and align with the SDGs because indeed the 2030 Agenda requires that the countries revise their development plan, that they work in cross-cutting having not a sectoral and siloed approach but an integrated agenda. FAO is, as I said, with the UN and non-UN partners. We are working and assisting the countries.

We are capacitating the national statistical actors on SDG global indicators through direct support and engagement in the development and validation of SDG indicator methodology. As you know, next week the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) will take place. We will be starting with the technical group and 44 countries will present their Voluntary National Reviews. Out of these 44 countries, FAO has been fully engaged with 20, supporting them in preparing their national review, especially in the item linked and regarding to rural development, food security and sustainable agriculture.

At a regional level, FAO brought together their national governmental and non-governmental actors to raise awareness, to share experience and identify priorities towards SDGs. In addition, FAO supported regional follow-up and the review process by engaging in the regional sustainable development forums convened by the United Nations Economic Commission. We engage at a country level. We engage at the regional level because all the regional commissions are supporting regional sustainable development forums.

At the global level, FAO engaged in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, culminating in HLPF hosted this year at Ministerial level. You know that every four years we have Heads of State level and this year it is at the Ministers level and I will be representing FAO at HLPF next week.

HLPF is reviewing voluntary national reviews with the input received from technical and Governing Bodies across the United Nations system, for sure including those of FAO. We provide overall political guidance based on the global and thematic reviews of the specific SDGs.

We have the country reviews and we have SDGs review. This year we will be reviewing SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 2 on food and agriculture, SDG 5 on gender, SDG 9 on industrialization and SDG 14 on oceans and seas. You can see that all of them are linked to FAO work. We have been supporting the countries and ECOSOC providing some of the work they are doing. We are contributing to the Secretary-General's Report on progress.

We have prepared technical briefs and contributed to the preparation of thematic reviews. We had the reviews at the Ocean Conference two weeks ago. It was held in New York as input to SDG 14 review. The Director-General was there and FAO was very active throughout this Conference.

In Victoria Falls we had a meeting organized by FAO, ECOSOC and UNIDO on agri-food sector in agriculture. We attended also an ex-pat meeting on SDG 2. All of those outcomes will inform the preparation of the Minister Declaration on HLPF.

We are still negotiating on the Minister Declaration but FAO is contributing to scale up the importance of food and agriculture for the full achievement of SDGs. I think at the Opening Ceremony and throughout this Conference you are receiving several inputs from the Member States which will support us contributing in the framing of the Minister Declaration. We will call for a strong support to the rural sector as a key driver for sustainable development.

I believe what the Director-General said today that after a very good trend where hunger or food insecurity has decreased, unfortunately we do not have good news. If we have the vision and the mission to eradicate hunger by 2030, we need to work very closely on the sustainable development bringing the rural sector as the key driver for sustainable development and achieving SDG 1, SDG 2, not to say all of them.

In summary, FAO has been engaged in the 2030 Agenda implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review at all levels. In close collaboration with Members, the United Nations family and all concerned stakeholders.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that despite important progress as I mentioned and it was mentioned today, the pace and scope of implementation is unlikely to promote the transformational change needed to realize the objectives of SDG 2.

I would like to end up with some questions. We would like if you can guide us on this discussion. Are we collectively doing enough to promote transformational change required to achieve the determined goals and targets? What are the gaps we are facing after two years of endorsement of the Agenda? What have we achieved? What is missing? What are the gaps and how can we work together to fill in the gaps?

How could FAO and its partners better facilitate the mobilization of the means of implementation?
How can food and agriculture consequences be more actively engaged in the political SDG processes in their countries?

FAO stands ready to continue to engage with you and its Member Countries. I am here with my colleagues, Dan Gustafson and Kostas Stamoulis to reply to any questions. I look forward for a fruitful discussion.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Sr. Mario ARRIOLA WOOG (México)

La Delegación de México agradece el detallado documento que ha presentado la Dirección General sobre los progresos realizados en relación con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y la Agenda 2030.

Tomamos nota en particular del reconocimiento a la importancia esencial de la alimentación y la agricultura para el desarrollo sostenible. La erradicación del hambre y la pobreza y la satisfacción de las necesidades de la población rural son imperativos y un requisito para no dejar a nadie atrás. Saludamos en particular que la FAO haya examinado y adecuado su Marco Estratégico y preparado su Plan a Plazo Medio para 2018-2021, en consonancia con la Agenda 2030. Tomamos nota también que los cinco objetivos estratégicos de FAO se vinculan con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Estratégicos mediante 21 indicadores.

El trabajo de la FAO en materia de seguimiento de los progresos en la aplicación de la Agenda 2030 en varios ámbitos, incluyendo el estadístico, resultan fundamentales. Por ello, la Delegación de México pide a la FAO que siga trabajando con los Estados Miembros y otros organismos de las Naciones Unidas, en particular con las otras dos agencias con sede en Roma, en el examen de dichos progresos. Adicionalmente, tomando en cuenta la centralidad de la FAO en la consecución del Objetivo Estratégico 2, la erradicación del hambre, el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, así como la necesidad de evaluar periódicamente los avances en la materia.

Por todo ello, México quisiera pedir a la FAO que convoque una reunión de alto nivel de los Estados Miembros en el segundo semestre de 2018, a fin de efectuar un balance de lo logrado, de los retos a resolver y los avances de la FAO, tanto en el ámbito normativo como de operación, así como facilitar que los Estados podamos hacer una evaluación sobre si las estrategias que estamos aplicando para lograr el Objetivo Estratégico 2 están siendo exitosas o requieren reajustarse. Un primer corte, a tres años de la Agenda 2030, resulta indispensable desde el punto de vista de México.

Y se me permiten en otro tema adicional, queremos invitar a todos los aquí presentes a participar en el Evento Paralelo que se tendrá mañana a las 8 de la mañana sobre *Biodiversidad para la agricultura sostenible*, en la que participará la FAO, representada aquí a través de la Dirección General Adjunta, y varios Ministros de distintas regiones del mundo sobre este importante tema.

Sr. Luis Geronimo REYES VERDE (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Agradecemos la presentación de documentos, y reconocemos los progresos realizados hasta la fecha.

Efectivamente, como nos señala y recuerda este documento, la Agenda para el Desarrollo después del 2015 es una agenda integral indivisible en lo económico, social y ambiental. Destacamos, además, como allí se indica, y cito entre comillas: “se reconoce que los Estados se encuentran en situaciones muy diferentes y que tienen distintas necesidades prioritarias, capacidades y recursos.” Un mayor desglose de los datos da lugar a un sistema de seguimiento mundial complejo y de varios niveles.

La FAO es custodio de 21 indicadores en el Marco de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). De los 21 indicadores, cuatro fueron clasificados como nivel 1, seis como nivel 2 y once como nivel 3. Es decir, en el 52 por ciento de los indicadores no se dispone de fuentes de información y de metodología. A pesar de que la FAO es custodio de los 21 indicadores, los países debens dar estadísticas en los 21 indicadores. El reto estadístico que se debe enfrentar es de gran complejidad, por insuficiencia de recursos humanos y económicos, el bajo desarrollo de algunos sistemas estadísticos

nacionales y la ausencia de marcos y directorios actualizados que dificultan la representatividad estadística en las encuestas.

Sabemos que actualmente la FAO está dando asistencia técnica a varios países que necesitan fortalecer urgentemente su sistema estadístico; sin embargo, la FAO debe realizar mayores esfuerzos para que todos los países, que así lo requieran, logren acortar la brecha en poco tiempo, ayudando a su fortalecimiento y, de esta manera, aumentar la disponibilidad, accesibilidad, calidad y divulgación de las estadísticas de fuentes oficiales nacionales. Es nuestro deseo que la conversación multilateral, Norte-Sur, Sur-Sur y triangular sea una vía importante para contar con datos precisos, medibles y verificables que ayuden a la toma de decisiones a todos los niveles y, sobre todo, dar visibilidad a los más afectados por la pobreza y el hambre.

Creemos necesario, como país, que la FAO debería crear una instancia, que puede ser un comité o subcomité, donde se discutan las cuestiones estadísticas en el marco de los ODS. Esto contribuiría enormemente a compartir buenas prácticas estadísticas. Nuestro país, comprometido con la Agenda 2030, es uno de los países que presentó examen nacional voluntario al Foro Político de Alto Nivel.

Por último, los ODS es un compromiso asumido por los países, y por lo tanto, consideramos que es de suma importancia que se respeten los datos provenientes de fuentes nacionales y no se haga un uso excesivo de estimaciones.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to thank Ms Semedo for the presentation and the document presented.

The document has made a very good presentation on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 by FAO Member States. It focuses on food and agriculture. It made proposals such as institutional innovation. What is to be especially acknowledged is the document in the section partnerships and means of implementation highlights the key role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, including in terms of resource mobilization and capacity building and knowledge transfer.

As the report says, FAO is a forerunner in the United Nations System in promoting and facilitating these kinds of cooperation and has always been seeking opportunities to further increase the scope and quantity of partners. China supports this approach and has already sent more than a thousand experts to other developing countries under the FAO South-South Cooperation Framework.

South-South Cooperation Trust Fund has reached USD 80 million. China would like to appeal to developed countries to further engage in South-South and triangular Cooperation providing financial, technical and knowledge support to FAO in developing countries, especially through extra budgetary support directly linked to food and agriculture development further leveraging FAO's competitive advantage.

Meanwhile China also wishes to see that FAO can strengthen its cooperation with other Rome-based Agencies and create synergies for achieving SDGs.

In conclusion, China would like to request more information from FAO regarding what concrete measures FAO is going to take to increase the scope and quantity of South-South and triangular Cooperation.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

Brazil reiterates its commitment to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular SDG 2 on food security and sustainable agriculture.

Brazil will participate in the second round of national voluntary reports together with other forestry countries. The Brazil Report will be presented in the first day of the High-level Segment of HLPF on the theme eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world. It will highlight the seven objectives identified by the United Nations for the session of the forum.

The Report shows that Brazil has developed a set of public policies that is focused on combating hunger and food insecurity. We have implemented social protection policies and specific programmes

to form agriculture production through credit provision and public procurement programmes which benefit family farming.

The report also states that SDG 2 represents an additional challenge, the MDG target of reducing hunger by half, which was successfully achieved by Brazil. The main challenge remains, the reduction of poverty and access to land, employment and services in rural areas.

For the Brazilian Government, the preparation of the national report represented an important opportunity for mobilizing ministries and other institutions around the new Agenda. The compiled information, which addresses the progress made but also the challenges we face will support the work of our national commission for the SDGs which was created in 2016.

We support FAO's full engagement in the Agenda 2030. FAO has a crucial role in assisting countries to achieve their food and agriculture related goals and as a custodian agency for a large number of indicators. We also believe that FAO, WFP and IFAD have an important role to play in feeding the discussions of the HLPF and also promoting more visibility to the food security and agriculture issues in New York.

Regarding the proposal just made by our colleagues from Mexico for FAO to organize a High-Level Meeting on the SDG 2 in the future, we see some value in the proposal but we would like to highlight the importance of not duplicating efforts and taking into consideration the monitoring system that the Agenda 2030 has already established by itself.

Mr Suseno SUKOYONO (Indonesia)

The Indonesian delegation would like to highly appreciate Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources for the excellent presentation which highlights the progress on SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector through its links to food security and nutrition help the employment, rural development and environmental sustainability contribute significantly to achieve a wide range of SDGs, in particular SDG 2, 8, 10, 12 and 14. Indonesia has been fully committed to achieve SDGs in 2030 indicated by the development of policy umbrella, strategy and its implementation roadmap since 2016.

The efforts among others consist of the dissemination of SDGs with related working partners creating specific platforms to ensure inclusive approaches, creating metadata, coordinating the action plan at central and local Government and not to mention also strategic communication with the community to implement all the mandated action plans.

Along with Indonesia's commitment to 2030 Agenda, it is important to mention the effort to alleviate poverty and food security from the forestry sector. As you may be aware, the Indonesian President launched a Social Forestry Programme in September 2016. The Programme is expected to develop agroforestry, decrease the inequality of land tenure, and reduce social conflict as a result of enrichment. The Government of Indonesia is determined to use social forestry as one of the means in poverty alleviation as it is preserving forests and supporting people who live near the forests and rely on its natural resources, people with small or no land and those who live below the poverty line. The Programme will enable communities to access 7 million hectares through five schemes: community forests, village forests, community-based plantation forests, collaborative forest management, and customary law.

Indonesia would like to congratulate FAO for its active participation and significant contribution in conveying FAO member aspiration during the last Ocean Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters in June 2015.

In this regard, Indonesia would like to kindly encourage FAO Member Countries to pursue a global concerted action toward the outcomes of the Ocean Conference, highlighting the effort to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas, and maritime resources for sustainable development, particularly in increasing economic benefit to Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries and providing access for small-scale agriculture and fisheries to resources and markets.

In relation with the development of South-South Cooperation, Indonesia would like to highly appreciate the initiative as mentioned by China in supporting the agricultural development. Regarding this effort, Indonesia would like also to kindly inform you that Indonesia has been actively sharing best practices through South-South Cooperation in collaboration with Asia, Africa, and also Pacific Region through technical assistance on agricultural mechanisms, expert support, and also agriculture and fisheries practices assistance. This is the effort on developing and supporting regional platforms for sharing good practices, experience, and lessons learned.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the progress report on the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Food and agriculture are critical to achieving the SDGs, in particular SDG 2 and other related and interlinked SDGs. It is important to balance the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social, and environmental, in a participative and inclusive way leaving no one behind.

In this regard, we welcome the review of harmonizing with the 2030 Agenda of the Strategic Framework and the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. The latter will be reviewed under another agenda item. In particular, we welcome the promotion of a holistic approach in FAO's programmes and the application of the principles for a common vision on sustainable food and agriculture, leading to concrete and comprehensive guidelines.

We appreciate FAO's engagement and work in close collaboration with other UN agencies and other stakeholders to facilitate policy dialogue for increased consistency at global, regional, and national level and to achieve greater policy coherence by increasing the capacity of governments to enable and foster meaningful synergies in different policy areas where FAO has mandate in capacity. We call on FAO to continue this work.

We welcome FAO's efforts to emphasize policy coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, acknowledging in line with SDG 17 that different and more dynamic cooperation mechanisms can contribute to more sustainable development pathways. Bringing together different actors from government, private sector, smallholder farmers, and civil society will have additional potential to improve research, productivity, and sustainability, support inclusive development, and drive inclusive economic growth all around the world. We would welcome further information of FAO's work and strategy and take this opportunity to emphasize the importance we give to the VGGT and RAI principles adopted by the CFS.

We appreciate FAO's engagement in UN coordination in support of the 2030 Agenda, in particular, through the mainstreaming acceleration and policy support approach, contributing to guidelines and tools for use by the UN Country Teams and the active enrolment in the implementation of the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. We also appreciate FAO's work on the SDG indicators for which it has been designated as a custodian agency by advancing methodologies, collection of data from national sources, reporting on a global level, and providing statistical capacity development and learning tools and clear guidelines in support to members. We welcome further information from Management on how this additional work will be resourced.

We welcome FAO's contribution to the 2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in view of its examination of the SDGs under revision in the 2017 session.

We thank FAO for their engagement in the Ocean Conference on SDG 14, conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and maritime resources for sustainable development that was held in New York from 5 to 9 June.

Finally, we request FAO to continue to work with Member States, WFP, IFAD, and the rest of the UN System in supporting the implementation of the SDGs to review progress and keep members informed through regular reporting to the Technical Committees and Governing Bodies.

Sra. María Fernanda SILVA (Argentina)

Agradecemos a la FAO por esta presentación y en especial a la Doctora Semedo.

La delegación argentina, a la vez que agradece este documento, quiere hacer mención a que preferiría otro título u otro subtítulo en el que quedara claro que los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) son parte de la Agenda 2030, pero que la Agenda 2030 no se agota en ellos. Recordamos que tiene una declaración en la que se reafirma el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas que es de gran importancia para nuestro país y que fue la posición que sostuvo el G77 y China, grupo al interior del cual se construyó la posición de los países en desarrollo en ocasión de la negociación de la Agenda 2030.

Entre las medidas propuestas a la consideración respecto a que la FAO haga aportaciones al ciclo del Foro Político de Alto Nivel, señalamos que la propia Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible afirma que los exámenes temáticos que realizará el Foro Político de Alto Nivel estarán respaldados por los que realizan las comisiones orgánicas del ECOSOC y otros organismos internacionales y foros. No existen directrices formales respecto a qué tipo de aporte deben realizar los mencionados organismos al Foro Político de Alto Nivel. La Argentina favorece la remisión de documentos negociados.

Por otro lado, el documento hace referencia en reiteradas ocasiones a la mutua rendición de cuentas en el Marco de la Agenda 2030. Sin embargo, el concepto no se encuentra reflejado en la propia Agenda 2030. La Argentina se opuso en su momento a tal inclusión y también al concepto de revisión entre pares en la negociación de la Agenda 2030, prefiriendo hablar en cambio de aprendizaje entre pares.

En ese sentido, nuestro país considera que la finalidad de los diversos procesos de seguimiento y examen que confluyen en el Foro Político de Alto Nivel de Naciones Unidas sobre Desarrollo Sostenible, incluidos los exámenes nacionales voluntarios, tienen por objeto establecer el estado de avance en la aplicación de los ODS, compartir experiencias y lecciones aprendidas e identificar los desafíos pendientes. No se trata de que unos estados evalúen el grado de cumplimiento de los compromisos asumidos por otros estados, en tanto los caminos a seguir para la consecución del desarrollo sostenible pueden variar de acuerdo a los contextos y prioridades nacionales de desarrollo, y al grado de desarrollo de cada país y su disponibilidad de recursos, de conformidad con el principio de responsabilidades comunes pero diferenciadas.

En otro orden, en relación a las externalidades positivas del desarrollo rural, tal cual se menciona en el párrafo nueve del documento, estimamos que podría ser positivo incluir entre las mismas al desarrollo comunitario local, en tanto este favorece el arraigo y estimula la permanencia de los jóvenes en el ámbito rural. En relación al diálogo sobre las políticas en los planos mundial, regional y nacional, coincidimos con el pasaje de un enfoque de compartimientos estancos entre los distintos ámbitos de desarrollo, a políticas integradas y transversales, y agregamos que el enfoque debe integrar a nuestro criterio el plano local y el trabajo a nivel de los gobiernos subnacionales, sobre todo en el caso de los países como el nuestro, que somos países federales.

Asimismo, nos ha resultado de especial interés ciertos elementos descritos en este documento sobre los cuales esperamos poder conocer más en el futuro, en particular las potenciales contribuciones para promover el aumento de las capacidades de los gobiernos para fomentar las sinergias entre las numerosas esferas normativas y el fortalecimiento de la organización para la generación de los nuevos marcos de programación por países, y las características y modalidades específicas sobre el refuerzo al apoyo que la FAO prestará a los Estados Miembros en los temas mencionados.

Más allá de estas observaciones realizadas, consideramos favorablemente el documento, puesto que resume los aportes de la Organización en apoyo a la implementación de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible que realizan los estados y en la elaboración de indicadores para su seguimiento. Vemos favorablemente que el documento señale adecuadamente la necesidad de avanzar de modo balanceado en las tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible: económica, social y ambiental. Al mismo tiempo, también vemos muy favorablemente el carácter integrado del tratamiento de los ODS que el documento ha presentado.

Mme Emilienne AGOSSA (Bénin)

Le Bénin prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

L'alimentation et l'agriculture étant reconnues parmi les premières priorités de l'agenda mondial, en deuxième position sur la liste des 17 Objectifs de développement durable, le Groupe Afrique est heureux que la FAO présente ici un rapport sur les progrès accomplis par l'Organisation pour aider les États Membres à atteindre ces Objectifs (ODD) et à réaliser le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030. Les progrès réalisés par la FAO sont louables. En effet, elle a réussi à s'imposer comme chef de file dans ce domaine. Ceci à juste titre, car son mandat couvre stratégiquement plusieurs ODD et aussi parce la FAO est l'organisme auquel les Nations Unies ont confié la responsabilité première du suivi des indicateurs qui nous permettront de mesurer les progrès par rapport à l'ODD 2, tant au niveau des pays que des régions, ainsi qu'au niveau mondial.

Dans ce sens, le Groupe Afrique voudrait saisir l'opportunité de cette Conférence pour souligner l'importance d'assurer à la FAO le niveau adéquat de ressources financières et humaines requises afin de lui permettre de mener à bien sa tâche. Les pays africains seraient heureux que la mise à disposition de ces ressources puisse se faire également à travers de nouveaux mécanismes innovants, tels que la coopération Sud-Sud et la coopération triangulaire, par exemple.

La FAO a été désignée organisme responsable du suivi de 21 indicateurs relatifs aux ODD et agit en tant qu'organisme partenaire pour six autres indicateurs, comme il est rappelé au paragraphe 47. Le Groupe Afrique note que pour mener à bien cette lourde tâche, la FAO a renforcé son secteur des statistiques en établissant le Bureau du Statisticien en chef. La FAO a également établi un Sous-Groupe interdépartemental chargé des indicateurs relatifs aux ODD, comme mentionné au paragraphe 48. Nous souhaiterions que la FAO nous assure qu'avec l'établissement de ces nouvelles structures organisationnelles, elle pourra collecter les données et faire un suivi adéquat, en particulier sur le terrain, où il est reconnu que les besoins sont considérables.

Toujours en ce qui concerne le terrain, le Groupe Afrique est heureux de constater les nombreux exemples concrets cités dans l'encadré numéro 1 qui suit le paragraphe 20. Nous appelons la FAO à aller au-delà en favorisant les échanges d'informations et les partages d'expériences, non seulement entre les pays faisant partie d'une même région, mais également entre les groupes régionaux eux-mêmes.

Enfin, les pays africains seront heureux de pouvoir bénéficier des principes que la FAO précise au paragraphe 28, et qu'elle est en train de compiler sous forme de directives simples et concrètes que les pays pourront mettre en application aux fins de l'élaboration de leurs programmes et en appui à l'étude de leurs politiques en matière de sécurité alimentaire.

Avec ces commentaires, le Groupe Afrique est heureux d'approuver les actions proposées à la Conférence et présentées à la suite du résumé.

M. Michaël WÜRZNER (Suisse)

Grâce au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, nous bénéficions d'un cadre d'action globale qui nous permet de collaborer de manière inclusive et de nous coordonner avec les différents partenaires. Les Objectifs de développement durable nous offrent une opportunité unique de favoriser les synergies et la cohérence de nos politiques pour véritablement créer les conditions nécessaires au changement attendu par tant de personnes, notamment celles qui ont faim. Dans ce cadre, nous nous félicitons de la volonté de la FAO de collaborer de façon coordonnée et inclusive avec les différents partenaires pour éliminer la faim et la pauvreté, de tenir compte des besoins des populations rurales et de favoriser l'adaptation au changement climatique et l'atténuation de ses effets.

Maintenant, pour répondre à la question de Madame Semedo concernant les efforts et les actions supplémentaires à mettre en œuvre, nous pensons qu'il faudrait impliquer davantage les différents acteurs de la société civile, du secteur académique et du secteur privé en les incitant à œuvrer pour une alimentation et une agriculture durables, résilientes et innovantes.

Nous encourageons la FAO à s'impliquer davantage dans les approches novatrices en matière de partenariats multipartites qui favorisent les interactions entre différents acteurs, la transversalité entre secteurs et la recherche de solutions communes.

Pour la Suisse, une FAO forte, inclusive et innovante a un rôle clé à jouer, tant dans la mise en œuvre des ODD à tous les niveaux que dans le suivi des Objectifs de développement durable. Pour jouer pleinement son rôle, il est important que la FAO continue de mettre à disposition ses connaissances techniques et scientifiques, et qu'elle reste la plateforme où les questions liées à l'agriculture et à l'alimentation peuvent être discutées de manière intégrée par les différents acteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche et des forêts.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan welcomes the report on the progress on Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO has a critical role to play in the achievement of the SDGs as a specialized agency in the area of food and agriculture which is central to the SDGs. We encourage FAO to continue to collaborate effectively with the other Rome-based Agencies and the international organizations as well as with other diverse stakeholders and seek synergies while avoiding duplication of work.

Japan also would like to highlight the importance of mobilizing resources, not only from the traditional developed country donors but also from other countries and new sectors, including the private sector, in order to achieve the SDGs. In this regard, we encourage FAO to enhance partnerships with those new stakeholders and to expand its donor base and share those experiences.

Lastly, considering that FAO has a comparative advantage in the work of statistics and capacity-building for the monitoring of the SDGs, we look forward to the effective implementation and coordination of those works by the new Office of the Chief Statistician.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand thanks Ms Maria Helena Semedo, the Deputy Director-General, for her excellence updating the progress of FAO works on SDGs. Thailand recognizes that FAO mandate involves many SDGs but the focus will be on SDG 1 and SDG 2 as well as on SDGs related to sustainable management of national resources for agriculture. Progress monitoring is essential and we request FAO to assist member countries to develop statistic capacity to keep track on progress made to achieve SDGs. And we note with appreciation that FAO already identifies statistics as a priority in the next biennium.

FAO can play a pivotal role in harmonizing the management of SDGs and improving compatibilities of SDG indicators. Thailand is pleased to inform that Thailand established the National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals chaired by the Prime Minister and supported by two subcommittees and sector working groups.

We hope that this may improve coordination among agencies related to SDGs. The Thai National Road Map has already been drafted and is contained in the key performance indicators, but there is still room for improvement of indicators. We wish that FAO may support our work in the future.

Ms Meredith MCCORMACK (United States of America)

The United States recognizes the important role food and agriculture play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We appreciate all the work FAO has done to help countries strengthen and align their monitoring systems with the new goals, targets, and indicators of the SDGs.

FAO should continue to support countries to advance their methodologies, data collection, reporting, and analysis. And lastly, the United States supports FAO's new and innovative global, rural, and agricultural integrated surveys International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS).

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I would like to thank Ms Semedo for the presentation. I have a small problem. I hope you can bear with me. I asked for the floor to support a proposal that the Netherlands is going to make. Now, with your permission, I will cede the floor to the Netherlands and then speak after them if that is okay. Do you permit me?

Mr Hans BRAND (Netherlands)

We fully align with the statement made by Estonia on behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States. In addition to that, we would like to do a very short and concise proposal to the Conference.

On behalf of the country of Zimbabwe, Mexico, and the Philippines, the Netherlands would like to suggest for your consideration to request FAO to organize a stock-taking event three years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda to monitor the progress and the perspectives on the implementation of the SDGs, in particular to focus on SDG 2, Zero Hunger.

I think it would fit into the discussions we had today and in the document that is on the table at this moment describing the catalytic role of FAO in the implementation of the SDGs. It would also perfectly fit into the discussion we have today and also in the guidance that was sought by the introduction of Ms Semedo on this item.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

First let me associate myself with the statement by Benin on behalf of the Africa Group.

I would like to support the proposal by the Netherlands that we add in your conclusions the formulation that they have given, especially since there is already a discussion in paragraph d) of the document on that particular issue.

FAO is a custodian UN agency for 21 indicators, it is important that we have this stock-taking event, and most importantly because of the interest that the Developing Countries have in the SDGs.

Ms Maria Araceli ESCANDOR (Philippines)

Now in the interest of brevity, we will just intervene on three points.

First, we would like to thank Deputy Director-General, Ms Semedo for the update on the SDG implementation.

Second, we would like to support the connected proposal from the Netherlands, Mexico, Zimbabwe, and the Philippines on the high-level stock-taking three years after the adoption of Agenda, which is 2018.

Lastly, we would like again to re-emphasize that we are grateful for FAO's continuous support to capacity-building of the Developing Countries in implementing Agenda 2030.

Mr Khaled EL TAWEEL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Egypt notes with appreciation the active role of FAO in supporting the national efforts in implementing SDGs, especially SDG 1 on poverty eradication and SDG 2 on food security and nutrition and agricultural development. We note that SDGs are integrated in the FAO Strategic Framework and that the five Strategic Objectives were aligned with Agenda 2030.

We call on FAO to continue to focus on rural development in a way to ensure that no one is left behind. We also encourage the four Technical Committees of FAO (COAG, COFI, COFO, and CCP) to continue to put the 2030 Agenda at the center of their work. This can help synergize their work and guide the thematic work of FAO in the context of the Medium-Term Plan 2018–2021.

This morning we heard both the FAO Director-General and WFP Executive Director stating that with the current prevailing conditions, the achievement of SDG 2 will not be possible. The recent famines in four countries in the Near East and Africa threaten the achievement of SDG 2.

In this regard, we appreciate the consolidation of cooperation between FAO and WFP in responding to this crisis and call on donors to continue to provide financial resources to support the international efforts to eradicate hunger in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and SDG 17.

Improving nutrition worldwide and eliminating all forms of malnutrition shall continue to remain one of the priority focus areas of FAO in the context of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. We express our satisfaction towards the progress made in collaboration between FAO, WHO, IFAD, and CFS in this regard.

We acknowledge the importance of partnership for the achievement of the SDGs. South-South and triangular Cooperation presents key means not only to mobilize additional financial resources but to support capacity-building and knowledge transfer between countries at close level of development. We are looking forward for more engagement of FAO with national governance and institutions in the area of capacity-building, especially in statistics, data collection, and monitoring, considering that FAO is a custodian of 21 indicators.

Regarding the format of this report, we would appreciate if the next report included more numerical data on the progress achieved, the progress on indicators, and the planned future work to support national efforts at both national and regional levels.

Continues in English

With these comments, we approve this report and look forward for periodical update on FAO's work to support the achievement of the SDGs.

And if I have to make a quick reaction to the proposal from the Netherlands, Zimbabwe, and others, I believe it is a good idea as long as we make sure this is not duplicated with other *fora* and also considering any financial implications.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources)

Chair, with your permission, I will ask first my colleague, Kostas Stamoulis, to provide all information on the indicators and the data collection, and my colleague, Dan Gustafson, on South-South Cooperation, and then I will provide my answers.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Let me first clarify a few issues regarding the SDG indicators for which FAO is a custodian. At the last meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG indicators in April, which is composed of several countries, FAO succeeded in operating two Tier III indicators, 2.c.1 and 5.a.1, and the aim is to upgrade all remaining Tier III indicators by the next meeting of the Group in October.

So, our work in the coming months will focus on finalizing the methodologies for these indicators. At this point, the count is four indicators at Tier I for which everything is in place, eight indicators at Tier II, and nine indicators at Tier III. The idea is to upgrade the Tier III to Tier II by the next meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on SDG indicators. I could go into more details on this, but I would like to point out on which indicators there is an agreed methodology. I am not sure this is the level of detail we want to get into in this case.

Regarding the use of official data, let me say that in the 48th Session of the UN Statistical Commission, the number of indicators remain as they are, like 232 unique indicators. There has been a postponement of anything to do with the other 37 indicators until a comprehensive review that could take place in 2020. But also we requested the Interagency and Expert Group on SDGs to develop guidelines on global SDG reporting which was used whenever possible in national official data.

Let me remind the members that everything that goes out from the agency's intensive monitoring, data monitoring, has to be validated by the countries themselves. So, whenever we do not use official data, for instance the Gallup polls that we use for the FIES, Food Insecurity Experience Scale, they have to be validated by countries.

Now there was a question on – the FAO strategy on capacity development for SDG monitoring rests on two main axes. First, enlarging the pool of SDG monitoring experts, that is through regional workshops and e-learning courses, of which there are about 13 that will be developed by fall, and also using any means, including South-South Cooperation, in order to assist to create this expertise pool that will help countries in the data collection and put together of the indicators.

Finally, there was something about the resources. Let me remind the members that, first of all, there is a catalytic fund that was put together by regular programme resources to support the capacity development effort of FAO in terms of the development of the indicators.

There is support by a number of development partners and donors for aspects of the FAO work. And there is also the creation of five new posts to support the statistical work of FAO in the SDG monitoring and the creation of the Office of the Chief Statistician which its almost exclusive task is work on the SDG indicators and the coordination of statistical activities within FAO. So these are the kinds of resources that we have available.

Hopefully there will be more resources available to build capacities in the countries. There are also initiatives in which we collaborated with a number of agencies and one could go into. There was a side event during the FAO Council where we explained indicator by indicator for those indicators, FAO is a custodian agency, as well as what kind of cooperation we do with other agencies.

There is collaboration depending on the indicator with the appropriate agencies that carry out this particular work. We use every means we can – collaboration with others in order to do capacity-building and the development of indicators.

Unless there are further questions or more details required, I will be happy to provide that. I think these were the issues that were raised.

Mr Dan GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

Thank you very much for the opportunity to respond on the question of how we will increase South-South Cooperation.

As many of you know, we have now added a Deputy Division Director for South-South Cooperation and will change the name following the Conference of the Division of Partnerships, Advocacy, and Capacity Development to Partnerships and South South Cooperation with a Deputy Division Director to focus on South-South Cooperation. So that is one aspect.

Another aspect equally important is the expansion of the work beyond the kind of let's say projectized South-South Cooperation in looking in particular at South-South experiences, farmer to farmer, producer organization to producer organization, academics, kind of non-state actors in a broad sense, in addition to the work that we have going on in terms of triangular Cooperation, South-South Triangular, or Bilateral within large projects where a large number of experts are funded to work in specific areas. Sort of the more traditional model of what the new South-South piece of the partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division will do is to expand into these other areas.

The other third area, I think that is possibly the most important is to step up our activities within existing projects, voluntarily-funded projects, and those activities that are funded by the regular programme to see within existing resources how we can make better use of those resources through South-South Cooperation in addition to, or in place of consultant work, and that we are finding quite a few, I think, new opportunities.

And then finally, the expansion of South-South Cooperation along with expansion of technical assistance or capacity development or other activities will require additional voluntary resources, which, of course, we look forward to discussing with all of you.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources)

First of all, I would like to thank all the members for their contribution. I think we had a very important dialogue, discussion, where we received clear support and guidance from you how we can move forward supporting the countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Regarding the request or the proposal from Mexico, Zimbabwe, Philippines, and Netherlands, requesting a stock-taking meeting next year, we, in FAO, will be honoured to organize this meeting if so decided by the Conference.

And for sure whatever meeting we organize, it will be in the process of the implementation of the SDGs, in monitoring the implementation and in the framework of the UN process, not repeating what others have been doing but in complementarity. But, as I said, it is a proposal and we expect that the Conference will approve so.

The second question or comment came from Argentina, the point regarding the linkage between SDGs versus Agenda 2030. For sure your comment is correct. The Agenda 2030 encompasses the SDGs but is broader than the SDGs. We have the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action, we have the Paris Agreement, and we have other processes like the ICN-2 outcomes.

On the second point, it is a country-driven agenda. It is up to countries to define their priorities, their needs, their capacities, and we in the UN will follow in supporting the countries implementing and monitoring their priorities. But I think at the end of the day, what we are all looking for is for transformational change.

The countries have to keep in mind that we have a different agenda, we are not implementing MDGs, and we are moving to transforming and we should start with the ones left behind. These are the principles we all follow. We are all engaged in supporting the member countries.

I believe it came clearly that the areas where FAO is requested to provide support are on capacity-building, knowledge, and transfer of South-South Cooperation, as well as data collection for the indicators' implementation as it has been said. We will continue to work with you, with our Member Countries. We will be supporting towards implementation of this ambitious agenda.

But as it has been said today, the challenges ahead of us are very, very high. We agreed to eradicate hunger by 2030, and what we learned today was that instead of reducing, it is increasing, meaning that we need all of us to work together and to reinforce our efforts towards the rural development, towards the transformational change, and towards hunger eradication, and we have to speed the path. We cannot continue to do business as usual.

With that, I thank you all for your support and we will continue engaging in these discussions.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we have come to the conclusions with regard to item 13, which is as follows:

The Conference a) took note of the work done by FAO and commended efforts for continuous engagement of FAO in the implementation, monitoring, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at national, regional, and global levels;

b) took note on the progress made in developing SDG global indicators and requested FAO to periodically report on the ongoing engagement in SDGs to the Membership;

c) recommended FAO to further strengthen support provided to national stakeholders, ensuring that food and agriculture are permanently reflected in the nationally identified priorities, as well as enhance national stakeholders' capacity on monitoring and reporting of progress;

d) encouraged the Secretariat to monitor progress on engagement in the 2030 Agenda, including through provision of inputs to the United Nations High-level Political Forum in this regard;

e) noted the complementary nature of national, regional, and global indicators and encouraged members to report on the Global Indicator Framework as endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission and ECOSOC;

f) encouraged strengthening of partnership and alliances to support mobilization of resources in support of SDGs implementation;

g) requested FAO to undertake systematic review of progress towards achievement of the SDGs in 2018.

Continues in Arabic

This brings us to the end of item 13 of the agenda for today. This also brings us to the end of today's meeting. The Commission will resume its work tomorrow.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Can I hear the last bullet again, please? I want to be very sure that it is talking about what we propose at the stock-taking meeting.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Requested FAO to undertake systematic review of progress towards an achievement of the SDGs in 2018.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Requested FAO to organize a stock-taking event three years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda to monitor the progress and perspectives on the implementation of the SDGs with a particular focus on SDG 2.

You can remove the three years after and say in 2018 so that it is very specific that we are asking FAO to organize something and they have said that they are able to do it and they are willing to do it. So, one language, that is very clear and which is enforceable.

Ms Gunnvor BERGE (Norway)

Concerning the very last point, we do have a problem there. We do not think that it has been sufficiently discussed whether to go for FAO to organize such a forum, what the content should be, what the themes should be, and the year.

I am afraid that we would ask you to delete that part of the sentence. I am also wondering whether we have quorum here to actually send forth such a proposition to the Conference.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Like Norway, my Delegation has some misgivings at this point with this proposal as it is worded, especially since it is a new proposal and it has not gone through Finance Committee, Council, and if it has any resource implications, which it sounds like it likely will, it should go through a proper vetting procedure I believe within the normal processes.

And we also need to consider how this will interact with the activities of the High-level Political Forum in New York and which organization would have the precedence on such a stock-taking event.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

Along the same lines of the delegations of Norway and the United States, as we said before, we see value on the idea of FAO to keep engaging with countries in the process of monitoring the accommodation of the SDGs, but the follow-up of the Agenda 2030 was established already and the High-level Political Forum is the forum to discuss the high-level segment, I would say, the implementation and the monitoring map of SDGs.

For these reasons, it is merely a procedural reason here, we would prefer not to include a recommendation as proposed by the Netherlands, Zimbabwe, and other delegations at this stage.

We believe that the idea is somehow covered in paragraph d) of the actions to be taken by the Conference, which is request FAO to continue to work with Member States to review progress on the 2030 Agenda, including cross-cutting issues, feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the High-level Political Forum according to the modalities established by the General Assembly.

I think this paragraph covers somehow the idea of having FAO engaging – further engaging with countries in the process, so maybe we could use that language to try to capture the idea proposed by the other delegations as a compromise.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

Like others, we believe this is a new proposal but also since we see some value in this proposal, we would suggest that a compromise – that the Conference send this proposal to the Finance and Programme Committee to study its viability and its added value so then we can release the study in detail.

And having said that, I have just a few comments on what was included in your summary.

In paragraph b) I think what we submit to the High-level Political Forum is not an input. It is a report. It should be changed in this way. And I did not hear anything about what many countries requested regarding capacity building in the area of statistics, so if we can have language on this.

And in paragraph f) when we refer to resource mobilization, if we can make reference to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to be in line with it.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Could you please read out aloud the formulation of the language that you would like to propose for paragraph d)?

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

For paragraph d), what we submit to the High-level Political Forum is a report. FAO is submitting a report, not inputs. So, just to change the word “*inputs*” into “*reports*”.

For paragraph f), we suggest to add the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the end of the sentence and we also suggest to add a new paragraph on what many countries expressed regarding capacity building in the area of statistics. I think this was mentioned by many Members, including Egypt, and finally what we present as a compromise for the proposal from Zimbabwe and the Netherlands to send their proposal to the Finance and Programme Committee to study further.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Clearly there is a lack of consensus on paragraph d) and therefore we would like to propose a new language and I am going to read aloud and I would seek your approval for it.

Continues in English

Paragraph g): requested FAO to undertake systematic review of progress towards achievement of the SDGs in 2018, including possibly by a stock-taking event subject to resource and duplication considerations to be reviewed by the Finance and Programme Committee.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

We cannot understand exactly what you mean by saying “*duplication considerations*”. Could you just clarify that? Maybe it is including through possibly stock-taking events, additional financial resources or financial implications? We just did not catch your idea. If you could repeat it, please?

CHAIRPERSON

I will repeat it once again with some modifications.

“Requested FAO to undertake systematic review of progress towards achievement of the SDGs in 2018, including the possibility of a stock-taking event subject to resource and duplication considerations to be reviewed by the Finance and Programme Committee.”

Mr Hans BRAND (Netherlands)

As regards this proposal, the last conclusion you read, is it not enough to have it under review by the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee because they have to look for the implications on resources or the budget available or is there no duplication of work done? I think the duplication is regarding to the work, not duplication concentrations, but the duplication of work. That should be avoided.

I think when we leave the conclusion to – subject to consideration by the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, it would be okay.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

And also building on what was mentioned by the Netherlands, maybe a simple formulation would be requested of the Finance and the Programme Committees to study the feasibility of organizing a stock-taking event while considering financial considerations and while ensuring that there is no duplication with other fora.

Mr N K Martin SELEKA (South Africa)

I seem to concur with – I think we have done a bit of an overkill on that, on your compromise line, because why then do we have to refer to the Programme Committee because refer to them to look into the feasibility of this proposition. So that means to take out the question of duplication and all of that.

What the Netherlands have proposed, I think it makes much more sense. It is a much more simple proposition. Referring to them to look into the feasibility of that, and whether it does have a financial implication or whether it does duplicate other efforts of other entities that are already seizing this particular matter.

Ms Gunnvor BERGE (Norway)

Sorry to take the floor on this issue again but this is a new topic. We have not had the possibility to discuss in any way the implications of such a topic even before it is proposed here.

I am sure that many of you here took part in the very substantial discussions that were conducted around the big ocean conference, and the way in which it was proposed, the way in which it was to be financed and how much time, money, and effort was spent on the start-up of that initiative.

My concern is that we do not seem to have learned anything from that process and again seem to rush into a new proposal without sufficient discussion even internally in our delegations.

So my proposal is to drop the last sentence altogether. I do not feel that the suggestions here have been more helpful or clarifying but if we are going to keep it, I would definitely need to have a review by the Finance and Programme Committee of the proposal.

Mme Isabelle OUILLON (France)

J'aurais souhaité avoir un petit éclaircissement sur les termes «revue systématique». Qu'entend-on, exactement?

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We have two questions with regard to this proposal and one remark. The first question is about the specific issues to be discussed in this proposed event. We heard from the initiators of the event as far as we understand. It was quite clearly indicated in the intervention by Zimbabwe that it will be a question of Sustainable Development Goal 2 which fully corresponds with FAO's mandate.

But in your summary, Chairman, they are talking about the Sustainable Development Goals generally and therefore we might wonder whether there might be overlap with other fora.

The second question, is about the wording of the systematic review in 2018. If the colleague could clarify what a systematic review in 2018 might mean, it might clarify the situation for us.

Taking into account what we have already said, it also seems to us that a compromise proposal was made by Egypt. It might allow us to keep this proposal on the negotiating table.

A mention of the financial component and a mention of avoiding duplication of efforts would not be surplus to requirement, especially taking into account the nature of the proposed event, an event which would bring together as far as we recall, experience and data about achieving SDG 2.

There is an existing mechanism in the framework of the FAO, the periodic report for the Governing Bodies, on this topic and the flagship publications of the FAO and the CFS.

So in order to avoid duplication of effort and in order to ensure that there is not specific increased cost of this event, we believe that this should be considered by the Programme and Finance Committee.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Like some other delegations before me, I believe we still have some rather significant questions regarding even this compromised proposal. For instance, process. Now we are used to a normal process here at FAO where issues are reviewed by Finance and Programme Committee, then the Council, then acted upon by the Conference.

In a sense, what we would be doing here is agreeing in advance to something pending Finance and Programme Committee action and that is almost the direct opposite of what we normally – how we normally proceed here at FAO.

Secondly, the SDGs are a product of the UN General Assembly, not a product solely of the FAO, not a product solely of other UN agencies. They are a product of the UN General Assembly. Likewise, the UN General Assembly created the High-level Political Forum to address certain issues related to the SDGs.

I am not an expert in the activities of the High-level Political Forum. Some people here might be. I am not. At this point I cannot tell you whether there will be overlap with activities planned by the High-level Political Forum.

So at this point I think we just do not have the information to be able to agree to such a proposal while at the same time we are also opposed to the potential opposite pathway that we are used to taking with regards to important proposals, especially proposals that have resource and programmatic implications for this Body.

CHAIRPERSON

It seems to me that there is no consensus regarding this item. What I suggest that we delete the whole wording or the whole item. Do you agree?

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Serious points that are coming from all of the delegates. But I do believe that Conference, if we go through many of the resolutions, has actually requested FAO to look into some matters in the same way that we are proposing here if we just go through previous resolutions.

Now if people have a problem with the formulation that we have asked, then maybe let us go back to the original one that we had proposed since nobody objected to it, and in fact you had hit your hammer until I proposed that we use the formulation that we have. Nobody had objected to the initial one.

And for people to say that is a new idea, actually if you look at paragraph d) on the proposed action, it does talk about a review and we had only asked that we actually specify what kind of review we want to do. But there was already provision for that in the document that was passed through Council and recommended to the Conference.

That is why if you listened in my own intervention, I started by talking about that paragraph d). To say it already talks about that but we want something that is more specific and actionable, that we can actually say FAO, where are we on this one.

Now the proposal to subject that to the Finance and the Programme Committees, which is okay. Then they can report to Council that yes, we see the feasibility of doing something like this.

So if you want, we can revert back to your original formulation.

Mr Hans BRAND (Netherlands)

I think the proposal has two key elements in it and that is SDG 2 and not all SDGs but especially SDG 2 as it is the core of the mandate of FAO, and the second key element is on the implementation path.

It is not on the impact. It is not where we stand because we have obligations also to report to the High-level Political Forum. That is true. We have that. To do that in a stock-taking event would mean duplication. That is not what we meant.

What we meant is to take stock of the way we are implementing as Members, how FAO is supporting and helping Members, and where are the gaps and where are the paths for a better implementation of the SDGs and especially SDG 2 by the Members and the role of FAO in it.

I think that it would be a very interesting stock-taking event that is not on impact, that is not on where we are. The global reporting that is required also by the 2030 Agenda, it is not on the Paris Agreement.

It is just on SDG 2 and how we are as Membership, doing and where do we need more or specific, or guided help just to get implementation in a right track and in the right speed?

I think that is the key of the proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

Well I think if I go back to Zimbabwe's solution, if Zimbabwe withdraws his objection, if I can say that? Can we go again back to the originally suggested proposal of the item? If we agree on that, we will go ahead with it. Any objection?

Ms Gunnvor BERGE (Norway)

I'm sorry but it was the original proposal that made us react in the first place. If this is still what we are talking about.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read it once again. Paragraph g): "requested FAO to undertake systematic review of progress towards achievement of the SDGs in 2018."

This is the original proposal. Do you agree on that?

Ms Gunnvor BERGE (Norway)

I am sorry. I may be confused now about what was your last proposal. What was the last point that you read aloud in your summary from the meeting?

But that was the one we reacted against. That was the one that caused this whole debate that we found clarities in how to understand the terminology.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

We could go along with the original proposal made by you, Chair, in conclusion of this discussion. We just would like to include the last part of the sentence that I read before originally in paragraph d) of the document which is feeding into and being aligned with the cycle of the High-level Political Forum after 2018 and then we could agree with the proposal of having this sentence in the report of this meeting.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Let me clarify for my colleague from Norway that what started the debate was my rejection of your formulation which had been accepted. This is why I am withdrawing my objection and saying let us go ahead with your formulation which had been – if you remember, I interrupted you when you were actually closing. Nobody had objected to that formulation and I objected because I wanted the world to stop ticking. You were actually closing and I apologize for continuing the discussion when we were all ready to go home.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We also would like to add our voice to Norway and the United States and we are still concerned that this – even your original formulation of the conclusion might imply this holding proposal that is made by the Netherlands and in 2018 and also I recall that France and other delegations' question about what systematic review actually means and you have not quite answered that question.

So the original formulation still contains the word 'systematic review' and Japan, is also concerned what actually 'systematic review' involves.

CHAIRPERSON

It seems once again that there is no consensus about this issue, so I suggest to delete it. Do you agree on this decision? Agreed.

Continues in Arabic

We will start at 10.00 hours tomorrow and with item 11, *Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from reports of the Technical Committees*.

I would like to thank you in advance for being on time tomorrow morning at 9.30 hours because we have a long agenda.

I do apologize for having gone on so late this evening and I would like to thank all of the delegates for their patience and we will see you tomorrow.

The meeting stands adjourned.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources)

I would like to extend FAO invitation to all of you to attend the side event on biodiversity as the delegate of Mexico has already done. Tomorrow at 8.00 hours in the Sheikh Zayed Center we will be offering you some coffee to be awake and fully involved in the event.

The meeting rose at 20.53 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 53

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.53

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session Quarantième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-8 July 2017 Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017 Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
4 July 2017

The Second Meeting was opened at 09.53 hours
Mr Hamoud Al Hasni,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 09 h 53
sous la présidence de M. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda reunión a las 09.53
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I would like to call this second meeting of Commission I to order.

We would like to start with the first item for this morning. It is item 11 regarding global policy and regulatory matters arising from the various technical committees.

We were informed by the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) that he is unable to attend Commission I this morning. Therefore, we will consider sub-item 11.2, *Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems* during our afternoon meeting.

Item 11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:****Tema 11. Asuntos mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

Item 11.1 Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (26-30 September 2016)

Point 11.1 Rapport de la vingt-cinquième session du Comité de l'agriculture (26-30 septembre 2016)

Tema 11.1 Informe del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (26-30 de septiembre de 2016)

(C 2017/21; C 2017/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Allow me now to consider item 11.1, *Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture* held from 26 to 30 September 2016. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/21 in front of you.

I would like to invite his Excellency Ambassador François Pythoud, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to FAO to introduce this item.

M. François PYTHOUD (Président du Comité de l'agriculture)

C'est un plaisir et un honneur pour moi de vous présenter aujourd'hui le rapport de la 25^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture qui s'est tenue du 26 au 30 septembre 2016, au Siège de la FAO, sur le thème général «voies pour une alimentation et une agriculture durable», sous la présidence de mon prédécesseur, M. Joseph Sam Sesay, ancien Ministre de l'agriculture, des forêts et de la sécurité alimentaire de la République de Sierra Leone, que je souhaite aujourd'hui saluer et remercier chaleureusement.

En guise d'introduction, et comme le Comité de l'agriculture est le premier des comités technique à présenter son rapport à la Conférence, il est important de souligner que pour la première fois dans l'histoire de la FAO, les Comités techniques de la FAO ont abordé conjointement trois thèmes prioritaires stratégiques pour l'Organisation: le soutien au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 (l'agenda 2030), la nutrition et la Stratégie de la FAO relative au changement climatique. Cette approche intégrée, visant à aller au-delà des silos techniques dans l'esprit du Programme 2030, a enrichi la contribution des États Membres sur ces thèmes critiques pour l'Organisation. En plus de ces thèmes prioritaires, le Comité de l'agriculture a concentré ses délibérations sur plusieurs questions stratégiques et techniques allant du partenariat mondial sur les sols, la lutte antimicrobienne, l'année internationale des légumineuses, jusqu'à l'innovation et le recensement agricole.

Les recommandations du Comité ont été adoptées par la 155^{ème} session du Conseil et je souhaite maintenant porter à votre attention les principales conclusions et recommandations sur les questions de politiques et réglementations mondiales.

Au fil des discussions sur le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030, le Comité a souligné le rôle primordial de l'agriculture dans la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable et la nécessité de promouvoir des mesures plus intégrées. Dans ce contexte, il a approuvé les cinq éléments élaborés par la FAO comme base au dialogue sur les politiques et aux dispositifs de

gouvernance nécessaires à l'identification de voies de développement durable dans tous les secteurs et le long des chaînes de valeur correspondantes.

En ce qui concerne le changement climatique, le Comité s'est félicité de la stratégie présentée par la FAO et a indiqué qu'il souhaitait que la stratégie englobe également les questions relatives à la diversité biologique et qu'elle recherche des synergies entre adaptation au changement climatique et atténuation des effets, tout en stimulant la coopération entre les pays. Dans ce contexte, le Comité a prié la FAO et les États Membres d'intégrer la biodiversité dans l'agriculture, y compris l'élevage, afin de promouvoir la contribution de celle-ci aux services écosystémiques ainsi qu'à l'adaptation au changement climatique et à l'atténuation de ses effets.

Il a également demandé que la question de la prise en compte systématique de la biodiversité soit traitée par le Comité de l'agriculture, mais aussi par le Comité des pêches et le Comité des forêts, en tant que question transversale, et ceci à partir de 2018.

Enfin, le Comité a prié la Conférence d'examiner les conclusions de la 13^{ème} réunion de la Conférence des parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Cette question est à l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence. Elle sera traitée par cette Commission dans l'après-midi.

Pour ce qui est de la nutrition, le Comité a fait sienne l'approche d'une agriculture durable tenant compte de la nutrition et a demandé à la FAO de contribuer au renforcement des capacités à tous les niveaux, notamment en intégrant la nutrition aux programmes de gestion et de formation agricoles.

En ce qui concerne la résistance aux antimicrobiens, le Comité a pris note du compte-rendu des activités de la FAO dans ce domaine, qui avait été demandé par la Conférence. Il s'est félicité de l'élaboration d'un plan d'action quinquennal et a insisté sur la collaboration avec l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale.

Le Comité a également pris note avec satisfaction des rapports des 3^{ème} et 4^{ème} réunions de l'Assemblée plénière du Partenariat mondial sur les sols, ainsi que des progrès réalisés dans la lutte contre la dégradation et dans la promotion d'une gestion durable des sols. Sur ce dernier point, le Comité a fait sien le «Projet de directives volontaires pour une gestion durable des sols», directives qui ont ensuite été approuvées par le Conseil de la FAO en décembre 2016.

Le Comité a également encouragé la FAO à assurer un alignement plus étroit du programme des Systèmes ingénieux du patrimoine agricole mondial (SIPAM) à l'intérieur de ses objectifs stratégiques.

En ce qui concerne l'élevage, le Comité a approuvé la structure de gouvernance du Programme mondial pour un élevage durable et a invité la FAO à y jouer un rôle plus actif. Il a invité le Secrétariat à présenter au Comité du Programme un rapport sur la mise en œuvre du Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants, rapport qui a été présenté en mars 2017 au Comité du Programme, et, suite à la proposition relative à la création d'un sous-comité de l'élevage, il a demandé qu'un document d'information sur cette question soit rédigé et lui soit présenté lors de sa prochaine session.

Le Comité a aussi demandé à la FAO d'intensifier ses activités en matière de sécurité sanitaire des aliments et de renforcer l'appui technique fourni aux petits exploitants agricoles au niveau local, aux fins d'une utilisation sans danger des pesticides et de continuer à faire rapport sur l'état d'avancement des activités en matière d'agriculture familiale.

Le Comité a également invité la FAO à renforcer ses activités sur les systèmes alimentaires durables au sein du Cadre décennal de programmation concernant les modes de consommation et de production durables. Il a préconisé que la FAO continue à renforcer ses activités normatives et scientifiques en prêtant une attention particulière à l'agroécologie, aux biotechnologies, à la production durable, au changement climatique, à la diversité biologique, à la mécanisation, aux statistiques, à la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, à la nutrition, aux jeunes, et finalement à la parité hommes-femmes. Ces activités seront menées grâce à des partenariats multipartites et intersectoriels faisant une large place à la coopération Sud-Sud et à la participation du secteur privé et des organisations de la société civile.

Le Comité a aussi chargé son Bureau d'un certain nombre d'activités pendant l'intersession, à savoir: explorer la possibilité d'un futur sous-comité ad hoc sur le changement climatique et présenter ses

conclusiones à la prochaine session du Comité. Finalement, le Comité a créé un Groupe de travail informel à composition non-limitée chargé d'étudier les possibilités de financement adéquat et durable du programme conjoint de la FAO et de l'OMS relatif à la fourniture d'avis scientifiques sur la sécurité sanitaire des aliments, en tenant compte des recommandations de la Commission du Codex Alimentarius, et de présenter ses conclusions pour examen à un organe directeur compétent de la FAO en 2017 ou en 2018. Sur ce point-là, j'ai le plaisir de vous informer que le Comité ad hoc a été mis en place, qu'il a déjà tenu une réunion et commencé ses travaux, et que nous espérons pouvoir produire un rapport au plus tard au début de l'année prochaine.

Pour terminer, le Comité a approuvé les propositions de proclamation d'une Journée mondiale des abeilles, d'une Année internationale de la santé des végétaux et d'une Année internationale des camélidés, qui font l'objet de résolutions séparées que vous serez invités à analyser au titre d'un autre point de l'ordre du jour.

J'ai le plaisir de vous inviter à approuver le rapport de la 25^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We thank you for the presentation of the COAG Report. COAG is one of the most important Technical Committees in FAO. The report is a significant reference in decision-making of the other leading constitutions. We appreciate the work done by COAG. With respect to the report, we have the following remarks to make.

First of all, we suggest that the Executive Summary of future reports highlight South-South Cooperation, partnership and triangular partnership. These have been included in the text of the report but have not been given priority in a standalone chapter. China hopes that such improvement can be made by the COAG.

Secondly, in the Summary Report, the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) should be raised as part of matters requiring the attention of the Conference. GIAHS has been given priority in the report where the very importance of GIAHS is stressed for its contribution to sustainable agriculture, the conservation of biodiversity, food security and environmental sustainability, however it has not been included in the section "*Matters requiring the attention of the Conference*". On the basis that the Secretary would be in agreement with the two points just raised, China could go along with the adoption of the Report.

Sr. Hesiquio BENITEZ DIAZ (México)

Nuestra delegación apoya las conclusiones y recomendaciones del Informe y aprovechamos para felicitar al Embajador François Pythoud de Suiza por su nombramiento como Presidente del Comité. Específicamente apoyamos el párrafo 12, donde el Comité solicita a la FAO y a los países integrar la biodiversidad en el sector agrícola para promover su contribución a los servicios ecosistémicos y adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático, así como la solicitud de que el tema sea tratado en las próximas reuniones de los Comités de Agricultura (COAG), Pesca (COFI) y Forestal (COFO).

También sugerimos que esto se extienda a la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, como tema transversal, tomando en cuenta los resultados de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Biodiversidad y la Declaración de Cancún sobre Integración de la Conservación y Uso Sustentable de la Biodiversidad al Bienestar.

También apoyamos las directrices voluntarias sobre la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, la pesca y los bosques en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria nacional, e invitamos a la FAO a incrementar esfuerzos para apoyar a los países en su entendimiento y la utilización a gran escala.

En cuanto a la resistencia a los antimicrobianos, apoyamos la elaboración del Plan de acción quinquenal y la presentación periódica de información, tomando en cuenta la conveniencia de continuar actuando con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) y la Organización Mundial de

Sanidad Animal (OIE), con miras a la declaración de las Naciones Unidas sobre la resistencia a los antimicrobianos. Damos bienvenida a las iniciativas como el Día Mundial de las Abejas, el Año Internacional de las Legumbres, el de los Camélidos y el de la Sanidad Vegetal, por su importancia para concientizar a la población en estos temas.

En términos nutricionales, apoyamos la promoción del consumo de frutas y verduras mediante el uso de estrategias educativas y subsidios a la agricultura para mejorar la dieta con estrategias como la fortificación de alimentos agrícolas y pecuarios, que pueden ayudar en la prevención de deficiencias y enfermedades crónicas.

En cuanto al Programa mundial para una ganadería sostenible, México destaca la importancia de trabajar con el sector ganadero como actor importante para la mitigación y adaptación al cambio climático y enfatiza la necesidad de que FAO establezca una plataforma de conocimientos especializados para que exista mayor cooperación en este sector.

Finalmente, agradecemos los esfuerzos de la FAO en la elaboración de una Estrategia sobre el cambio climático, y consideramos oportuno el establecimiento de un subcomité en la materia. Y aunque tiene elementos de biodiversidad, queremos proponer que en el marco de la FAO, se realice una estrategia similar en materia de biodiversidad, en la que se promueva la integración de la biodiversidad en los sectores agrícolas, misma que puede desarrollarse en el marco de la plataforma sobre integración de la biodiversidad, que será revisada en el tema de Agenda 17 en esta tarde, y con el apoyo de actores como el Grupo de Amigos de la Biodiversidad y Ecosistemas.

M. Henri EYEBE AYISSI (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

La Session du Comité de l'agriculture de septembre 2016 a été particulièrement dense au regard des questions qui ont été examinées. Nous saluons par conséquent le travail de ce Comité.

Le rapport qui fait présentement l'objet de nos délibérations a connu un premier examen par le Conseil, qui a donné des orientations précises à la Conférence. Le Groupe Afrique fait sienne toutes les recommandations du Comité approuvées par le Conseil.

Pour parler des quelques questions spécifiques qui concernent notre région, nous souhaitons soulever quatre points : les activités de la FAO relatives au changement climatique, les questions de résistance aux antimicrobiens, le Programme sur le recensement agricole 2020 et l'innovation agricole pour un développement agricole durable.

Au lendemain de la vingt-deuxième Conférence des parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, COP22, qui s'est tenue à Marrakech, au Maroc, et de la treizième réunion de la Conférence des parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique, qui s'est tenue à Cancun, au Mexique en 2016, nous nous attendons à ce que la FAO accentue son action face au changement climatique afin d'en réduire l'impact sur la sécurité alimentaire.

Par ailleurs, nous invitons le Bureau du Comité de l'agriculture à examiner en profondeur la possibilité de la mise en place d'un sous-comité ad hoc sur le changement climatique.

Pour ce qui concerne la résistance aux antimicrobiens, tout en encourageant une collaboration soutenue entre la FAO, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé et l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale, ainsi qu'avec les autres parties prenantes concernées, dans le cadre de l'application de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les antimicrobiens, nous appelons à plus de créativité dans la mobilisation des ressources pour appuyer les travaux sur la résistance aux antimicrobiens, y compris pour la fourniture d'avis scientifiques dans le cadre du Codex Alimentarius.

Conscients de l'importance que revêtent des statistiques agricoles fiables dans le processus décisionnel à l'échelle des pays de notre région et de la limitation des ressources pour conduire les activités liées au Programme de recensement agricole 2020, nous encourageons toute activité de la FAO visant à la fourniture d'assistance technique en matière de recensement agricole.

L'innovation agricole, qui passe nécessairement par la recherche appliquée à l'agriculture, les activités de communications et le partage des connaissances, mérite un accompagnement permanent. Sans cette

innovation agricole, l'augmentation durable de la productivité agricole, pour laquelle il existe encore des potentialités significatives dans notre région, serait une utopie. Nous encourageons par conséquent toutes les actions de partenariat dans ce domaine, y compris avec le secteur privé et avec la société civile.

Avec ces remarques, le Groupe Afrique approuve le rapport de la 25^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

FAO support is much needed for the transition of agricultural and food systems including livestock that will enhance sustainability and resilience in the context of climate change including through agricultural approaches, sustainable production intensification and organic production.

In the context of FAO's holistic approach to this challenge, we also welcome the recognition of the contribution of agriculture in meeting the nutritional requirements of populations.

We also welcome the completion of the strategy for FAO's work on climate change. We are looking forward to its implementation and to the review of outputs on indicators of the Action Plan in the coming months and we underline the importance of FAO's work on climate change and agriculture in the context of country's indices. We strongly encourage FAO to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective into all its activities.

We appreciate the recommendation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which FAO will address together with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in the framework of the One Health Approach. Helping tackle AMR, including promoting the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobials in agriculture and end their unnecessary use should be a high priority for the FAO Secretariat.

We support the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, as endorsed by the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly, COAG and the Council. We encourage their use at all levels as a tool to support the improvement of soil fertility, water retention capacity and the restoration of degraded lands, all keys to enhancing agriculture productivity and achieving food security in the context of climate change.

The first meeting of the informal Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) set up by COAG to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for FAO/WHO's Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme building on the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission colleagues shows that they must be mobilized and are relatively modest. On this important issue, we would like to stress once more the need that any option proposed by the OEWG should guarantee the neutrality, the independence and the integrity of scientific advice and should avoid any risk of conflict of interest.

More generally, we stress once again the importance of and the need to continue the work done by FAO in the areas of food safety and quality policies, including Codex and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) activities, sustainable management of natural resources, including the activities of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), plant and animal health including transboundary pests and diseases and antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Lastly, we welcome the discussions on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Cancun last December.

With all these remarks, we endorse the COAG Report.

Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan's intervention on this agenda item is limited to the following seven points. First, we assign a high priority to FAO's normative work in agroecology, biotechnology, climate change adaptation, food safety, nutrition, gender development and statistics.

Second, we welcome the importance given to South-South and triangular Cooperation as well as the involvement of the private sector and FAO's field operations.

Third, we agree with the proposition to maintain strong linkage between the global agenda for sustainable livestock and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Fourth, we appreciate the role played by FAO in promoting innovations with a view to alleviating rural poverty, reducing rural unemployment and promoting the participation of young men and women in rural transformation.

Fifth, we request FAO to intensify its food safety work and technical support to smallholders at local level with respect to the safe use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Sixth, we highly appreciate the collaboration between FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on antimicrobial resistance with focus on building awareness and surveillance and the use of best practices.

Seventh, we welcome FAO's support for the World Bee Day, the International Year of Plant Health and the International Year of Camelids.

With these comments, Afghanistan endorses the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture.

M. Alwin KOPSE (Suisse)

La Suisse soutient les recommandations du rapport de la 25^{ème} session du Comité de l'agriculture et ce faisant, nous aimerions mettre en exergue quatre points ayant fait l'objet des travaux du Comité de l'agriculture qui nous semblent particulièrement importants, à savoir:

1) Le Programme 2030. Nous saluons l'approbation des cinq éléments élaborés par la FAO comme base du dialogue sur les politiques liées aux dispositifs de gouvernance pour assurer la transition vers une alimentation et une agriculture durables. Ceci n'est qu'une première étape. Il s'agit maintenant d'aller plus loin et d'élaborer sur cette base un cadre de référence plus solide, surtout reconnu au niveau international. La Suisse demande dès lors que la Conférence envoie un message fort à la FAO et lui demande de poursuivre les travaux dans cette direction en impliquant les Conférences régionales et les Comités techniques, qui se réuniront en 2018, en vue de l'adoption par la Conférence, à sa 41^{ème} session en 2019, d'un outil de référence consolidé en soutien au Programme 2030, en particulier les cibles 2.3 et 2.4 de l'Objectif de développement durable 2.

2) La Stratégie de la FAO en ce qui concerne les activités relatives au changement climatique. À cet égard, la Suisse soutient sans réserve l'intégration de la biodiversité agricole dans les activités de la FAO, afin de promouvoir la contribution de celle-ci aux services écosystémiques ainsi qu'à l'adaptation au changement climatique et à l'atténuation de ses effets.

3) Le Programme global pour le développement durable du secteur de l'élevage. Le Suisse se félicite du travail que le Programme a accompli et demande à la FAO de continuer à s'engager en faveur de cette initiative. Mon pays continuera à lui apporter son soutien.

4) Nous souhaitons enfin annoncer que la première Conférence du Programme pour des systèmes alimentaires durables des Nations Unies (Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10 YFP-SCP) s'est déroulée il y a deux semaines à Pretoria, en Afrique du Sud. Ce fut un succès, tant en terme de participation que du point de vue des résultats obtenus. Ses avancées sont importantes suite à la décision du Comité de l'agriculture de reprendre les systèmes agroalimentaires durables dans son programme de travail. Le besoin de renforcer la cohérence au niveau de la chaîne agroalimentaire par l'intégration des différents acteurs est essentiel et nous vous invitons par conséquent à participer ce jeudi à 12h30, au Centre Cheikh Zayed, à la manifestation

parallèle pour le lancement du Programme cadre et inter-agence pour le soutien au Programme 10YFP-SCP pour des systèmes alimentaires durables.

Nous soutenons finalement l'engagement qu'a pris la FAO dans le domaine de l'innovation. Cette thématique doit devenir un point permanent à l'ordre du jour du Comité de l'agriculture. Pour 2018, nous proposons de traiter le rôle de l'innovation au service de la digitalisation de l'agriculture en mettant l'accent sur l'engagement des jeunes pour développer des outils réellement adaptés aux besoins.

Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

I would like to begin by expressing our appreciation to the Chairperson of the Committee for the initial presentation. We were very pleased with the outcomes of the Committee's deliberations over the last year. We would just like to highlight a few points of particular interest.

The Conference as we heard in the plenary recognized a vital role that agriculture plays to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. FAO is a major player in this and the combination of the new Climate Change Strategy and its leadership in the normative areas of agriculture are very important to driving the agenda of sustainable development.

In this context, I would like to touch in particular to the importance of science and international collaboration to address the challenges of climate change. I would like to call attention to the leadership that New Zealand has played through the Global Research Alliance on Greenhouse Gases and it recognizes and underscores the very important role that livestock economy plays and that has already been referenced to FAO's work around sustainable livestock production and some initiatives there.

I would like to draw attention to the fact that we are running a side event later this week, on Thursday, to highlight the work of the Global Research Alliance and also to support the importance of collaboration including with FAO and other global partners in the context of climate change and the significance of FAO's work in this area. It is useful for recognizing the role of the Global Research Alliance.

Reference has already been made to the antimicrobial challenges around antimicrobial resistance and FAO and WHO partnership in this area. There has already been reference made to the work of CODEX Alimentarius Commission which has set up or reactivated the ad hoc intergovernmental taskforce which will be to look at revising the code of practice there but also to strengthen national surveillance capacity so that is a very important area as well and we recognize and support the importance of this work.

I would also like to touch on the importance of trade liberalization and sound agriculture policies as an important aspect of sustainable agriculture. Trade has a vital role to play in ensuring efficient use of agricultural resources and also meeting the global ever increasing demands for food.

I would also like to note the importance of nutrition and welcome the fact that FAO has now established as an important cross-cutting issue and right across the world we are facing ever increasing challenges around nutrition. FAO's work both through its expert bodies as well as through CODEX Alimentarius Commission are going to be quite important.

I would like to finish by referring to the work that CODEX plays in the normative areas particularly around food safety. Reference has been made to the work of the open-ended working group in the Committee on Agriculture to support sustainable funding for scientific advice. This is an important one with the intensification of work in the international food safety area. Adequate funding for scientific advice is critical. The amounts we are talking are relatively small in the scheme of things but that amount is significant nevertheless to sustain this work so we hope that we can carry that initiative forward and see some tangible results.

So in conclusion, we welcome the work of this Committee. I think it is moving in the right direction in many areas and the collective collaboration and support both among the international organizations and members are going to be critical to advancing the collective objectives.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand endorses the findings and recommendations of the Committee on Agriculture. We would like to highlight the following issues in the report.

We support FAO's work in collaboration with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to jointly implement decisions related to agriculture and climate change. We recognize the importance and severity of the trade represented by antimicrobial resistance (AMR). We recommend increasing FAO assistance to the members in strengthening awareness on AMR and improving AMR governance and best practices.

For Thailand, we have already finalized the formulation of the four-year Strategic Plan on diminishing antimicrobial resistance of the year 2017-2020. We welcome FAO's ongoing programme in supporting farmer productivity, quality and safety throughout the world with reducing use of chemicals.

We welcome FAO's work on soil conservation in particular, the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management, the Global Soil Information System and the preparation of the Global Soil Organic Carbon Map.

Thailand has been a strong promoter of the Global Soil Partnership at the international level and of the Action Soil Partnership at the regional levels. In this framework, Thailand is initiating the active treatment of the Center of Excellence for sustainable soil management in Asia. Lastly, we endorse the proposed Year of World Bee Day on 20 May and the celebration of the International Year of Plants in 2020.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

Canada would like to join the other members in endorsing the COAG Report.

In particular, we would like to highlight COAG's decision to establish an informal open-ended working group to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for the FAO/WHO's Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme, building on the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Canada continues to believe that innovative funding mechanisms must be explored, including options that allow for contributions from non-state actors to permit the FAO and WHO to sustain and expand its donor based support.

We welcome the Chair's Report that indicates the informal working group work has begun and that the intention is to provide a report by the start of next year. Of course we are not looking for a formal report today but we would appreciate some information on the planning and next steps, whether the working group will be convened again. I presume it will, following the summer break but any indication that either the Secretariat or the Chair could provide would be very welcome.

Mr Sherif EL GAMMAL (Egypt)

At the outset, I would like to thank the Chair of the Committee for the distinguished work and the informative presentation of the Report.

Taking into consideration the central role agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, FAO and Member States share responsibility to ensure the three dimensions of sustainability; economic, social and environmental in agriculture sectors. We believe also that agriculture should be implemented in a way that is nutrition sensitive. We also encourage FAO to work on antimicrobial resistance. We would like to note that agricultural development and food security cannot be achieved without ensuring smallholder farmers access to finance and markets.

Technical assistance and technology transfer is essential in building capacities of developing countries to develop the agriculture sector, which is not only vital in eradicating hunger but also to create jobs, develop rural areas and slow down the rates of migration from rural areas, which cannot be separated from the ongoing increase of migratory flows.

Since mainstreaming of biodiversity is essential and a crosscutting issue in climate change adaptation and mitigation, FAO's role is pivotal in achieving the decisions of 22nd Session of the Conference of

the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 13th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13).

Egypt is hosting the upcoming CBD COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh next year and is ready to work with all stakeholders to make the meeting an important milestone in the international efforts to preserve human heritage and to ensure concrete outcomes of the COP 14.

Finally, Egypt endorses the report.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

Thank you for the presentation of the Report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture. We welcome the important points and recommendations of the report, especially with regard to the climate change and biodiversity.

Referring to the discussion on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) at the last meeting, Indonesia is of the view that GIAHS plays an important role in the conservation of global natural resources which is unique and distinctive and it is also closely related to the empowerment of the local community and the improvement of local welfare that will ultimately lead to the strengthening of food security in the regions.

Therefore we welcome FAO's commitments to promote and enhance GIAHS globally.

So far, Indonesia has internalized and promoted GIAHS to governments' officials at the central and local levels as well as through the local communities. We believe this effort is important and crucial to increase knowledge and raise awareness on the importance and impacts of the GIAHS on community welfare.

However, this effort still faces several challenges due to the limited exposures of the GIAHS in Indonesia.

To that end, the support of FAO especially in Indonesia on the delivery mechanism of the GIAHS proposal submission and the roadmap of implementation will be very meaningful.

As mentioned at the 25th Session of the COAG and the last Council Meeting, Indonesia was in the process of submitting a GIAHS proposal, namely integrated select farming system in Bali, Indonesia.

We are pleased to inform the Membership that this proposal has been submitted to the last FAO Council in April 2015. We have received timely response from the GIAHS Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in Rome. Following these submissions, we are interested to learn the subsequent consultation process from FAO. We are looking forward to receiving the technical support from the GIAHS-SAC team on our proposal.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Our delegation would like to express out gratefulness for the presentation of the main conclusions and recommendations of the 25th Session of the COAG which we broadly support. We welcome the outcomes of the Committee's discussions on the contribution of agriculture to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, sustainable livestock management, combatting antimicrobial resistance, and introducing innovation in agriculture.

On a positive note, we note the substantive stepping up of COAG's work and its consideration of all of the different areas of agricultural development.

We support FAO's work on sustainable soil management and the work of the Global Soil Partnership which deserves to be praised. We are pleased with the leading role the Organization played during the International Year of Soils in 2015.

In this regard, it is important to ensure concrete follow-up work on the outcomes of this year. We welcome the events celebrating the World Soil Day on the sidelines of the 155th Session of the FAO Council, during which the first World Soil Prize named after the leading Russian scientist Konstantin Glinka was awarded. It made it possible thanks to the financial support of our country.

We are also deeply satisfied with the successful realization of our proposal of the preparation under the aegis of the Global Soil Partnership of the Voluntary Guidelines on Sustainable Soil Management. We suggest the Conference welcomes the adoption of this document in its final report and call on the FAO Secretariat to make active use of the guidelines in its work in this industry specific area.

We support FAO's work in the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) area. We note the importance of this subject for the international community and the importance of its implementation of the UN Declaration on AMR, including capacity building of countries based on the one health approach.

Guided by this, Russia gave FAO this year a targeted voluntary contribution of USD 3.2 million to support AMR work in several CIS countries. In the framework of this project in May this year, Russia and FAO jointly organized in Sochi an International Conference on Food Safety and Risk Analysis.

Two hundred and fifty delegates from 23 countries took part in this Conference from Europe, Asia, and North America, including representatives of specialized government departments, academia, and business. Separate sessions of the Conference were devoted to AMR and ensuring healthy diets for the population.

We also agree with the COAG recommendations on support of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and the recognition of their contribution to preserving cultural heritage and biodiversity.

Continues in English

Let me read the actual proposal for the Commission Report. *“The Conference welcomed the guidelines for sustainable soil management which present scientifically evidence-based principles to promote sustainable soil management and recommended the FAO Secretariat to widely use this document in its related activities”.*

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

The outcomes of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture were very substantive and many of its work is being addressed by other agenda items of this Conference. Therefore to save time, Brazil will just highlight the following topics that should require our particular attention.

In enhancing the key role that agriculture plays in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Brazil stresses the need to promote balanced actions with economic, social, and environmental dimensions across sectors and along related value chains.

Also interagency collaboration and coordination are fundamental to a stronger and more effective contribution of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries to the 2030 Agenda.

Brazil fully endorses FAO's work to assist countries in building their capacities with due consideration to regional specific challenges, agreements, and priorities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With regards to the climate change strategy, Brazil has provided extensive comments in the Sessions of FAO's Technical Committees in 2016 and expects that they can be also useful during its implementation. Therefore, we request FAO to provide regular and updated briefings on how the strategy is being executed.

This would be an opportunity to exchange views and possibly engage Member States in the implementation space since it might imply government collaboration in the provision of national data, information, and methodologies.

Brazil emphasizes the centrality of the theme of antimicrobial resistance. In performing its work, it is important that FAO, the World Health Organization, and the World Organization for Animal Health do not lose sight of the fact that countries have different levels of development and consequently, different needs, priorities, and capacities to respond to challenges posed by AMR.

As for the FAO/WHO collaboration, Brazil highlights the valuable work on food safety already developed by the CODEX Alimentarius Committee.

Our country recalls that COAG requested FAO and countries to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, including livestock, to promote its contribution to ecosystems services and to combat the adverse impacts of climate change.

The issues of mainstreaming biodiversity should be addressed not only by COAG but also by the Committee on Fisheries and the Committee on Forests as endorsed by the Council as a crosscutting issue at their next meeting in 2018.

On matters related to soils, Brazil attaches as Russia has mentioned just before us, a great value on the activities of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and welcomes its Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management which resulted from a comprehensive negotiation process from the technical to the political level.

Brazil is in a position to support the Russia proposal to the report which mentions the valuable work of the GSP and encourages the endorsement of the voluntary – or the implementation of the voluntary guidelines by countries.

In conclusion, we support the proposal on the observance of the World Bee Day to be celebrated on May 20 as well as the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 and the International Year of the Camelids in 2024.

With these comments and with the Russia proposal for the report, Brazil endorses the findings and recommendations of COAG.

Finally, our Delegation wishes Mr Francois Pythoud a successful term as the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mme Isabelle OUILLO (France)

Tout d'abord, la France s'associe pleinement à la déclaration faite par l'Estonie au nom de l'Union européenne et de ses 28 États Membres. Nous souhaitons, en complément, ajouter quelques mots pour souligner l'importance que nous attachons aux travaux menés par la FAO dans le secteur de l'élevage.

Le secteur de l'élevage mérite une attention particulière et nous nous réjouissons, à ce titre, que le Comité de l'agriculture se penche sur ce secteur à chacune de ses sessions. Nous espérons que les travaux du Programme mondial pour un élevage durable continueront à nourrir nos réflexions et nos dialogues en faveur d'une meilleure durabilité de l'élevage.

Nous voulons également encourager la poursuite des efforts de la FAO et de l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE) en vue de l'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants, car c'est un sujet important pour de nombreuses populations rurales et pour leur sécurité alimentaire et leur nutrition.

Enfin, la France salue les travaux réalisés par la FAO au cours de cet exercice biennal sur l'agroécologie et se félicite de la poursuite de ses travaux dans l'exercice à venir.

Pour finir, je voudrais féliciter M. François Pythoud pour son élection à la présidence du Comité de l'agriculture et lui souhaite de fructueux travaux lors de la prochaine session du Comité. Je remercie également le Secrétariat du Comité pour tous les efforts qu'il déploie.

Mr Katsuyoshi MASUKAWA (Japan)

Japan wants to highlight two points.

Firstly, regarding the FAO/WHO Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme; regarding the significant delay in formulating FAO/WHO CODEX standards caused by lack of funding for the Scientific Advisory Programme, Japan, as other countries like Canada, EU, and New Zealand, looks forward to practical outcomes to be proposed by the FAO Secretariat at the informal open ended working group for consideration.

Secondly, with regard to the Globally Important Agricultural Systems (GIAHS), Japan appreciates the Secretariat's report for promoting GIAHS. Meanwhile, as discussed in COAG last year, geographic expansion of GIAHS is one of the challenges we face.

To tackle this task, Japan not only disseminates relevant information on GIAHS domestically but also shares our experiences with other countries. Japan expects FAO to strengthen its institutional framework for GIAHS to promote further awareness by countries with no GIAHS so that their participation in the initiative will also be promoted.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to thank France for pointing out the importance of livestock, particularly on the FAO's work. Bangladesh actually right now is not a Member of the Council so we could not speak strongly in the Council when the Report of the COAG was endorsed.

We know that and I have pointed this out in FAO several times, that livestock is treated as structural of FAO, not like forestry and fisheries. Even though we know the three important items of the human food that is milk, meat, and eggs coming from livestock and including the very highly valuable economic products of skins and hides and it was a proposal in the COAG that there would be the formation of a sub-committee on livestock and it was noted in the paragraph 58.

My submission here is whether it is possible to include under the second box where it was mentioned, "*Matters requiring the attention of the Conference*", there are so many bullets. My proposal would be to add one other bullet to the attention of the Conference, the proposal of creation of a sub-committee on livestock, whether it could be included in the Chair's Summary.

I wanted to draw the attention of the Conference particularly on the formation of the sub-committee on livestock.

M. Jean-Philippe DOP (Organisation mondiale de la santé animale, OIE)

L'organisation mondiale de la santé animale, l'OIE, remercie la FAO de l'avoir invitée en tant qu'observateur, à assister à cette Conférence. L'OIE félicite également le Président du Comité de l'agriculture, l'Ambassadeur François Pythoud, pour la clarté de son rapport, où il a souligné un certain nombre de priorités qui sont aussi les priorités de notre Organisation. Je veux citer en particulier l'approche «une seule santé» («One Health») qui permet à notre Organisation un certain nombre de partenariats avec la FAO et l'OMS, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé.

À ce titre, de nombreuses actions ont été récemment développées pour la lutte contre la résistance aux antimicrobiens, qui a été citée par de nombreux pays ce matin comme une priorité. Je souhaite profiter de cette intervention pour souligner la création d'un groupe de coordination inter-agence sous l'égide des Nations Unies, suite à la réunion de haut niveau qui avait été tenue en septembre 2016 à New York, groupe qui va se réunir pour la deuxième fois à Paris, au siège de l'OIE les 16 et 17 octobre et qui fera un certain nombre de propositions pour aider les pays membres à mettre en œuvre des plans d'action nationaux de lutte contre la résistance aux antimicrobiens.

La deuxième priorité citée concerne la peste des petits ruminants. Vous savez qu'il s'agit d'une maladie extrêmement grave, qui décime les populations de moutons et de chèvres, notamment dans les pays les plus pauvres et affecte les familles les plus démunies. Ainsi, depuis la Conférence d'Abidjan en 2015, un Programme mondial d'éradication a été décidé vis-à-vis de cette maladie. Plusieurs actions de sensibilisation ont été effectuées auprès des pays, et encore tout récemment en marge de cette Conférence, mais je souhaite maintenant attirer l'attention des participants sur le fait qu'il convient d'entrer dans la phase de mobilisation des ressources. C'est un Programme ambitieux qui va nécessiter plus d'un milliard de dollars d'investissements pour les cinq prochaines années; il faut donc tous nous mobiliser et aider le Secrétariat conjoint, qui a été mis en place par la FAO et l'OIE, à travailler sur ce sujet et à avancer dans la mise en œuvre de ce Programme.

Je soutiens bien sûr les interventions de la France et du Bangladesh, qui ont souligné le rôle tout particulier de l'élevage. En tant qu'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale, nous y sommes bien sûr très attentifs et c'est l'occasion pour moi de souligner que l'OIE a rejoint en 2016 le Programme mondial pour un élevage durable, qui est porté par la FAO, et nous sommes très heureux de faire partie de cette initiative.

M. François PYTHOUD (Président du Comité de l'agriculture)

Merci à tous les intervenants pour le soutien apporté aux conclusions du Comité de l'agriculture.

Beaucoup de points ont été soulevés dans vos interventions, dont deux questions plus spécifiques sur lesquelles je suis en mesure d'apporter un élément de réponse. Il s'agit de la question du Canada concernant le suivi des travaux du groupe de travail informel à composition non limitée sur la mobilisation de ressources pour les activités techniques menées par la FAO et l'OMS dans le cadre du Codex Alimentarius.

Il est prévu d'avoir une deuxième réunion du groupe après la pause estivale, probablement durant la période fin-septembre mi-octobre. La FAO et d'autres partenaires du groupe sont actuellement en train de développer différentes idées et options qui devraient servir de base aux réflexions lors de la prochaine réunion du groupe de travail.

J'ai également relevé une question de l'Indonésie concernant le processus en rapport avec les SIPAM. Je ne sais pas si le Secrétariat est en mesure de répondre à cette question. Il y a également eu deux propositions concrètes pour des recommandations à l'attention de la Conférence, une concernant l'adoption - ou disons le fait que la Conférence salue l'adoption des Directives sur la gestion durable des sols - et une autre intervention demandant une référence ou une décision de la Conférence concernant la possibilité d'explorer la mise sur pied d'un sous-comité sur l'élevage.

Pour ces deux points, si vous me permettez, Monsieur le Président, j'aimerais donner la parole au Secrétariat.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

On behalf of the Secretariat of FAO, I would like to first of all thank the delegates for your very warm encouragement and appraisals on a number of areas of FAO's work, particularly regarding AMR and the innovations and so on. I will not repeat them but particularly I would like to just highlight the AMR work.

Cameroon encouraged FAO to work with other organizations and institutions in addition to WHO and OIE. I am pleased to report that through joining the tripartite with WHO, OIE to serve as the facilitation unit or the Secretariat for the UN Interagency Coordination Group on AMR, that FAO together with WHO and OIE have been working with quite a number of countries and the research mobilizations who are actively involved in the interagency or supporting the interagency coordination group work.

Our aim is really to provide support to countries in addressing AMR and AMU, the antimicrobial use issue.

I would like to also respond to Cameroon and Switzerland particularly regarding innovation. Cameroon and Switzerland have very nicely encouraged FAO to highlight or strengthen this area of work and also I am pleased to report that the Director-General of FAO has actually recently encouraged us, the Secretariat, to start planning for the FAO International Symposium on the role of agriculture innovation to be held in February 2018 and this will be probably the first time that FAO will be organizing such an international symposium following our efforts in organizing the international symposium on agroecology and agricultural biotechnology.

We are taking the discussion on agricultural biotechnologies to the regional level this year as part of this effort in promoting innovation, following the successful regional symposium on agroecology which took place during the past two years, and one symposium on agricultural biotechnologies will be held in Malaysia in September this year for the Asia Pacific Region and one for Sub-Saharan African will be held in Addis Ababa in November this year.

Mr Robert GUEI (Secretary, Committee on Agriculture)

Also on behalf of the Secretariat, I am happy to address a few points. The one from Indonesia on the follow-up work on GIAHS has been duly noted and the Secretariat will transmit to the FAO's Unit working on GIAHS.

The second is about the sub-committee on livestock which was proposed during the last COAG.

Actually, the creation of the sub-committee is being discussed and our colleagues have produced the zero draft of the proposal which will be submitted to COAG in 2018 as was suggested by COAG. So it is on track.

The other one from China about the fact that South-South Cooperation and GIAHS were not included in the summary box, I would like to clarify that all matters in the COAG report are submitted to Conference. The criteria used when preparing the Report is to bring policy issues more specifically to the attention of the Conference and programmatic and technical issues to the attention of Council.

It does not mean that those issues are not important. They are so important they were specifically highlighted in the Chair's presentation. Of course, we can still discuss with our colleagues here to see if this can be corrected.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Secretary, for this addition. Now I come to my summary conclusion regarding Item 11.1 which will be as follows.

1) The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and in particular:

- a) the key role agriculture plays in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs;
- b) the call on FAO and countries to mainstream biodiversity in agriculture, including livestock, to promote its contribution to ecosystem services and to climate change adaptation and mitigation and call on COAG but also on COFI and COFO to address it as a crosscutting issue at the next meetings in 2018;
- c) the importance of FAO's work on sustainable food systems in relation to the UN Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production;
- d) the importance of FAO's role as an intergovernmental stakeholder in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock in assisting countries in the development of their agricultural innovation system strategies and in support for the work on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems;
- e) continued collaboration with the World Health Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health and all relevant stakeholders in implementing the political declaration of the high level meeting of the General Assembly on antimicrobial resistance, including the strengthening of the national and regional capacities, using one health and multisectoral approaches;
- f) the need for Members to mainstream nutrition into national and regional agricultural policies, including through South-South Cooperation;
- g), the need for countries to develop and implement appropriate policies for promoting the production and consumption of pulses;
- h), the call on FAO to continue strengthening its normative and science and evidence-based work with particular attention to agro ecology, biotechnology, sustainable production, climate change, biodiversity, mechanization, statistics, food safety, nutrition, youth, and gender.

2) The Conference also welcomed the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management and looked forward to their implementation and noted the creation of an informal open-ended working group to consider options for adequate and sustainable funding for FAO and WHO's Food Safety Scientific Advice Programme.

Can we agree on these conclusions?

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I think it is clear but what I proposed earlier was if it was possible to add just one bullet? "The Conference welcomed the proposal of the creation of a sub-committee on livestock" Actually it will help if Conference welcomed. I know it is documented in the report. I think it could be considered.

CHAIRPERSON

Do you mean after paragraph h) or point number 3?

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

An additional point. You can add it as a number 3: *“The Conference welcomed the proposal on the creation of a sub-committee on livestock”*.

Mr François PYTHOUD (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Thank you, Bangladesh, for the proposal but just to make the discussion clear, what was discussed by COAG was to start to explore the possibility and it was not a decision to establish any sub-committee. Because when it comes to the discussion, it was referring to two different sub-committees, one on climate and one on livestock but the decision was to explore the possibility of establishing.

If I listen to the proposal of Bangladesh, it goes one step further and it gives the impression that the Committee on Agriculture has already adopted the principle of having a sub-committee but this will be discussed in the next meeting.

I just wanted to clarify this point just to reflect the decision of the last Committee on Agriculture.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

If I see the COAG document, the paragraph indicates that the proposal on the creation of a sub-committee on livestock was noted by the Committee, not explored. It is already noted by the COAG. So my proposal is that Conference can welcome this. We are saying that the sub-committee is formed. I do not see any harm just to welcome this proposal. It is still a proposal and it was also said that the Secretariat is working on it.

So I want to draw the attention of the Conference that there was a proposal running in the COAG and the Council. It could have been added in the Council Report but it was never strongly said because the proposal was given by Bangladesh and Bangladesh is not a Council Member so it was actually not possible for me to add it accordingly.

Mr Matthew B. HOOPER (New Zealand)

Just to pick up on this suggestion from Bangladesh for including a reference to the consideration that is going to take place within the COAG, we welcome the clarification provided by the Chair of COAG but we wonder if it would be possible to include in the Report simply that the Conference welcomed the fact that the COAG would be considering the possibility of forming a sub-committee on livestock at its next session. Something to that effect which I know it is a bit longer but it would be clear in terms of process but also noting the process that the Committee is going through.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In relation to point 2 which was proposed by Russia, we would like to add after the words the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management *“which present scientifically and evidence-based principles to promote sustainable soil management, – this is a text from the report of the Committee – and recommended that FAO Secretariat widely use this document in its related activities”*.

In relation to point 1 paragraph d), we have a few concerns with the sentence “FAO roles as intergovernmental stakeholder”. I think it would be better to use ‘intergovernmental platform’ in this regard.

In relation to point 3, which is proposed by the esteemed Delegate of Bangladesh, I would like to say that we do not have any main concerns about the fact that the next session of the Committee could look at this initiative. In this connection, we could support the proposal of New Zealand as a compromise on this issue.

Mr François PYTHOUD (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Regarding the comments on 1b), I think the idea is to recognize the importance of FAO's role as an intergovernmental platform.

Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States)

I wanted to join with the discussion on the proposals of Bangladesh and New Zealand.

I think we could support New Zealand's proposal but I would like to offer a small addition to that to somehow incorporate the concept of the COAG still waiting to see a discussion on the sub-committee and then move to consideration.

If we could find a small way to work that in, I think we would be pleased to join with New Zealand.

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

First, we thank Mr Pythoud for the clarifications with regards to the possible creation of the sub-committee on livestock. This is exactly what we recall from COAG.

But in an effort to accommodate different views on the subject, we could go along with the proposal made by New Zealand just doing a small amendment. Instead of “*the Conference welcomes*”, “*the Conference notes*”. This is because we do not want to project the discussion on COAG. This is a very important technical committee and we want to respect its policy space to decide on the matter.

A possible welcome by the Conference at this first stage would be too strong for COAG to have the freedom to discuss it and to take the decision. It is its role to take it. We could go along with the proposal from New Zealand, ‘noting’ instead of ‘welcoming’.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me now read once again these points according to the deliberations and comments from the floor.

d) The importance of FAO's role as intergovernmental platform in the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock in assisting countries led in the development of their agricultural innovation system strategies and in support for the work on the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems;

i) Noted that COAG would discuss the creation of sub-committees on livestock and climate change at its next session.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I am doubtful that the discussion on the creation of the sub-committee on livestock was similar to the discussion on the sub-committee on climate change. So you can keep it but make two separate points. If you would like to keep both, please make it separate.

CHAIRPERSON

Point 2 a): the Conference welcomed the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management which presents scientific and evidence-based principles to promote sustainable soil management, looked forward to the implementation and recommended FAO to use this document in its activities.

Accepted?

Sr. Oscar PIÑEYRO (Uruguay)

Simplemente me quedó la duda cuando leía el párrafo dedicado al Subcomité de Ganadería dado que estoy escuchando español, y lo que yo escuché era: se toma conocimiento que se agradecería la constitución del Subcomité de Ganadería o algo similar. No son las dos cosas.

Primero, lo que se pidió es que se tome conocimiento de que ese tema se está tratando en el COAG y respetar la independencia del COAG y los tiempos necesarios al COAG para decidir si se constituya el Subcomité de Ganadería o no. No es agradecer, o sea, en realidad lo que yo escuché son los dos conceptos juntos: se toma conocimiento que se agradecería, y entonces no me quedó claro, simplemente me parece que lo que tenemos que hacer hoy es no ingerir en lo que está haciendo el

COAG, que esto se discuta en su momento, y que simplemente se tome conocimiento de esto. O sea, le pido que si hay alguna confusión en la redacción, se aclare.

Mr François PYTHOUD (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Regarding the point raised by Uruguay in the text it reads noted so it is not really going further than noted. Regarding the point raised by Bangladesh, it is true that the treatment is different in the sense that the Bureau has been asked to look more in-depth at the proposal of the sub-committee on climate but at the end, for the next COAG it is the same. COAG will have to discuss the creation of these two sub-committees.

So I see my view as the Chair, it would be really strange to have only a reference to livestock and not to climate. We simply have to indicate that the Conference noted that the establishment of the creation of sub-committees on livestock and climate change will be discussed by the COAG at its next session but without going into the detail of how the preparatory work is conducted. So I think it could really be addressed in the same sentence. Thank you very much – if it is agreeable by Bangladesh.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I do not know the developments in the Bureau. We are talking about the COAG Report. In the COAG, there is no reference to considering the creation of a sub-committee on climate change. My point is there. It is not a problem to keep both but it is my personal preference that it should be separate.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We are done with the conclusions regarding item 11.1.

Item 11.3 Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (11-15 July 2016)
Point 11.3 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session du Comité des pêches (11-15 juillet 2016)
Tema 11.3 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (11-15 de julio de 2016)
(C 2017/23; C 2017/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We will now move on to item 11.3, *Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries* held from 11 to 15 July 2016.

Please ensure that you have documents C 2017/23 and C 2017/LIM/14 in front of you. Please note that the draft resolutions on the Proposal for an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 and the Proposal for an International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing will be considered separately under agenda items 18.4 and 18.7 respectively.

I now invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries, Mr William Gibbons-Fly to introduce this item.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)

The 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held in Rome from 11 to 15 July of 2016. I am very pleased to report the outcomes of that session on behalf of the Committee. In doing so I would like to thank and recognize Dr Fabio Hazin who served as the Chair for the 32nd Session of COFI and led that meeting very ably and with great skill.

The Session was attended by 113 Members of the Committee, one associated member, by observers from nine other FAO Member Nations, the Holy See and Palestine, nine representatives from the United Nations and its specialized agencies and related organizations, 39 intergovernmental and 25 international non-governmental organizations.

On the first day of the Session, the Director-General of FAO organized a special event to celebrate the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, known as the PSMA. A number of high-level representatives including the President of the Republic of Guinea celebrated what is the world's first international treaty specifically aimed at tracking Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to report that the first meeting of the parties to the Port State Measures Agreement was held successfully from 29 to 3 May 2017 in Oslo Norway followed immediately on 1 and 2 June by the first meeting of the ad hoc working group established under Article 21 PSMA.

Turning to the outcomes of the 32nd Session of COFI, I will address particular items of the Agenda focusing on the global policy and regulatory matters which are of particular relevance to the Conference. The Conference Document you should have in front of you as C 2017/23. The agenda is attached as attachment A.

So under agenda item 4, the State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture in progress and implementation of the Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries and related instruments, the Committee commended FAO for the 2016 State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture which we commonly refer to as the SOFIA Report. At the same time, the Committee expressed concern about the state of fish stocks globally and highlighted the threat of IUU fishing to the sustainability of marine resource.

The Committee also welcomed the improvement in the 2015 questionnaire on the implementation of the FAO Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries and agreed that data submitted through the questionnaire could be used by members for reporting on Sustainable Development Goals and indicators and Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Committee also recognized the need for continued capacity development in developing countries in support of the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Under agenda item 5 and 6, the Committee endorsed the Reports of the 15th Session of the sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Eighth Session of the sub-Committee on Aquaculture. In particular, under agenda item 5.1 Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS), the Committee authorized the technical consultation on Voluntary Guidelines for CDS to resume its session, finalize the guidelines and submit those guidelines to this Session of the Conference for final adoption.

In accordance with this directive, the technical consultation was resumed on 4 and 5 April 2017 and it reached consensus and finalized the guidelines and as authorized by the Committee on Fisheries, the technical consultations submits the finalized voluntary guidelines for CDS for final adoption under this item on the agenda. That Document should be before you as C 2017/LIM/14.

Under agenda item 7 with respect to combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing, the Committee welcomed the entry into force of the PSMA and encouraged parties to convene an inception meeting as well as to establish the ad hoc working group. As I have already reported, those meetings have taken place in Oslo in late May and early June 2017.

The Committee voiced strong support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, also known as the Global Record and the committee endorsed the proposal to declare an International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing. Based on the endorsement by the Committee, the Draft Resolution on the International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing was submitted to the 155th Session of the Council in December of 2016 and was endorsed by the Council to be forwarded to this, the 40th Session of the Conference for adoption.

The Draft Resolution is presented for your consideration as document C 2017/LIM/12 with the expectation that the Resolution will be adopted by the Conference under agenda item 18.7, which if we stay on schedule should happen tomorrow morning.

Under agenda item 8 the Role of Fisheries and Aquaculture in Food Security and the Second International Conference on Nutrition follow-up, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment to follow-up on ICN2 by highlighting the valuable contribution of fish and fish products to meeting nutritional requirements, diversifying diets and providing important health benefits. The Committee endorsed the key areas of work identified for ICN2 follow-up in fisheries and the aquaculture sector.

Under agenda item 9, Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries, the Committee reconfirmed the multidimensional function of small scale fisheries in poverty reduction and food security and stressed

the importance of the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.

The Committee welcomed the development of an FAO Small Scale Fisheries Umbrella Assistance Programme and agreed on the need for a complimentary mechanism in the form of a Small Scale Fisheries Guidance Global Strategic Framework.

The Committee also welcomed the outcome of the 2015 Global Conference on Inland Fisheries and the ten steps to responsible inland fisheries. The Committee commended FAO for the Global Forum on Right's Based Approaches for Fisheries and welcomed the Global Programme of Work in this regard.

And the Committee endorsed the proposal for the declaration of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. Based on the endorsement of the Committee, the Draft Resolution on the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture was submitted to the 155th Session of the Council in December of 2016 and was endorsed by the Council to forward to this Session of the Conference for adoption.

The Draft Resolution is presented for your consideration as document C 2017/LIM/13 with the expectation once again that the document will be adopted by the Conference under agenda item 8.4 tomorrow morning.

The Committee supported and encouraged the close collaboration between FAO and other relevant international and regional organizations during the Session under agenda item 10, which was Global and Regional Processes. In particular, the Committee commended the role that FAO plays in United Nations fora and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity and requested FAO to further enhance its participation and contribution in these areas.

The Committee also noted and appreciated the role of Regional Fisheries Body Secretariat Network and the establishment of new Regional Fisheries Bodies and emphasized the importance of performance reviews within these Regional Fisheries Bodies.

With respect to the next Session of the Conference I was honoured to be elected as the Chair for COFI 33. The Committee also elected Mr Andre Loua from the Republic of Guinea as the first Vice-Chair and Egypt, Palau, Peru, Korea and Spain were elected as other Vice-Chairs representing their respective regional groups.

Working closely with the Secretariat, the Bureau has been very active both in following up on the work of the last Session and preparing for the work of the next Session. The Committee agreed that COFI 33 will be held in Rome during the second or the third quarter of 2018 at a date subject to the Director-General's determination in consultation with the COFI Bureau. The schedule currently proposed is for the 33rd Session of COFI to be held from 9 to 13 July of 2018.

This concludes my presentation. The Conference is now invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 32nd Session and endorse its Report in particular on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters and to adopt the finalized Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes submitted by the technical consultation as authorized by the Committee under this Agenda item.

The Conference is also invited to adopt the Draft Resolution on the International Day for the Fight Against IUU Fishing and the Draft Resolution on the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture for 2022 under the relevant agenda items tomorrow.

Mr Jan TOMBINSKI (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. I wish also to mention that the candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the results of COFI and acknowledges the large and active participation of FAO Members. The hallmark of COFI was the celebration of the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement strengthening our joint fight against Illegal, Unreported

and Unregulated fishing. We have contributed to this important step. However, we call upon more states to ratify the agreement. We are very happy to take part in the inception meeting held in Oslo and we welcome the establishment of an ad hoc working group under Article 21 noting the requirement for capacity development.

We commend the FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for its excellent work in producing the 2016 Report on the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture, SOFIA, and encourage FAO to continue reporting also in the future. However, there is still room for improvement and the FAO should consider developing standard indicators such as the dependence of fleets on stocks that are over-exploited compared to Maximum Sustainable Yields and/or on stocks that are currently depleted.

We also welcome the FAO's decision taken to tackle Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. This includes the strong support given to the further development of the global record of fishing vessels, refugee rated transport vessels and supply vessels. The support for a proposal for an International Day against IUU Fishing, the development of technical guidance on methodologies and indicators by FAO for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing as well as for FAO to work on transshipment practices and stopping IUU fishing.

We also very much welcome the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes that were agreed in April 2017. These guidelines will be essential to prevent illegally caught fish from entering the market.

We consider Regional Fisheries Management Organizations as being the primary vehicle for cooperation for the conservation and sustainable management of straddling highly migratory fish stocks. We therefore welcome the emphasis placed by the Committee on the importance of performance reviews of Regional Fisheries Bodies. We encourage FAO to resume talks on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Second Indian Ocean Tuna Commission Performance Review to find a common ground for the modernization and strengthening of this organization.

In this context, we look forward to an Executive Secretary of IOTC being appointed as soon as possible as was recently approved by the IOTC at its 21st Annual Session following the exception rules of procedures agreed at the 155th FAO Council. Concerning the principles for a future procedure to recruit the Executive Secretary, we hope the final selection procedure will be adopted by the IOTC after collaboration and consultation with the FAO.

We would also precede further endeavors of FAO when it comes to integrating and promoting gender equality in COFI's activities under its mandate both at policy and field level. One key pillar is for FAO to enhance its presentation production of gender disaggregated data.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the role FAO plays in United Nations fora and processes devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, SDGs and biodiversity. In order to save marine biological diversity also beyond national jurisdictions, we call upon all involved states and entities for further collaboration commitments with a view to the process that was initiated by the Ocean Conference in New York a few weeks ago and which will continue with the Ocean Conference to be held in Malta in October 2017.

It is important to FAO's enhanced participation and contribution and therefore it is key the technical capacity and skills for fisheries and aquaculture are maintained at FAO.

Mr Matthew B. HOOPER (New Zealand)

New Zealand strongly supports the FAO's leadership role in developing international frameworks and rules to ensure sound governance of global fisheries. We note that the Committee on Fisheries is the primary global intergovernmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined.

The COFI plays a critical role in the establishment of international frameworks, rules and standards and with respect to building capacity in developing countries with respect to fisheries obligations and development of fisheries resources.

New Zealand very much welcomes the entry into force of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. As we understand there are currently 49 parties to the Agreement. We strongly encourage countries that have not yet done so to become parties and to enhance the overall effectiveness of this arrangement. We also welcome the first meeting of the state parties to the Agreement earlier in 2017; a critical first step.

The Port State Measures Agreement is a key issue in the Pacific Region. It is the biggest tuna fishery in the world and much of the catch is being landed in the ports of small island developing states, often by foreign flagged vessels. In this respect, support to Small Island Developing States to implement the Port State Measures Agreement including taking into account the special requirements of Small Island Developing States and indeed the unique circumstances of the fisheries in the Pacific Region will be essential.

Turning to the Catch Documentation Scheme Guidelines, New Zealand very much welcomes the progress that was made during the technical consultations to finalize these voluntary guidelines. We would like to extend special thanks to Norway who provided financial support and indeed their technical and policy expertise for these technical consultations enabling us to reach agreement in April 2017. Also our thanks to the Representative of Iceland who so ably cheered us through these deliberations.

Again, this is an issue of critical importance to Pacific Island Countries and we look forward to working at the regional level to develop and implement effective Catch Documentation Schemes. We now urge the Conference to adopt the guidelines.

Finally, with respect to IUU fishing, we support the development of technical guidelines on methodologies and indicators for the estimation of the magnitude and impact of IUU fishing.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to thank the Chairperson of the Committee on Fisheries for his presentation. I would like, as the others, to welcome the developments that has been done particularly on the Port State Measures Agreement and Catch Documentation Scheme (CDS) Document to be finalized and we hope that it will be adopted in this Conference.

Out of this, I have one point to raise particularly on Paragraphs 158-160 of the 32nd Report of the COFI where it was mentioned the proposal of establishing a World Fisheries University proposed by the Republic of Korea.

I wanted to know from the Secretariat what was mentioned in the report either there will be a three-step agreement or as I understood a step-by-step agreement that will start with the joint pilot programme. It was said that partnership pilot programme was outside of the three steps and it was discussed in the Council and the recent development noted. However, I do not know what it was, the recent development.

As a Member of the Conference, I wanted to know from the Secretariat whether the three-step proposal on establishing this university is already done or what is the status of the agreement between FAO and the Republic of Korea.

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation supports the endorsement of the Report of the 32nd Session of COFI as contained in document C 2017/23 with its conclusions and recommendations.

We highlight the conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes which together with the Voluntary Guidelines, Flag State Performance and the Port State Measures Agreement will support countries to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. We hope these voluntary guidelines and CDS will be endorsed by this Conference.

The Brazilian Delegation also welcomes the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement and is looking forward to the conclusion of the national ratification process in the near future. We also support the proposal for the declaration of an International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

We fully recognize the contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition and to poverty and hunger eradication. We agree that the follow-up on the ICN2 in the fisheries and aquaculture sector should highlight the valuable contribution of fish and fish products to meeting nutritional requirements, diversity of diets and providing important health benefits.

Brazil supports the six areas for follow-up identified by COFI, in particular the ones related to the inclusion of fish products in school meals, the promotion of fish consumption, nutritional education and the promotion of production and consumption of indigenous fish species.

The Brazilian delegation would like to commend FAO's work on sustainable small scale fisheries in particular the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of food security and poverty eradication. Small scale fisheries are not only an important economic activity for many developing countries but they have a multidimensional aspect in terms of food security, poverty alleviation, income distribution, cultural heritage and social inclusion.

Brazil supports the proposal for the declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. Brazil also attaches great importance to the role of FAO in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development including the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. Therefore Brazil recommends that FAO continue to engage in collaborative partnerships with other international fora and organizations devoted to fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, oceans, SDGs and biodiversity at global and regional levels.

Finally, the Brazilian Delegation reiterates its support to the priority areas of work of FAO in fisheries and aquaculture for the next biennium. As requested in the Report of the 34th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Mexico, we encourage FAO to strengthen fisheries and aquaculture components of Regional Initiatives with focus on sustainable management of fisheries resources and on small scale fisheries.

Brazil also encourages FAO to continue to support developing countries to develop and improve their fisheries and aquaculture sectors through capacity development, technology transfer and information exchange.

Mr Suseno SUKOYONO (Indonesia)

The Indonesian delegation would like to express its high appreciation to the Chair of the Committee on Fisheries in FAO for the excellent presentation, which highlights the outcomes of the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

Indonesia would like also to congratulate FAO for the significant achievement made in 2016 regarding the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement. Indonesia is fully committed to the agreement and would like to support parties to implement the agreement through initial steps to convene meetings for capacity development.

Further, Indonesia would like to express appreciation to FAO for productive action in combating IUU fishing practices through the arrangement of side events on Port State Measures Agreement in New York last month during the Ocean Conference. Indonesia was delighted to actively contribute at the event by delivering our commitment and conscious effort in combating IUU fishing.

Indonesia appreciates the Government of Norway and FAO for conducting the first international meeting on PSMA May 2017 in Oslo. Indonesia is pleased for being trusted to be the next host country in 2022.

Furthermore, Indonesia has agreed with the expectations of FAO for mutual collaboration with other related international partners in regards to IUU fishing and its related issues. Indonesia is also delighted to have been chosen as one of the United Nations Ocean Conference Vice-Presidents in supporting strategic efforts for World Ocean Conservation and the fight against illegal fishing and climate related impacts on the oceans. Indonesia is also pleased to inform you about being entrusted as the next host country for our Ocean Conference in 2018 after Malta.

In combating illegal fishing practices, we welcome the proposal of the United States of America regarding transshipment and in this regard, we would like to support the use of the FAO Global Record.

Indonesia also encourages a stronger collaboration between FAO and regional fisheries management organization (RFMOs) and would like to recommend FAO to conduct a meeting to review all related instruments regarding transshipments. We would like to inform you that Indonesia has established a decree which prohibits transshipments in waters in its national jurisdiction.

We appreciate FAO in the production of SOFI 2016 and would like to encourage FAO to continue to produce the report. In the light of robust data, it will serve as the basis in some policy making processes. Indonesia reiterated the concern on the state of fish stock globally and encouraged FAO to allocate sufficient resources concerning an updated data collection regarding global fish stock.

In this opportunity, Indonesia welcomes the outcomes of the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Cancun, Mexico in 2016 and would like to encourage the implementation of the outcomes of the meeting and urge the focus on the integration of biodiversity issues in fisheries and aquaculture, including coral reef sustainable development.

Indonesia endorses the following three guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS) for the importance of sustainable fisheries management and in particular in combatting IUU fishing practices. As we noted that other parties also established CDS, we recommend a decision to align food implementation.

We also strongly support the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

Indonesia is of the view that small scale fisheries are not only about livelihoods. But rather that they resembles the way of life of coastal communities and it is important not to forget that most of the fisheries production comes from the small scale fisheries.

In this regard, Indonesia welcomes further collaboration between FAO and related non-government organizations.

Last but not least, we endorse the proposal for the declaration of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

We endorse the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We are aware that the risk represented by IUU fisheries to the sustainability of the fishery resources and the valuable contribution of fish to improve nutrition and reduce poverty.

We strongly believe that the International Cooperation Board at global and regional levels is needed to achieve sustainable management of global outreach goals represented by marine resources.

In the last two years, we assessed three important international agreements on fisheries such as PSMA so far and during fish op. We encourage countries to join the effort by becoming a Member of these agreements.

Thailand recognizes that FAO has been producing many tools to prevent, deter, and eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing such as CDS and Global Records and guidelines to improve fishermen livelihoods such as the Code of Conduct on Sustainable Fisheries and Blue Growth Small Scale Fisheries. We commit to support effective implementation of those tools and guidelines.

We support FAO collaboration with key international organizations such as IRO, CODEX, and with RFMOs and other regional fishery organizations.

We welcome the assessment of the questionnaire on the implementation code of conduct for responsible fisheries from hard copy to electronic form.

M. Mohammed ASRI (Maroc)

La délégation du Royaume du Maroc prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de saisir cette occasion pour exprimer à l'endroit du Secrétariat notre satisfaction pour la qualité du rapport et pour le travail réalisé.

Le Groupe Afrique a pris bonne note du rapport de la 32^{ème} session du Comité des pêches sur la situation mondiale des pêches et de l'aquaculture et sur les progrès accomplis dans l'application du code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et ses instruments connexes.

Dans le contexte actuel, la situation des pêches et de l'aquaculture demeure préoccupante, marquée par l'impact de la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée sur l'état des stocks halieutiques, et notre Groupe ne peut que partager les craintes que soulèvent leur tendance à la baisse structurelle et les menaces qui pèsent sur leur pérennité.

Notre Groupe salue par ailleurs les décisions prises par le Sous-comité du commerce du poisson du Comité des pêches à sa 15^{ème} session, qui s'est tenue à Agadir, au Maroc, du 22 au 26 février 2017. Il se félicite de l'entrée en vigueur de l'accord relatif aux mesures du ressort de l'État du port. Cet accord constitue, à n'en pas douter, un acquis majeur pour contrecarrer la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée.

Dans ce contexte, nous ne pouvons qu'encourager le Secrétariat à poursuivre les efforts déployés pour la mise en œuvre du projet de registre mondial des bateaux engagés dans la pêche et les activités connexes, un mécanisme qui facilitera la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée.

Notre Groupe tient aussi à souligner le rôle joué par notre Organisation au sein du système des Nations Unies dans la promotion et la mise en œuvre des stratégies et programmes relatifs aux pêches et à l'aquaculture, au changement climatique, aux ODD et à la protection de la diversité biologique.

Nous prenons note, par ailleurs, de l'importance de l'application des directives volontaires destinées à la durabilité de la pêche artisanale au service des objectifs de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'éradication de la pauvreté. En effet, l'Afrique représente, comme vous le savez, plus 5,5 millions d'acteurs directs dans cette activité et se place au deuxième rang mondial, après l'Asie. Le secteur de la pêche artisanale occupe donc une place économique et sociale essentielle dans nos pays respectifs. Il affronte des défis multiples, et notamment celui de la gestion des déchets et des captures non-commercialisables. L'impact négatif de ces rejets sur l'environnement, le renouvellement des ressources halieutiques et la productivité de ces formes de pêche ancestrales, reste une préoccupation majeure des pays africains.

Apporter une réponse idoine à ce dysfonctionnement nécessite la mise en œuvre de programmes d'action adaptés. Dans ce cadre, l'assistance de la FAO aux pays membres concernés sera requise.

Dans le secteur de la nutrition, le Groupe Afrique réitère la place centrale des produits halieutiques dans la satisfaction des besoins en protéines de qualité, la diversification des régimes alimentaires et l'amélioration de l'état sanitaire des populations. Le suivi des recommandations de la 2^{ème} Conférence internationale sur la nutrition nous semble essentiel à cet égard.

Il serait superflu de notre part de réitérer ce que représente la coopération Sud-Sud pour notre continent. L'exemple des plateformes régionales d'affaires et de formations dédiées au secteur halieutique, notamment à la pêche artisanale et extractive, et à l'aquaculture, est éloquent à cet égard. Un partenariat Sud-Sud réussi permet d'associer des acteurs non-régionaux à nos priorités.

Le projet de coopération tripartite Afrique de l'Ouest-Japon-Maroc, par exemple, en démontre la pertinence dans le volet stratégique du renforcement des capacités en ressources humaines.

Au vu de toutes ces considérations, le Groupe Afrique ne peut qu'approuver le rapport et ses recommandations.

Ms Shin Hee CHO (Republic of Korea)

The COFI emphasized the importance to address IUU fishing, entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement, legal aquaculture networks, and Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines implementation.

I believe these remarks will be a great foundation to the sustainable fisheries.

I would like to inform you of the current situation of the FAO World Fisheries University (WFU) pilot programme, paragraphs 158 to 160 of the Report of the 32nd Session of COFI.

First, I would like to thank the COFI Members who welcomed the proposal by Korea and they encouraged Korea and the FAO Secretariat to cooperate to agree on the establishment of the WFU based on the evaluated results of the WFU pilot programme by the relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

In March 2016, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea and the FAO Director-General agreed on the memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the FAO WFU pilot programme signing. However, the MOU has not been signed yet as the FAO Secretariat insisted that the pilot programme is highly linked to the other pending issue that is about establishment of the partnership and the FAO office in Korea.

This pending issue is the grantable status in privileges and immunity put ahead of the office equal to the level of the diplomatic body. These are privileges and immunities. The position of the Korean government is clear and simple. We can guarantee that the provisions of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunity of the specialized agencies will be applied to the FAO Office and it would similarly be to other UN offices in Korea including UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank Group, the World Food Programme, the International Organization for Migration, and UN offices.

These offices are all satisfied with the standard set for the privilege and immunities. However, the first stage of cooperation between the FAO and Korea on the pilot programme is now in deadlock, not because of the WFU itself but the partnership in the Office in Asia.

I would like to ask the FAO Secretariat to explain this. Why FAO wants a diplomatic level of privilege and immunities which is higher than that for other UN offices located in Korea?

On the other hand, FAO stated that no action should be initiated on the basis of an unsigned MOU, including the processes of selection of students and the personnel. However, FAO did not suggest any time schedule so the Republic of Korea determined that we cannot leave the WFU programme any longer considering its important urgency of the original plan to open this September.

Korea has decided to carry out the project under our own initiative. This decision reflects the three important points for FAO Member Countries.

First, Korea already allocated all budget for the operation of the WFU pilot programme.

Second, the WFU pilot programme is the fulfillment of the premise with the FAO Member Countries with a sense of duty.

Third, achieving Zero Hunger through capacity building is much more important than any other matters.

Therefore, Korea would like to emphasize that the pending issue may not be collateral to the WFU pilot programme. Under these circumstances, Korea is looking forward to progress and cooperation with FAO to successfully sign the MOU and implement the pilot programme.

Last but not least, the student recruitment process is now in progress. We would like you to help students to apply for the programme, support and help from the Member Countries and the decision to implement the WFU project.

I want to summarize the WFU initiative as follows: The Conference welcomes the COFI Resolution regarding the WFU initiative and encourages the implementation of the Resolution of the 32nd Session of COFI.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina desea resaltar el Informe de COFI 2016, porque más que en años anteriores, profundiza la situación de los stocks en el planeta, precisando que la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada ha causado estragos superiores a los conocidos hasta dicho año como, consecuencia de la rapidez y el desarrollo de las artes de captura que permiten que la pesca excesiva en un lapso de tiempo cuya brevedad facilita el agotamiento de recursos.

Por otro lado, la Argentina quisiera expresar su apoyo a las menciones de la necesidad de cumplimentar con los ODS 14, en particular 14.4 y 14.6, y de continuar trabajando para evitar la sobrecapacidad, la sobrepesca, la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada y los subsidios que los alientan, en el marco del tratamiento de los Informes de la 15 sesión del Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero y de la Octava sesión del Subcomité sobre Acuicultura.

La República Argentina expresa en otro orden su agrado, dado que la reunión del Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero autorizó la realización de consultas técnicas sobre directrices voluntarias para los sistemas de documentación de capturas, en las cuales se trabajó intensamente con la activa participación de la Argentina, entre septiembre del 2016 y abril del 2017. Esto significa un avance sustantivo en aras de lograr la certificación del origen legal de las capturas, cuanto también se marca en la lucha contra la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada, que obtuvo la aprobación del Subcomité de Comercio Pesquero, la cual se renovó en el 32 COFI.

La Argentina busca facilitar que las aludidas directrices voluntarias puedan sean efectivamente implementadas luego de su aprobación en esta Conferencia. Ello en razón de que su aprobación, al igual que en la Argentina, numerosos países productores e importadores de este recurso podrán cumplimentar con la certificación del origen legal de las capturas. Con estos comentarios, la Argentina apoya el Informe del 32 COFI.

Sr. Mario ARRIOLA WOOG (México)

México desea sumarse también a apoyar la adopción del documento C 2017/23, incluyendo los asuntos de política y regulación mundiales que se señalan a la atención de la Conferencia, como lo es la colaboración entre FAO y otras organizaciones internacionales y regionales, incluidas las organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera. México considera que la pesca ilegal produce daños económicos y sociales considerables que perjudican a los pescadores que lo hacen por la vía legal. En este sentido, nuestro país apoya la lucha contra la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada e impulsa la aplicación de una conducta para la pesca responsable, incluyendo los sistemas de documentación de capturas.

Por último, México considera también que la pesca en pequeña escala contribuye a la seguridad alimentaria y a la reducción de la pobreza. De ahí la importancia de las directrices voluntarias para alcanzar la sostenibilidad. México apoya el Año Internacional de la Pesca y la Acuicultura Artesanales y hace un llamado para que en las próximas reuniones del Comité de Pesca se incorpore y se fortalezca el tema de la biodiversidad.

Mr Gennadiy GATILOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

First of all, I would like to thank the Chair of COFI for a wonderful report in relation to the 32nd Session of the Committee which took place last year. We would like to say that we welcome the decisions of the 32nd Session and in this connection, we would like to particularly note the entry into force of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement to prevent, deter, and eliminate IUU fishing from 2009.

The Russian Federation was one of the first countries to sign up to this agreement and now we are undertaking the procedures to ratify this agreement.

We support the realization of the first phase to establish a global register of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels, and supply vessels as it is really a wonderful instrument to combat IUU fishing. We also have a high level of appreciation for the Global Conference that took place on fishing in inland waters which included a document on ten steps to take to ensure responsible fishing in inland waters.

We think that this is very important and work in this area needs to continue.

We also support the recommendations of the group of experts on marking of fishing gear and we believe it is very important to step up work to address the issue of abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear. We would also like to say that we welcome the implementation of the Multi-Year Programme of Work and we fully support this Conference's adoption of CDS.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to thank the Secretariat for this report. We appreciate the work of this Committee. We have some observations. We appreciate the realization of the COFI decisions in relation to technical negotiations on Catch Documentation Schemes, including the stepping up of and the elaboration of regulations in relation to fisheries. FAO plays a leading role in this area.

Secondly, we hope that this committee will be able to step up technical capacity and assist countries – developing countries in relation to technology transfer and knowledge sharing. We hope that we will have statistics work launched which is more disaggregated.

We should avoid any mentioning of problems linked to sovereignty, of sensitive fishing zones to avoid the politicization of this technical subject.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Australia wishes to indicate its support for the work of the COFI. Like others today, we welcome the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement and we encourage the FAO in its ongoing implementation of that.

We also welcome the agreement to the Catch Documentation Schemes. Like New Zealand, we are co-chairs of the Southwest Pacific Region and these guidelines are very important for us. We would also like to express our appreciation to Norway for its support of the process and to Iceland for its very patient leadership of the negotiations.

We also welcome the recent appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission under the exceptional arrangements recently agreed by Council. Like the European Union, we look forward to the ongoing consultations between the IOTC and the FAO about agreeing on a new procedure for the appointment of Executive Secretaries that respects the rules and procedures of the IOTC and also the interests of FAO.

Mr Jón Erlingur JÓNASSON (Iceland)

My country follows with great interest and participates in the work of the Committee on Fisheries and appreciates the active engagement by Members on global ocean issues. Mindful of that, it is the only global intergovernmental forum for major international fisheries and aquaculture issues.

Furthermore, we would like to use this opportunity and put on record our appreciation and support to FAO's engagement on the global stage, raising awareness and supporting Member States in sustainable use of modern resources for food security and nutrition and economic development.

Good examples of that to mention here; FAO's engagement and partnership with the IFIs on the African Package for Climate Resilient Ocean Economies. Engagement in the Ocean Conference last month in New York as well as tireless efforts of the Director-General and encouraging Members to ratify the Port State Measures Agreement.

Finally, I would like to join New Zealand and Australia in thanking and commending Norway for its financial support to the process of reaching agreement on the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes (CDS).

With these words, my Delegation supports and endorses the report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries as well as the Voluntary Guidelines for CDS.

Mr Rune DRAGSET (Norway)

Firstly I will just echo Iceland on underlining FAO's importance in the work on fisheries. Norway supports the endorsement of the COFI report and in particular, we are pleased with the agreement that we have on CDS and we can only encourage the endorsement of those guidelines here today.

And I think those guidelines are a welcome addition to our toolbox in combatting IUU and as EU and others have recalled, it is also important that we continue ratifying the PSM Agreement.

As for implementation of these two instruments, I think it is also important that we also see the interlinkages between the different instruments.

A second point I would like to address as also alluded to by the delegates from Brazil and Morocco is the importance of sustainable seafood production for food security and nutrition and we just note the importance of developing a technical guideline to prevent food waste and loss in the sea value chain.

In that, Norway has ambitions and intends to establish a Global Action Network on sustainable food from the oceans for food security and nutrition.

Finally, the SOFIA report remains a very important contributor to our work. Whilst also noting the importance of this, we would also note that there is always the need to maintain the technical competence in the field of fisheries in FAO but also look at aquaculture, for instance, which is a growing sector and there is also a need to maintain competence there.

Mme Maria Esperança PIRES DOS SANTOS (Angola)

Angola would like to strongly support the statement made by Morocco in the name of the African Group, and also would like to thank COFI for the excellent work done, and would like to emphasize the importance of artisanal fisheries and the role of women.

As you know, Angola is a fisher producer country and also consumer. We consume all the fish that we fish. We are worried due to the illegal fishing which brings very bad impacts on the resources. We are also worried very much about the bycatch and the impact of climate change which brings a very bad impact to the resources. It is also one of the main aspects which contribute to the decreasing of the resources.

By saying so, we would like to thank the government of Norway because it is one of the Angolan partners in the fishery resources management assessment. This is a very big support to the country. We use the Fishery Research Vessel and fish up nothing. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you, Norway, for all the support you are giving to our country.

By saying so, we would like to support the report and give our agreement.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I would like to ask you all to be here at 14.30 hours sharp this afternoon so that we can finish as much of our work as possible.

The meeting rose at 12.31 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 31

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.31

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session Quarantième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-8 July 2017 Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017 Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
4 July 2017

The Third Meeting was opened at 14.42 hours
Mr Hamoud Al Hasni,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 42
sous la présidence de M. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunión a las 14.42
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Presidente de la Comisión I

Item 11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:****Tema 11. Asuntos mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:***Item 11.3 Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (11-15 July 2016)
(continued)**Point 11.3 Rapport de la trente-deuxième session du Comité des pêches (11-15 juillet 2016)
(suite)**Tema 11.3 Informe del 32.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (11-15 de julio de 2016)
(continuación)**(C 2017/23; C 2017/INF/6)***CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)**

Let us resume with item 11.3. Before the lunch break, we had concluded the interventions made by the different delegates and now I would like to give the floor to Mr William Gibbons-Fly, Chairperson of Committee on Fisheries, to comment on the different interventions made by the delegations.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)

I did not hear anything that required necessarily, at least from my part, a direct response. But I would like to say that we are very heartened by the support for the work of the Committee that we heard, in particular, the work of COFI, and FAO generally, including the Secretariat. We heard a number of expressions of support for the implementation of the Port State Measures Agreement and a number of other urgings for other parties to ratify the agreement as soon as possible. We heard from a number of parties that they were in the process of doing so, and that, of course, is very good news and we welcome all of that.

There was a great deal of support for the other work that the Secretariat and the Committee are doing with respect to combatting IUU fishing, including the finalization, and we hope within the next few minutes the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes. A number of delegates noted the ongoing work on transshipment on reducing food waste in fisheries, gear marking, and a number of other ongoing aspects. I know that you will capture a number of those aspects in the summary conclusions that you are about to present to the delegates.

I do not know that I need to say much more. If I may, I might offer the floor to Mr Mathiensen and see if he has any comments to make with respect to any of the interventions we have heard earlier.

Mr Árni MATHIENSEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I would like to start with thanking the Members for their very positive response to the report, particularly the positive comments with regards to the Port State Measures and the Catch Documentation Scheme and the Global Record.

I am kind of beginning to think of these three as the equivalent in rugby terms of the Triple Crown, but we still need the Grand Slam. We still have something to work for, but we have done quite well. I look forward to working with you, and these last few weeks have been very promising and productive.

There were a few direct issues that I would like to comment on. The EU and Australia, in particular, commented on the IOTC and the Performance Review, which we look forward to working on with the Members. The Executive Secretary has actually been appointed and I believe a circular was sent around last week. The appointment is, of course, in line with what was agreed in Jakarta last month. With regards to the future arrangements, the work on that is now being led by the Independent Chair of the Council with the Members and I am sure that we will get an agreeable outcome eventually on that score.

The World Fisheries University was mentioned yet again. No surprise. However, I think we must all understand from the comments delivered by the Representative of the Republic of Korea that this issue now has taken on a different dimension. This was actually underscored as well at the last Council when the FAO Legal Counsel answered for the Secretariat and gave its statement on this issue. But the

issues concerned are much more complex and expansive than just the issues of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. These are really institutional issues. I cannot improve on what the Legal Counsel told you at the last Council.

Since then, at least as regards the Secretariat, no new developments have occurred, but there are still ongoing discussions between the Republic of Korea and the Secretariat. I hope that with time we will solve these issues. I am sure you appreciate that it is quite difficult to enter into new and very complex activities, when the parties concerned, the Republic of Korea and the FAO Secretariat, have unsolved outstanding issues. I think we will just have to give ourselves time to work through that patiently and then we will end up with an amicable solution.

There is one other issue I would like to mention, that was mentioned by Indonesia, it is the issue of the transshipments. The Secretariat is very willing to participate and work on that score. If the Membership so decides, we are, of course, willing to lead the work on that as well. I think that will follow nicely on the other work that we have been doing like the Port State Measures, the Catch Documentation Schemes, and Global Record, and will fill in some of the gaps that still are there. As with all things, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. The Port State Measures and these other good instruments, they all need to be implemented. We have got a lot of work to implement them in the right and proper manner. I am optimistic about our success in that.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we have come to a summary conclusions regarding item 11.3. The conclusion will be as follows:

The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries, and in particular:

- a) stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes as a guide document for Members and the international communities' use as a reference in related activities;
- b) appreciated the role of FAO played in UN fora on processes related to fisheries and aquaculture and others and supported FAO's increased leadership role in these processes;
- c) welcomed the growing number of parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing at the first meeting of the parties to the PSMA held in Oslo, Norway on 29 to 31st May 2017;
- d) underscored the importance of the role of fisheries and aquaculture in food security and nutrition and the importance of reducing food waste and losses, particularly in the post-harvest value chain, and welcomed further work in this area, and stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication;
- e) welcomed the inclusion of the SSF Guidelines and regional and national policies, strategies, and related implementation activities; and
- f). noted the ongoing work on the issues of transshipment, gear marking, and reducing food loss and waste in fisheries and where these issues would be subject to continued focus at the next session of COFI.

Do we agree on these conclusions?

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

On that summary, I actually do not have any comment. I am agreeing with this.

I have listened to the distinguished delegates regarding the issues of the World Fisheries University proposed by the Republic of Korea. Actually, as we are taking that part in the Conference, my question is this: it was discussed in the COFI and discussed and noted by the Council also, and then nothing in the Conference. That means we are not taking anything from the COFI's decision – I mean the outcomes or also the outcomes of the Council. Nothing is mentioned here regarding that issue. It was clearly mentioned in the COFI document that there will be a three-step agreement proposal and MoU already signed on that and final agreement to be signed as a matter of three steps.

And, as we have listened from the Republic of Korea that FAO is asking a higher level of immunity, but beyond it was given by the Republic of Korea to the other UN Organizations. Probably that is the issue. So I wanted to ask whether we are not taking anything from the COFI document or from the Council document to the Conference regarding that issue?

Or will we be just keeping mum? This is my question to the Secretariat as well as also the Chairperson.

Mr Willem OLT Hof (European Union)

In our statement that was read by the European Union this morning, we listed all the areas in which the FAO is involved and there are many at the moment and again, the conclusions stressed them all. We have no problem with these conclusions. But a logical follow-up of that is that the technical capacity and the skills for fisheries and aquaculture in FAO need to be maintained and we stress that in our statement and we would like to see that again in the conclusions. That could be at the end of the conclusions as a separate point.

Mr Arni MATHIENSEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

I think Bangladesh is taking this issue of the World Fisheries University as if it has been decided that there will not be a World Fisheries University. That is not so. There are still ongoing discussions between the Secretariat and the Republic of Korea on this issue. So I do not think we should be preempting a solution by jumping to conclusions here today.

As was evident in the comments from the Representative of the Republic of Korea and as I mentioned earlier was underlined by the involvement of the FAO Legal Counsel that there are dimensions in this and issues in this that go beyond the fisheries and aquaculture department, go beyond the mandate of the Committee on Fisheries, and therefore the substance that we are discussing here needs to be solved and they are being worked on.

I think we just have to give ourselves a little bit more time and patience to come to the right conclusion. These are quite big issues that we are discussing and a precedent will be set for the future on possibly similar issues that we need to consider.

I think we need to look at this in this light and give ourselves time to find not just a solution but the right solution.

Mr Rune DRAGSET (Norway)

A point of clarification: could you please repeat the language for the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines? I did not get the exact formulations there.

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 32nd Session of the Committee on Fisheries and in particular, stressed the importance of the Voluntary Guidelines for Catch Documentation Schemes as a guiding document for Members and the international communities used as a reference in related activities.

Mr Rune DRAGSET (Norway)

I was just wondering if the wording should be 'adopted' as well since this is a specific topic referred to us by COFI or did I miss that as well?

CHAIRPERSON

Can we say 'adopted and stressed'?

Mr Gennadiy GATILOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I just wanted to support the Norwegian colleague on this issue because we, at this Conference, need to approve the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes and our delegation believes that Norway has the right idea in this regard. We would also like to support the proposal from the European Union.

COFI at FAO is a very important global platform considering all issues related to the development of fishing and aquaculture and therefore I think we will need to note that.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)

What I might recommend on that last point is to look at paragraph 9 of the COFI Report which reads as follows: “*The Committee underlined that in order for FAO to fulfil its mandate as the lead global agency for fisheries and aquaculture, it was necessary that the Organization maintained and strengthened its technical capacity in these fields*” and perhaps some modified version of that language would address the issue raised by the European Union and supported by Russia.

CHAIRPERSON

Then we will add: “*emphasized the importance of FAO maintaining its technical capacity in fisheries and aquaculture*”. Is this wording accepted?

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

We agree with the amendments proposed by you in response to the suggestions made by the delegations of the EU and Norway. Just one additional point. We reiterated in our statement, the importance of FAO to continue to support developing countries to develop their fisheries and aquaculture sectors through capacity development, technology transfer, and information exchange so we could maybe include something in the report along those lines and encourage the FAO to continue to support developing countries to develop and improve their fisheries and aquaculture sectors through capacity development, technology transfer, and information exchange if that is agreeable to all.

Mr William GIBBONS-FLY (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)

Once again we have a paragraph in the COFI Report which we could use as a basis for the comment from Brazil. Paragraph 15 of the report says: “*The Committee recognized the challenges faced by developing countries in implementing the code and the need for capacity development*”. I think if we deleted the reference to the code but talked strictly about capacity development, technical training, and information exchange, we could come up with the right formulation.

CHAIRPERSON

Is it accepted?

We come to the end of the discussion of item 11.3 of the agenda.

Item 11.4 Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry (18-22 July 2016)

Point 11.4 Rapport de la vingt-troisième session du Comité des forêts (18-22 juillet 2016)

Tema 11.4 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (18-22 de julio de 2016)
(C 2017/24; C 2017/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We now move on to 11.4, *Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry*, which was held from 18 to 22 July 2016. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/24 in front of you.

I now invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Forestry His Excellency Minister Akram Chehayeb of Lebanon to introduce this item on the Agenda.

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président du Comité des forêts) (langue originale arabe)

La 23^{ème} session du Comité des forêts, qui a été associée à la 5^{ème} semaine internationale des forêts, a abordé de grandes questions centrées sur les forêts. La session a vu la participation de plus de 600 délégués de 126 États Membres, ainsi que 34 institutions et observateurs.

L'ordre du jour a été mis au point sur la base des recommandations des commissions régionales des forêts. Les Comités techniques des pêches et de l'agriculture ont également participé à l'élaboration de cet ordre du jour. Nous nous sommes penchés sur l'état des forêts du monde, sur les grands accords de 2015 et sur les stratégies de la FAO, et, sur cette base, nous avons donné des orientations stratégiques.

Le Comité des forêts a grandement bénéficié de la contribution des commissions régionales des forêts pour définir les priorités et engager des dialogues de haut niveau sur de grandes problématiques, telles que les Objectifs de développement durable et le changement climatique. La semaine internationale des forêts a permis à la communauté internationale des forêts d'interagir et de dialoguer.

Le Comité des forêts a reconnu que la gestion durable des forêts et de l'agriculture, ainsi que leur intégration dans les plans d'aménagement du territoire participaient à la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable, et jouaient un rôle précieux en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et dans les défis liés au changement climatique. Le Comité a soutenu la mise au point des cinq grands principes qui servent de cadre au dialogue sur les politiques concernant la durabilité.

Le Comité s'est félicité de ce que ces principes aient été discutés aussi par le Comité de l'agriculture et par le Comité des pêches, et ce afin de mettre au point une approche plus intégrée et de favoriser la participation de tout un chacun. Le Comité a pris note de la stratégie renouvelée de la FAO sur le changement climatique et a insisté pour que l'accent soit mis sur les forêts. Nous avons également fait des propositions d'amélioration au projet de texte dont le Secrétariat a pris connaissance. Le Comité a souligné que les forêts pouvaient apporter beaucoup à la sécurité alimentaire et à l'amélioration de la nutrition. Le Comité a vivement remercié l'Afrique du Sud pour avoir accueilli le XIV^e Congrès forestier mondial et s'est félicité de son document final: la déclaration de Durban.

Le Comité des forêts a demandé le lancement d'un processus en vue de la création d'un nouveau document stratégique sur les forêts, aligné sur le Cadre stratégique de la FAO et sur le Plan stratégique de l'Arrangement international sur les forêts. Le Comité des forêts a demandé à la FAO de poursuivre son travail autour du dialogue sur les forêts, d'appuyer les dispositions prises en faveur des forêts et d'apporter sa contribution dans les débats de haut niveau sur le développement durable. Nous avons aussi invité le Forum des Nations Unies sur les forêts (FNUF) et le Partenariat de collaboration sur les forêts (PCF) à ces sessions d'examen, et il s'agira de voir quel rôle peuvent jouer les commissions régionales de forêts.

Le Comité des forêts a invité les États Membres à prendre les actions suivantes: améliorer la coopération entre les secteurs des forêts, de l'agriculture, l'alimentation, l'utilisation des terres et le développement rural; promouvoir la planification foncière; utiliser les régimes fonciers, ainsi que des instruments qui favorisent la gestion durable de l'agriculture et des forêts; renforcer le dialogue avec les secteurs pertinents pour promouvoir des actions cohérentes en appui au développement durable à l'horizon 2030; collecter les données en vue des ODD à tous les niveaux.

Le Comité a pris note du projet de Stratégie de la FAO en matière de changement climatique et a souligné le besoin de mettre davantage l'accent sur les forêts. Le Comité des forêts a invité les pays à renforcer leurs cadres institutionnels en faveur de démarches intersectorielles en matière de changement climatique, y compris l'intégration des forêts aux plans d'adaptation nationaux au changement climatique.

Le Comité des forêts a également invité les pays à utiliser de nouveaux instruments financiers découlant de l'Accord de Paris et du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 pour accroître les investissements dans les forêts et à envisager des partenariats privé-public et privés, de simplifier les procédures, de mieux développer les ressources pour une bonne gestion des forêts.

Le Comité des forêts a également appelé à un meilleur financement dans le domaine de la réhabilitation des terres détériorées. Il convient aussi de s'intéresser à la contribution des forêts et des arbres hors forêts à la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition et de promouvoir une production durable, y compris dans le domaine du bois de chauffage.

Le Comité des forêts s'est intéressé aux systèmes agrosylvopastoraux, dont les travaux seront financés par des fonds extrabudgétaires, que le Comité a demandé à la FAO de mobiliser. Il a entériné les directives volontaires et encouragé les pays à les appliquer.

Le Comité des forêts a invité la FAO à renforcer son travail sur les forêts boréales et tempérées et à explorer d'autres options.

Enfin, le Comité a adopté son Programme de travail pluriannuel pour la période 2016-2019.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry which emphasizes a common vision for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries promoting a coherent and integrated approach. We also welcome the publication of the State of the World's Forest 2016, which highlights how sustainable forest management and sustainable agriculture effectively contributes towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring food security and helping to tackle climate change.

In this regard, we also highlight the importance of forests in FAO's work on climate change. The European Union and its Member States support the active role FAO plays in implementing the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in April 2017 and the related substantive inputs FAO provides to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. This underlines FAO's role as a standard setting international Organization in forestry.

We understand the decision to de-emphasize forestry in the next PWB does not mean that this area is no longer core to FAO's mandate. We encourage FAO to maintain its leading role in the collaborative partnership on forests in order to foster formal and informal inter-agency cooperation and coordination on forest related matters in the framework of the suggested work plan.

We consider the work carried out by CPF on the development of a global set of forest indicators in particular on sustainable forest management to be crucial for assessing progress on forest related global goals, targets and other commitments. We welcome the discussions on mainstreaming biodiversity in forestry at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Cancun last December. We would suggest that the FAO's Committee on Forestry should strengthen its work on such mainstreaming. We strongly encourage FAO to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective into all of its activities.

Finally, the European Union and its Member States appreciate the generous offer of the Republic of Korea to host the 15th World Forestry Congress in Korea in 2021.

M. Abdelmalek ABDELFFETTAH (Algérie)

Tout d'abord, je tiens à remercier M. le Ministre de l'agriculture du Liban pour sa présentation. Je voudrais bien sûr, à travers mon intervention, noter tous les points cités, notamment en matière de foresterie. Les forêts jouent un rôle important face au changement climatique dans le domaine de la séquestration du carbone, dans la lutte contre la désertification. Qui dit lutte contre la désertification dit obligatoirement sécurité alimentaire. Pour cela, des efforts continus devront être faits par toute la communauté pour lutter contre ce fléau.

Nous remercions la FAO pour le soutien apporté aux pays à travers, notamment, son Comité sur les questions forestières méditerranéennes (SYLVAMED) et l'organisation des différentes semaines forestières méditerranéennes. Dans ce contexte, une actualisation de l'état des forêts méditerranéennes est en préparation pour 2018.

Nous remercions également la FAO pour les efforts fournis en matière de synergie avec les pays, notamment du bassin méditerranéen dans la lutte contre les incendies de forêts et pour la mise en place d'un système de veille contre ce fléau.

Dans le rapport qui a été lu par M. le Président, il est prévu qu'un groupe de travail sur les forêts et les systèmes agrosylvopastoraux des zones arides soit créé. Je pense que ce groupe est très important pour une réflexion sur les stratégies à mettre en œuvre dans le cadre de la lutte contre la désertification qui touche non seulement les zones arides, mais aussi semi-arides.

C'est dans ce contexte que le Département des forêts de la FAO devra contribuer, dans le domaine de la restauration du paysage forestier en zone aride, notamment à la réhabilitation des espèces

endémiques résistantes à l'aridité et à la sécheresse, qui pourront faire face, bien sûr, au changement climatique.

Je voudrais souligner juste un point également par rapport au résumé de la première page. Je pense que lorsqu'on dit que «le Comité a accueilli favorablement la situation des forêts du monde 2016», il faudrait peut-être mettre: «le Comité a accueilli favorablement le travail qui a été fait sur la situation des forêts du monde 2016».

Sr. Mario ARRIOLA WOOG (Mexico)

El agradecimiento de mi delegación a Líbano por el reporte que nos ha presentado y el apoyo para la adopción del documento C2017/24, incluyendo los asuntos de política que se someten a consideración de la Conferencia.

Asimismo, México apoya las recomendaciones adoptadas en el Comité Forestal relacionadas con la promoción de una mayor integración entre los sectores agropecuario y forestal. La Delegamex destaca la importancia incluida en COFO al igual que en todos los comités técnicos el tema de la integración de la biodiversidad para el bienestar como un tema transversal, como recomienda la Declaración de Cancún de la COP13 del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

Brazil fully endorses the view expressed by the last status Forest Report that the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture and their integration in land use plans contributes strongly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We look forward to seeing the five interconnected principles developed by FAO be translated into an effective framework for policy dialogue on sustainability. Forests however can only be well managed when adequate information is available to underpin national policies. Therefore, Brazil proposes that FAO and the collaborative partnership on forests and its coordination keep countries updated on their work to improve and streamline the global reporting on forests. Also, we would like to be informed about progress eventually made towards the establishment of a working group on dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems.

Brazil welcomes the voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring to be implemented according to country's needs and priorities. In the past, Brazil also made use of similar instruments of voluntary nature to strengthen its capacity in the field. Still on national forest monitoring, FAO's collaboration with the International Arrangement of Forests in support of countries could be mutually beneficial.

Brazil recalls a suggestion made by the Committee on Agriculture in its 21st Session that mainstreaming biodiversity be addressed as a cross-cutting issue at FAO's technical committees in their next meetings in 2018. Therefore Brazil proposes that this topic be duly taken into account in the preparation of the next Session of COFO.

Finally, Brazil congratulates the Republic of Korea for hosting the next World Forestry Congress in 2021, the 15th World Forestry Congress in Seoul, and looks forward to this great event. With these comments, Brazil endorses the findings and the recommendations of the Committee on Forestry.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

Indonesia shares the view that the 23rd Session of COFO went well. My Delegation congratulates and appreciates FAO for the success of COFO last year. Not only did it have a rich agenda but more importantly it reflected FAO's rich work in forestry during the intersessional period which my delegation very much welcomes.

Among them are first, the launch of the State of the World Forests 2016. Second, the development of the forest related indicators, monitoring and reporting progress related to the achievement of the SDGs. Third, the development of the FAO climate strategy and highlighted the importance of forests. Fourth, the finalization of the voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring. Fifth, highlighted the key contribution that forests could make towards ensuring the food security and improving nutrition. The last is FAO leadership on the collaborative partnership on forests in the context of the United Nations Forum on Forests or UNFCCC.

In addition, we also commend 23rd Session of COFO as it took some important exercise such as the deliberations of the five interconnected principles of a common vision for sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Second, establishment of the working group on dryland forests and agrosilvopastoral systems.

In relation to the aforementioned issues of SDGs contribution of forests for food security and the role of FAO in UNFF, we would like to highlight the importance of the plan to develop a reference on contribution of forests and trees to food security, including to promote preparation of the Report of the State of the Forests at the national level. We trust that FAO is in a good position to facilitate the exercise.

Upon these notes, my delegation would like to support this Conference and endorse the report of the 23rd Session of the Committee of Forestry and the recommendations therein. My delegation also would like to congratulate Korea for hosting the next World Forestry Congress.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China thanks the Secretariat for the report and commends the results achieved by COFO. We have the following to say.

First, China highly values the work on forestry. Protection of forestry is closely associated with sustainable development and addresses climate change.

Second, we endorse the matters for the attention of the Conference contained in the report and invite FAO to mobilize more resources for technical support for forestry in developing countries.

Third, China noticed the cooperation between FAO and Google which has successfully produced a statistical methodology on dryland forests.

China would like to request FAO to share more information on this with Member States.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would like to express our gratitude for the presentation of the main conclusions and the recommendations of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry which we broadly support.

We support the point which was raised at the last COFO Session on the importance of a cross sectoral approach to forestry which would include issues of environmental sustainability, making the most of the economic potential of this industry, and within the social dimension.

We are in favor of mainstreaming the importance of forests for economic development, the introduction of renewable energy, and more healthy diets, soil conservation, carbon sequestration, and the function of the water cycle in FAO's work.

We agree with the COFO approved priorities for FAO in this area which includes actions to achieve the main SDG targets, climate change adaptation, and mitigation. This includes combatting forest fires and also on the assessment and monitoring of forest resources.

We would like to underscore the importance of boreal and temperate forests in achieving sustainable development. According to FAO, boreal and temperate forests make up 48 percent of the planet's forests. Trees, soil, and peatlands in boreal zones, one of the largest natural carbon sinks in Russia alone, a forest captures over 600 million tons of CO₂ per year.

At the same time, today there are still gaps in research done into boreal forests. This pertains to the contribution to addressing global climate change issues, biodiversity conservation, preventing land degradation, safeguarding water resources, and stepping up food security and improving nutrition.

Against this backdrop, Russia welcomes the Committee's decision about the need to expand the FAO's work in this area and to develop possible ways to establish, under the ethos of FAO, a relevant working group.

We call on the global forestry community to engage in open and intensive dialog on the role of temperate and boreal forests in stabilizing the climate and improving food security.

In line with COFO's decision, we look forward to the Secretariat providing a detailed document on this issue with concrete proposals in the next session of COFO in 2018, under a standalone agenda item.

In conclusion, we would like to ask the Conference to confirm COFO's instruction to FAO to scale up its work on boreal and temperate forests, taking into account their importance for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including on combatting climate change, improving food security, and improving nutrition.

Such a recommendation would not only respond to the Committee's decision, but it would also respond to the conclusions of the 30th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe and the discussions at the 74th Session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry.

Textual proposal for the Commission Report. The Conference requested FAO to strengthen its work in the area of boreal and temperate forests, taking into account the contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including combatting climate change and enhancing food security and nutrition.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand endorses the report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forests. Thailand recognizes the importance of forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as food security and nutrition to local communities.

Sustainable forest management is needed to complete the Sustainable Development Goals. We endorse the Member Countries to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on National Forest Monitoring endorsed by COFO 2016.

Mr Cleopas OKORE (Kenya)

Kenya is making this statement on behalf of the African Regional Group. We welcome the document C 2017/23, a report on the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry. The report recognizes the sustainable management of both forests and agriculture and the integration of land use plans which effectively contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Forests contribute to climate change and are also affected by climate change. Achievement of the Agenda 2030, its Sustainable Development Goals, and indicators will depend on how governments and indeed the whole of humanity handle forests and other natural resources.

Linking agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and land development will ensure food security, management and conservation of rural resources, including mitigation against climate change.

The five interconnected principles of a common vision for sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fisheries provide policy guidelines for development in the sector.

Indeed, using these principles, governments are able to mainstream issues of forestry and their sustainable development into policies and other legal frameworks which will guide implementation of actions.

The report remains a useful document in tracking the synergies created in linking all of these relevant sectors. Implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests by governments will go a long way into ensuring national food security.

Whereas resources are never adequate, we note with appreciation that the Committee is exploring other funding opportunities for its work. This will go a long way into implementing the Paris Agreement among other decisions and commitments made in the past.

Governments are encouraged to boost investments, including through existing international financial mechanisms to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management.

The report provides innovative ways of partnering with all including indigenous communities in fostering forest conservation. Using of cultural indigenous knowledge in conserving forests for all will foster sustainability. We welcome the fact that these issues were also discussed by the Committee on

Agriculture and the Committee on Fisheries, in order to promote a more coherent and integrated approach.

We look forward to the complete implementation of the decisions which are currently ongoing and in particular those giving due attention to the importance of collaboration between the forests, fisheries, and agriculture for sustainable development and as relates to crosscutting themes which include gender, nutrition, climate change and governance.

Kenya continues to mainstream the commitments of the report into its development agenda; it developed a national special plan to guide land use for optimal productivity, sustainability, efficiency, and equity in the use of land and other territorial space, profile implementation of SDGs, and launched the National Forest Programme 2016-2030 to guide the development of the forest sector for the next fifteen years.

Like other African countries, Kenya appreciates the continued support of FAO in implementing the commitments. With these remarks, the Africa Regional Group takes note of the information presented in this document.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank all countries for their interventions. I would like to give the floor to the Minister, Chair of the Committee on Forestry, to make comments.

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président du Comité des forêts) (langue originale arabe)

Je remercie le Comité qui a bien voulu préparer ce rapport. Je voudrais aussi exprimer toute mon estime et dire combien je suis favorable à toutes les remarques et idées que vous avez présentées aujourd'hui et que nous avons écoutées attentivement. Vous avez parlé de points très importants qui nous aideront beaucoup dans notre travail.

Quant aux réponses à certaines questions qui ont été posées, je laisserais les responsables de la rédaction du rapport répondre à ces questions, car ce sont eux les spécialistes en la matière.

Ms Eva MÜLLER (Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division)

First, let me express the apologies of the Assistant Director-General for Forestry who unfortunately had to leave the room for a meeting with the Director-General. I would like to thank you all for the various supportive comments we received on the outcomes of the 23rd Session of COFO and its report, and overall the support you have provided to the recommendations made in this report.

We have certainly taken note of the strong interest in having biodiversity considered as a crosscutting issue in the next COFO and in fact, this was a recommendation that came out of COAG I believe and will certainly be conveyed to the steering committee of COFO, which will be meeting shortly here in Rome.

We also take note of the overall support to the integrated approach that was presented by COFO 23 and to mainstreaming forestry, fisheries, and agriculture in accordance with the five principles. So this is an approach that is very much in line with the SDGs and it is also very much in line with FAO's overall strategic framework and its crosscutting strategic objectives.

We certainly welcome the support of the delegates to this approach.

Mr Peter CSOKA (Secretary, Committee on Forestry)

I have a very brief addition to what Ms Müller has just said regarding the follow-up being greatly appreciated, the guidance received through the discussion here.

I would like to inform you that the information that is requested by some of the interventions here is actually being prepared and for example, the work on the Global Core Set of Forestry Indicators and the streamlining international forestry data reporting with the aim of decreasing reporting burden in countries is something that will be taken to the region's forestry commissions as a formal document.

The regional forestry commissions will be meeting in the fall this year to discuss this issue among several other items.

Reference was made to the working group on drylands and agrosilvopastoral systems. We are at this stage in the phase of compiling the membership of this working group. You may recall that the Committee decided that Member States should be invited to nominate their designated experts. This nomination process is going on and it will be very soon in the phase of preparing and advising the next steps.

Lastly, several references were made to the needed cross sectoral approach and the interaction between forests, fisheries and agriculture. I would like to inform you in this regard that on Friday this week, the bureaux of the four Technical Committees of the Organization will have a very short stock taking meeting in order to capitalize on the outcome of the discussions.

This way we can also consider what common approaches could be taken in preparing for the next round of meeting, including the discussion of mainstreaming biodiversity for forests and fisheries, so I think we are very much on track with the recommendations that have been made during this discussion.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I will come to the summary conclusions of this agenda item. I will read it to you. The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Forestry.

In particular, the Conference invited countries to

- a) improve coordination between policies on forests, agriculture, food, land use, and rural development for more effective regulation of land use change, promote integrated land use planning, strengthen tenure rights and use adequate policy installments to increase sustainable agricultural production and sustainable forest management;
 - b) promote sustainability for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, strengthening dialog on joining efforts for transformative change towards the achievement of SDGs, review and adapt existing mechanisms and tools such as national forest programmes and criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management to inform and support the decision making for sustainable across sectors and promote coherent and effective actions in sustainable forest management in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
 - c) strengthen forest data collection to support monitoring progress towards SDG targets at global, regional, and national levels;
 - d) strengthen institutional frameworks and processes to ensure sound forestry and integrated cross sectoral approaches to climate change, including considering integrating forests into their national determined contributions, and all of their national adaptation plans as appropriate;
 - e) strengthen investments and partnerships and enhancing access to financial resources to improve financing for SFM and address climate change;
 - f) disseminating and implementing the voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring;
 - g) mainstream the important role of forests and trees outside forests for food security and nutrition and policies and programmes and across all four dimensions of food security and consider strengthening the mobilization of innovative and enhanced financing for the restoration of degraded lands and support actions to contribute to a more efficient and successful achievement of the Bonn challenge and the related global initiatives;
- 2) The Conference also encouraged FAO to strengthen its work in the area of boreal and temperate forests, taking into account their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including converting climate change and enhancing food security and nutrition.

This is the summary conclusion. Can we accept that?

Mr Ryan WILSON (Australia)

Just a process question in regard to the last point 2. Member Countries have just in Commission II agreed to Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget which includes areas of emphasis and de-emphasis and savings, some of which affect the forestry work.

I am curious to hear from someone, the Secretariat perhaps, about whether point 2 is consistent with what has been agreed in the revised Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19. We would not want to contradict what we have agreed to in Commission II.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation)

Just a small minor change with regard to point 2. We would like to use the same language from the Report of the Committee on Forests and here in the report, the Committee "*requested*" FAO.

So probably it would be better to use this language to say requested FAO.

Ms Eva MÜLLER (Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division)

Regarding the comment by Australia, COFO made a recommendation and, of course, the recommendations of the Technical Committees have to be considered in the next PWB 2018-19. As regards the availability of resources, that will depend on what is decided in the next COFO when the COFO will consider the report to be prepared by the Secretariat.

Any decisions taken at the 24th Session of COFO in 2018 would not be effective next biennium but most likely the biennium after.

Mr Ryan WILSON (Australia)

Forgive me if I am missing something but was that particular language in your summary directly from the COFO Report? Possibly I have misunderstood. It is really just a procedural thing if that is a recommendation of COFO which reports to the Conference, then that is fine.

CHAIRPERSON

It is in paragraph 14(c) of the Report.

So with that, we have concluded our discussion on agenda item 11.4.

Item 12. Reports of the 42nd (12-15 October 2015) and 43rd (17-21 October 2016) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security**Point 12. Rapports des quarante-deuxième (12-15 octobre 2015) et quarante-troisième (17-21 octobre 2016) sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale****Tema 12. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 42.º (12-15 de octubre de 2015) y 43.º (17-21 de octubre de 2016) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial**

(C 2017/19; C 2017/20; C 2017/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We will now move on to item 12, *Reports of the 42nd (12-15 October 2015) and 43rd (17-21 October 2016) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security*. Please ensure that you have documents C 2017/19 and C 2017/20 in front of you.

I would now like to give the floor to Her Excellency Ms Hassan Gornass, Ambassador of Sudan and Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, to introduce her report.

Ms Amira DAOUD HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security) (Original language Arabic)

It is a great honour for me to be with you today and to present the reports of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The two last sessions have been quite successful and very well attended by over than one thousand people with a growing participation from the civil society and the private sector.

Throughout the biennium, the Committee has applied its comprehensive model and the different members and participants have always been keen on preserving its ambitious mandate in the field of providing and guaranteeing food security and nutrition for everyone.

Today, as the world is facing dark times in terms of food insecurity and malnutrition, whereas four states and 30 million individuals are prone to famine, we must address this crisis and deal with the root causes but also plan for mid term and long-term measures in order to promote sustainable investments in agricultural and food systems, while supporting resilience in order to prevent the recurrence of any new crises.

As a result, the Committee at its 42nd Session has worked on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA). As a result, the FFA aims to improve food security and nutrition for populations suffering from protracted crises or are at risk of protracted crises by describing how to address dangerous manifestations of food insecurity and malnutrition in ways that are consistent with the challenges of protracted crises and in order to contribute to finding solutions to these crises whenever possible.

This has been once again raised by the Director-General saying that there is no peace without food security and no food security without peace. As a matter of fact, food insecurity and malnutrition are among the most dangerous and common characteristics of protracted crises as they both lead to disrupt livelihoods and food systems as they affect the four dimensions of food security, namely availability, access to food, stability, and utilization. In this regard, I would like to congratulate the RBAs for the joint programme on promoting resilience which will promote the principles that have been highlighted in the FFA.

As a matter of fact, the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee have given special attention to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and have endorsed a strategy on how the Committee intends to support the implementation processes of the different countries in promoting policy harmonization and sharing lessons learned in addition to taking stock of the achieved progress.

Last October, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, emphasized the role that the Committee can play a role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement and has also urged the Committee to pursue its work in fighting hunger and promoting sustainable development so that everyone around the world may be able to enjoy peace, prosperity and better opportunities.

As for nutrition, the Committee at its 43rd Session has endorsed a framework that allows the Committee to boost its contribution to the global efforts against malnutrition in all forms. As a matter of fact, the new framework guides the Committee in its work in the field of nutrition and supports the implementation of ICN-2 Framework of Action and the programme related to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Furthermore, the Committee is greatly benefitting the move of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition from Geneva to Rome. We have often cooperated with this Committee, but having the Committee hosted here in Rome has proven to be quite useful in terms of promoting our cooperation and joint action.

At its 42nd Session, the Committee has come up with a comprehensive set of recommendations and policies related to water for food security and nutrition. These recommendations highlight the strong nexus between water, food security, and nutrition. In these recommendations, the Committee has relied on the Report of the High Level Panel of Experts. In addition, the Committee at its 43rd Session has issued a number of recommendations related to policies on promoting the sustainable agricultural development in order to achieve food security and nutrition.

In terms of promoting the use of animal resources, the CFS relies on the independent report that is guided by the evidence base provided by the High Level Panel of Experts. These recommendations show that promoting the sustainable use of agriculture is essential. The recommendations include further guidance on the extensive use of animal resources. This is also related to the approval of a number of recommendations related to policies on linking smallholders to markets and that recognize the role played by smallholders in achieving food security and nutrition.

In addition to promoting this role through the enabling political factors, these recommendations come in conclusion of a process that was started within the Committee at the end of 2014 through the High-level Forum and a main report was prepared with the contribution of the three Rome-based Agencies, the representatives of the private sector and the different civil societies.

During the 43rd Session, a highly beneficial forum was held on urbanization and rural transformations where the different and main drivers of change in rural and urban settings have been discussed and what kind of implications these would have on food security and nutrition all over the world.

As a result, the Committee during this intersessional period has compiled the different experiences and policy patterns that have proven successful in dealing with food security and nutrition in the context of urbanization and transformations in rural areas. These experiences will be shared and discussed at the Plenary Session in October 2017.

The Committee is seen as an open platform to all stakeholders in order to share experiences as well as good practices related to implementing the Committee decisions and recommendations at the national, regional, and international level. In this regard, the Committee has endorsed terms of reference that allow stakeholders concerned by food security and nutrition to guide them on how to exchange their experiences and good practices on how to use the products of the Committee and implement them.

The Committee during its 43rd Session has also relied on these terms of reference to discuss the first thematic event in order to share experiences on the use of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Land Governance and its relationship with the national food security.

As a result of this event, many countries have actually used and applied these guidelines and started to implement them ever since they have been adopted by the Committee in 2012. Since the implementation of these guidelines has directly affected about two million individuals around the world, their promotion is a must. In addition, the different presentations that were given during the event have highlighted the numerous good practices as well as the different challenges in the field of implementing these guidelines.

Furthermore, several stakeholders have commented on the need of having multistakeholder platforms and on allowing all stakeholders to fully participate while having the proper political role in order to ensure the positive and successful implementation of these guidelines.

In 2016 and 2017, the CFS has had contributions in the High-level Political Forum. The 2017 contribution has been exceptionally important since SDG 2 is under thorough review this year. The Committee has highlighted the relationship between food security, sustainable development, and comprehensive growth, while calling for the need to link with poverty and hunger at the same time.

I would like to inform you on the Independent Evaluation of the Committee that was recently presented and that constitutes an important milestone for the Committee, highlighting our engagement and moving forward with enhancements. The report provides an independent overview on the Committee operations and assesses its work, efficiency, and relevance. It also offers information on the cooperation levels of the different stakeholders.

As a result, the Committee becomes a model to follow. In addition, all of the stakeholders are working during these weeks on discussing the recommendations presented in this report and how to implement them so that the Committee would become more efficient. As a result, I would like to call on all those who are interested to take a look at this report that is available in the Internet.

Through the discussions that have been concluded so far, everyone has highlighted the important support provided by FAO, IFAD, and WFP to this Committee, as well as the importance of sustaining the same level of support while we still look forward to the participation of the different Rome-based agencies to the current discussions on this report.

On behalf of the Committee and the different stakeholders and in my name, allow me to conclude by asking everyone to promote the Committee products and recommendations, so that we can succeed in achieving our two common goals, promoting sustainable development and eradicating hunger and malnutrition. I will see you at the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Mr Abdullatif Ahmed Mohamed IJAIMI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Sudan would like to present this statement on behalf of the Africa Group related to item 12 of the Conference agenda of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

I would like first to extend my thanks to Ambassador Amira Gornass for her efforts in managing the work of our Committee. I would like to thank the Secretariat for preparing this important document. I believe that the report has highlighted the main achievements of this Committee and its work during the intersessional period and we would like to endorse its different key recommendations related to the general policy while reiterating our support to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As a matter of fact, the Africa Group would like to support the Committee participation and the High-level Political Forum in New York that highlights the added value of the Committee on CFS as a multistakeholder platform.

We highly value the successful monitoring process that occurred during the 43rd Session of the CFS regarding the Voluntary Guidelines in the context of national food security. We would like to note that the CFS in cooperation with the different Rome-based agencies has been able to organize a specialized awareness activity in Nairobi last year on promoting its work on food security and nutrition in the context of protracted crises.

We would like to call any other country to host such an event. We hope that we will be able to implement the policies and recommendations promoted by this Committee and participate to the exchange of experiences and learning lessons. In this regard I would like to commend the efforts made by Mr Robert Sabiiti from Uganda.

We would like to reiterate the importance of the Framework of Action and its 11 principles that take into account the dire need for exerting solid humanitarian efforts in order to meet the urgent and long term needs in the field of food security and nutrition for those who are living in protracted crises.

In addition, the Africa Group would like to reiterate the importance of having a strategic Multi-Year Programme of Work that depends on sustainable budget and implements its activities. I would like to call on the different RBAs to boost their funding and support. The same call goes to the different stakeholders.

I would like to commend the work done by the High Level Panel of Experts. Since the reform process within the Committee, the Panel of Experts has provided us with the necessary evidence base in order to guide the decision-making process in the field of food security and nutrition.

Whereas linking research to policy is quite important and crucial, we support the principles of responsible investment in agriculture and food systems, which is a major achievement for food security at the global level. And making sure that these principles are implemented by all of the stakeholders is quite essential in order to achieve the desired results.

I would like to commend as well the outcomes of the Report prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts on sustainable development for food security and nutrition and the potential roles of animal resources. It provides a clear policy that was exhaustively and thoroughly discussed with the valued support of the Ambassador from Nigeria.

Unfortunately, the Report of the High Level Panel of Experts is not made available at the national level as the Panel of Experts is not represented at the national level. In this regard, we call this panel in cooperating with the RBAs in order to disseminate its policies and reports.

The Africa Group would like to support the integration of the CFS in the efforts related to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all the nutrition and food security efforts. We call on the different stakeholders to look into these general policy recommendations and take them into account in setting their national policies in order to achieve sustainable development.

In addition, the Africa Group would like to support the Open-Ended Working Group on nutrition led by Mr Khaled El Taweel from the Arab Republic of Egypt and all its results in addition to the side events that were held during the two last periods.

In spite of all of these achievements, the CFS is facing two major challenges, namely the lack of funding and the weak national representation as highlighted in the recently published report that requires continuous support by the Member States and RBAs.

As a matter of fact, we are in dire need of dealing with these issues so that we can implement the policies promoted by the Committee on World Food Security. There are growing concerns that the Programme of Action is still suffering from great budgetary deficits. This is made clear in the funding given to the Report on Forestry that has been published recently after so much effort. This is why the Africa Group would like to reiterate the need to protect the Programme of Action and its integrity.

Finally, I would like to say that the Africa Group would like to welcome the reports issued by the Committee on World Food Security and highly relies on its members to work differently in order to promote world food security and nutrition.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

First of all, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Sudan on behalf of the Africa Group. Egypt welcomes the CFS Report and expresses its appreciation for the leadership of the CFS Chair, Ambassador Amira Gornass.

Egypt believes that the CFS is the foremost inclusive platform on food security and nutrition has an increasing responsibility in dealing with the deteriorating situation of all food security and nutrition as well as towards supporting the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The implementation of the Framework for Action in Protracted Crises adopted in 2015 sets out complete policy approaches that can build resilience. All stakeholders, public and private, should apply the principles and actions laid out in the document in the four countries that were recently declared as famine areas as well as in other protracted crises areas.

The recently released CFS Evaluation Report pointed out that the CFS needs to improve its effectiveness to be able to deal with these increasing demands and have a real impact on the ground. In particular, the CFS needs to identify a clear strategic direction, clarify six roles, enhance its effect at the country level, enhance its financing sustainability, improve its working methods, strengthening its Secretariat, as well as improving the dissemination and relevance of the HLPE reports. We are looking forward to a constructive engagement from the CFS Bureau to articulate its position towards these recommendations.

The CFS is facing a critical financial challenge. We encourage FAO and the other RBAs as well as major donors to increase their unearmarked financial contribution to the CFS budget. We also acknowledge the CFS valuable contribution at the High-level Political Forum last year and this year which highlighted the interlinkage between food security and development.

We welcome the adoption of the CFS Nutrition Strategy and call on FAO to continue to engage with the CFS and other stakeholders to advance nutrition in the context of the Decade of Action on Nutrition with the objective of dealing with all forms of malnutrition.

In conclusion, we adopt the CFS report and thank Ambassador Amira, and Ms Deborah Fulton, the CFS Secretary, and their team for their work.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Chairperson of CFS for presenting the report.

Thailand endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of CFS. Thailand welcomes the inclusive efforts of CFS work in contributing to SDGs. We request FAO to upscale work on strengthening capacity of famers and farmers' organizations in connecting to market tools and innovative technologies, in particular get tools to smallholders.

In relation to water management, we would like to emphasize the importance of management of cross-body waters in order to promote mutual benefits and interest through inclusive decision-making processes both at national level and regional levels.

With regards to resilience building, numerous policies were inspired by the self-sufficient economic philosophy to safeguard livelihoods and income of small-scale farmers from internal and external risks.

Mme Hélène GONNET (Suisse)

Le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA) suit une approche multipartite inclusive et innovante, qui a beaucoup à offrir dans le contexte du Programme 2030. Le CSA est aussi la principale plateforme intergouvernementale et internationale en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition. La Suisse se félicite ainsi des efforts du CSA pour le rôle qu'il assume dans le contexte du Programme 2030.

Ses produits principaux, comme les Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers et les Principes pour un investissement agricole responsable, de même que ses recommandations, demandent cependant à être davantage promus. Il s'agit d'un des défis les plus importants auquel le Comité est confronté et il est fondamental que les produits soient pris en compte et intégrés dans les programmes que les organismes romains soutiennent, car ces derniers ont, grâce à leurs programmes de soutien technique, ont un rôle clé à jouer à cet effet.

Nous saluons particulièrement les rapports adoptés pendant les 42^{ème} et 43^{ème} sessions sur l'eau, les enjeux pour la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et le développement agricole durable au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, sur la question de l'élevage. Nous encourageons les parties prenantes concernées par ces rapports à mettre en œuvre activement les recommandations adoptées par le CSA.

Du côté Suisse, nous sommes également engagés à promouvoir ces produits. Avec le Gouvernement de l'Éthiopie, par exemple, nous facilitons un événement parallèle sur le thème de l'élevage, qui se tiendra la semaine prochaine dans le cadre du Forum politique de haut niveau à New York. Il est en effet primordial de poursuivre les efforts accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des produits du CSA.

Cette année 2017 est particulièrement importante pour le CSA. En ce sens, le Cadre de référence sur la mise en commun des expériences et des bonnes pratiques au travers de manifestations nationales, régionales et mondiales, constitue un progrès notable. Ce mécanisme suivi multipartite, en plus d'identifier les bonnes pratiques, permet également d'approfondir les discussions entre les acteurs concernés et d'encourager la cohérence générale des actions.

La Suisse va continuer à s'impliquer activement dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'un plan d'action découlant de l'évaluation. L'évaluation exhaustive a donné beaucoup d'idées à la Suisse et a aussi soulevé le différend entre nos ambitions stratégiques et les besoins financiers de ce Comité.

Par rapport aux besoins financiers du CSA, nous sommes en revanche inquiets du soutien financier trop faible dont il bénéficie. La Suisse soutient actuellement une grande part du budget total par des contributions volontaires et il est grand temps de trouver le moyen de renouveler l'engagement multilatéral et de pouvoir compter sur plus de donateurs croyant également en la valeur ajoutée du CSA.

Mr Mohammad Jawad RANJBAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan wishes to comment on five topics covered in the Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Number one, sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, what role for livestock, which was based on a report by the HLPE but thoroughly reviewed by an open-ended working group was a major achievement, especially its 14 valuable recommendations.

Number two, the work of the open-ended working group on connecting smallholders to markets was well-received by the Plenary. We decided that the recommendation of the open-ended working group be submitted to the Governing Bodies of FAO, WFP, and IFAD, as well as to all other relevant UN agencies.

Number three, the recommendation of the open-ended working group on CFS engagement in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development received full support, including CFS

contribution to the 2017 HLPF theme of eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world, as well as six SDGs which were reviewed by HLPF in 2017.

Number four, the Committee appreciated the work of the open-ended working group on nutrition and agreed to continue the work in conformity with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and consistent with the Framework of Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN-2.

Number five, the Committee welcomed the preliminary outcome of the Forum on Urbanization, Rural Transformation, and Implication for Food Security and Nutrition held in 2016. It agreed to the creation of an open-ended working group on urbanization and rural transformation to identify key issues for further analysis, proposed areas of priority for in-depth investigation, and to explore the possibility of a special study on this important topic by the High Level Panel of Experts subject to the availability of funds. We are glad to note that the open-ended working group had two meetings this year.

With these comments, Afghanistan approves the Report of the 43rd Session of the Committee on World Food Security.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

Brazil endorses the reports of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security.

My delegation gives great importance to CFS, which is the only multistakeholder body in the United Nations with a specific mandate on food security and nutrition. We appreciate the results reached in the past two years, especially the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises and the policy recommendations on water for food security and nutrition, sustainable agricultural development, and the role of livestock, and connecting smallholders to markets.

We hope the Conference will endorse these outcomes. As stakeholders, we must use and disseminate these recommendations. As governments, we should apply as appropriate these recommendations in designing our food and nutrition security strategies. We also appreciate the Committee's decision to mainstream nutrition, to engage in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We appreciate the food systems approach in this regard.

We also appreciate the Committee's decision to mainstream nutrition, to engage in the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, and to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We appreciate the food systems approach in this regard. We also encourage CFS to continue its work in urbanization and rural transformation for food security and nutrition.

We reaffirm the importance of the monitoring function of CFS and therefore we welcome the results reached in the first global thematic event held in 2016 on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of national food security.

CFS must continue to develop innovative monitoring mechanisms to share our experiences and take stock of our food security and nutrition strategies, taking into account the policy principles, guidelines, and recommendations set by the Committee.

Regarding the Evaluation Report published in April this year and the way forward, Brazil believes that any changes to be made in the ways of working must be done in the spirit of the reform. It means we must bring forth the Committee's vision which is a world free from hunger where countries implement the voluntary guidelines in support of the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security.

Brazil would like to reiterate the centrality of the right to food to CFS.

The international community must reaffirm its commitment to CFS and to food security and nutrition, especially in light of the worst food crisis in seventy years. We commend the CFS Chair for her efforts regarding the four famines and also FAO and WFP for their continuing efforts in alleviating the suffering of the affected populations.

Finally, the Brazilian delegation would like to reiterate that CFS has a crucial role to play in serving as a platform to foster dialog and to promote policy convergence in food security and nutrition, but there

is a need to enhance the visibility of CFS and CFS policy outcomes not only at the country level but also in the United Nations System itself.

We call upon FAO, WFP, and IFAD to continue to contribute to CFS and to full engage in its activities. The RBAs play a crucial role in the dissemination of CFS policy outcomes at the national level.

For that to happen, CFS needs to focus on its added value, improve its budget, planning, and way of working while keeping in mind its commitment to the most affected populations. We look forward to addressing these issues in the context of the evaluation plan of action.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

I would like to give my words of appreciation to the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for preparing and presenting the report of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee.

Indonesia endorses the proposal on how the CFS would contribute to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and advancing nutrition, particularly in relation to the integration of food and nutrition in agricultural development.

On this matter, we support the outcome of the meeting which recommends the CFS Secretariat, subject to available resources, to organize several events to develop a common understanding of issues and lay the basis for informed CFS policy convergence and coordination work.

Indonesia also supports the effort to link smallholders to the market as recommended by the open-ended working group on smallholders and as outlined and agreed at the 43rd Session of the Committee. CFS highlighted innovative partnership that empower all smallholders, especially women and youth.

In the area of food and nutrition security, Indonesia stands ready to collaborate with all partners, including through South-South cooperation. Moreover, Indonesia strongly supports the Committee's request of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts to undertake a study on the multistakeholder partnerships to finance and improve food security and nutrition in the framework of the 2030 Agenda to be presented to the CFS Plenary in 2018.

This study should look at the effectiveness, impact, and performance of such partnership in reaching food security and nutrition objectives in the context of the 2030 Agenda. The report should further explore how partners can enhance their cooperation through establishing fully functioning partnerships in which multiple stakeholders work together for shared objectives.

We are of the view that effective collaboration among key partners and relevant stakeholders could result in better impacts on pursuing the target of the 2030 Agenda.

Last but not least, Indonesia supports FAO efforts to build close collaborations with Member Countries through applied training or sharing capacity building in stock taking of the CFS 43 recommendations on sustainable agricultural development policy for food security and nutrition and in optimizing cross sectoral coordination.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Thank you for the presentation of the outputs of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. We value the CFS outcomes of the discussions on the issue of the linkages between the development of agro-food systems, nutrition, and climate change.

We welcome the approval by Members of the Committee of recommendations on the role of water and livestock in the context of food security which were prepared on the basis of the corresponding reports of the High Level Panel of Experts.

We welcome the approval by the Committee in 2015 of the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises. We commend the comprehensive nature of this document and the focus on the issue of tackling undernourishment and micro nutrient deficiencies.

We would propose that the CFS should make a significant contribution to the work of the UN System to facilitate the achievement of the specialized Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with its mandate and comparative advantages.

Against this backdrop, we welcome the results of the work of the Committee's open-ended working group on nutrition which over the past two years has identified CFS priorities in this area in the medium term.

Along these positive lines, we note the yearly reports up to 2016 from the RBA on the situation of food insecurity in the world, SOFI. We await with interest, the release of the updated version of this publication which will focus on monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, in particular SDG 2.

On this point, we would like to underscore the importance of using of national data and also the implementation of corrections and assessments of country data on the basis of multilateral consultations with Member States in line with the decision by the United Nations Statistics Commission, number 48101 for global reporting on SDGs.

On the preparation of the Work Programme for the CFS for 2018-2019, we would like to note the need to appropriately assess time, staff, and financial resources available to the Members of the Committee and to its Secretariat.

We call for a rational limitation on the number of parallel workstreams of the CFS in the intersessional period to involve the largest possible number of interested actors and to improve its quality. According to us, this could resolve the problem of the lack of resources which is a periodically recurring problem in the Committee and it would also optimize its work.

Moreover, we would propose that CFS decisions, particularly those prepared by limited groups of participants should be adopted on the basis of consensus between Member States. Otherwise, we might see a risk of the erosion of the basis of the Committee's work and its inclusive nature.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China thanks the Secretariat for these reports and commends the CFS for the results achieved. We think CFS has achieved great results as you all know. This is indeed an outstanding performance.

First, we hope CFS can further focus on its core mandate and avoid overstretching beyond its mandate. Focus should be put on how to eliminate global food insecurity. Secondly, China appreciates numerous high quality reports published by CFS which are quite useful for national policy making.

We would like to see more relevant region specific and country specific recommendations in these reports. Thirdly, besides these publications, we hope CFS can further mobilize resources and together with the RBAs, CSM, and PSM, continue to implement projects on global food security, turning knowledge on paper into concrete actions.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

Seven years after its reform, the Committee on World Food Security has faced enormous changes in the course of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this new environment, CFS has shown its willingness to continue with its work on substantial issues. At the same time, CFS is addressing the findings of an independent evaluation through open discussion about necessary improvements in the process and the effectiveness.

Significant initial steps were taken to define an active role for CFS in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to contribute to the High-level Political Forum.

CFS showed that it can add value to ongoing work and foster synergy among all stakeholders to address this multidimensional challenge through a holistic approach. The Committee is actively involved within the Decade of Nutrition based on the outcome documents of the Second Conference

of Nutrition through the CFS workstream engagement in advancing nutrition and several intersessional events.

During the last biennium, important policy recommendations have been approved in particular on water for food security and nutrition as well as on the role of livestock in sustainable agricultural development, both based on the report prepared by the High Level Panel of Experts.

The recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets based on the inclusive forum as well as the framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises are further substantive achievements.

We welcome the sharing of experiences and good practices in implementing CFS decisions and recommendations at country level that the CFS introduced for the voluntary guidelines contributing to the monitoring discussion on the implementation of the CFS products.

The EU and its Member States encourage further promotion of regular monitoring in a more systematic way.

Another relevant and timely workstream has started on urbanization and rural transformation in the context of food security and this will continue.

The CFS outcomes could not have been achieved without the commitment of all CFS stakeholders. The technical and financial support given by the Rome-based Agencies as well as the experience of the CFS Secretariat have contributed to strengthening the CFS and should not wane.

We recall the importance of ensuring interpretation in CFS meetings and the translation of the CFS products to encourage ownership and better implementation in all countries.

We also wish to highlight the dedication of the Bureau and Advisory Group Members as well as the CFS Chair, Ambassador Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass of Sudan.

We call on all CFS stakeholders and particularly the Rome-based Agencies to renew their commitment towards a stronger CFS that could take on the challenges ahead. We acknowledge the critical importance of ongoing discussions on the resource mobilization plan capable of covering the existing resources gap and we encourage all stakeholders to contribute to the CFS budget so as to ensure that the Multi Year Programme of Work for 2018-2019 can be fully implemented.

The value of the work of the High Level Panel of Experts for the way forward. We would like to see CFS continuing its activities in order to play a key role in food security and nutrition, as many challenges still lie ahead of us in the fight against malnutrition and hunger.

From the perspective of the EU and its Member States, it is important to reach a wider possible dissemination of CFS products and recommendations in the whole UN System.

We would therefore like to underline the importance of the decisions and the roadmap following the CFS evaluation. It is imperative that this process assesses the strengths and weaknesses of the CFS and allows Members to develop a more strategic and focused Multi Year Programme of Work that is focused on key priorities and sets our expectations for the CFS future direction.

CFS has been reformed with high expectations. We should continue to work to live up to them.

We strongly encourage all CFS stakeholders, in particular governments, to uptake and implement CFS products, recalling ways to give due consideration to CFS products in all of their present and future partnership agreements with civil society and the private sector.

This would contribute to a better and more widespread recognition of CFS and make it easier to raise funds for its activities.

Finally, we strongly encourage FAO, IFAD, and WFP to increase their commitment to CFS and support efforts to disseminate and implement CFS policy products while on the other hand, stressing the need to prioritize and streamline the CFS Programme of Work.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina quisiera referirse a ambos Informes del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (CSA). En relación al Informe del 42º período de sesiones del CSA, la Argentina coincide con los principales lineamientos planteados en el mismo, en particular los párrafos 14 y 15 sobre la importancia del agua para la seguridad alimentaria. Somos conscientes que uno de los desafíos que tendremos que enfrentar es alimentar a una población mundial en crecimiento, y por lo tanto resulta indispensable utilizar sistemas de producción eficientes en el uso de diferentes recursos como el agua.

Ante esta tendencia, la Argentina da aumento a la productividad agrícola. Se sustenta en prácticas agrícolas sustentables, tales como el sistema de producción de siembra directa, que reduce en un 70 por ciento la evaporación directa del agua del suelo, mejora hasta un 80 por ciento de la capacidad en filtración del agua en el suelo y duplica la producción de granos por milímetro de agua consumido.

En lo que hace en el Informe del 43 período de sesiones del CSA, la Argentina se congratula por las consideraciones en el Informe de GANESAN sobre las contribuciones de la ganadería y el desarrollo agrícola sostenible en relación al fomento y el empoderamiento de las mujeres y los jóvenes, quienes sin dudas enfrentan dificultades que si se removieran podrían tener un impacto muy positivo en la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, así como en la producción agrícola.

Asimismo, respecto a ese Informe, se valora positivamente el párrafo 19.1.c, en tanto destaca la complementariedad entre el comercio agrícola justo y la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición, la cual está en sintonía con el ODS 2.b del Agenda 2030.

En otro orden, en relación al párrafo 19.b.f de las recomendaciones sobre políticas en el Informe de GANESAN sobre la reducción de las pérdidas y los desperdicios de alimentos, la Argentina quisiera indicar que la transferencia de tecnología a la que se hace alusión en ese párrafo debería ser conforme a lo acordado unilateralmente en el Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible, en su párrafo 41 y el ODS 17.7, así como el Agenda de Acción de Addis Abeba en su párrafo 120. Esto es, dicha transferencia de tecnología debería ser en términos favorables a los países en desarrollo, incluyendo términos concesionales y preferenciales según sea mutuamente acordado.

Por último, en lo que hace el documento del CSA sobre la vinculación de los pequeños productores con los mercados, que el Comité hizo suyo en el 43 período de sesiones, la Argentina reitera que hubiera sido interesante que más allá de reconocerse las dificultades que enfrentan los pequeños productores que desean intervenir en los mercados internacionales, tales como normas de calidad de los alimentos o condiciones o prácticas injustas, se hubieran incluido también recomendaciones vinculadas con la remoción de los subsidios agrícolas proteccionistas o la eliminación o reducción de los picos y progresividad arancelaria.

Con estos comentarios, Señor Presidente, la Argentina refrenda las conclusiones de ambos Informes.

Sra. Maria De Los Angeles GOMEZ (México)

México reconoce las contribuciones substantivas del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria a través de sus productos para la consecución de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible en concordancia con la Agenda 2030. Los Informes de las sesiones 42 y 43 del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que son los que nos ocupan en esta Conferencia, ilustran muy bien esta contribución. Destaca en la presentación del Informe preparado por el GANESAN en la sesión 42 sobre la contribución del agua a la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, porque ilustra como los productos del Comité pueden y deben incidir en la nutrición y seguridad alimentaria; así, como en los trabajos de las tres agencias de las Naciones Unidas en Roma, en los países, en las regiones, en las localidades.

Cuando se contextualiza en este Informe la seguridad hídrica, por ejemplo, el documento que se presentó en la 42º período de sesiones, se puede comprender la importancia que tiene el acceso al agua dentro de la seguridad alimentaria. Por eso es importante el apoyo de los trabajos del Comité.

El Informe del GANESAN reportando el 43º período de sesiones, relacionado con el papel de la ganadería en el desarrollo agrícola sostenible, la vinculación de los pequeños productores con los mercados, la participación del Comité en la promoción de la Agenda 2030, el intercambio de

experiencias y buenas prácticas y las recomendaciones relacionadas con las directrices voluntarias sobre la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de suelos, pesca y bosques dan cuenta de la trascendencia de los trabajos del Comité.

El Comité, en su creciente ámbito de responsabilidad, lo mismo sirve de marco para la orientación para combatir la malnutrición en todas sus formas, como para construir condiciones de resiliencia, porque incorpora los puntos de vista de las múltiples partes interesadas. Por ello, y por todo lo que ha enumerado la Señora Presidenta del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, la Señora Amira Gornass, se da cuenta de por qué es relevante que las tres Agencias con sede en Roma sigan apoyando en el sentido más amplio los trabajos del Comité, que utilicen sus productos dentro de sus propios programas y que contribuyan a la difusión de los mismos. Mi delegación felicita a la Presidenta y a la Secretaría del Comité por su comprometido y enorme esfuerzo en la labor que han desarrollado en estas últimas dos reuniones.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to thank Madame Chairperson of the Secretariat for the hard work and the presentation of this report.

We know that we are going to adopt or endorse the Report of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. Definitely we will adopt.

We would like to include at least one paragraph in your summary that the Conference is encouraging the Member States to better use the CFS products while they are developing – preparing the national policy guidelines. We are preparing and developing so many documents and CFS policy products but at the country level, there are still lapses of using that. For the Conference, my proposal is to add one point.

The Conference is encouraging Member States to better use the CFS products.

**Ms Amira DAOUD HASSAN GORNASS (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)
(Original language Arabic)**

I would like to thank all of those who have taken the floor. We heard a number of different comments made here and again, thank you very much and I would like to reassure you all that your comments will be taken into consideration.

An important point is that this Committee is the only one within the United Nations System which has within its Membership, not just Member States but also organizations of the UN dealing with food issues, and other representatives of the private sector, civil society, and international financial institutions as well as research institutions in the agricultural sphere.

This is what makes it unique. Indeed, it is the only Committee which brings into play many inputs from UN agencies as well as expert reports from the High Level Panel of Experts. They all put in scientific advice. It is the only Committee within the UN System that develops its policies in plenary sessions held every year and its recommendations are put directly to the FAO Conference and then to the General Assembly of the United Nations via ECOSOC.

This is the reason why we are very concerned with making sure that our Committee does continue, that this unique approach is pursued, and really all of the participants, all of the Member States feed into this process. As the distinguished Representative from Bangladesh rightly pointed out, it is our responsibility and the responsibility of all CFS stakeholders to disseminate the outcomes of this Committee.

They reflect a great deal of work by the Members of the Committee and it is our responsibility to make sure that the Committee's work is widely distributed so that there is awareness as to the decisions taken and that this then has an impact on national policies. That is an important aspect.

I would also like to address concerns in the use of the high level reports. These are high quality documents that can be quite useful indeed internationally, regionally, and at the national level. I would also like to mention that there is a need to use this Committee as a tribunal. There are many different

participants that are involved and this is why it is so useful to highlight the discussions within this Committee and get the word out at the global level.

I just would like to stress one point to Member States and it is a need to contribute when it comes to the budget and funding of the Committee, a need to support this Committee properly. The budget of CFS does depend upon the contributions of the UN Rome-based Agencies. We have contributions from the European Union and then a limited number of Member States. I would call upon all Member States to participate and to fund the budget of the Committee so that it is in a position to continue its march towards success.

I would also like to invite everyone to participate in the next – the 44th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, which will be held in Rome from 9 to 13 October 2017.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we come to the summary conclusions of this agenda item.

The Conference:

- a) endorsed the conclusions under the recommendations of the 42nd and 43rd Sessions of the Committee;
- b) engaged all stakeholders to disseminate, promote, make use, and support the implementation of the framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises. The policy recommendations on connecting smallholders to markets, water for food security and nutrition, and sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, what roles for livestock, and requested FAO to support Members in these efforts;
- c) acknowledged the valuable learning emerging from the first CFS global thematic event on the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure and the role of FAO in supporting them;
- d) welcomed the Committee's commitment to contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through contributions to the High-level Political Forum;
- e) noted the important role to be played by the CFS within its mandate in advancing nutrition as well as its contribution to the Decade of Action on Nutrition;
- f) noted progress on the Independent Evaluation of the CFS and FAO support to CFS and looked forward to the Committee's response to the evaluation in order to ensure the sustainability, effectiveness, and efficiency of the committee in the future;
- g) commended the work of the CFS High Level Panel of Experts and look forward to continued commitment to the CFS from all of its stakeholders, including the Rome-based Agencies.

That was my summary conclusions. Do you accept that?

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

We do appreciate your summary and would like to suggest that we add to your paragraph b), I suppose, when we acknowledge the global thematic event for the VGGT, that the Conference encourages the CFS to continue to develop an innovative monitoring mechanism for CFS and also we would like to suggest that we add a paragraph on the reinforcement of the vision of CFS.

Mr Khaled EL Taweel (Egypt)

If I have heard you correctly in paragraph f), you refer to the progress on the Independent Evaluation.

I think we should reformulate it to mention that the report was already released and it is being discussed now, so it just needs some new formulation. And also I think we are missing something about sustainable financing with CFS. Maybe we can suggest something here? And regarding the proposal from Brazil, we would need to listen to the formulation of this proposal and then react to it.

Ms Deborah FULTON (Secretary, Committee on World Food Security)

Just looking through the conclusions, I think the point that Egypt made on paragraph f) where the evaluation is referenced, it could easily be handled by noting the importance of the Independent Evaluation of CFS and FAO's support to CFS and continue as it is so that would replace progress with importance.

The point that Brazil has made I think it would fall into paragraph c) which reads: acknowledged the valuable learning emerging from the first CFS Global Thematic Event on the use and application of the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure and the role of FAO in supporting them and encouraged CFS to continue to develop an innovative monitoring mechanism. That could be a suggestion there.

I think Egypt was also asking for something on sustainable funding, which could potentially be added to the last point where you looked forward to renewed commitments to CFS from all of its stakeholders including the Rome-based Agencies. We could add something to that such as *“looked forward to renewed commitment to CFS from all of its stakeholders including the Rome-based Agencies and contributions to sustainable financing of CFS”* as a suggestion.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

We could go along with that but I did not hear any suggestions on the reaffirming of the CFS vision so if you could include that.

Ms April COHEN (United States of America)

While I appreciate the suggestions made by our colleagues from Egypt and Brazil, I do not feel that we should be discussing developing an innovative monitoring mechanism to be supported by the Conference. I think that is something that the CFS should come together within CFS mechanisms to discuss first before we have the Conference that will bless this so perhaps to be looked at in the future by Conference but not at this Conference.

In terms of the language that was proposed by Deborah on sustainable financing, we could probably live with that.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

We would only like to highlight that we are not proposing any new language. We are actually referring to the CFS reform document, which is an agreed language by all so we would only see that CFS is already working on developing its innovative monitoring mechanism. It is in the agreed language so we are not suggesting anything new. Of course, the vision for CFS is agreeable to all, we believe.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

Before we approve your summary, could you please repeat the new wording of paragraph f) on financing and unfortunately I cannot recall which sub-paragraph this was. Could you read out once again the wording following the amendment proposed by Brazil with regard to the CFS vision, please?

Also in our intervention we paid increased attention to optimizing the work of the CFS in reducing the number of parallel workstreams and in this connection perhaps your summary could reflect that, and I do apologize for not providing specific text, but perhaps we could include some wording from the report from the 43rd Session of the CFS, which talks about the need to pay attention to the variety of resources and also a rational burden on the Committee. I think this is paragraph 31e).

CHAIRPERSON

Well let me now read the new wording for the paragraph c): acknowledged the valuable learning emerging from the first CFS, the Global Thematic Event on the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure and the role of FAO in supporting them and encouraged CFS to continue to develop an innovative monitoring mechanism.

So the last revision is encouraged CFS to continue to develop and to develop an innovative monitoring mechanism. Is it acceptable?

Ms April COHEN (United States of America)

I do appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat to kind of bring us together to some type of consensus. However, the explanation given by my Brazilian colleague does not really sit well with me. I mean, we cannot really just cherry pick from the reform document and say which ones we want to support.

This topic of course is being discussed within the context of the CFS evaluation and not everybody feels the same about the future of monitoring in CFS. So I feel that either we can reference the entirety of the reform document without specifying monitoring or discussing, future efforts to develop reporting and evaluation within CFS but something very, very general.

Acknowledgment or taking note could also be something that we would consider but encourage CFS is not something that we can abide.

CHAIRPERSON

If I go back to US, can you give us a wording for your proposal?

Ms April COHEN (United States of America)

I do not believe that monitoring should be specified. I believe that the original wording of your paragraph c) was correct.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

Thank you for the effort. We would again like to stress that this is language coming from the reform document. The global thematic event on the VGGT was part of an effort to take stock of the use and application of the CFS policy outcomes and there is a clear vision for CFS for monitoring the reform document and this is not really something that we see as problematic but maybe in the spirit of compromise, we could go along with as the Delegate from the US has mentioned, that the Conference noted maybe the importance of the monitoring function for CFS. I would also like to hear the proposal from the Secretariat regarding the CFS's vision if possible.

CHAIRPERSON

We are as Brazil mentioned, we are trying just to reach a compromise, so let me once again reiterate "c" from the beginning.

c) acknowledged the valuable learning emerging from the first CFS, the Global Thematic Event on the Use and Application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure and the Role of FAO in supporting and noted the importance of the monitoring function of the CFS.

Is it acceptable for all?

Now the last one, again, I will read from the beginning once again.

Looked forward to commitment to the CFS from all of its stakeholders, including the Rome-based agencies, and to ensure a solid financing for CFS, bearing in mind the need to reassure manageable workload while reaffirming the vision of CFS.

Is it acceptable? Thank you, Brazil.

Continues in Arabic

This concludes agenda item 12.

- Item 11.2** *Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (4-6 October 2016)*
- Point 11.2** *Rapport de la soixante et onzième session du Comité des produits (4-6 octobre 2016)*
- Tema 11.2** *Informe del 71.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (4-6 de octubre de 2016)*
- (C 2017/22; C 2017/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We will now go back with item 11.2, *Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (4-6 October 2016)*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/22 in front of you.

I now invite the Chairperson of the Committee on Commodity Problems, Mr Khaled El Taweel, Alternate Permanent Representative of Egypt to FAO, to introduce this item.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to present to you today the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems held from 4 to 6 October 2016.

Out of the 110 Members of the Committee, 100 had attended the Session, 12 Member Nations of the Organization, the Holy See, one United Nations organization, two specialized agencies, five international Governmental organizations and two NGOs participated as observers. The Session was also attended by eight Ministers of Trade and Commerce, five Ministers of Agriculture and four Vice Ministers from the Trade and Agriculture sectors.

The Session's Agenda contained four substantive items as follows: World agriculture commodity markets situation and outlook; Policy and regulatory matters; Programme matters; and Governance matters.

The Committee's deliberation on the various agenda items was supported by a number of background documents prepared by the Secretariat. I would like to note that the Programme and Budgetary matters arising from the CCP Session were brought to the attention of the Council last December. The deliberations of the Members were very positive and consensus prevailed throughout the Session.

I assume you have read the Report. Nevertheless, I wish to bring to your attention the following points: Under the item on World Agriculture Commodity Markets, the Committee stressed the importance of FAO commodity market monitoring and outlook for better market transparency and for informing policy decisions and called on governments and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of supply and demand of food and agricultural commodities and make the results publicly available in a timely manner.

The Committee also encouraged governments to carefully consider the consequences of any action that could disrupt market and trade flows and their price volatility. Furthermore, it has commended the partnership between FAO and OECD for the annual production of the FAO-OECD Agricultural Outlook.

Under Policy and Regulatory matters, the Committee considered the findings of the 2016 edition of a flagship publication, The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets or SOCO, which was on the theme of trade and food security. Members underlined the importance of the human and institutional capacities of countries for the analysis of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition.

They also stressed the importance of FAO's assistance to countries in facilitating trade policy dialogue and encouraged the Organization's support to countries in regional and multilateral trade and trade related processes to ensure that these processes are coherent and supportive of countries pursuit of food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process.

In relation to the International Year of Pulses 2016, the Committee acknowledged the multiple benefits of pulses and urged governments to develop and implement policies and programs promoting the reduction and consumption of pulses.

Under governance matters, the Committee agreed that the CCP rule should be pursuant to Rule 1.4 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, assess whether the request to convene the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal was justified and make a recommendation to the Director-General. The Secretariat of the CSSD should be located in Headquarters with the CCP Secretariat.

Furthermore, the Committee urged donors to notify FAO's global information and early warning system about the intention to provide food aid as soon as decisions were made including details on the commodities to be provided, the mode of donation and the expected use of food aid, and to provide ex-post data on monetization of in-kind food aid including the total value of monetized food aid and the use of funds raised for monetization.

I also wish to inform you that in conjunction with the 71st Session of CCP, a ministerial meeting on the long-term commodity crisis trends and sustainable agricultural development was held on 3 October 2016. The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh, Mr Tofail Ahmed. The Chairperson's summary of the deliberation was presented to the CCP Plenary and is attached as Appendix C to the report.

In considering the CCP Report last December, the Council encouraged FAO to continue the convening of the ministerial meeting on commodity issues. The shared summary stressed that agricultural commodities play an important role for growth in developing countries. Commodity price movement can have significant impacts on smallholder livelihood, poverty and food security but also on the economies of commodity-dependent countries.

It also stressed that climate change is changing the conditions of agricultural production and strengthening yields. Its impacts are already felt in many countries. Coping with the effects of climate change will be particularly challenging for countries with large smallholder populations since it adds pressure to already vulnerable households.

Ministers also identified that diets are the link between trade and nutrition and that trade helps to broaden consumer choices through more diverse safe and quality food. Also there are some concerns about increasing access for less nutritious food.

Esteemed Delegates, in addition to the CCP Report, I have also the pleasure to briefly update you on the work that has been done by CCP after the 71st Session of CCP. In order to enhance the contribution of CCP to the implementation of Agenda 2030, the CCP Bureau is preparing now for a joint event in collaboration with WTO, which is planned to take place in October this year in Rome on "Trade and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

The event will seek to inform and sensitize the members on trade development and the issues discussed in the WTO as part of the ongoing trade negotiations. It aims also to draw attention to the role of trade in achieving food security and improved nutrition and contribution to the articulation of food security considerations in the multilateral trading system in the context of the 2030 Agenda as well as discuss action for facilitating safe and efficient agricultural trade through greater alignment of institutional frameworks for trade and food safety.

In addition to FAO, we should have panelists from WTO, the International Trade Center, the International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development and IFPRI, among others. The CCP Bureau is also working with the Secretariat to organize joint seminars between FAO and OECD that will most probably take place in the first quarter of next year, on issues related to general cooperation between the two organizations including the Medium Term Outlook and AMIS and issues related to policy monitoring and evaluation as well as trade and climate change. A discussion is taking place in the CCP Bureau in order to enhance effectiveness of the CCP ministerial meeting and identify ways to give it higher added value.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the former CCP Bureau under the leadership of Ambassador Maria Laura da Rocha of Brazil as well as for the continuous support provided by the Secretariat, led by Mr Boubaker Ben-Belhassen.

Finally, I would like to thank also the CCP Bureau Members: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Republic of Congo, Sweden and Thailand for their commitment and their active participation.

With this I would like to invite the Conference to endorse the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

M. Charles ESSONGHÉ (Gabon)

L'honneur m'échoit de parler au nom du Groupe régional Afrique. Cela dit, le Groupe Afrique se félicite du rapport de la 71^{ème} session du Comité des produits, précédée de la réunion ministérielle sur le thème «Tendances à long terme des cours et produits et conséquences pour le développement agricole durable».

Le Groupe Afrique souligne l'importance du suivi des marchés des produits par la FAO en vue d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire mondiale grâce à une meilleure transparence des marchés et de décisions mieux élaborées.

Nous encourageons également les gouvernements et les autres parties prenantes à intensifier leurs efforts pour améliorer le suivi et l'évaluation de l'offre et de la demande des denrées alimentaires et agricoles, et rendre les résultats accessibles au public.

Les pays africains ont besoin d'une assistance financière et technique pour renforcer leurs capacités humaines et institutionnelles afin de mieux analyser les implications et les opportunités du commerce et des politiques connexes pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Une aide supplémentaire devrait également leur être accordée pour faciliter le dialogue sur les politiques, afin d'améliorer l'alignement et la cohérence entre les stratégies de développement agricole, les cadres et politiques liés au commerce.

Nous demandons à la FAO de renforcer son soutien aux pays africains en participant efficacement à la négociation commerciale et à la formulation de politiques commerciales, en fournissant un renforcement des capacités en matière de base de données et en favorisant les forums de dialogue.

Nous apprécions également la décision de poursuivre les activités concernant les légumineuses après l'année internationale qui leur a été consacrée en 2016. Il s'agit de redoubler nos efforts pour sensibiliser le public, élaborer et mettre en œuvre des politiques et les programmes appropriés pour promouvoir la production et la consommation de légumineuses.

Nous appuyons également, pleinement, la stratégie de la FAO en matière de changement climatique et demandons à la FAO de renforcer les cadres et les processus institutionnels des pays africains, de développer des capacités techniques pour promouvoir une agriculture durable et des approches intersectorielles intégrées, face aux changements climatiques, notamment en répondant aux besoins en matière d'adaptation et au potentiel en matière d'atténuation.

La contribution de la FAO est également requise pour susciter une attention plus soutenue sur le problème récurrent de la sécheresse en Afrique et soutenir une gestion durable de la sécheresse par l'adoption d'espèces végétales résilientes.

Enfin, le Groupe Afrique appuie pleinement le rapport de la 71^{ème} Session du Comité sur les problèmes liés aux produits de base pour qu'il soit approuvé par la Conférence.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

The Brazilian delegation fully supports the endorsement of the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems by this Conference.

Brazil values FAO's work on commodity market monitoring and recognizes its importance for informed policy decisions on food and agriculture. As a major agriculture commodity producer and now an exporting country, Brazil recognizes the relevance of trade for achieving food security and nutrition as well as fostering sustainable development. Brazil is also mindful of its responsibilities to produce high quality food in a sustainable manner and following internationally agreed food safety standards.

Therefore, Brazil welcomes the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2015-2016 and takes note of its key messages. We agree that countries should adopt a pragmatic approach to ensure that, according to different contexts, trade policies are tailored to specific agriculture and food security

conditions and strategies. We also agree with the main priorities identified in the Report of the 71st Session of CCP for FAO's future work in trade and markets.

The Brazilian delegation is of the view that within the different but complimentary mandates, FAO and WTO have a wide range of opportunities to jointly promote an efficient and fair global trading system that supports sustainable development and hunger eradication as well as food security and nutrition. The outcomes of the WTO ministerial meeting of 2015 in Nairobi and the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development offer a new window of opportunity to share collaboration.

Brazil values the outcomes of the WTO ministerial meeting, in particular the agreement to eliminate agriculture export subsidies. We are also committed to the WTO negotiations on fisheries subsidies which gained momentum with the adoption of the SDG Goal 14.6.

We look forward to a concurrent decision on agriculture and fisheries subsidies at the WTO Ministerial Conference in Buenos Aires next December that takes fully into account the special and differential treatment for developing countries.

We also welcome the development of a mechanism to assist developing countries to implement rules, guidelines and recommendations on sanitary and future sanitary measures. In this regard, Brazil highlights the importance of further integrating the work of FAO in this field with the work of the convention of plant protection and the CODEX Alimentarius.

Finally, Brazil takes note of the Chairperson's summary of the Ministerial Meeting on long-term commodity price trends and sustainable agriculture development. We encourage FAO to continue to organize these ministerial meetings with the collaboration of WTO in order to increase awareness of the interconnections between trade, food security and sustainable agriculture as well as to foster inter-sectoral policies and programs at the national level.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Chair of the Committee on Commodity Problems, Mr El Taweel for the summary of the report.

We would like to highlight some aspects of the report as follows: we appreciate the quality of the report on market conditions and market trade, focusing mostly on long-term and medium term for the benefit of the administration and policy making.

We support the FAO work in developing human capacity as well as institutional capacity in developing countries, in particular in the area of agricultural markets and trade policy and in the assessment of damage caused by natural disasters and its impact on markets and price volatility. We support the evidence based policy decision making and evaluation of policy impacts.

We emphasize the importance of knowledge and skill improvement of individual farmers and groups of farmers to become independent in order to improve their income and livelihood. In Thailand for instance, we are promoting aggregation of small farming plots into ration crops to obtain economies of scale. We encourage FAO to continue collaborating with WTO, OECD and other actors of international trade and market fora to increase synergies and avoid overlapping.

We endorse the report.

Mr Willem OLTHOF (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU (Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey) align themselves with this statement. As does San Marino.

We appreciate and endorse the report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, which covers the most relevant issues of the meeting in a comprehensive manner.

The Committee briefly discussed FAO's climate change strategy and the role of trade. We welcome the assurance in the report that also for such important topics Committee documents will be delivered in good time to allow members to analyse the valuable information provided and be better prepared for an in-depth discussion.

We take note of the section on Regional Trade Agreements and would like to recall that the Nairobi Declaration states that regional trade agreements should remain complementary to the multilateral trade system, and not become a substitute for it. We back the FAO's work in supporting capacity building in trade and trade negotiations for its Members.

To remain neutral, FAO should not expose itself in ongoing bilateral trade negotiations or in trade-related disputes among its Members. As a general principle, FAO support to capacity building should focus on Member Countries, and compliance with WTO rules should be a core element of FAO's technical assistance. This applies in particular to the Trade Initiative in Europe and Central Asia.

We appreciate the collaboration between FAO and OECD in the area of trade in agricultural products, in particular the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook. We urge FAO to continue to maintain and foster this fruitful, transparent and vital collaboration with the OECD secretariat.

We welcome the recommendations on the State of Agricultural Commodity Markets (SOCO) and would like to reiterate our availability to participate in the dialogue on policy coherence for agricultural, trade and development policies.

We consider that further work is needed on government action that may cause excessive price volatility, including within AMIS and its Rapid Response Forum. FAO is encouraged to carry out further analysis and to provide information through the Programme Implementation Report on progress in achieving SDG 2.c.

Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan)

We endorse the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and we endorse, particularly, all of the recommendations that aim at providing support and assistance to developing countries with regard to commodity markets, agricultural commodity markets, and we also welcome the support provided to countries who want to join WTO and analysis of the impact of joining WTO on the agricultural and sustainable development policies of these countries.

And I have a suggestion. I think we need to add the least developed countries to all of the recommendations that address developing countries. So we need to add, in addition to developing countries, the least developed countries. This is my suggestion.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China agrees to adopt the report of the Committee on Commodity Problems and we have the following remarks to make.

First, in view of the marked price of food and the modest role of food supply and demand, FAO has done a lot of valuable work. Its report, International Food and Agriculture Markets is of global authority. We think that CCP should highlight this.

Second, regarding the relationship between trade and food security, how to address the issue of food security through trade. This is a very important topic. FAO should strengthen its study in this field or expect to have more information on the two aspects above.

Finally, we support this report.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

I would like to give the floor to Mr El Taweel in order to respond to the interventions by the honorable delegations.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

Thanks a lot for your endorsement of this report. I think one of the issues that was highlighted today is the importance of the support of FAO to developing countries, in particular in the area of capacity building. This is an area – this is one of the areas I think FAO is giving high importance to and this is one area that we will take into consideration during our deliberations.

The second issue is the support for further collaboration between FAO and WTO. We understand this was in the mandate of the CCP, with focus on food security and nutrition.

Also we heard of the need also to strengthen collaboration between FAO and OECD.

I take also the important points raised by the EU regarding the capacity building in the area of trade negotiations and I think this is an important area that we as CCP Bureau and also the Secretariat are aware of and our focus is mainly capacity building and not to intervene in any kind of bilateral disputes.

This is what I covered from your interventions but if the Secretariat would like to complement this with any points?

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

First of all, let me reiterate our thanks to the Members for supporting, of course, the report but also underlining the importance of some of the key work that FAO does in the area of markets and trade.

We hear, from many members, the importance of monitoring price trends and how important this is for policy making. As the Chair said, the importance of capacity building in the analysis of data but also on issues of trade negotiations, we take into consideration your suggestions.

I think in the area of collaborations, I think we have achieved quite a bit. Our collaboration with the OECD as an organization extends, of course – the joint outlook report is a key one that extends into other areas on development.

As far as the collaboration of FAO with WTO, on 12 July, the Director-Generals of FAO and WTO will launch a joint report on trade and food standards, so this is another area in which we will collaborate with WTO. So we thank you very much and we take into consideration the areas that you distinguished should strengthen our work.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Secretariat, for this addition. Now we come to the summary conclusions. So I will read it to you.

1) The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 71st Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and, in particular:

- a) underlined the importance of FAO's commodity market monitoring and outlook work for better market transparency and for informed policies and for informed policy decisions and called on governments and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to improve the monitoring and assessment of supply and demand of food and agriculture and agricultural commodities and make the results publicly available in a timely manner;
- b) encouraged governments to carefully consider the consequences of any action that could disrupt market and trade flows and propel price volatility;
- c) commended the partnership between FAO and the OECD for the annual production of the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook;
- d) underlined the importance of the human and institutional capacities of countries for the analysis of trade and related policies for food security and nutrition, stressed the importance of FAO's assistance to countries in facilitating trade policy dialogue, and encouraged FAO support to countries in the regional and multilateral trade and trade-related processes to ensure that these processes are coherent with and supportive of countries, pursuant to food security objectives and the WTO multilateral process;
- e) acknowledged the multiple benefits of pulses and encouraged governments to develop and implement policies and programs promoting the production and consumption of pulses.

2. Furthermore, the Conference

- a) agreed that the CCP Bureau should, pursuant to rule 1.4 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, assess whether the request to convene the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal, CSSD, was justified and make a recommendation to the Director-General who should make the final decision;

- b) agreed that the Secretariat of the CSSD be located in Rome in the FAO Trade and Market Division, home to the CCP Secretariat;
- c) urged donors to notify FAO's global information and early warning system about their intention to provide food aid as soon as decisions were made, including details on the commodities to be provided, the mode of donation, and expected use of the food aid as well as provide export data on monetization of in-kind food aid, including the total value of monetized food aid and the use of funds raised through monetization;
- d) look forward to further ministerial meetings on commodity markets and prices in the future;
- e) noted the decision to maintain and change the name of the committee as Committee on Commodity Problems.

That was my summary conclusion. Do you accept that?

Mr Ryan WILSON (Australia)

I just wanted to pick up on your paragraph c) in the first set of points where you talk about "*commended the partnership with OECD for Outlook*". I think in the interventions that I heard, there were two extra things.

I think there was a reference to the WTO quite a lot as well and I think the interventions were emphasizing the importance of continued efforts by the FAO Secretariat, so on those partnerships. So I think the tenor of those remarks from the floor were about the importance of actually continuing the efforts on those partnerships.

So you could add for example "*and the WTO, and looked forward to continued efforts by the Secretariat in that regard*" or something like that. I think that was the tenor of what people said.

Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)

If you could be so kind to go over point 2, in particular the commodity surplus disposal references? I was trying to follow those along but there was quite a bit there and I think it is important to go over that one more time.

CHAIRPERSON

I think I will read the entire point 2.

Furthermore, the Conference:

- a) agreed that the CCP Bureau should, pursuant to rule 1.4 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, assess whether the request to convene the Consultative Sub-Committee on Surplus Disposal was justified and make a recommendation to the Director-General who should make the final decision;
- b) agreed that the Secretariat of the CSSD be located in Rome in FAO in the FAO Trade and Markets Division, home to the CCP Secretariat;
- c) urged donors to notify FAO's global information and early warning system about their intention to provide food aid as soon as decisions were made, including details on the commodities to be provided, the mode of donation, and the expected use of the food aid as well as provide export data on – as well as provide export data on monetization of in-kind food aid, including the total value of monetized food aid and the use of funds raised through monetization;
- d) look forward to further ministerial meetings on commodity markets and prices in the future;
- e) noted the decision to maintain and change the name of the committee as Committee on Commodity Problems.

I will give the floor to Mr Khaled El Taweel.

Mr Khaled EL Taweel (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

For the US intervention, I think it is taken exactly from the CCP Report, paragraph 39a. It is exactly the same language.

As for the proposal from Australia, I think it is a good proposal. I would suggest that we have a separate paragraph to mention WTO collaboration with CCP or FAO and also one separately for the OECD. And when we say encourage, it is not about the Secretariat but the Secretariat is guided by a Bureau, so it entails the Bureau and the Secretariat to continue exploring ways of enhancing this collaboration, something along these lines.

I am sure the Secretariat can help us.

Mr Willem OLTHOF (European Union)

While the EU has no major problem with the summing up that you did, I noticed indeed that your summary is actually probably longer than all of the interventions by the floor together. But I would like to expound a bit on the point that was also raised by Australia, I think.

I think when we talk about capacity building in trade and trade negotiations, that it is important to stress that FAO should do this in the context of Member States' compliance with WTO rules and that should be a core element of FAO's technical assistance. I do not think that was captured in your summary as such but it was a point that we made.

Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan)

In the summary of the report, you have mentioned providing the support to the Members. I ask you to say developing countries, Member Countries in WTO, and those considering or envisaging acceding to WTO since Sudan is in this case.

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

I think that I just want to respond to the proposal on the WTO. I think what we said in point d), we make a reference in which we say that our support to countries should be supportive of the WTO multilateral process, in other terms, in compliance with the provisions of the rules and commitment made under WTO. I think that captures more or less what Australia would like to suggest if I am not wrong, or the EU. So I think that is our guiding principle.

Also, I would like to highlight that of course we work on regional trade agreements under Article 24 of GATT and the WTO Agreement on Agriculture. So that is our guiding principle there in terms of alignment of the two processes.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read once again paragraph c) with the amendments.

c) commended the partnership between FAO and the OECD for the annual production of the OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook as well as with WTO and looked forward to continued efforts in this regard.

Is it acceptable?

Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)

I think that is acceptable. I also wanted to make a point earlier about your proposal on surplus commodity disposal. If that is verbatim, we are happy with that.

CHAIRPERSON

With that, we have come to the conclusion of the agenda item 11.2.

Item 19. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme

Point 19. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

Tema 19. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO

(C 2017/INF/9, C 2017/INF/10)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

We will continue with item 19, *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme*. I should like to ask you to ensure that you have the documents C2017/INF/9 and C2017/INF/10 in front of you.

I now invite Ms Jane Pearce, Director of Performance Management and Monitoring Division at WFP to introduce this item.

Ms Jane PEARCE (World Food Programme)

It is a great pleasure to be here today and provide an overview of the World Food Programme's (WFP) results for 2014 and 2015 as presented in the relevant Annual Performance Reports. For WFP, the Annual Performance Report is the primary document to showcase the Organization's performance, but it also serves to identify and reflect on the challenges we face over the year and the lessons we have learned. The two reports I am summarizing today have been discussed and approved by our Executive Boards.

Never in history were there so many complex emergencies requiring such a significant humanitarian response as in 2015, and we will also add in that in 2016. During these years, WFP responded to more than eight Level 3 (L3) and nine Level 2 (L2) emergencies. This is a significant stress for our resources and capacity. WFP has been able to pursue its goals with the generous support of its resource partners. The aggregate contributions in the last three years were the highest in history, but the needs grow faster and drain the resources with no signs of complex conflicts and climate-driven emergencies receding.

In terms of programme performance, we worked towards four strategic objectives. Results in 2015 showed strong performance of our work in emergencies, post emergency settings, as well as in addressing more chronic issues. Reducing risks to livelihoods and strengthening resilience showed moderate progress, an objective often deprioritized when we have funding gaps.

We have also been able to demonstrate the value of our work in other areas beyond emergencies. And notably as a result of enhanced partnerships with national governments, this has been evident in our work to strengthen capacities for emergency preparedness, nutrition support, school feeding, and community-based food security. This has positioned us well to advance in all areas related to the five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge set forth by the Secretary-General.

And 2015 was a year of tremendous hope with Member States committing to the Sustainable Development Goals with efforts to achieve Zero Hunger essentially embedded in the new agenda. And I must mention that 2016 was a year in which WFP embarked on a transformation towards Agenda 2030 articulated in our new Strategic Plan with a revised results and resource architecture.

Our reports provide an extensive analysis of the people assisted by WFP as well as the kinds of assistance provided. We continue to provide assistance to some 80 million of the world's most food insecure people. The assistance has positive effects on many more. An example is WFP's work with national governments in designing programmes which then benefit a wider population.

Just before I finish, I want to touch on two areas that are important to WFP and the work that we are continuing to do. One is the use of cash-based transfers. In 2015, 10 million people received some USD 660 million in cash or vouchers.

By 2016, this had grown to USD 880 million for 14 million people. This shows that where markets are functioning and overall conditions suitable, we continue to trend towards giving people cash to buy food and meet other needs. Providing cash is a powerful and flexible tool to fight hunger. It gives people choice and access to a more diversified diet whilst continuing to stimulate local economies.

Another aspect is the nutritional value of the food that we deliver through our programmes which remains an organizational priority. Malnutrition was averted or treated for 9 million children under five and 4 million pregnant and nursing women in the year of 2016. This is an increase up from 2014 and 2015 and a clear sign of the power of boosting nutritional capabilities of food assistance.

Thank you for your attention. We are happy to answer any questions.

Ms Seklau E. WILES (Liberia)

Liberia is pleased to address the Conference on behalf of the African Regional Group on agenda item 19, *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme*.

Barely two weeks ago, the UN World Food Programme held its first annual Board Session. It allowed us all as Member Countries to take stock of how the WFP is moving along to implement the ideal of ending hunger by the year 2030.

I must say that the work done is nothing short of commendable. As a guide to its work, the WFP has firmly set the Integrated Road Map, the IRM, in place. And as their report on the progress of the Road Map, it is clear that this strategic direction will enable the WFP to reach significant strides to achieve a drastic reduction of world hunger by 2030.

The African Regional Group is pleased to note how well the IRM has all the supporting elements that will facilitate its success, such as the inclusion of technological advancements that make certain processes less laborious for countries to meet our IRM outcomes as well as the strong oversight mechanisms to ensure that the IRM objectives are met. The IRM truly inspires confidence in the work of the WFP.

We are pleased to report on the progress that is being made to mitigate the effects of the four countries on the brink of famine, three of which are in Africa. It is indeed disheartening to hear of the state of affairs and most importantly its potential to deteriorate if the necessary resources are not obtained in time.

However, we welcome the stern commitment by the incoming WFP Executive Director, Mr David Beasley, the strong commitment by the WFP to get as much work done as possible and expressing that the WFP is confident that it will reach its aims. Mr Beasley further highlighted how with collaborative efforts between other Rome-based Agencies (RBA) as well as other UN partners more was being achieved and we hope this will continue.

Of course the focus of the famines brought a sharp focus on Africa. We were pleased, therefore, to have representation from the African Union Commission as represented by Her Excellency Ms Sacko, AU Commissioner on Rural Economy and Agriculture, who made critical observations about how, with the help of the RBA, Africa, in the midst of the crisis, is taking greater responsibility for solving its own problems at various levels. She noted that this was important so as to enable Africa to take part in solving African problems in African ways, which aligns the UN Agenda of Nothing About Us Without Us.

To this end, Commissioner Sacko re-emphasized the African Union's commitment to take the lead role in the African Development Agenda and mentioned that as far as this involved the goal of ending hunger, Africa has taken it up with a high level of determination. She noted that the African Union has put in place an even more ambitious agenda to end hunger by 2025, five years prior to the SDG goals.

To this end, the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, CAADP, and Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods were key documents earmarked to foster the collaboration of Member Countries to achieve this goal. The documents in combination seek to (1) enhance inter-Africa trade in agriculture; (2) building resilience of natural resources, and by extension, agricultural systems; and most importantly, (3) foster accountability among Member States to see the Agenda through.

A further encouraging development was the approval of the adoption of five African countries' strategic plans which belong to countries Cameroon, Mozambique, Namibia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, and one entering country strategic plan from Sudan. These will constitute the first rollout of country plan strategies under the IRM. We are pleased that African countries will be with the first of the crop and hope that this will enable them to share experiences with other upcoming countries yet to undergo the same process such as the 13 African countries who will hope for Country Strategic Plan approval in the WFP Board session to be held in November.

We thank African countries, whose Country Programmes were central to the discussion of the Board session for sending high level representation from their countries such as the Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who gave an address on the brink of famine situation in Nigeria and how it has been averted with the help of the WFP.

And Ambassadors from the CSP approved states. This was a welcome show of both acknowledgement of the work of the WFP and the continued commitment to work in collaboration with the Rome-based agencies as we all work to achieve the Sustainable Goal to end hunger.

At this point, we can only encourage the countries who will be commencing as CSPs to hold to the highest standards, principles of accountability by strengthening oversight activities to ensure that the CSPs are seeing through to the end, any objectives are met as we have noted in the past that accountability for humanitarian areas hinder the effectiveness of aid.

With these comments we wish all the best to the work of these countries in collaboration with the RBAs.

In closing, allow me to note in congratulations, the occurrence of the historic delivery of the very first joint cross list on the adoption of WFP Gender Policy and its oversight plan.

It is pleasing to see that increasingly, Member States are in agreement and committed to uniting on issues of concern such as mainstreaming of gender in programmatic plans so as to leave no sector of society behind in solving the world's problems.

It has been proven that disaggregating programs by these sectors leads to more meaningful, effective interventions.

In the same breadth, strengthening oversight is key to the achievement of the same objectives.

With all of this considered, we look forward therefore to the continued fruitful collaboration of the Rome-based Agencies in the achievement of SDG 2 and 17 in 2030 and beyond.

Finally, allow me on behalf of the African Regional Group to congratulate and thank all Board Members of List A for their constructive and meaningful contributions to the work of WFP and this Board.

Mr Salah AL BAZZAZ (Kuwait)

I would have appreciated hearing some additional details in this report that has been delivered on the World Food Programme. It was rather concise, concise report, yet we know that there is a huge range of themes and subjects that are dealt with by the WFP in these areas of emergencies.

We, as donor countries, would like to say that we commend the presentation of this report on activities. It is important for us to be able to have these and consider the possibility of funding these activities. This is important in the Middle East. It is important that countries receive the aid they are in need of and therefore we would appreciate that under the new administration of WFP, progress will continue. In general terms, we support this report.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Liberia on behalf of the African Group. Egypt, a Member of the WFP Executive Board, endorses the Annual Report of the World Food Programme.

While we acknowledge that WFP is stepping up its engagement to address the multiple L3 and L2 crises, especially in Africa and the Middle East. We continue to appreciate and call on major donors to provide their contributions, financial contributions to the WFP operations to help save lives, especially in the four famines recently declared.

In this regard, we note with appreciation the enhanced collaboration between FAO and WFP with other UN agencies, including IFAD, UNICEF, as well as the CFS.

We are also looking forward to a flexible implementation of the integrated roadmap in accordance with the last decision of the WFP Executive Board.

In conclusion, Egypt, a recipient and donor to WFP operations, is ready to strengthen its collaboration through South-South Cooperation, especially in the African continent.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

I would like to thank WFP for presenting the Annual Report for 2014 and 2015. In these years, we were already facing an unprecedented number of emergencies, a trend which unfortunately continued

in 2016 and started 2017 with four countries, with part of their populations on the brink of famine Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen.

We commend the work of WFP on providing lifesaving food assistance and working on resilience building. Brazil is committed to the work of WFP, especially through the Center of Excellence Against Hunger. We encourage WFP to continue working with FAO and IFAD to address Agenda 2030, in particular SDG 2, zero hunger.

Ms Jane PEARCE (World Food Programme)

Thank you for your comments, particularly the delegate from Liberia. I can assure you that WFP is taking the implementation of the Integrated Roadmap very seriously. We thank you very much for your supportive comments to your fellow African nations and the collective spirit within which you have provided the comments. We thank you very much.

And that also goes for some of the other comments as well.

We also welcome the support to our operations in the four famine countries. This is a very, very serious situation that WFP is taking very seriously. We have of course, special task forces that make sure that we have sufficient attention being given to these countries and the donor support that we receive from them is vital for us to continue to do that.

With regard to the Country Strategic Plans (CSPs), thank you again for your comments on CSPs which are a requirement under our new Strategic Plan. That process is continuing and we do continue to engage with governments and thank you for your comments on that.

Turning to our colleague from Kuwait, thank you. I have taken note of the brevity. It is a very hard thing to get the balance right between giving you too much and not giving you enough but I have taken note of that and we will make sure that in the future we give you some more details.

I do encourage you however, to read the reports where there is a lot of detail that will tell the WFP story the way it does, but I have taken note of that.

Thank you also to the colleague from Egypt and the endorsement of the report and for the support to our operations, particularly in the Middle East and our work on South-South cooperation. We appreciate that.

Finally to Brazil, again, thank you very much for your comments and your support. The Center of Excellence is an important tool for us that we appreciate very much and we thank the government of Brazil for its support.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we come to the summary conclusion of this Agenda Item and I will read it for you.

The Conference:

- a) endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme Executive Board to the economic and social council and FAO on its activities in 2014 and 2015;
- b) welcomed the WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts and its engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge and development of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- c) welcomed the efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies and other UN System partners;
- d) supported the WFP's work in South-South and triangular Cooperation;
- e) commended WFP staff for their dedicated work and challenging circumstances both in addressing concurrent Level 2 (L2) and Level 3 (L3) emergencies in addition to protracted crises.

That was my summary conclusion if you accept it please. It is accepted.

Continues in Arabic

We have come to the end of item 19 and we will adjourn the session. This meeting room will host another event: *Launch of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States*, which will start at 19.00 hours.

We will resume tomorrow morning with item 15 of our agenda. I would like to thank you all for your cooperation, hard work, and we will reconvene tomorrow at 9.30 hours. This session is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 18.44 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 44

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.44

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session Quarantième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-8 July 2017 Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017 Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I QUATRIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I CUARTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
5 July 2017

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 10.03 hours
Mr Hamoud Al Hasni,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 10 h 03
sous la présidence de M. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta reunión a las 10.03
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hamoud Al Hasni,
Presidente de la Comisión I

- Item 15. Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System**
- Point 15. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement**
- Tema 15. Informe sobre los progresos respecto de la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo del sistema de las Naciones Unidas**

(C 2017/27)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Good morning to all. I am pleased to open the fourth meeting of Commission I.

We will now start with the first item on our agenda for this morning which is item 15, *Progress Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System*. Please ensure that you have document C2017/27 in front of you.

I now invite the Deputy Director-General Programmes, Mr Dan Gustafson, to introduce this item of agenda.

Mr Dan GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

It is a real pleasure for me to speak to the Commission on this item. I think it is generally an interesting discussion on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) but often can be a bit confusing. But I think it provides an opportunity in two ways.

As the full title indicates, it is the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which is what we normally think of it in its shorthand but on operational activities for development of the United Nations System.

The Resolution that contains this Review, which has been coming out every four years as the title indicates in a cumulative sense so that each of the four year periods build on the previous one is a resolution of the General Assembly that goes to the Secretary-General that discusses the operational activities for development of the entire system.

The actual response to the review is provided by the Secretary-General that in its final form will come out now at the end of this year - 2017. I would not necessarily say a draft response but a document outlining what the Secretary-General's main themes are in that response which came out on 30 June. The overall context is the General Assembly Resolution going to the Secretary-General on the overall system.

For us, Management, the Secretariat is required to respond to the resolutions from the Conference on how FAO is doing in response to the issues contained in that larger Review. I think here there are really two opportunities.

One is to respond, let us say, from the point of view of ourselves, how we are doing on those topics. The other, I think also equally interesting, is to see how FAO fits in within the constellation of United Nations development actors within this overall response to the Review.

Also I think it is interesting the key items in the Review and in the paper that is now under discussion almost all of those are discussed in much greater detail in other places during the Conference, in other papers.

A lot of it, of course, has to do with our response to the Sustainable Development Goals and how we have seen in the Medium Term Plan and the Reviewed Strategic Programme how our 20 Outcomes respond directly to 40 SDG Targets, among other things, but I think that a larger discussion of how FAO is contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular how we fit in to Agenda 2030 is covered in a lot of detail elsewhere.

Similarly, we have today, for example the Side Event on gender. QCPR also looks at gender and so on but I think it is a very interesting opportunity to look at what FAO has been doing and the reforms underway and what we have been working on not only looking at it from the point of view of the Organization on its own but within this larger framework of what the overall United Nations System is doing.

It covers, as you have seen in the paper, a lot of topics. It covers a lot of territory including funding of operational activities for development, again with a sense that the General Assembly would like to see the United Nations Development System as having more predictable funding that advances the objectives of Agenda 2030 among other things. It has a section on South-South cooperation. That has also come up in a number of other discussions that we have been having.

It focuses on efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations System and FAO's participation within those coordination mechanisms including, for example, our collaboration or participation in the United Nations Resident Coordinator System, the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks at the country level and other things.

It also includes other areas such as harmonization of business practices and again looking from the overall review from the point of view of the larger system, in our case we discussed mostly our harmonization with the other Rome-based agencies and what we have been doing with WFP and IFAD. That is another topic that has come up.

There is quite a bit on Results-based Management. As I mentioned, the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030. Remember that was approved towards the end of 2015, approved by countries, but of course, we knew what it was containing somewhat earlier and consequently this Quadrennial Review places a considerable emphasis on that.

Transparency is another issue. Also of particular importance to us highlighting the transition from relief to development and how we deal with that again as a system in bridging or blending together the response to humanitarian crises within a development context and that nexus of activities between humanitarian and development.

So consequently, when we look at what is in our paper, much of this is contained elsewhere but in discussions in this Conference but I think it is very interesting to see how that fits into the larger concerns of the General Assembly and the United Nations Development assistance.

For example, how we mentioned in the paper how we refined the Country Programming Frameworks, how that relates to the work of the United Nations Country Teams and how that relates to our Strategic Programmes and the Reviewed Strategic Framework, what the role is for that. That has been quite an important advance for us over the two year period that this paper refers to, which would be June 2015 to June 2017. That would be the part that we are focusing on.

Also, how we deal with middle income countries, again is an item that is highlighted in the QCPR but which has also come up in our other discussions. For us, for example, the accreditation by the Green Climate Fund is new in that period. It is very important as is the growing use of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

GEF is now our second largest voluntary contributor, which focuses at all levels of middle income and below as does the Green Climate Fund, which we would think would increasingly be a source of funding for members that would not be considered among IDA credits for example of the World Bank.

Similarly, increased synergy with other actors of the United Nations system is a big topic for us here in Rome because of our interaction with the Rome-based Agencies and the kind of discussion that we saw in the side event on Monday.

In terms of transparency, a significant development in April this year when we began publishing our data through the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) on target for what we had agreed to do when we joined that system.

As I mentioned a big piece is on harmonization of the work of the United Nations within Agenda 2030 and that has been covered. I think we are way ahead on that.

Also, in improved, as has always been the case in the QCPR, emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment. We will discuss that in more detail of course this afternoon. We continue to report within the United Nations System Wide Action Plan (SWAP), and FAO in the latest report met or exceeded twelve performance standards out of the 15. This was again reported elsewhere.

So, in conclusion, I think it is clear that we have made very good progress in implementing the principles that are set out in this system-wide review. I think it is particularly interesting to see how FAO has approached those relative to other agencies and also on our own.

This Report by the analysis in the Resolution is addressed now to a new Secretary-General, as we all know, and it will be interesting to see in the discussions between now and the end of the year how the new Secretary-General responds to this, and the kind of issues that he will or has put on the table and how that would affect us.

I think, given the alignment of the reforms and the changes in the Organization and the progress that we have made, which is being reported in this Conference, not just in this Commission, but throughout the Conference, I think we will be in very good shape in accompanying the system, and I believe leading in a number of areas on how we will respond to those key themes indicated in this review.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

We thank FAO for this important report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), particularly following the General Assembly Resolution in December. This highlights a dynamic new way of working, and a change in organisational culture across the UN system. It ensures a more effective, efficient and coherent UN development system that delivers better results and is more than the sum of its parts.

In this light, we welcome the fact that FAO has aligned its strategy and work with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At country level, it is reassuring to hear that FAO offices in 'Delivering as One' countries have been actively participating in UN Country Teams.

We encourage FAO to engage proactively in the development of a new generation UN Development Assistance Frameworks. We look forward to these Frameworks building on common needs analysis, risk assessment and management, and monitoring and reporting.

This links also to the need for more innovative and effective collaboration, based on comparative advantages, especially with other Rome-based Agencies. We look forward to FAO, IFAD and WFP translating the common vision and guiding principles for collaboration, endorsed by the agencies' respective Governing Bodies at the end of last year, into concrete actions towards delivering the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, FAO also has an important role to play – particularly with WFP – in bridging the divides and strengthening the synergies across the humanitarian and development nexus with effective resilience programmes that support the transition from relief to development as well as supporting conflict-affected rural livelihoods in link with food security, conflict analysis and partnership, also with a view to tackling some of the root causes of migration.

We encourage FAO to continue to participate fully in system-wide efforts to implement QCPR and report back to FAO Governing Bodies on results achieved in that respect. We support FAO's commitment to enhancing transparency and accountability and welcome FAO's membership in the International Aid Transparency Initiative, and recent publication of programme data to the IATI portal.

We encourage FAO to build on this, and to support partners in increasing transparency, as well as helping to improve effectiveness in tackling poverty. We look forward to being able to monitor this in FAO new results framework for the next biennium. We also wish to underline the importance of the launch last June of the MOPAN assessment of FAO, which will be co-lead by France and Italy.

Of course, progress towards the SDGs will not be possible without the full and equal participation, leadership and empowerment of women and girls. We welcome FAO's active engagement in interagency coordination mechanisms on gender equality, as highlighted by the report, and encourage FAO to work across the UN development system.

Finally, we welcome FAO's efforts to diversify its voluntary contribution funding base, engaging Middle Income Countries (MICs), both as current and future resource partners, as well as in meeting growing South-South and triangular Cooperation demands.

M. François PYTHOUD (Suisse)

La Suisse remercie le Secrétariat du rapport intérimaire qui met en lumière le suivi apporté par la FAO aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies relatives aux activités opérationnelles de développement du système onusien.

Nous saluons la révision du Cadre stratégique de la FAO qui intègre les recommandations du QCPR 2016. Nous encourageons la FAO à continuer d'aligner sa planification stratégique sur le cycle du QCPR et de présenter régulièrement les résultats de cet exercice aux Organes directeurs de la FAO.

Nous encourageons la FAO à mettre en place des indicateurs clairs pour refléter sa contribution à des initiatives communes exécutées avec différents partenaires ainsi que des indicateurs spécifiques reflétant la contribution spécifique de la FAO à la mise en œuvre de l'examen quadriennal complet.

La Suisse encourage la FAO à continuer de faire rapport sur sa contribution au Plan d'action à l'échelle du système des Nations Unies sur l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes. La Suisse souligne également l'importance d'améliorer la disponibilité de statistiques sexo-spécifiques dans les domaines de l'agriculture et du développement rural.

La Suisse prend note que l'appui financier de la FAO au système des coordonnateurs résidents jusqu'ici n'a pas correspondu au montant exigé. Il est important que la FAO s'engage à contribuer pleinement à ce système. Dans ce cadre, nous demandons que la FAO présente les options qu'elle envisage de mettre en place pour y parvenir.

Ms Egbal ABDELMAGID ABDELRAHMAN ELSHEIKH (Sudan)

Sudan would like to highly commend the effort conducted by the United Nations System as it has to shoulder a great burden in order to achieve sustainable development in all of the different states, especially developing countries.

In the previous meetings, we have highlighted the nexus between the different agencies and the Organizations. However, we hope that this is reflected at the level of the national offices and outputs of the different organizations, whereas we still see some contradiction in the interventions made by these offices.

In addition, we would like to see greater support by the United Nations Organizations in terms of South-South Cooperation so that we can see greater coordination among countries and among UN agencies.

We support the current trend and we call for greater coordination as well as additional technical support to the national offices, especially those in Sudan. The National Office requires further technical assistance so that Sudan will be able to do its work in the field of food security in the region.

Mr Yubo XU (China)

China would like to thank the Deputy Director-General for the presentation and also like to thank the Secretariat for the document. We do appreciate the efforts which have been employed by the Secretariat. We would like to make a few comments.

First of all, this report focuses on the implementation of recommendations within the context of the quadrennial review. It is a high quality document and it is the responsibility of FAO and of the Director-General. Those efforts are very important. We do support FAO in this undertaking in compliance with the report and certainly are willing to do what we can to help.

China also appreciates that this report does stress South-South Cooperation. South-South Cooperation was covered by a resolution from the UNGA as part of the principle mandate of FAO which is to coordinate South-South Cooperation within the field of agriculture.

Now we did also note that FAO does intend to try to mobilize other countries as those who can foster South-South Cooperation and the effort to extend these efforts between existing partners. We support that undertaking.

Third point, South-South Cooperation while still the UNGA Resolution, but we would change the department here. We would call upon South-South Cooperation between countries. We want to make sure that there is South-South Cooperation which is formally recognized in that way by FAO. So we would call for this step to be taken as soon as possible by FAO.

We have also taken note of the explanations coming from the Deputy Director-General on that point.

Now another thing; China would suggest that FAO reinforce its work when it comes to CPAM, the experts there. That is something which is covered in the report and should actually be implemented.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

If there are no further requests to take the floor, then I will allow Mr Gustafson to share his comments regarding the different interventions made.

Mr Dan GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Programmes)

Thank you very much for all of those comments and, I would say, words of encouragement on going along with the key themes that have been highlighted in the review and the key themes that I think are embedded in a lot of our work and I think your comments reflect that.

Definitely we have high expectations. This coming year, let us say in this next two year period on increased collaboration in new ways in fact with WFP and IFAD and also I would say with UNDP following the fortuitous I would say, visit of Achim Steiner for his McDougall Lecture and discussions we had there also. I think we will see increased and innovative collaboration and I think focused naturally enough here in the Rome-based Agencies but at the country level.

We have also a number of other key partners. WHO is often a very close collaborator. ILO is a collaborator and a very close collaborator in some countries. The World Bank, of course, works very closely with us, particularly with regard to the preparation of investments and others.

So I think that the general trend of increasing collaboration and cost efficiency and effectiveness that is at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 as it applies to the UN System, I think that trend is one that we will see increasing and we certainly are embracing it.

We hope that the rest of the system will likewise be equally stringent in containing costs and this has been an issue of contention for us at times with regard to security costs for example, with regard to the cost of the resident coordinator system and other things, and we need to address these in a system-wide basis. But in response to Switzerland's comments on that, we certainly hope to work with the office in New York in looking for ways to let us say be more efficient and add greater value for the contributions of the system and how we are going to work together.

And I think that with the proposals and the direction that we are going in, greater harmonization of activities, particularly at the country level, I think we will see good results in that regard.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we will come to the summary conclusions of this agenda item. I will read it for you.

The Conference: a) commended the Secretariat for the quality of the report as well as progress made in implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities;

b) noted that the Organization is committed to implementing the principles and guidance set out by the UN General Assembly through QCPR in support of UN operational activities for development and number of countries;

c) emphasized that ongoing efforts by FAO to implement the QCPR would continue, especially in relation to the new 2017-2020 QCPR and in the transition by the whole UN System to the SDGs.

Can we accept this conclusion? Accepted.

Item 18. International Years and Days:**Point 18. Années et journées internationales:****Tema 18. Años y días internacionales:***Item 18.1 Evaluation of the International Year of Soils 2015**Point 18.1 Évaluation de l'Année internationale des sols (2015)**Tema 18.1 Evaluación del Año Internacional de los Suelos (2015)**(C 2017/28)***CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)**

We will move to the next item first item on our agenda for this morning, which is item 18, *International Years and Days*.

The first sub-item we will consider is item 18.1, *Evaluation of the International Year of Soils 2015*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/28 in front of you.

I now invite the Director of the Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division, Ms Marcela Villarreal, to introduce this item.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division)

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the Evaluation of the International Year of Soils.

The International Year of Soils back in the year 2015 was adopted at the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The UNGA in 2013 gave FAO the responsibility of the implementation of that year alongside with the implementation of World Soil Day.

The Secretariat in FAO was set up to facilitate the establishment of an International Steering Committee and that International Steering Committee was chaired by the Kingdom of Thailand and it was composed by Member Countries representing each of the regions together with a number of partners including partners from other United Nations organizations, academia, civil society, private sector and others.

The main objective of this International Year was to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fiber production, which are essential to food security. Also, the role of soils in terms of ecosystem services and better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations was a main objective of this Year.

The Year throughout its implementation greatly contributed to improve knowledge and information and public perception of the importance of soils while establishing a solid momentum for sustainable soil management practices being promoted and adapted by various stakeholders throughout the Year and in the future of the Year.

There were two global Ambassadors who were assigned to the role of promoting the International Year. They were Professor Claire Chenu and Professor Tekalign Mamo who made a great contribution to generate increasing awareness of the importance of soils.

As per FAO policy on the implementation of international years, all funding for the activities of international years have to come from extra budgetary resources. Therefore we would like to acknowledge the contributions by the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the Kingdom of Thailand, the European Commission, the International Association of Agriculture Production that ensures the International Fertilizer Industry, the Association, and the Austrian Hail Insurance Company who provided financial resources for the Year to be able to reach its objectives.

Throughout the Year there were numerous activities that were organized in order to fulfill the objectives of the Year. We had a development and dissemination of awareness raising materials, including through the press including also very actively through the social media. There were a number of scientific events, informal events, worldwide campaigns that addressed the general public. All in all throughout the Year, there were more than 900 events organized in more than 90 countries. In this sense we believe that the Year did meet its objectives in promoting the idea that we need to undertake sustainable soil management if we are to reach food security, eradicate hunger by the year 2030.

The website was launched in all of FAO's six official languages. We highlighted the role of soils and the importance of sustainable soil management in a number of major international events such as European Union meetings, the COP 12, meetings of the FAO Committee on World Food Security, Expo Milano which also took place during this Year.

In hindsight we can say that the Year triggered numerous programmes on sustainable soil management to be taken at national level and these processes are being supported by FAO and also by the Global Soil Partnership. Throughout the Year we were able to ensure that countries and regions developed their own plans for sustainable soil management and as from the point of view of FAO, we are ensuring that these plans are implemented thus contributing to improve soil management and therefore food security worldwide.

Mr Stuart SMITH (Australia)

Australia welcomes the Reports on the International Years and Australia would like to mention the International Year of Soils in particular. Australia noting the substantial achievements made in the context of the International Year of Soils is happy to endorse the Evaluation Report.

Australia is pleased to have been able to contribute to some of these achievements including development of the status of the World Soil Report and the Implementation Plan for the Global Soil Information System Pillar 4 of the Global Soil Programme.

Australia soils are a major national asset. They underpin agriculture productivity and the capacity for agriculture to make the challenges of climate change. Their management affects the quality of ecosystem services such as clean air and water, the quality of food and fiber products and biodiversity protection expected by the community.

The Australian Government has recognized that there are chronic issues of soil acidification, carbon run-down, soil losses through wind and water erosion and nutrient management that need to be addressed to maintain agricultural profitability and productivity, promote adaptation to climate change and deliver high quality ecosystem services to the broader community.

These issues are being addressed through the Australian Government's National Land Care Programme, which is encouraging farmers to adopt land management practices that will improve soil condition and help Australia contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Four per Thousand Initiative.

These activities are underpinned by major soil research development and extension effort funded by the Australian Government in association with industry.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

First of all we congratulate the UNGA for approving the Declaration of 2015 at the International Year of Soils and we wish to emphasize its importance since soils are absolutely necessary to maintain life on Earth specifically for humankind. There is very little awareness of that.

The Declaration has had an enormous mobilizing effect expressed in the organization of a very high number of meetings, publications, expositions, etc. In some cases, probably for the first time, it has meant that official acknowledgement of importance of soils and the prevalence of some degradation factors like erosion or salinization and the need to take action.

We invite FAO to approve the present Evaluation Report taking note of the main achievements reached at all levels in the context of the 2015 International Year of Soils. We also wish to highlight the importance of soils in contributing to the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, we encourage the FAO Member Countries and other parties to keep up the effort so as to adopt specific measures with a view to fighting land degradation and to promoting sustainable management through different initiatives including the Global Soil Partnership.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We certainly support the FAO's proposal on the International Years and International Days.

We believe through these activities we can improve the awareness across the whole world on the food safety to help more people to put more focus on agriculture and to support agriculture.

We are also willing to collaborate further with FAO through South-South Cooperation Framework to support the activities of the International Years and the Days.

Mr Munir Hussein AL LAWATI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, we would like to thank FAO for this blessed initiative in dedicating an International Year for Soils and this has witnessed a number of activities in Oman through the lack of water and water scarcity which is leading to salinization.

With regard to the Report of the Soils, we would like to welcome this valuable Report and the achievements on all levels in the context of the International Year of Soils 2015.

In sultanate of Oman, we responded to this important initiative in 2015 through the organization of a number of activities to safeguard soil from degradation and this is in the context of the International Food Day activities. We also coordinated with the national universities in the Sultanate and they contributed four scientific papers at the national universities in this context and in this regard.

With regard to research and development, we worked on safeguarding agricultural soil from salinization and degradation and we were able to undertake activities in this field of protection.

We also established a focal point of contact with FAO with regard to the activities of the International Year of Soils and we organized the necessary activities in this regard due to the fact that soil is one of the basic pillars of our sustainable agricultural developments in the sultanate.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Like others, the United States appreciates these Evaluation Reports and found both the 2015 and 2016 International Years to be successful and valuable tools for raising awareness and sharing best practices related to soils and pulses.

We would like to note however that we do not support using FAO's regular budget to finance international observances and thus we appreciate the proposals including the information about commitments by Member States or other stakeholders for fully funding the proposed observances through voluntary contributions.

Implementing international observances creates an organizational burden for FAO and other participating organizations including administrative costs for supplies, communications, travel and translation.

Playing a leading role in the implementation of several International Years back-to-back could pose significant logistical and administrative challenges for FAO and we are wary of setting a precedent that may lead to this to too many proposals being sent before Conference for endorsement every biennium.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

The Canadian delegation would like to begin by thanking Ms Villarreal for her presentation. It was very informative.

Canada considers the International Year of Soils to have been a success in raising awareness of soils and their importance, certainly within Canada and around the world. We are cautious that forecasts by FAO have identified that soils and access to quality arable land is a significant constraint on being able to produce more food to reach the goals for the Sustainable Development Goals and the goal of 60 percent increase in production by 2050, so again, just underlying the imperative of soils for global food security.

To help commemorate the Year among other things, Canada produced videos highlighting the importance of soil for agriculture and provided additional information for the public about agriculture in Canada and the importance of soils in Canada's work in that regard.

Lastly, we would like to commend the work of private sector and other non-state actors for their collaboration with FAO, provision of voluntary contributions. It is complicated. It can be tricky but it is essential and I think it was a success, so again, thank you.

Ms Victoria MUSHIBWE (Zambia)

Zambia is giving this statement on behalf of the Africa Group.

Many countries around the world celebrated the International Year of Soils with events that highlighted the importance of soils as a foundation of sustainable food systems. Soils store and filter water, improving resilience to floods and droughts and is the home of about one-quarter of the biodiversity. That notwithstanding, the fragility and the nonrenewable natural resources, it can take up to one thousand years to create one centimeter of top soil. One-third of the soils are degraded all over the world. Sustainable production is imperative for reversing the trend of soil degrading and ensuring global food security.

The review of the International Year has shown that there is a growing understanding of the importance of this natural resource. Four of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals recognize the need to preserve and restore degraded land and soil. They include key aspects such as improving soil quality, reducing the number of deaths and illnesses caused by soil pollution, combating infections and restoring degraded land and soil.

The International Year of Soils has provided a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the fundamental role played by soils for food security, human livelihood and life. FAO Member Countries during the 89th FAO Conference enormously endorsed the new World Soil Center. The original strong focus on the World Soil Charter, on the land use planning and land evaluation had to be adjusted.

More recent key references and concepts such as the more widely understood framework of ecosystems had to be reflected. Major developments in the intervening periods such as the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and development and ensuring of new agreements and the work of the Committee on Food Security had to be effective.

The guidelines for action had to be reorganized and expanded to take account of the broader range of stakeholders. The Africa Group looks forward to promoting sustainable soils beyond 2017 and we are adding our voices to these efforts. Smallholders and family farmers are an important part of this effort.

This fight nature of their activities gives smallholders and family farmers a central role in promoting environmental sustainability safeguarding biodiversity and conserving healthy soils. The Africa Group endorses the Evaluation Report.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We are grateful to the Secretariat for the Report prepared and also to Ms Villarreal for the informative presentation.

The Russian Federation actively supported the Declaration of the International Year of Soils 2015. It was part of the Steering Committee. It carried out a number of thematic events at a national level. We welcome the results of the International Year of Soils and value them.

We are particularly satisfied with the fact that in its conclusions, concrete and tangible results were achieved. We might mention here the development of the first of its kind, namely a Report about the soil situation and world soil resources around the world, the participation of specialists from throughout the world. Voluntary guidelines were also developed on sustainable soil resource management.

In addition to this, a World Soil Prize was established, which is granted for practical achievements in the area of rational soil use. We believe it is an honor that it carries the name of an outstanding Russian Scientist Konstantin Dmitrevich Glinka.

Our country was pleased to provide experts and financial support for these events. We hope that there will be large scale follow-up activity at the end of the year as part of the development of the Global Soil Partnership in particular, which is a useful mechanism existing at the level of FAO. In this work we call for the Organization to actively use the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Resource Management. A useful initiative in this area is the yearly celebration of the International Day of Soils, World Soil Day rather.

In conclusion, I would like to express to the Secretariat of the FAO our gratitude for the work that they have done to implement this useful international initiative.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

Brazil commends FAO, its Member States and other partners for the successful implementation of the International Year of Soils in 2015.

Soil is widely considered a given resource. However, it is at the core of the main challenges faced by the planet. Fortunately the international community is awakening to the threats concerning this natural resource.

The International Year of Soils 2015 has launched an important momentum of action at the international level to raise awareness about the importance of soils, which need to be dealt with in a systemic approach. Continued action is needed, especially in the context of Agenda 2030 in which soils are a crucial part and they are very essential to the achievement of the SDGs.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand would like to thank the Secretariat for the Report. Thailand wishes to thank FAO for the effective support provided through the implementation of the International Year of Soils 2015.

Thailand is actively engaged in awareness listening on the importance of soil for food security and nutrition. We welcome FAO's work on soil conservation and strongly promote soil partnerships at international and regional levels.

Ms Egbal ABDELMAGID ABDELRAHMAN ELSHEIKH (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

There is no doubt that the issue of soils is a very important one for Sudan. We have undertaken a large number of programmes focusing on issues of soil conservation and safeguarding soil.

We would also like to thank FAO for the technical support they provided us with in 2015 to support our soil preservation programme. Sudan has concentrated during its programmes on soil conservation in its agricultural practices and also it has been working on awareness raising, particularly amongst smallholders, focusing on the importance of soil and the importance of the soil use cycle which conserves the quality of the soil.

We have also raised awareness around the kinds of agriculture which respect soil.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division)

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the Countries who have intervened because actually the success of the International Year is only the success of the activities that are undertaken by all of you, by all of us together. And we heard some of these activities that were reported from Oman, from Canada, from Sudan and others.

So this is what in the end makes the International Years a success.

We are fully convinced that the sustainable soil management is going to be a main contributor to the Sustainable Development Goals and indeed, I would say that the whole 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development allows us to put emphasis on soil – sustainable soil management and this I would say is of great advance in terms of the previous agenda that we had, the MDG Agenda where there was no mention at all of soils.

So now we have a good path ahead of us to ensure that we will contribute with our efforts to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals as was mentioned by Estonia on behalf of the EU, by Canada, and by Brazil.

I would just like to again take the opportunity to reiterate that we do follow very closely, the policy for implementation of international years whereby the resources for all of the activities of the international years come from extra budgetary sources and once again, thank the valuable contributions that were made.

The international years are also successful in as much as they are able to bring in the action of the different partners and as Canada mentioned, one important partner was the private sector and the other actors. So we are also thankful for that.

Finally, I would like to refer to China's intervention and would like to reiterate that we are happy to ensure that the International Year's legacy which is up to all of us to make a reality will be done, including through the very important approach of South-South Cooperation.

CHAIRPERSON

Now we come to the conclusions for this agenda item and I will read it for you.

The Conference:

- a) endorsed the report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Soils 2015;
- b) acknowledged the substantial achievements made at all levels in the context of the International Year of Soils 2015;
- c) highlighted the importance of soils for contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, by 2030;
- d) encouraged FAO Members and other relevant stakeholders to pursue the acquired momentum in terms of concrete actions against soil degradation and for promoting sustainable soil management through various initiatives, including the Global Soil Partnership;
- e) invited FAO Members to continue supporting awareness raising on the importance of soils by joining the celebration of World Soil Day on 5 December and making the vision of the Glinka World Soil Prize as two important platforms that carry the International Year of Soils 2015 legacy.

This is my summary conclusion. Can we accept this conclusion? It is accepted.

Item 18.2 Evaluation of the International Year of Pulses 2016

Point 18.2 Évaluation de l'Année internationale des légumineuses (2016)

Tema 18.2 Evaluación del Año Internacional de las Legumbres (2016)

(C 2017/29)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Now we should move on to the next agenda item 18.2, *Evaluation of the International Year of Pulses 2016*. I would like to ask you to be certain that you do have the proper document in front of you. It is C 2017/29. I give the floor again to Madame Villarreal for a presentation of this item on the Agenda.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division)

Following the proposal by Pakistan and Turkey and the acceptance at the 38th Session of the FAO Conference, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2016 to be the International Year of Pulses.

FAO hosted the International Steering Committee and the Secretariat. The Steering Committee was co-chaired by Turkey and Pakistan and was composed of representatives of each region of the Member Countries and other non-state actors, including very importantly the private sector, civil society, farmers organizations, research centers, IFAD, WFP, and Biodiversity International.

There was also very active participation from numerous technical divisions of FAO.

The principle aim of the year was to create awareness worldwide on the multiple benefits that pulses provide to food security, to nutrition, to health, to the environment, and we believe that these objectives were fully met.

The International Year was launched in November 2015 and has prompted really a huge amount of events throughout the world, at country level, regional, and global level. According to FAO Policy and also to Resolution from the United Nations General Assembly, all of the activities that were hosted under the International Year were paid for by extra budgetary resources, voluntary contributions, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank the government of Turkey, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD, the Global Pulse Confederation, and Colfiorito Fertitecnica for their generous contributions towards this International Year.

The activities were numerous. They include our regional and global consultations, regional dialogs in each region of the world, a global dialog here in Rome, global and regional awareness campaigns, using all kinds of media including social media and traditional media, discussions, webinars, online fora. Numerous publications were also produced throughout the Year, including the Global Economy of Pulses and also Pulse By-products as Animal Feed.

The International Year of Pulses website which is translated into seven languages has received more than 1.3 million page views just to name one of the media that were done throughout the Year.

There were six Special Ambassadors that were named, one for each FAO region, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them because they did a remarkable job of disseminating the messages of the year.

Throughout the Year we have seen considerable response by the governments, by non-state actors, civil society and academia towards the Year.

When it comes to evaluating a Year like this or any International Year, it is not easy. We know what we put into the Year. We know the hundreds and hundreds of different events that took place at the international level, at the local level, national level but what impact did they have? Can we attribute impacts that we measure to what we did during the International Year? It is not an easy subject.

But we do have some data that will give you some idea in terms of how the year promoted pulses. The data I am going to share with you today are from the Global Pulse Confederation. They do not come from FAO. FAO will produce updated statistics shortly but the data that the Global Pulse Confederation which is one of the partners and one of the members of the International Steering Committee produced quite remarkable data I should say.

The increase of the production of pulses in major producing countries like for example India, 23 percent, Canada, 38 percent, Australia, 55 percent, Argentina, 62 percent, Brazil, 142 percent, Myanmar, 1.3 percent, and USA 136 percent. These are remarkable data. However, I do put in the caveat that this data comes from a source, not from our source, but we will have our data later on.

There was also in the same Report of the Global Pulse Confederation, estimated 16 percent increase in per capita consumption of lentils in 2016. So again, this data comes from a very specific source. It is the private sector. But they are also following globally both the pulses production and consumption.

So it is remarkable data. All of our partners in the Steering Committee I think, were very happy with the outcome of the Year and also with the implications that this kind of activity can have indeed for food security, nutrition, health, and environment.

As the year was closed in a closing ceremony hosted by the Government of Burkina Faso on 10 and 11 February 2017 with a declaration of the institutionalization of the World Pulse Day.

Finally, there are a number of activities that have been proposed as a legacy of the Year and they include to make the link between the activities of pulses and the Decade on Nutrition and therefore have a Pulses Action Network as one of the activities of the Decade of Nutrition.

Compilation of agricultural practices, including pulse crops in Sub-Saharan Africa, publication on underutilized pulse species which are many, and finally inter alia revision of FAO's pulses statistics.

Mr Stuart SMITH (Australia)

Australia supports legacy activities of the International Year of Pulses. The Year was established to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food security and nutrition and environmental issues as

well as to strengthen domestic policies to improve production and consumption, obviously being very successful.

The legacy activities will provide Australia with further opportunities to promote itself as a reliable global supplier of food and supporter of food security. The activities will help raise awareness beyond the International Year of Pulses and their contribution to global food security.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

The EU and its 28 Member States take note on the report submitted by FAO on the Evaluation of the International Year of Pulses 2016. We are convinced that pulses should play an increasing role in nutrition and animal feed due to the positive effects on human health and the environment.

They should become a cornerstone in agriculture and food value chains, especially in regions facing the impact of climate change and seeking for options for adaptation and mitigation.

The EU and its Member States have conducted numerous national activities to highlight the importance of pulses in preserving biodiversity and improving soils and to demonstrate techniques and approaches for the cultivation, processing, and the use in human nutrition and animal feed.

We welcome the role FAO has played in coordinating activities for the International Year of Pulses, including the organization of successful regional dialog for Europe and Central Asia held at Sapienza University of Rome. We encourage governments to further pay due attention to the pulses sector in their agricultural development policies.

In addition, we encourage FAO to provide assistance and policy advice to countries accordingly. We think this should be an essential part of the legacy document.

We appreciate the legacy activities proposed by FAO as long as they are financed from voluntary contributions.

Mr Sikander Hayat Khan BOSAN (Pakistan)

It is a privilege to speak to all of you. The International Year of Pulses (IYP) was launched in this very building in November 2015. I am happy to say that since then, there has been no looking back. As co-chair with Turkey, Pakistan is grateful to the Director-General of FAO, the International Year of Pulses Secretariat, Turkey, and all others who have worked tirelessly throughout 2016 to make the International Year of Pulses a success.

The IYP was launched with the slogan, “*Nutritious Seeds for a Sustainable Future*” and to make people aware around the globe of the benefits of this important source of food and nutrition.

Today we are better informed that pulses are a valuable ingredient in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2 which aims to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

Through efforts undertaken since 2015 and the dynamic IYP action plan, we were able to have great outreach around the world about the benefit of pulses. All through 2016 we saw a plethora of activities which are impossible to mention individually. Broadly speaking, these tackle the top pulses issues at several international fora.

National committees will establish a technical pulses database was created, a cookbook featuring recipes from famous international chefs was published, and the official multilingual IYP website with over half a million visits disseminated rich information on pulses.

It is most heartening that although the Year of Pulses has officially ended, yet valuable work continues and there is a great determination to carry forward messages and themes of the IYP 2016. The IYP 2016 legacy document is the proof of this resolve.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that in Pakistan, we have made great strides for the promotion of pulses. This year the Government has allocated at least 2 billion for the increased cultivation. Incentives have been offered to farmers to nurture various types of pulses, subsidies have been provided and purchase has been guaranteed.

Our institutions are actively involved in research for increasing the yield of legumes. Today there is more awareness of the health benefits of pulses and people are making these part of their diet.

There is no doubt that we have achieved many milestones during the IYP 2016. Today there is definitely more awareness about the benefits of pulses, better information exchanges, dialogues, and a greater resolve to carry forward the achievement of the year.

However, there is no rule for being compliant as we require additional work and research, protection of pulses against natural disasters, improving seed varieties, incurring productivity, developing resilience against pests, and improved technology.

As such, we need to supplement our efforts in achievement also to enhance consumption of pulses globally.

We need to supplement the accomplishment of IYP. The FAO proposal contained in the legacy document will augment our efforts. These will also assist toward better strides in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

We endorse the proposals. Let us resolve to continue spreading the knowledge of the benefits of pulses around the world.

In conclusion, I would extend my gratitude to all who have and continue to work tirelessly in spreading the key messages of IYP 2016 effectively.

Mr Munir Hussein AL LAWATI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

The Sultanate of Oman is very strongly supportive of the statements about the International Year of agricultural products and the importance they play in ensuring food security. Oman was the second among the countries when it comes to self-sufficiency and food security and sixth in the world ranking.

When it comes to the International Year of Pulses in particular, we think that this was a very successful undertaking. It did meet its objectives. It strengthened the awareness and raised the awareness of the importance of pulses to food security and to food self-sufficiency.

The Year also made it possible to create a database on pulses. In Oman, great effort was deployed to diversify the types of pulses cultivated to take into account the high temperatures in the country but also to better resist pests and all of that was useful to increase our growing seasons.

Twenty-eight different types of pulses were identified and preserved in storage centers and the Ministry of Agriculture was able to make other countries more aware of efforts via a number of different conferences that were organized on pulses and called for a shoring up of awareness raising campaigns about pulses and the need to identify and conserve species.

A number of different publications were prepared. This played into efforts to raise awareness in our country on pulses.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

Thanks again to Ms Villarreal for her presentation. Thank you particularly for sharing some of the statistics you did on the success of the Year. They were really remarkable.

Canada has also been informed of other statistics and one lesson we took away was that goals were set by the Pulse Confederation to achieve goals by 2020 and in fact some of them were achieved within one year, another remarkable sign of how successful the Year was and how more people know more about the health benefits, human health benefits of pulses, the environmental benefits of products that fix their own nitrogen, and the economic opportunities for farmers around the world.

Canada would also like to especially take a moment to profile the important contribution that was made by the private sector from countries around the world to make the IYP successful. We join with the other countries in the remark about the need for voluntary contributions to support years of, days of, et cetera. Those are significant.

And the Year of Pulses was arguably the first large, significant, and successful Year that was funded through non-state actors funding. So that was an enormous new activity for FAO and again, a sign of the success of the initiative. So we would like to profile the important contributions that the pulse sector made from around the world.

The last remark I will share is this was obviously a new experience for FAO and for Members as well with working with non-state actors. There are certainly lessons learned. It was a learning opportunity and as IYP and other Years and Days continue, just to encourage the Secretariat to continue to take those lessons to heart and find new ways to work with non-state actors and non-state donors.

Canada would like to conclude by again stressing how useful IYP was and how insightful the information shared was.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

La Argentina agradece a la FAO por la elaboración del documento de evaluación del Año Internacional de las Legumbres y en especial modo quiere reconocer el papel protagónico de Turquía y Pakistán como co-Presidentes del Comité Directivo del Año Internacional de las Legumbres.

Mi país es un actor importante en el mercado internacional en términos de producción y exportación de legumbres, en particular de frijol blanco y negro. También producimos frijoles rojos, así como garbanzos, guisantes y lentejas. Este sector configura en la Argentina un elemento de suma importancia para el desarrollo de las economías regionales.

También quisiéramos remarcar el papel preponderante que tienen las legumbres en la lucha contra el hambre y el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en la Argentina. En ese sentido, mi país trabaja en esta temática a través de diversas iniciativas, como proyectos de mejoramiento genético vegetal y tecnología de cultivo, incluyendo líneas referidas a la calidad comercial y nutricional de las legumbres, además de los innumerables eventos que se llevaron adelante en el año pasado para la promoción de las legumbres. Con estos comentarios, la Argentina endosa el Informe de la evaluación del Año Internacional de las Legumbres.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

Hunger is our common enemy that has to be fought on all fronts using all available resources. In this regard, my delegation believes that pulses are among those invaluable resources available resources in our arsenal. The contribution of pulses in our common endeavor to ensure food security, nutrition and climate change adaptation should not be underestimated.

Indonesia welcomes any positive efforts which bring us closer to Zero Hunger, eliminating hunger once and for all.

My Delegation therefore would like to express our support to the proposal of the Government of Burkina Faso to declare an annual observance of World Pulses Day on 10 February. We hope that the observance will translate into concrete action by all of us.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We approve the Report assessing the outcome of the International Year of Pulses 2016.

We welcome the outcomes of this event. It has provided us with the unique opportunity to draw international attention to the potential of these crops to achieve sustainable development. This firstly pertains to SDG 2 on eradication of hunger and SDG 8 on increasing economic growth and employment, SDG 13 on contracting climate change and SDG 15 on contracting soil degradation.

We welcome the leading role of FAO in the celebration of this Year. We support the work of the Organization on popularizing the production and consumption of pulses. It has increased effectiveness in the use of protein of vegetable origin and expanding the use of this kind of crop across the world,

developing international trade and also increasing people's awareness about the use of pulses for their health and the environmental aspect.

In Russia, the rich protein of vegetable origin is often found in the diet of the population. Over recent years, we have seen a growth in the interest in pulses and in the cultivation, the yield of peas and on the sown area of beans, which is one of the most popular pulses in Russia.

Our country in fact holds one of the main rankings in the world on pulses. As part of IYP, we carried out a number of events including international forum, scientific and practical conferences and seminars and we support the main events undertaken to follow-up on the outcomes of the year.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

It is our responsibility to make pulses better known worldwide, hence the importance of its International Year.

In the last month, the Brazilian Agriculture Research Cooperation and the Brazilian Institute of Beans have been promoting and supporting various actions throughout the country. Another important action driven by the Brazilian private sector and civil society brought together the best chefs of Brazilian cuisine, an itinerant pulse related event in the state Capitals.

As part of the International Year of Pulses Steering Committee, Brazil appreciates the work done by FAO on this matter. The outreach communication material is especially worthy to mention for its high quality. It should be used and disseminated by us all. Therefore, Brazil endorses the suggested actions presented to this Conference.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division)

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all these very positive and encouraging observations that you have made.

As I just mentioned for the International Year of Soils, we really thank the different initiatives that have been taking place in different countries as a major contribution to the success of the Year, the activities and the countries are in the end what adds up to the Year itself and to actually making a positive change on people's perception and ultimately increasing consumption of pulses.

And also we heard from some very innovative activities like for example Brazil with the chefs. Indeed, when you deal with a Year like the International Year of Pulses, you deal with other non-state actors which are the non-traditional ones like, for example, including the chefs who have a big say in terms of what people eat in the end, so we thank you for those activities.

I would like to thank especially the Government of Pakistan and the Minister for your encouraging remarks. Minister, one of the objectives of the IYP is precisely to create awareness not only for increased consumption but also as you have so eloquently outlined to have better policies put in place for the objectives of the year. We very much welcome Pakistan's policy to have incentives for the production of pulses as the Minister mentioned two billion rupee's which is quite sizable and also subsidies.

So this came out very clearly with the regional dialogues and then the global dialogues. A better policy framework is necessary for the continued and long-term increase of pulses production and also consumption so here we see one very concrete example. We will include this as one of the impacts of the year so thank you very much for that.

In addition to that, we heard from Pakistan that there is additional work needed in research and in increasing productivity and increasing for example resilience against pests. We also heard at the same time from the Sultanate of Oman that they have been doing research which has resulted in diversification of types of pulses, also in terms of increased pest resistance heat tolerance.

We also heard from Argentina from the proposed genetic improvements, so here again this is one of the beauties of the Year. We will continue to promote activities through South-South Cooperation just by listening what people are doing in different countries.

Where are the needs? Things that are already being developed in some other countries where we can immediately create that bridge so that is our task and we will get down to do it.

We heard also from the European Union that they encourage FAO to provide technical assistance and pulse advice in the longer term on pulses. I am happy to be sitting right beside the Assistant Director-General for Agriculture, so I am sure that he is going to take up on this task that we at FAO consider very important indeed.

And I would just like to add myself to the comments by the Russian Federation how the year has contributed not only to SDG 2 but also SDGs 8, 13, 15 and indeed by contributing to SDG 2 there is a clear contribution to most of the rest of the Development Agenda.

Finally the last point, we will continue to development innovative ways of working with non-state actors. This year showed how the private sector brought a lot of value in terms of the objectives of the year.

They were main partners throughout the year and that role I think has shown its benefit. I just add my own gratitude as the Minister from Pakistan has expressed his gratitude I would like to add my own gratitude to all of you for the remarkable success of this year.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ms Villarreal, for these comments on the interventions raised by several Delegates. Now I will go directly to the summary conclusions and I will read it for you.

The Conference:

- a) endorsed the Report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Pulses 2016;
- b) noted the substantial achievements made at all levels in the context of the International Year of Pulses 2016;
- c) encouraged FAO Members and other relevant stakeholders to support the International Year of Pulses legacy activities and promote the messages and themes of the International Year of Pulses beyond 2016, particularly the issues identified during regional and international consultations;
- d) stressed the importance of pulses for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

This is the summary conclusions. Can we accept this?

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

Under the paragraph c), the European Union would be very grateful if it could be added that we welcome the legacy activities proposal as long as they are financed from the voluntary contributions.

CHAIRPERSON

Any more comments? So Estonia, your proposal is accepted.

Item 18.8 Proposal for a World Pulses Day

Point 18.8 Proposition relative à la célébration d'une journée mondiale des légumineuses

Tema 18.8 Propuesta relativa a un Día Mundial de las Legumbres

(C 2017/LIM/17)

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

As Ms Villarreal is with us now, I propose to move to discussing item 8.8, *Proposal for a World Pulses Day*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/LIM/17 in front of you

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development Division)

The Government of Burkina Faso has proposed to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day on 10 February. The Declaration for the institutionalization of this day was presented during the closing ceremony of the International Year of Pulses which took place in Ouagadougou on 10 and 11 February this year.

The objective of this initiative is to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food security, nutrition and climate change adaptation and mitigation while preserving and building upon the success of the United Nations declared 2016 International Year of Pulses.

Mme Justine NISUBIRE (Burundi)

Le Burundi prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Avant tout propos, je voudrais adresser mes sincères remerciements à la FAO et aux organisateurs de cette Conférence pour l'opportunité qui m'est donnée de m'exprimer au nom du Groupe Afrique sur une question aussi importante que celle relative à la promotion des légumineuses.

Je voudrais adresser toutes mes félicitations à la FAO et à son Secrétariat, en ce qui concerne l'Année internationale des légumineuses, pour l'ensemble des actions menées tout au long de l'année 2016 en vue de sensibiliser les États sur la production et l'utilisation des légumineuses dans le monde.

Ces actions ont permis d'engranger des résultats fort appréciables, qui viennent d'être présentés ici avec le bilan de l'Année internationale des légumineuses. Ces résultats démontrent la pertinence d'actions soutenues et durables en faveur des légumineuses, dont la valorisation se présente comme un véritable levier pour atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable.

En effet, les légumineuses jouent un rôle important dans la gestion de la fertilité des sols, la réduction des effets néfastes du changement climatique et le renforcement de la résilience surtout pour les couches de population les plus vulnérables, en particulier les femmes et les enfants.

En plus de jouer un rôle primordial dans l'alimentation humaine et animale, surtout pendant les périodes de soudure dans les pays sujets à l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, les légumineuses interviennent dans la réduction des maladies cardio-vasculaires liées à la surcharge pondérale et constituent une importante source de revenus pour les ménages les plus vulnérables dans les pays en voie de développement et dans le monde entier.

C'est pourquoi, à la clôture de l'Année internationale des légumineuses, qui s'est tenue les 10 et 11 février à Ouagadougou, au Burkina Faso, les participants ont reconnu la nécessité de renforcer les appuis en matière de recherche et de développement sur les légumineuses, et de consolider les synergies d'actions entre les différents acteurs de la chaîne de valeur des légumineuses.

Pour y parvenir, les participants à cette rencontre mondiale ont recommandé l'institutionnalisation d'une Journée internationale des légumineuses par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui pourrait être fixée le 10 février de chaque année.

Le Groupe régional Afrique, par ma voix, voudrait marquer son entière adhésion et son soutien à cette recommandation, qui permettra de maintenir et de renforcer la sensibilisation sur l'importance des légumineuses.

Pour finir, le Groupe régional Afrique approuve le projet de résolution portant sur la célébration de la Journée internationale des légumineuses et demande à la Conférence de le soumettre à l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU pour son adoption définitive.

Mr Stuart SMITH (Australia)

Australia would like to support the proposal by Burkina Faso to declare February 10 as World Pulses Day. This will help raise awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses. Pulses are an important crop in Australia in terms of their export value and the role in crop rotation systems, improving soil health and improving weed and disease management in cereal crops.

Chickpeas are the main pulse crop produced in Australia. The pulse industry's growth is increasingly becoming a key to the future sustainability of the whole Australian grains industry as a strategic importance of pulses within the cereal cropping system in Australia continues to grow.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey aligns themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

The European Union and its 28 Member States appreciate the proposal submitted by the Government of Burkina Faso for the United Nations System to establish 10 February as the International Day of Pulses.

We acknowledge that pulses play an important role in food systems, contributing to food security and healthy diets in a sustainable way within a nutrition sensitive agricultural approach. Pulses have high nutritional qualities. Their consumption is beneficial to human health as part of a diverse and healthy diet.

Furthermore, the production of pulses provides livelihood for a significant section of the rural population including those farming on marginal lands. This contributes to the improvement of food security and nutrition in those areas.

We also wish to highlight the environmental benefits of pulses. These benefits include their low water footprint, fertilizer use reduction and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, preservation of biodiversity and their contribution to improving soil fertility.

Pulses also play a role in climate change adaptation in particular through the use of climate resistant varieties. However there is still a lot of awareness of the numerous political effects of pulses on human well-being at the high-level of consumers and decision makers.

In this regard, countries are encouraged to promote increased production of pulses as well as their consumption as part of a healthy diet. In addition, we would encourage FAO to pay due attention to the pulses sector while providing assistance and policy advice to countries.

We also feel it is important to recall the role of pulses internationally on a regular basis in continuity with the IYP activities. Considering the importance of pulses and based on the successful conclusion of the International Year, we support the proposal to establish a World Pulses Day provided its activities are financed from voluntary contributions.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

The Canadian delegation would like to begin by thanking Burkina Faso for their initiative in this regard.

The previous agenda item to our meeting shone a spotlight on the valuable contributions pulses can make or do make with regard to soil biology, adapting to climate change and potential incomes for rural farmers and human health so as the previous agenda item had identified.

There is an encouragement to continue this type of work. So we would like to join with the other countries in expressing our very strong support for this initiative and request the Conference agree to commemorate 10 February as the International Day of Pulses.

Mr Munir Hussein AL LAWATI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

At first the Sultanate of Oman would like to thank the Government of Burkina Faso for proposing 10 February as an International Day for Pulses.

This will have a very positive effect on food production systems around the world and will allow us to reinforce the efforts exerted to the International Year on Pulses. The Sultanate and all of our research institutions are conducting an annual programme in order to promote soil characteristics and pulses use which would contribute on an annual basis to promoting the production of this important crop in the Sultanate and the world.

Ms Gianina MULLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

Brazil thanks Burkina Faso for the initiative to propose a World Pulses Day. As highlighted in the presentation, pulses are the cheapest source of protein, fast growing and less environmental impact.

They are important food crops for the food security of large proportions of populations particularly in Latin America, Africa and Asia where pulses are part of traditional diets and often grown by family farmers. In Brazil, beans are a highly important staple food and an essential ingredient of our traditional cuisine.

An increased consumption of pulses would benefit developing and developed countries alike. There is enough room to increase production, consumption and trade of pulses both in Northern and Southern Hemispheres while raising income generation to smallholders and family farmers.

While the poor need pulses to overcome hunger, others could take them to address different forms of malnutrition including overweight and obesity. In this regard, facilitate access to market is key to take most of the social, environmental and economic benefits of pulses.

Make pulses better known worldwide is our duty. As a big producer and consumer of beans, Brazil is integrated the Steering Committee of the International Year of Pulses and could testify the competent work done by FAO to promote them. To continue the legacy of the International Year of Pulses 2016, Brazil endorses the proposal to observe a World Day on Pulses on 10 February as presented by Burkina Faso.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

I just would like to reiterate our intervention at the previous Agenda related with the International Year of Pulses that my Delegation fully supports to the proposal of Burkina Faso on the World Pulse Day on 10 February.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Are there any other requests to take the floor before I give the floor to Ms Villarreal to share her responses? There are no more requests therefore I would like to give the floor now to Ms Villarreal but before Burkina Faso is requesting the floor.

M. Jacob OUÉDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais tout d'abord, au nom de Son Excellence M. Le Président du Burkina Faso, et en mon nom propre, traduire nos remerciements à toutes celles et à tous ceux qui ont effectué le déplacement au Burkina Faso pour prendre part à la cérémonie de clôture de la l'Année internationale des légumineuses, qui s'est tenue, comme on l'a déjà dit, les 10 et 11 février 2017.

Nos remerciements vont particulièrement à la FAO, qui a eu la claire vision de consacrer l'année 2016 Année internationale des légumineuses au soutien de la production de légumineuses, et qui a également choisi mon pays pour abriter cet événement de portée mondiale, créditant ainsi le Burkina Faso d'une grande confiance. Nous espérons avoir été à la hauteur.

Je remercie aussi le Secrétariat technique de l'Année internationale des légumineuses, qui a conduit avec professionnalisme la mise en œuvre des actions de cette Année internationale. L'organisation de la cérémonie n'aurait point été une réalité sans le soutien dont mon pays a bénéficié de la part du Groupe régional Afrique et de la Confédération mondiale des légumineuses représentant le secteur privé.

Sans vouloir en faire le bilan, qui a déjà été fait, il est important de rappeler que la rencontre de clôture a réuni des structures de recherche, des organisations nationales, sous-régionales et internationales, des acteurs gouvernementaux et non-étatiques engagés dans le développement de l'agriculture. Ces acteurs ont pu rencontrer les producteurs et productrices de légumineuses sur le terrain, et échanger dans le cadre d'un séminaire sur les acquis, les contraintes et les innovations dans la production, la transformation et la commercialisation des légumineuses.

Compte tenu de l'importance aujourd'hui évidente des légumineuses dans l'alimentation, l'amélioration des sources de revenus, la réduction des effets néfastes du changement climatique sur le système de production et les effets bénéfiques pour la santé, et convaincus de la nécessité de renforcer les acquis et les synergies d'action pour le développement de ces cultures, l'ensemble des participants à la cérémonie de clôture a formulé une unique et forte recommandation à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies: l'institution d'une Journée mondiale des légumineuses, qui pourrait être fixée le 10 février de chaque année.

L'enjeu fondamental de cette recommandation, qui nous tient à cœur, est de faire du développement des légumineuses une cause mondiale. Les intérêts majeurs de l'institution de cette Journée mondiale sont de sensibiliser le grand public et les médias sur la nécessité du développement des légumineuses comme culture d'avenir, d'encourager les décideurs à prendre des initiatives fortes pour soutenir cette production, de stimuler et de renforcer les synergies d'action et la coopération internationale autour de la problématique des légumineuses.

Loin de nous l'idée de vouloir faire étalage des avantages d'une Journée mondiale, mais juste témoigner de l'ampleur de nos attentes et toute notre conviction de l'importance que revêt cette recommandation de Ouagadougou, qui reflète l'esprit dans lequel l'Organisation des Nations Unies lors de sa 68^{ème} Assemblée générale a décrété l'année 2016 Année internationale des légumineuses.

Nous espérons très sincèrement que cette auguste assemblée prendra en compte le travail accompli jusqu'à maintenant. Cette prise en compte passe nécessairement par la reconnaissance du 10 février, date de la célébration de la clôture de l'Année internationale des légumineuses, comme Journée mondiale des légumineuses.

Forts de tout ce qui précède, nous soumettons une motion, pour votre considération, sur la Journée mondiale des légumineuses.

Par ma voix, le Burkina Faso voudrait exprimer son entière disponibilité à accompagner toute action entreprise par la FAO en vue de l'institution d'une Journée mondiale des légumineuses. C'est pourquoi je profite de la présente tribune pour exprimer ma profonde gratitude au Conseil de la FAO et à son Président, l'Ambassadeur Ngirwa, pour l'approbation du projet de résolution.

Avant de terminer mon propos, permettez-moi de réitérer, au nom du Gouvernement et du peuple burkinabè, mes remerciements aux partenaires au développement, particulièrement à la FAO, qui nous a accompagnés tout au long de l'organisation de la cérémonie de clôture de l'Année internationale des légumineuses, ainsi qu'à toutes les personnes physiques ou morales qui ont contribué à sa bonne organisation, et j'en profite également pour dire merci à tous les pays qui ont soutenu cette recommandation.

Mme Marcela VILLARREAL (Directrice de la Division des partenariats, des activités de plaidoyer et du renforcement des capacités)

Je voudrais tout simplement remercier, moi aussi, le Gouvernement et le peuple burkinabè pour la proposition d'instituer une Journée mondiale des légumineuses, ainsi que toutes les délégations qui ont pris la parole pour donner leur soutien à cette proposition, la production et la consommation de légumineuses étant, comme l'a dit le Groupe Afrique, un véritable levier pour atteindre les Objectifs de développement durable.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I will read the Summary Conclusions for this agenda item.

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 156th Session to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day on 10 February and adopted the resolution set out in C 2017/LIM/17.

Can you accept this conclusion?

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

Thank you very much for your conclusion and for giving me the floor again. Just again the smallest remark from the European Union and we will appreciate if it could be mentioned also that we support the proposal to establish a World Pulses Day provided its activities are financed from voluntary contributions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Estonia and Europe. It is accepted also. Any more comments?

Thus we conclude the discussion of item 18.8 of the agenda.

Item 18.3 Proposal for an International Year on Plant Health 2020**Point 18.3 Proposition relative à la célébration d'une Année internationale de la santé des végétaux (2020)****Tema 18.3 Propuesta relativa a un Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal (2020)**
(C 2017/LIM/10)**CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)**

We move to item 18.3, *Proposal for an International Year on Plant Health 2020*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/LIM/10 in front of you.

I now invite the Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, Mr Ren Wang, to introduce this Item.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Excellencies, it is a great honor for me to introduce this proposal and first of all, let me recognize my colleague, the Executive Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention, Mr Jingyuan Xia who is also here and also acknowledge the very successful reception actually hosted and organized by the Government of Finland yesterday evening which gave us an opportunity to observe a very nice video introducing the importance and the approaches towards this proposed International Year.

The idea of establishing an International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) was first discussed by the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures in 2015 when the Government of Finland decided to develop the proposal. Subsequently, the Committee on Agriculture, the COAG, at its 25th Session approved Finland's proposal to establish 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health and endorsed the Draft Conference Resolution later also endorsed by the 155th Session of the FAO Council.

Plants are essential to human life. They account for over 80 percent of the human diet and nutrition. They hold a critical role in agriculture development, biodiversity, food security, and trade facilitation. Yet they are increasingly at risk due to a number of factors, including increasing trade and climate change.

More and more plant pests threaten staple crops around the world such as cassava and bananas in Africa, wheat and rice in Asia, coconuts in the Caribbean, and maize around the world.

The impact of plant pests actually goes beyond just staple crops such as the storage grain is often damaged at a level of anywhere from 10 percent to up to 50 percent by storage pests. Forests can be seriously damaged by such pests as the gypsy moth and the longhorn beetles and the like, and also pastures can also be seriously damaged by such pests as the worms and others and as well as the packing materials, for instance, often infected by the insects and also pose constraints to international trade.

So plant health is the discipline related to the prevention and control of pests, affecting plants and plant products, including the regulation of import and export through a range of measures to prevent and control pests spreading to new areas, especially through international trade, tourism, and food aid. It is a key factor in any strategy to eliminate hunger and rural poverty and to ensure livelihoods.

The vast increase in the international agriculture trade and the effects of climate change embody a dramatic increase in the risk of pest introductions and does present formidable new challenges to plant health.

IYPH would raise awareness on the importance of plant health on global issues, including hunger, poverty, threats to the environment, and the economic development. It would help addressing new and emerging plant health challenges, including climate change impacts, the significant increase in international trade, the reputable loss of biological diversity, and new pest pathways such as e-commerce by developing more efficient national, regional, and global policies, structures, and mechanisms.

IYPH would emphasize for people, governments, and stakeholders the importance of protecting the world's plant resources and plant health's critical role in achieving a sustainable environment supportive of agriculture, forestry, food security, and nutrition.

Of course, FAO activities to promote the proposed IYPH will be financed through extra budgetary resources.

I would therefore like to invite this Conference to approve the Draft Resolution and to request the Director-General to transmit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next session, declaring the year 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

Australia welcomes yet again the proposal and strongly supports it. We are very happy to support the adoption of the Draft Resolution at this Conference.

The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH), we believe, will provide a focus on the importance of plant health to achieve SDGs in areas including trade facilitation, food security, and environmental protection. We also think that it would support the importance of the IPPC as a focal point for harmonization of phytosanitary risk management in the trading system.

Australia provides, as you know, a significant investment into international plant health and we would like to take this opportunity to encourage other countries to financially support activities that contribute to IYPH.

The achievement of the global goals, including the FAO Strategic Development Goals are vulnerable to the impacts of plant pests and diseases. Without effectively managing plant health, it is difficult to see how global objectives around food security, trade facilitation, and environmental protection and all that goes with that can be achieved.

So once again, we reiterate our support for the proposal and we would welcome the draft resolution to be put through.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its twenty-eight Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

The EU and its twenty-eight Member States welcome and strongly support the proposal made by Finland to celebrate the International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) in 2020 and we agree to the adoption of the Draft Resolution contained in the Annex to document C 2017/LIM/10.

In this document, we would like to express our appreciation to the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the IPPC and to the IPPC Secretariat for their continuous and excellent efforts to prepare the proclamation process for the IYPH 2020.

We firmly believe that the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 will have a significant impact on the realization of several of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as well as of the FAO Strategic Objectives.

Consequently, we would like to invite all Delegations and relevant international organizations such as WGO and the CBD to support the proclamation of the IYPH 2020 and once it has been approved, to join us and actively contribute to its planning and implementation.

Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

New Zealand wishes to support the proposal to celebrate an International Year of Plant Health in 2020 and we welcome the resolution to this effect.

New Zealand is aware of the problems facing the world in the area of plant health, increasing spread and introduction of pests that would decrease the resource of national plant protection organizations,

the effects of climate change in changing the distribution pattern of pests, the effects of invasive species on biodiversity, and the environment.

And we think that the proposal to have IYPH will help to raise awareness and interest and also address some of the systemic issues in this area.

Overall, we support this proposal and the proposed Draft Resolution.

Ms Gianina MÜLLER POZZEBON (Brazil)

Brazil fully supports the proposal for the observance of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 as presented by Finland. Plant health is key for addressing hunger, poverty, food security, and for promoting economic development. In a nutshell, it is from the mantle for achieving Agenda 2030.

Brazil is confident that IYPH can contribute to more efficient national, regional, and global policies to address plant health challenges.

Mr David OPATOWSKI (Israel)

The ongoing increase in global travel and trade, along with the liberalization of trade puts an ever increasing challenge in preventing the spread of pests and diseases. Climate change is also allowing pests to establish in new areas and create havoc in areas where their natural enemies or absent.

These pests and diseases are often spread on seeds, flowers, plants, and fruit in the baggage of innocent citizens of the world traveling from one place to another or bought online and sent within a day to the destination without the knowledge of the devastation that they may be spreading from one country to another.

Under such circumstances, it is imperative that the international awareness campaign be launched to raise public awareness of the importance of healthy plants for food security and ecosystem functions. Therefore, Israel supports the call on the Director-General to submit this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the view to having the General Assembly to the United Nations consider at its next session, declaring the year 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.

Mr Katsuyoshi MASUKAWA (Japan)

Japan supports the proposal of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020. In recent years, the risk of the introduction and spread of pests is significantly increasing around the world due to the growing volume and speed of international trade.

This situation poses significant threat to eradicating hunger and eliminating poverty. Japan believes that raising awareness of the importance and impacts of plant health contribute to minimizing the pest risk as well as addressing plant health issues at national, regional, and global levels and it could facilitate achieving all relevant goals of SDGs.

Mr Damien KELLY (Ireland)

In aligning with the EU statement, Ireland would like to further appreciate the proposal made by Finland to celebrate the International Year of Plant Health in 2020. We fully agree to the adoption of the Draft Resolution contained in the Annex to the document C 2017/LIM/10.

Increased trade in plant commodities and products and the effects of climate change provide easier opportunities for pests, weeds, and disease causing organisms to enter, establish, and spread into new environments leading also to biodiversity loss.

It is essential to raise awareness of the importance of plant health in tackling these issues at national, regional, and global levels. It is clear that IYPH 2020 would also have significant impacts on the direction of several of the SDGs as well as FAO Strategic Objectives.

In conclusion, Ireland would like to invite all of the delegations and relevant international organizations to actively contribute to the planning and implementation of the International Year of Plant Health once it is hopefully approved for the UN General Assembly.

Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the context of the accession of Sudan to the WTO, we needed to update all of our legislation to be in conformity with the WTO regulations and in this context, we pay the greatest attention to the IPPC which is highly relevant to the health of humans, animals, and plants and the facilitation of international trade.

And therefore the exporting of agricultural products has been made in conformity with these regulations and many countries and therefore Sudan approves the proposal for the 2020 International Year of Plant Health.

Mr Ebenezer ABOAGYE (Ghana)

Ghana takes the floor on behalf of the African Regional Group. Africa is honoured to support the proposal made by Finland to establish the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 and we agree to the adoption of the Draft Resolution.

Africa recognizes that ensuring good plant health is very important for food security in developed and least developed countries. The international spread of pests and diseases present continuous risk to agriculture and environment.

We firmly believe that we need to strengthen the national, regional, and international plant health strategies in order to address the growing challenges related to plant health.

Africa is currently facing challenges with enormous consequences on economies and livelihoods for everyone in the continent. A considerable effort is required to bring onboard all countries to manage the pests.

Observing IYPH therefore would provide the opportunities to raise awareness about the damaging effect of plant pests and diseases and help us to harness support to strengthen our plant health strategies.

Mme Marie-Lise STOLL (Luxembourg)

Comme les délégués d'États Membres qui nous ont précédés, le Luxembourg soutient pleinement la proposition d'instituer une Année internationale de la santé des végétaux en 2020.

Dans une dynamique internationale où le commerce agricole est en considérable et constant développement, et où les effets du changement climatique se traduisent par de véritables défis pour la santé des végétaux, nous sommes convaincus qu'une Année internationale de la santé des végétaux permettrait plusieurs avancées significatives.

Tout d'abord, elle permettrait une meilleure connaissance du sujet au niveau global. Elle susciterait en fait une prise de conscience généralisée de l'impact mondial des problèmes liés à la santé des végétaux.

En deuxième lieu, elle ouvrirait la voie au renforcement d'initiatives pour la mise en place de mesures de lutte à tous les niveaux. Ainsi, des effets bénéfiques pourraient s'ensuivre, notamment sur la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial.

Finalement, nous sommes convaincus qu'une Année internationale de la santé des végétaux en 2020 aura également un impact significatif sur la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU, ainsi qu'au niveau des objectifs stratégiques de la FAO.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)

As everybody knows, plant protection is a core for securing food and nutrition. Without plant protection, we cannot achieve any target. It also contributes a lot in achieving targets, goals and indicators of the SDGs, particularly because new pests are occurring in this world every time. We have to be very aware.

For example, the fight on warms, which had been introduced only recently with Africa and in all these 12 months it has reached from West Africa, South Africa, East Africa and it is also intending to go to

the North. Therefore, plant protection is core of everything and to that extent Eritrea fully supports 2020 to be the year of plant health.

Mr Ralf LOPIAN (Finland)

As you originally made the proposal, Mr Chair, let me express that Finland would like to express its sincerest gratitude and appreciation for the support and encouragement delegations have conveyed for the International Year of Plant Health.

We will draw reassurance from the support which will serve us to intensify our efforts to contribute to the promotion of the final adoption of the proposal of the United Nations General Assembly. I would also like to thank the donors who have already provided considerable resources to support the proclamation process.

CHAIRPERSON (Original language Arabic)

Before I go to my summary conclusions, I will give the floor to Mr Wang to give his comments on the interventions raised by the delegates.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Actually there is only a simple word to say. That is our gratitude. I am really impressed and touched by the unanimous support from the Member Countries who spoke for the support of this proposal.

As you already heard, the Secretariat of the IPPC together with our regional offices and other relevant departments and units in FAO have already started working actively in preparing for IYPH.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I will read my summary conclusions: The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 155th Session for the Declaration of an International Year of Plant Health in 2020 and adopted the resolution set out in document C 2017/LIM/10.

Can we accept this conclusion? It is accepted.

Continues in Arabic

We managed to discuss the last item of our morning session. We shall break out right now for the lunch break and allow me to report to you that due to a forced measure, I need to go back to my country this afternoon and I would ask my colleague François Pythoud, the Vice-Chairperson, to replace me in order to continue the discussion of the remaining items for the day.

Allow me on this occasion to thank you all for your cooperation without any exception during the last three days. Thank you for your understanding.

I would like to thank the Secretariat and all those who helped me to manage this meeting. I would like to thank the interpreters and I wish you all success in your upcoming discussions relating to Commission I or with respect to the Conference in general.

The Commission I meeting will resume at 14.30 this afternoon. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.33

La séance a été levée à 12:33

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.33

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session Quarantième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-8 July 2017 Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017 Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
FIFTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I CINQUIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I QUINTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
5 July 2017

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours
Mr François Pythoud,
Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de M. François Pythoud,
Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 14.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. François Pythoud,
Vice Presidente de la Comisión I

Item 18. International Years and Days
Point 18. Années et journées internationales
Tema 18. Años y días internacionales

Item 18.6 Proposal for a World Bee Day
Point 18.6 Proposition relative à une Journée mondiale des abeilles
Tema 18.6 Propuesta relativa a un Día Mundial de las Abejas
 (C 2017/LIM/11)

CHAIRPERSON

I am pleased to open the fourth meeting of Commission I. As you know we are late on our agenda. Tonight was the only evening I was free so I still want to keep my evening free. I hope we will be able to finish this afternoon. I really urge you to keep your statements really to the essence and to be as short as possible in order for us to go through the whole Agenda.

I have also been informed by the Secretariat that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place one hour after the close of this session in the Mexico Room, so for those of you who are members of the Drafting Committee, another incentive to finish our work as soon as possible.

We will now continue with the sub-items under the item 18, *International Years and Days*. In order to accommodate the presence of speakers in the room and the Secretariat at the podium, we will take the items in the following order.

We will start with the sub-item 18.6 *Proposal for a World Bee Day* and then will follow by the sub-item 18.5, *Proposal for an International Year of Camelids*; 18.4, *International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture* and 18.7, *International Day for the Fight Against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*.

So let us move now to the sub-item 18.6, *Proposal for a World Bee Day*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/LIM/11 in front of you. I will now invite Mr Ren Wang, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department to introduce the item.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

The 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) reviewed the proposal by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to establish the observance by the United Nations System of a World Bee Day and endorsed a Draft Resolution, which was subsequently endorsed by the 155th Session of the FAO Council.

Bees with their laborious work ethic are amongst the hardest working creatures on the planet. However today bees including wild bees are declining in abundance. Pollinators provide an important ecosystem service of ensuring outcrossing and thus reproduction of many cultivated in the wild plants. A wide variety of fruits, vegetables, nuts, oil plants and many other sexually reproduced plants need pollinators.

Furthermore, it has been estimated that pollinators contribute to one-third of each bite we eat. In fact, well pollinated crops have been shown to taste better, have a higher nutrient value, better appearance and a longer shelf life. The total value of pollinators are being estimated at 1 per cent of world agriculture production use for human food and is worth over 230 billion dollars annually.

A World Bee Day in May is proposed as in the Northern Hemisphere this is the month in which the population of bees grows the most, while in the Southern Hemisphere it is the time for harvesting bee products and the best time for honey production.

This is an opportunity to raise awareness on the important role bees and other pollinators play in ensuring our food and nutritional security by calling attention to the threats bees and other pollinators face due to climate change, land use change, intensive agriculture, pesticide use and environmental pollution.

World Bee Day is expected to engage a large number of different stakeholders all joining forces to promote measures to reverse the lost trends and secure the benefits of pollinators for future

generations. The actions should concentrate on how to integrate pollinator conservation into farm practices and the ecosystem management promoting a transition to pollinator friendly agriculture.

I therefore take the honour to invite the Conference to approve the Draft Resolution and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations at its next session declaring 20 May of each year as World Bee Day.

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

Brazil fully supports the proposal for the observance of the World Bee Day as presented by Slovenia and the European group.

A thematic assessment on pollinators, pollination on food production by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which is as you know is co-hosted by FAO shows that the world is experiencing a war in disappearance trend of bee colonies and other pollinators due to a combination of factors such as the use of pesticides, habitat loss, pathogens and parasites, besides the climate change.

In Brazil there are about 1700 species of bees including many that can act as pollinators in nine out of ten native flora and more than six out of ten of our agriculture crops. Therefore, we are very concerned about the accelerated loss of colonies both native species and the European bee, which is the most commonly used pollination species for cultivated plants.

Research in Brazil indicated that the high rate of bee mortality was not necessarily associated with pathogens or parasites but its causes are not completely known yet. Taking into account the prominent role of Brazil in the promotion of food security worldwide, the bee disappearance trend in our territory can become an issue of major concern.

Bees and other pollinators have direct responsibility in increasing agriculture productivity and food security and also contribute to the livelihood of family farmers worldwide. To reverse this worrying trend of their disappearance, it is necessary to deepen the knowledge about biotic and abiotic threats to bee and other pollinator's health.

There is an urgency to create systematic survey programs for agriculture health associated with assessments of the impacts of fragmentation of habitats and agriculture practice, especially the use of pesticides on bee communities. Cooperation is needed to save our bees and other important pollinators.

Finally, Brazil believes that a World Bee Day can contribute to raise awareness and foster research and cooperation on this highly important matter. Therefore, our delegation endorses the proposal in its entirety.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

The European Union and its 28 Member States welcome and strongly support the proposal made by Slovenia for the observance of a World Bee Day to be celebrated every year on 20 May.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate and welcome also the strong support expressed by the FAO Membership during the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the 155th Session of the Council. Through their pollination services, bees and other pollinators contribute significantly to sustainable agriculture and food security as well as biodiversity and healthy environment. Through their activities they contribute also to balanced diets and human health and better incomes and especially smallholder family farmers.

From the previous discussions held during the FAO Governing Body sessions, it is evident that we are all very concerned about the amounting evidence of the decline in populations of pollinators as reflected in last year's IPBES Report, which is mainly caused by human activities and that we all share

the view that pollinators are an essential actor in the fight against hunger and for the future of sustainable agriculture and food production.

We welcome the coalition on the viewing of the pollinators launched by the Netherlands at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Cancun in December 2016 and encouraged all participants to join the coalition.

We believe that the observance of a day dedicated to bees and other pollinators will raise awareness of their key roles for our sustainable future, and therefore we call upon the FAO Conference to approve and endorse the proposed Draft Resolution on the observance by the United Nations System of a World Bee Day.

Sr. Mariano LECHARDOY (Argentina)

Quería felicitar al Señor Wang por su discurso. Argentina apoya la posición del Comité y apoya el mensaje dado por Brasil y por Estonia. Quería comentar, en forma adicional a lo ya mencionado que las abejas no solamente contribuyen a la biodiversidad, sino también mejoran la productividad de los cultivos. Quería mencionar también que el Gobierno argentino, por una resolución del Ministerio de Agroindustria, ha instaurado la Semana Nacional de la Miel a partir del 20 de mayo, a la cuál este año asistieron más de cinco millones de personas a los distintos eventos que se crearon en ese marco.

Sr. Hesiquio BENITEZ DIAZ (México)

Nos sumamos a las intervenciones anteriores en apoyar la iniciativa para el Día Mundial de las Abejas en el 20 de mayo. También para México es un tema muy importante como uno de los grandes productores, no solamente de miel, sino tomar en cuenta en los servicios eco sistémicos como la polinización. Apoyamos la idea de un Día Mundial sobre Abejas, en el entendido que también apoya a otros polinizadores y no solamente a este grupo de organismos. Queremos resaltar la importancia de la evaluación global por parte de la IPBES, y nos gustaría invitar a que en este 20 de mayo también se utilice información de iniciativas a nivel regional y nacional.

Muchos investigadores en todo el mundo participaron en esta evaluación global y mucha de esta información no pudo subir a los resúmenes globales. Así es que esta información es una oportunidad para estas iniciativas.

Por último, nos sumamos al apoyo a esta coalición sobre polinizadores que fue creada durante la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Biodiversidad en Cancún, en diciembre pasado.

Ms Natalina Edward MOU (South Sudan)

South Sudan is pleased to deliver this statement on agenda item 18.6, *Proposal for a World Bee Day* (document C 2017/LIM/11) on behalf of the African Regional Group. We thank the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the proposal to establish a World Bee Day on 20 May each year.

African Group acknowledges the fact that bees are important in pollination of many species of plants. Honey bees are becoming indispensable in our agriculture economy. The role of bees and other pollinators to ecosystems for sustainable food production and nutrition is fundamental in promoting food security to end poverty and hunger eradication in Africa and worldwide.

In Africa bees are known to increase and improve the yield of avocados, coffee, cotton, sunflowers, mandarin, onion, papaya, beans, mango, bananas and many other cash crops. From ancient Africa to present, honey has been a sought after healing agent to treat a wide range of diseases. Honey contains vitamins, minerals, enzymes and sugars, all of which help in the healing of wounds. One of the most important attributes of rural honey in this context is that it possesses inherent antibacterial properties. This makes it particularly useful in treating burns, peptic ulcers and gastro-infections.

We also note the major importance of bees ecosystem health by safeguarding the state of biodiversity. Climate change possesses a significant threat to economic, social and environmental development in Africa as reflected in the fifth assessment Report of IPBES. This Report presented strong evidence that warming in Africa has increased significantly over the past 50 to 100 years with clear effects on health, livelihood and food security of the people in Africa.

In this regard, Africa recognizes the chances and opportunities that the observance of the World Bee Day international community will contribute in bringing wide awareness to farmers and stakeholders at all levels in protection of bees and other pollinators, enhancing their services is crucial for sustainable food security and combating climate change adaptation.

With these comments, the African Group welcomes and endorses the Draft Resolution on observance of the World Bee Day on 20 May of each year.

Mr Dejan ŽIDAN (Slovenia) (Original language Slovenian)

Slovenia would like to join the position of the European Union but allow me to add a few words to the common European Union position.

I am honoured to be here at the FAO Conference once again at this important moment when we are finalizing the discussion of the proposal for the observance of a World Bee Day at the level of the FAO. I am satisfied to see that the Slovenian proposal had such a great support from the COAG and the FAO Council. I am confident that the FAO Conference will endorse the proposal and the Draft Resolution.

Allow me to add two more facts. Over the past 50 years the production of food has doubled. Over the past 50 years the production of food depending on pollinators increased four-fold, so the forecast for the future shows the trend to be likely to continue and go on.

We have all listened to and have read the declarations by Jose Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO last Monday who said that a number of people suffering from famine on this planet is on the increase, every ninth person of this planet seems to be suffering from hunger. So in observing such a day and making a small contribution to raising the awareness, maybe we will do an important step in fighting famine in the world.

Once again I would like to thank you for all the support and I would like to wish you good and successful way forward.

CHAIRPERSON

I note a strong and generous response to the proposal of the World Bee Day but now I would like to give the floor to Ren Wang.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Thank you for your support and the endorsement already.

Now I would like to have one word of confirmation in response to the comment made by Mexico. That is whether or not the proposed Bee Day covers not only bees but all pollinators. Of course, the answer is *Yes*. I am very pleased to say that.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for this clarification. Now I would like to provide you with my conclusion on sub-item 18.6.

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 155th Session to declare the annual observance of World Bee Day on 20 May and adopted the resolution set out in C 2017/LIM/11.

Adopted.

Item 18.5 Proposal for an International Year of Camelids

Point 18.5 Proposition relative à la célébration d'une Année internationale des camélidés

Tema 18.5 Propuesta relativa a un Año Internacional de los Camélidos

(C 2017/LIM/16)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move now to the next item 18.5, *Proposal for an International Year of Camelids*. Please ensure that you have now in front of you the Document C 2017/LIM/16. I will now invite Mr Ren Wang to introduce the item.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

I would like to recognize my colleague Mr Berthe Tekola, Director of the Animal Production and Animal Health Division of FAO to join me to support me in making this introduction.

I actually have a few slides on the screen. While we wait I will just proceed and tell you what I was going to say and what I was going to show you.

The request made by the Plurinational State of Bolivia for the establishment of the International Year of Camelids as discussed at the 25th Session of COAG recognized the importance of Camelids for food security, poverty reduction and livelihood especially in arid lands. COAG at its 25th Session supported the principle of establishing an International Year of Camelids then it was also endorsed by the 155th Session of the Council.

The 156th Session of the Council examined the proposal and endorsed the Draft Resolution.

Camelids are the main means of subsistence for millions of farmers who live in the most hostile environments in about 90 countries around the world. Camelids are the main source of protein for indigenous communities in different regions of the world. They also provide fiber, organic fertilizer traction and transport and are indispensable really for nomadic pastoral livelihood.

South American Camelids, Lima, Alpaca, Bakuma and Guanico are unique species of indigenous mammals in the continent symbolizing an important element in the cultural identity of ancestral indigenous communities.

The aim of the International Year of Camelids is to educate the public and the governments on the importance of recognizing and valuing the economic and social importance of camelids in the lives of communities that are highly susceptible and vulnerable to extreme poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition.

So, what we would like to humbly request the Conference is to please consider and approve the Draft Resolution that you have with you and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations at its next Session declaring the year 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.

Sra. Guadalupe PALOMEQUE DE TABOADA (Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Realizo esta declaración en nombre del Gobierno del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia. Agradecemos a la Conferencia, el máximo Órgano Rector de la FAO, el someter a consideración y aprobación, la propuesta para un Año Internacional de los Camélidos. La propuesta cuenta, como se ha mencionado, con el endoso del 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, el que adoptó el proyecto de resolución del Año Internacional de los Camélidos. También el Comité de Agricultura, en su 25.º período de sesiones, en el septiembre de 2016, respaldó la propuesta de establecer un Año Internacional de los Camélidos.

Esta propuesta, que cuenta con el apoyo del Grupo de los 77 más China, se fundamenta en el hecho de que la cría de los camélidos es crucial para eliminar el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición de al menos 90 países de las regiones de los Andes, del Cercano Oriente, de África y de Asia. Esta propuesta tiene como objetivo reducir la pobreza rural mediante la implementación de sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios inclusivos y eficientes.

Estamos seguros de que con la declaración de un Año Internacional de los Camélidos se emprenderán acciones y programas que resultarán en el mejoramiento de los medios de vida de millones de familias, agricultores y comunidades. También, a nivel mundial, se dará a conocer los beneficios de la cría y los productos que se obtienen de esta especie. Los camélidos son una importante fuente de proteína, fibra, fertilizante agrícola y empleo para las comunidades indígenas y rurales. Los productos alimenticios que generan son altamente saludables y nutritivos. Los camélidos prestan una importante acción fertilizante y natural en los suelos, permitiendo obtener mayores rendimientos en las cosechas. Son especies muy resilientes al cambio climático y pueden ser valiosos aliados en la lucha contra la degradación ambiental, pues comparativamente aportan menos emisiones que las emisiones de carbono. El alto valor de las fibras de los camélidos permitirá además el empoderamiento de las

mujeres y jóvenes, en términos de su creciente participación laboral en materia pastoril, de hilados y tejidos.

La declaración del Año Internacional de los Camélidos brindará una plataforma inmejorable para la implementación del Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible, de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y de los objetivos estratégicos de la FAO. Esta propuesta responde esencialmente a seis de los 17 ODS. Me refiero al fin de la pobreza y el hambre cero, la igualdad de género, la producción de alimentos y consumo responsables, la acción por el clima y el ODS 15 relativo a la vida de los ecosistemas terrestres.

Este llamado de Bolivia a la Conferencia se sustenta en que los camélidos son especies que requieren hoy de acciones concretas de protección, porque algunas corren serio riesgo de extinción. Esta propuesta permitirá la conservación y el fomento de la cría de razas originarias o adaptadas localmente, particularmente aquellas que están amenazadas.

La propuesta que presentamos a la Conferencia está en la línea con el compromiso global de promover la conservación, la utilización sostenible, y donde sea necesario, la restauración de los ecosistemas. Conforme, la Declaración de Cancún en ocasión de la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Biodiversidad, que fue adoptada en 2016.

Según estudios de esta Organización, existen una diversidad de ecosistemas con gran cantidad de especies animales, alimento silvestre, plantas comestibles no tradicionales y subutilizadas, así como sistemas productivos y conocimiento ancestral e indígena para el mantenimiento y utilización de esa biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura.

Hago más las palabras del G77 más China en materias de recursos financieros para llevar adelante el Año Internacional. Esto quiere decir que se cumplirá con la política dispuesta por la FAO y con las contribuciones voluntarias se conformará un fondo fiduciario. Reitero también el compromiso del gobierno boliviano sobre la disponibilidad de recursos durante la implementación del plan maestro del Año Internacional de los Camélidos. Las modalidades de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular serán fundamentales para asegurar la participación de las múltiples partes interesadas.

En septiembre de 2015 en Nueva York aprobamos el documento *Transformar Nuestro Mundo, la Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible*, en el que manifestamos nuestra decisión para tomar las medidas audaces y transformativas que se necesitan urgentemente para reconducir al mundo por el camino de la sostenibilidad y la resiliencia, y prometimos que nadie se quedará atrás. En aras de esta alianza de colaboración, invito a los delegados de esta Conferencia a aprobar el proyecto de resolución y a pedir al Director General la transmita al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas para que la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas, en su próximo período de sesiones, declare el año 2024 como el Año Internacional de los Camélidos.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement as well as San Marino.

The EU and its 28 Member States take note of the proposal submitted by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations System to establish 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.

We agree that Camelids are an important resource for millions of families who live in some of the most hostile ecosystems on the planet. Their contribution to livelihoods, food security, and poverty reduction, especially for pastoral populations living in arid lands could hardly be overstated.

We would welcome more information on the expected objectives and concrete actions as well as on financing of activities from voluntary contributions in order to have a better basis for fully evaluating the merits of this proposal.

I would also like to draw attention to the UN ECOSOC criteria for the proclamation of international years as endorsed by the UN General Assembly and recalled in the FAO Policy on proclamation and implementation of International Years adopted by the FAO Conference in 2013.

In particular, the FAO Policy provides that International Years should address a priority concern to all or the majority of countries. There should be an interval of at least two years between two International Years and the Conference will not call for the proclamation of more than one International Year at a time.

In this respect, we recall that this session of the FAO Conference is already considering the proposal for the establishment of an International Year on Plant Health in 2020 and the proposal for the establishment of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022.

M. Abdennour GOUGAM (Algérie)

Tout d'abord, je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité des documents qui ont été présentés lors de cette 40^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO. Je remercie également Monsieur Ren Wang pour son exposé instructif.

L'Algérie prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique et accueille favorablement et soutient la proposition du Gouvernement de l'État plurinational de Bolivie relative à la célébration d'une Année internationale des camélidés en 2024, tout en soulignant la spécificité de l'espèce dromadaire vivant dans les déserts d'Afrique.

Aussi, nous reconnaissons l'importance de ces animaux au regard de la sécurité alimentaire, de la lutte contre la pauvreté et des moyens d'existence, en particulier dans les zones arides. Le dromadaire, ce vaisseau de désert, chanté par les poètes nomades, est un animal fort précieux et estimé à cause de sa polyvalence et de son aptitude à survivre, produire et se reproduire dans des conditions très rudes et contraignantes par rapport aux autres ruminants domestiques. Il représente pour son propriétaire à la fois une ressource alimentaire appréciable, un capital mobilisable en cas de besoin et une force de travail caractérisée par sa polyfonctionnalité, exploitée comme étant animal de bât, de selle et de trait.

Le dromadaire est le symbole de la survie de l'homme dans le Sahara. Son élevage a joué un rôle important dans la vie socio-économique des populations des zones arides et désertiques. Le dromadaire a un statut extrêmement ancré dans la société arabo-musulmane. Ce statut l'a conduit à travers l'histoire à occuper une place très importante au niveau de la religion et du commerce.

La sécurité alimentaire est devenue une préoccupation permanente et la base de toutes les stratégies de développement agricole mises en œuvre par tous les ministères de l'agriculture qui se sont succédés. À cet égard, l'Algérie recèle des ressources en espèces végétales et animales qui peuvent lui assurer un développement agricole d'une durabilité indéniable. Elle doit compter davantage sur la production nationale et adopter une stratégie économique ayant pour objectif clé la valorisation de ses propres potentialités agricoles. Toutes les conditions sont réunies dans le sud du pays pour la relance du secteur agricole.

L'agriculture saharienne n'est plus un mirage aujourd'hui, car certaines régions ont déjà donné des résultats surprenants grâce aux efforts consentis par l'État à travers les différents programmes de développement agricole et rural. Le sud s'impose aujourd'hui comme le nouvel Eldorado de l'agriculture algérienne. Cet intérêt s'explique par les extraordinaires ressources que recèle cette partie du pays en eau, espace et lumière.

C'est dans ce contexte que le programme de M. le Président de la République accorde une place privilégiée et des enveloppes budgétaires consistantes, allouées surtout au développement de l'agriculture et de l'élevage en zone saharienne.

C'est ainsi que ces dernières années, plusieurs décisions ont été prises par le Ministère de l'agriculture en faveur de la sauvegarde et le développement du dromadaire en Algérie.

Le Gouvernement algérien porte une attention particulière aux espaces sahariens, à travers un programme de renouveau rural visant à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations rurales par une urbanisation accélérée, une modernisation des villages par l'introduction d'éléments de

l'inéluctable modernité, la mécanisation, les télécommunications, une large diffusion des services publics de base, l'éducation et la santé, le renforcement des réseaux de communication, routiers notamment, l'extension des terrains et la mise en valeur des terres, la diversification des revenus par la création et le développement des activités économiques.

La célébration d'une Année internationale des camélidés permettrait de mettre en place une stratégie destinée à encourager et à promouvoir et mettre en œuvre des politiques communes en faveur de la conservation, de l'utilisation et du développement durables des camélidés en Afrique, en Asie, en Amérique et dans le monde d'une manière générale.

Par ailleurs, il est à noter qu'au niveau de la région du Sahel, le développement de l'élevage du dromadaire permettra d'occuper la frange des jeunes éleveurs nomades et de les soustraire du jeu des narcotrafiquants et des terroristes.

La prise de conscience du rôle important que jouent ces animaux face à des fléaux mondiaux, notamment la faim, la pauvreté et les menaces qui pèsent sur l'environnement, sont autant de facteurs qui suscitent des actions pratiques et réelles et une collaboration étroite dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud et triangulaire.

Le Groupe Afrique lance un appel à la FAO pour un appui conséquent à nos organisations régionales et aux gouvernements africains pour renforcer nos capacités techniques, notamment dans le domaine de la recherche scientifique et des études approfondies en la matière.

Enfin, nous réitérons notre soutien à la proposition de la Bolivie et demandons à la FAO qu'elle soit approuvée par la Conférence afin que l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU proclame l'année 2024 «Année internationale des camélidés».

Sr. Elías Rafael ELJURI ABRAHAM (Venezuela, República Bolivariana de)

Hago esta declaración en nombre del Grupo de los 77 y China, relativo al Año Internacional de los Camélidos. El 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (COAG) respaldó la propuesta de establecer un Año Internacional de los Camélidos y posteriormente el 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO hizo suyo el proyecto de resolución del Año Internacional de los Camélidos en 2024. Corresponde someter a la aprobación del 40.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la FAO esta propuesta. El fomento de la cría de los camélidos es básico para la seguridad alimentaria, la reducción de la pobreza y el mejoramiento de los medios de vida de millones de personas en 90 países, sobre todo para las poblaciones de bajos recursos y los pequeños productores que son actores sumamente involucrados en este tipo de ganadería.

Es innegable el conjunto de oportunidades y beneficios que se obtendrán con la declaración del Año Internacional de los Camélidos como contribución a la implementación del Agenda 2030 para el desarrollo sostenible, de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y de los objetivos estratégicos de la FAO, pues posibilitará una acción concertada en torno al mejor aprovechamiento de estas especies, garantizando que siguen cumpliendo una función clave en la agricultura y reforzando su rol en la consecución de la seguridad alimentaria.

De igual modo, dará paso a incrementar la cantidad y calidad de los productos y servicios que proporcionan, que son de máxima importancia para los medios de vida de las comunidades dependientes de ellos a tiempo de evitar la extinción de algunas de esas especies, además de desempeñar un papel clave contra los efectos del cambio climático, siendo esta especie una de las menos aportantes de las emisiones de carbono. Los camélidos coadyuvarán en su lucha contra la pobreza extrema para poner fin al hambre y lograr la seguridad alimentaria (ODS 1, ODS 2); garantizar una modalidad alternativa en la producción de alimentos y patrones de consumo sostenible, (ODS 12); promover el uso sostenible de los ecosistemas terrestres, luchar contra la desertificación y frenar la pérdida de la diversidad biológica (ODS 15); permitirá el empoderamiento de la mujer y los jóvenes por su alta participación laboral en el aprovechamiento de la fibra de los camélidos y en las labores pastoriles (ODS 5). Los camélidos pueden generar una actividad económica más obtenible y más respetuosa con el medio ambiente (ODS 13). Los camélidos son parte de la biodiversidad no tradicional y subutilizada, así como de sistemas productivos con conocimiento ancestral e indígena que mantienen y utilizan la biodiversidad para la alimentación y agricultura.

Por ello, el Año Internacional de los Camélidos permitirá establecer una plataforma para desarrollar todo el potencial que esta especie ofrece, dado que vivir bien en armonía con la naturaleza, reconocida por algunas culturas como la madre tierra, es esencial como una condición fundamental para el bienestar de todas las formas de vida, ya que de esta depende la conservación y la utilización sostenible de la biodiversidad, así como de los servicios de los ecosistemas que sustenta. Tal como figura en el primer párrafo de la Declaración de Cancún sobre la integración de la conservación y la utilización sostenible de la biodiversidad para el bienestar en ocasión de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Biodiversidad en México en 2016.

En cuanto a la financiación de este Año Internacional, será a continuidad con la política dispuesta por la FAO con el establecimiento de un fondo fiduciario y contribuciones voluntarias en las que el Gobierno de Bolivia se compromete a aportar recursos que garanticen exitosamente la elaboración del plan maestro del Año Internacional de los Camélidos, así como velar que estos recursos estén disponibles durante la implementación, asumiendo la responsabilidad en la búsqueda de recursos de otra fuente. Serán impulsadas las modalidades de cooperación internacional, incluyendo Sur-Sur y triangular, para garantizar la participación de las múltiples partes interesadas y asegurar así que el Año Internacional de los Camélidos logre sus objetivos y los beneficios de él, especialmente para los sectores poblacionales a fines con la cría y el desarrollo de los camélidos.

Teniendo en cuenta el llamado de la Agenda 2030 de que nadie sea dejado atrás, solicitamos a los Miembros de la Conferencia aprobar el proyecto de resolución y pedir al Director General la transmita al Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas, a los fines de que la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en su próximo período de sesiones considere la posibilidad de declarar el año 2024 Año Internacional de los Camélidos.

Mr Asmerom KIDANE (Eritrea)

I would like to thank the initiators, Dr Ren Wang and Dr Berthe Tekola.

A camel is the most important domestic animal in arid areas with long, dry, hot periods. The image of the camel is a symbol of human survival in hot areas, particularly in desert areas. Geographically, camels are distributed throughout tropical and subtropical lengths of the world and to that extent, in Eritrea it is a very important domestic animal and it is used for the purposes essential to attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As the role, it is used as a beast of burden for transporting groups and people as well as providing milk and meat. Wool and leather are also widely utilized. Therefore, camel is the most important domestic animal and the State of Eritrea fully endorses and supports the proposal for an International Year of Camelids in 2024.

With this opportunity, I would like also to highlight that fortunately the symbol of the State of Eritrea is the image of a camel.

Last but not least, I hope it will be fully endorsed in the end. And in the future, FAO is welcome to conduct any Camel International Day in the State of Eritrea.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We support the Draft Resolution on the Declaration of 2024 as the International Year of Camelids proposed by Bolivia. We note the significance or the importance of camelids in various areas of agriculture, guaranteeing agriculture production in approximately ninety countries.

In Russia in our Southern regions, we have a traditional breeding of a special type of camelids, including a very highly valued species. This industry of livestock breeding provides for a whole series of production items, for example, milk with lots of anti-tuberculosis qualities, wool, and also leather. And it is a very highly valued raw material for textile industries as well.

We expect that with the proclamation of this year, this will give a special push to the production in this industry.

We did not take the floor on the previous item on the Agenda but I would like to take this opportunity to confirm our full support for Slovenia's proposal to declare an International Day – a World Bee Day.

Sr. José Manuel HERNÁNDEZ (Perú)

Luego de hacer nuestra la declaración de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en nombre del G77 y China, queremos expresar nuestro apoyo al endoso de los miembros al Año Internacional de los Camélidos en el 2024. A través de ese endoso, la relevancia social, económica, ambiental y cultural de los camélidos domésticos y silvestres sería reconocida.

En el caso peruano, contamos con cuatro de las siete especies genéricas de camélidos: llamas, alpacas, vicuñas y guanacos. Estos viven a una altura de 3.700 a 5.200 metros sobre el nivel del mar, donde solo la producción de camélidos domésticos y el uso sostenible de vicuñas y guanacos son posibles, ya que las condiciones climáticas resultan adversas para otras especies animales. Los camélidos son entonces un recurso estratégico para la alimentación, el transporte, el tratamiento de ciertas enfermedades, la economía y el desarrollo de las comunidades alto andinas.

Sin embargo, no solo estas comunidades son las que se benefician de ellos, que no el mundo entero. Por ejemplo, gracias a la alta calidad de la fibra de estos camélidos, esta es utilizada por la industria textil de la alta moda internacional, además de ser un recurso estratégico de desarrollo local. Nuestro país es el principal productor mundial de fibra de alpaca y sus productos derivados, pero la cadena de valor de los camélidos alcanza a aproximadamente 15 millones de personas, que interactúan de manera directa e indirecta en ella. El serio riesgo de extinción de algunas especies hace que la protección y conservación de los camélidos resulte esencial.

El variado y significativo uso de los camélidos contribuye al logro de varios de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de la Agenda 2030. En particular, el 1, 2, 5 y 15, pero también el objetivo 3 de salud y bienestar; el objetivo 7, energía asequible y no contaminante; el objetivo 8, trabajo decente y crecimiento económico; y a través de ese crecimiento de manera indirecta también contribuyen a alcanzar el objetivo 4, referido a la educación de calidad.

Confiamos que este Año Internacional sirva para dar un paso más en su consecución.

Sr. Juan Fernando HOLGUIN FLORES (Ecuador)

Brevemente quisiera mencionar que los camélidos son, como lo presentó la Secretaría al inicio, muy importantes para nuestros pueblos andinos, por ello se requiere acciones concretas de protección de ellos y del ecosistema en el cual ellos se desarrollan. Por ello Ecuador apoya este proyecto de resolución, a fin de que sea presentado a la Conferencia de la FAO y posteriormente a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas.

Quisiera hacer nada más que un pequeño comentario a la intervención hecha por Estonia a nombre de la Unión Europea y los países asociados, respecto a que se hagan Años Internacionales cada dos años. Esa es una contradicción porque no serían "Años" Internacionales, serían bianuales internacionales. Y esta no es, realmente, la circunstancia. Existen problemas muy serios, temas muy profundos que deben ser abordados, y justamente al declarar un Año Internacional es el espacio para disertar y tratar estos temas.

Por ello, al hacerlo cada dos años, realmente estaríamos malgastando un tiempo que es muy útil para tratar, discutir y profundizar temas que son agudos y que requieren que en la agenda internacional sean tratados con la profundidad y con la necesidad que requieren estos. Por ello, Ecuador no concuerda plenamente con esta intervención y con esta propuesta hecha por Estonia en nombre de la Unión Europea.

CHAIRPERSON

No comments from the Secretariat at this stage. So my conclusion on item 18.5 is as follows.

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 156th Session for the Declaration of an International Year of Camelids in 2024 and adopted the Resolution set out in C 2017/LIM/16.

The International Year is adopted. Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Item 18.9 Proposal for a World Food Safety Day

Point 18.9 Proposition relative à la célébration d'une Journée internationale de la sécurité sanitaire des aliments

Tema 18.9 Propuesta relativa a la celebración de un Día Mundial de la Inocuidad de los Alimentos

(C 2017/LIM/22 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

So let us move to the item 18.9, *Proposal for World Food Safety Day*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/LIM/22 Rev.1 in front of you. I now again invite the Assistant Director-General, Mr Ren Wang to introduce the item.

Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

It is my pleasure to introduce the concept and the genesis of this proposal, as well as what we would like to achieve by observing a World Food Safety Day.

In December 2015, after a decade of work, the World Health Organization (WHO) published the estimates of the global burden of foodborne diseases: the most comprehensive report to-date on the impact of contaminated food on health and well-being.

Key findings were that almost one in ten people fall ill every year from eating contaminated food and 420 000 die as a result. Children under five years of age are at a particular high risk with 125 000 children dying of foodborne diseases every year. Africa and the Southeast Asia regions have the highest burden of food borne diseases.

Until then, estimates of food borne diseases were vague and imprecise, concealing the true human costs of contaminated food. Knowing which foodborne pathogens are causing the biggest problems in which parts of the world can generate targeting action by the public, Governments and the food industry.

At the symposium, *The Global Burden of Foodborne Diseases: from Data to Action* held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 15 to 16 December 2015, the CODEX Alimentarius Chairperson, Ms Awilo Ochieng Pernet called for the creation of a World Food Safety Day in order to raise awareness about the importance of food safety among all relevant stakeholders worldwide.

Following her call, several countries including Costa Rica, which made the present proposal to this Conference, supported this call. The joint FAO-WHO CODEX Alimentarius Commission at its 39th Session in Rome in 2016 welcomed and supported the proposal for the establishment of a World Food Safety Day on a permanent basis, which is, I quote: "*FAO is one of the lead agencies in the United Nations System dealing with food safety. FAO has a global programme on food safety capacity building and is the host of scientific bodies providing advice to the joint FAO-WHO CODEX Alimentarius Commission whose Secretariat is also hosted in FAO. Together, FAO and WHO cover the complete spectrum of food safety and quality.*"

Now I see my colleague, the Secretary of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission, Mr Tom Heilandt walked up to the podium to join me and to support me. Now food safety is a shared responsibility and a global threat posed by foodborne diseases and reinforces the need for governments, the food industry and individuals to do more to make food safe and prevent foodborne diseases. There remains a significant need for education and training on prevention of foodborne diseases among food producers, suppliers, handlers and the public.

There is currently no home for raising awareness for food safety in the international agenda. The World Food Safety Day is therefore proposed to become such a home so that more initiatives are taken to make sure people understand that food safety is still the issue that all of us need to work on constantly to make sure that everyone has safe, good food all the time.

Based on FAO Legal Counsel's advice, the proposal from the CODEX Alimentarius Commission may be submitted directly to the Conference. I would therefore invite this Conference to approve the Draft Resolution and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to have the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next Session declaring 7 June of each year as World Food Safety Day.

Sr. Luis Geronimo REYES VERDE (Venezuela)

Realizo esta intervención en nombre de los países del Grupo de los 77 y China. En el documento de la FAO y la Organización Mundial de la Salud llamado "Directrices de la FAO para el Fortalecimiento de los Sistemas Nacionales de Control de los Alimentos" que data del 2003, se indica que el término "inocuidad de los alimentos" hace referencia a todos los riesgos, sean crónicos o agudos, que puedan hacer que los alimentos sean nocivos para la salud del consumidor a causa de la presencia de contaminantes físicos como metales o piedras; microbiológicos, tales como bacterias, virus y parásitos o sustancias químicas nocivas.

Todos los seres humanos tienen derecho a que los alimentos que consumen sean inocuos. Es decir que no les causen daño a la salud cuando son ingeridos. Los efectos económicos que se derivan del consumo de alimentos contaminados alcanzan enormes proporciones si se tiene en cuenta el valor de los cultivos y productos de origen animal deteriorados o destruidos como consecuencia de la contaminación, los costos médicos y la pérdida de productividad o de ingreso como resultado de la morbilidad, invalidez o muerte prematura, además del sobrecargo de los sistemas de salud pública. Todo ello en detrimento de los sistemas nutricionales, la seguridad alimentaria y el intercambio adecuado de alimentos.

La Comisión del Codex Alimentarius es un organismo intergubernamental que coordina las normas alimentarias en el plano internacional, cuyo principal objetivo es el de proteger la salud de los consumidores. En razón de esta circunstancia, y como mecanismo para visibilizar la labor del Codex Alimentarius y promover la importancia de la inocuidad alimentaria, surgió la propuesta de Costa Rica para establecer un Día Mundial de la Inocuidad Alimentaria. La iniciativa fue aprobada unánimemente por el 39º. periodo de sesiones de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius, realizada en este mismo recinto en 2016. Es por ello que los países del Grupo de los 77 y China, consiente a la relevancia que reviste la calidad de los alimentos en el logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y la meta de Hambre Cero de la Agenda de desarrollo 2030, apoya la promulgación del Día Mundial de la Inocuidad Alimentaria y solicita su endoso por parte de esta Conferencia.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

Australia would like to support in principle the proposal by the Government of Costa Rica of an observance of the World Food Safety Day.

We note that the proposed day recognizes elements of food safety that resonate with Australia, such as the positive impact that it has on trade, employment and poverty alleviation. We also appreciate that the work of the CODEX Alimentarius is being recognized for its role on setting international food standards to protect health and to ensure fair practices in trade.

Australia therefore supports the Draft Resolution.

Sr. Nazareno C. MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Realizo esta intervención en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Los alimentos insalubres están relacionados con la muerte de alrededor de dos millones de personas al año, en su mayoría niños. Los alimentos que contienen bacterias, virus, parásitos o sustancias químicas nocivas son causantes de más de 200 enfermedades. El Informe sobre estimación de la carga mundial de las enfermedades de transmisión alimentaria, publicado en 2015 por la Organización Mundial de la Salud, evidencia que cada año hasta 600 millones de personas en todo el mundo se enferman tras consumir alimentos contaminados y 420 mil fallecen por la misma causa.

Como lo había mencionado el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, de las más de 800 millones de personas que padecen hambre y malnutrición en el mundo, la mayor parte consume alimentos que a menudo están contaminados o adulterados, reducido así su calidad nutricional y perjudicando

gravemente su economía doméstica. La globalización del suministro de alimentos y el aumento de la complejidad de la cadena alimentaria han originado un incremento de la preocupación pública acerca de la inocuidad alimentaria. Las repercusiones de los alimentos contaminados en la salud humana y en el bienestar económico de la industria agroalimentaria hace necesario realizar la importancia de la inocuidad alimentaria.

En la 39.º Conferencia de la FAO en 2015, el Informe del Comité de Agricultura y su llamado a que la FAO desempeñe un papel más destacado en los programas de facilitación del comercio, en estrecha colaboración con los asociados pertinentes como medio importante a fin de apoyar la aplicación de estrategias de la FAO para mejorar la inocuidad de los alimentos a escala mundial.

La promulgación de un Día Mundial de la Inocuidad Alimentaria busca que la comunidad internacional tome conciencia de la importancia de ejercer los controles necesarios para evitar la contaminación de los alimentos. Todas las personas tienen derecho a consumir alimentos inocuos. Es decir, que no causen daño a la salud cuando son ingeridos. Dando seguimiento al reporte del 39.º período de sesiones de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius realizado en 2016, en donde por unanimidad los Estados presentes decidieron impulsar la proclamación de un Día Mundial de la Inocuidad de los Alimentos con carácter permanente en el marco de las Naciones Unidas, el GRULAC endosa esta iniciativa e insta a los demás Grupos Regionales a brindar su apoyo.

Sra. Ivannia QUESADA VILLALOBOS (Costa Rica)

Tomando en cuenta que en la actualidad se han identificado más de 200 enfermedades transmitidas por alimentos generadas por 31 agentes contaminantes, y que estas enfermedades son una causa importante de morbilidad y mortalidad y que representan uno de los mayores peligros para la salud a nivel mundial y un impedimento para el desarrollo socioeconómico, los países y organizaciones internacionales están haciendo esfuerzos para crear y fortalecer las capacidades de inocuidad de los alimentos. La incidencia de la contaminación de los alimentos y las enfermedades transmitidas por ellas tienen importantes efectos, que van más allá de las consecuencias directas sobre la salud pública. Impactan negativamente en la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, y permea el desarrollo económico de los países. Los avances científicos han permitido conocer mejor las características nutricionales de los alimentos y sus efectos en la salud. Los consumidores esperan que los alimentos, tanto del país como importados, respondan a las normas básicas de calidad e inocuidad, y cumplan con los requisitos relativos a higiene alimentaria, etiquetado, certificación y empleo de aditivos alimentarios.

En un mundo tan diverso, con diferentes sistemas jurídicos, políticos y administrativos y que reconoce la importancia de participar activa y eficazmente en la elaboración de normas alimentarios mundiales, los Estados Miembros del Codex Alimentarius reunidos en la 39.º sesión de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius en esta sede en el 2016 apoyaron la propuesta de Costa Rica para proclamar un Día Mundial de la Inocuidad de los Alimentos con carácter permanente en el marco de las Naciones Unidas. En seguimiento además del mandato emanado en la 39.º Conferencia de la FAO, en la cual aceptaron las recomendaciones del Comité de Agricultura sobre la relevancia de mejorar la inocuidad de los alimentos a escala mundial, Costa Rica solicita el apoyo de esta Conferencia para endosar la proclamación del Día Mundial de la Inocuidad y agradece el apoyo brindado por el Grupo de los 77 y China, el Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC) y los demás estados que han hecho explícitos su apoyo a esta nueva, noble e importante iniciativa.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

I believe we can all agree that food safety is an important issue which merits our serious attention as it directly affects public health, the economy and even national security, in our view. Governments have an obligation of not only guaranteeing the distribution of food in quantity but also guarantee its safe consumption by people. Food safety is crucial and considered mandatory for quality food and good nutrition.

At the national level, Indonesia has certified National Legislation number 18 of the year 2012 on food which, among other things, ensures the safety of consumable foods. Indonesia's food law puts high attention on the issues of food safety to achieve food security through the development of national food systems to guarantee access to food, which is free from biological and chemical contaminants.

All of us here in this room share this responsibility of ensuring the safety of food consumed by our children. My delegation therefore is of the opinion that efforts to improve food safety need to be undertaken by all of us through concerted efforts.

My delegation therefore supports the proposal put forth by Costa Rica at the 74th World Health Assembly in May this year as we believe it will help raise public awareness on the importance of food safety and should also increase the national cooperation on this important issue.

Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

New Zealand welcomes and supports this initiative and proposal to establish a World Food Safety Day.

As has been noted in the resolution there can indeed be no food security without food safety. We believe that raising the profile and the significance of food safety to achieving the broader goals are very important. I should add that the establishment of a World Food Safety Day recognizes the need for continuing action and requires sustained effort, both at national and international levels.

FAO and WHO already through the establishment, through the work of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission, are providing a level of support to the development of international food standards and promoting food safety outcomes, but more action is clearly needed at the national level to raise consumer awareness and also lift the profile and significance of food safety at regulatory levels and get high level support for action. In many countries, foodborne illnesses are a major issue and as has been noted, reducing food losses and wastage is also important.

So for all of these reasons we support this proposed initiative and welcome it.

Sr. José Manuel HERNÁNDEZ (Perú)

Nuestra Delegación endosa la declaración efectuada por el G77 y China, así como por el GRULAC.

En esta ocasión queremos expresar nuestro apoyo al endoso que podían dar los Miembros de esta Conferencia a la resolución correspondiente, para que se declare un Día Mundial de la Inocuidad Alimentaria. Sobre las razones sustantivas, creemos que la relevancia del tema es muy reconocida por todos, y se describe claramente en el proyecto de resolución. No basta solo con alimentarse, sino que estos alimentos deben ser inocuos para la salud. La inocuidad alimentaria es una condición para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria, y esta es una preocupación central en la política gubernamental de mi país.

Sobre las cuestiones procedimentales, se ha cumplido con las formalidades necesarias, puesto que al venir el acuerdo de declarar este Día Mundial del 39.º periodo de sesiones de la Comisión del Codex Alimentarius y al reportar el Codex directamente a la Conferencia y no al Consejo, el procedimiento que se está siguiendo hoy de presentar a la Conferencia el proyecto de resolución, para consideración de todos los Miembros, es el adecuado.

Ms Sadia Elmubarak Ahmed DAAK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

Food safety is a pivotal issue when it comes to public health across all countries. We have many contaminants and pollutants across the value chain and they have negative consequences. This is the results of poor control and the multiple regulations that are not efficient unfortunately when it comes to food safety.

Sudan supports strongly the Draft Resolution proposed by Costa Rica in order to adopt such systems based on risk management and assessment and based on scientific evidence in order to ensure we are safe.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

This will be a statement on behalf of European Union and its 28 Member States. The European Union and its Member States attach great importance to the work that is jointly carried out by FAO and WHO in the framework of the CODEX Alimentarius.

The international food safety standards established by the CODEX Alimentarius Commission are of critical importance for protecting consumer health across continents and for promoting fair practices in global food trade. In this regard, we recall our concern that sufficient resources are allocated to ensure adequate support for the scientific advice in support of the CODEX work.

Safe food is key to ensuring food security in particular for children and people in vulnerable situations. We agree that more needs to be done to raise awareness of food safety and to promote actions aimed at enhancing technical capacity. In this regard, the European Union has been very active worldwide, in particular through the special trading programme called Better Training for Safer Food.

It is regrettable that this proposal was tabled so late. In fact this item was not included in the Agenda of the Conference as approved on Monday. Nevertheless, we consider this proposal which we endorsed in the CODEX Alimentarius Commission an excellent initiative to raise awareness on the importance of ensuring food safety worldwide and to encourage enhanced action at all levels. We therefore wish to express our support to this proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusion on item 18.9 is the following:

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the CODEX Alimentarius Commission at its 39th Session to declare the annual observance of World Food Safety Day on the 7th of June and adopted the resolution set out in C 2017/LIM/22 Rev.1.

This point is adopted.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 18.4 Proposal for an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022

Point 18.4 Proposition relative à la célébration d'une année internationale de la pêche et de l'aquaculture artisanales – 2022

Tema 18.4 Propuesta relativa a un Año Internacional de la Pesca y Acuicultura Artesanales en 2022

(C 2017/LIM/13)

CHAIRPERSON

The next one is item 18.4, *Proposal for an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/LIM/13 in front of you.

I will now give the floor to the Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Mr Arni Mathiesen, to introduce the item.

Mr Arni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

It is almost needless to say that artisanal small-scale fisheries and aquaculture play a very important role for food security and livelihoods. It is estimated 14 million people are directly employed in marine artisanal small-scale catch fisheries. An additional 38 million people are involved in post-harvest activities, mostly women.

Forty-five percent of global fish production is estimated to originate from artisanal small-scale fisheries. Over 90 percent of all artisanal small-scale fisheries landings are destined for direct human consumption. An estimated 19 million people are directly involved in aquaculture; the majority of it artisanal small-scale supporting the livelihoods of many more engaged as processors, traders, and service providers.

Despite their importance, artisanal small-scale fisheries and aquaculture are facing threats and challenges. The development of a global fisheries sector over the past few decades has in many cases led to over-exploitation of resources and threats to the habitats and ecosystems. Customary practices for the allocation and sharing of resource benefits in artisanal small-scale fisheries have been changed

as a result of non-participatory and often centralized fisheries management systems, rapid technology development, and demographic changes.

Artisanal small-scale fishing and aquaculture communities generally live in remote areas with highly limited access to other income-generating activities. Their further marginalization does not allow the sector to make its full contribution to the role of food security and poverty eradication nor contributing to the wellbeing of these communities.

To address these concerns, a Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) first proposed the establishment of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture to the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries in July 2016. The Committee endorsed the proposal for the declaration of the YAFA, taking into account the existing FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of International Years and acknowledging that this proposal needed to be further considered by all relevant FAO Governing Bodies.

It also noted the proposal for the YAFA was an opportunity to further consolidate efforts to improve artisanal small-scale fisheries in the context of the discussions on the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Secure and Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

The 155th Session of the FAO Council in December 2016 then endorsed the Draft Resolution *International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022*, which is now in the Annex of the document C 2017/LIM/13 in front of you to be submitted to the current session of the FAO Conference for adoption.

The detailed planning of global and regional actions and activities for the YAFA will only necessarily start after its adoption; however, preliminary programme considerations are available in the document, such as awareness-raising through the development of knowledge products and outreach activities at all levels, strengthening the Science Policy Interface by sharing of knowledge, including traditional and local knowledge, and supporting policy reform, empowering stakeholders through capacity development and institutional strengthening, partnership development, and progress monitoring. A number of unofficial consultations were also conducted with the potential partners as well.

This concludes my presentation. The Conference may wish to adopt the Draft Resolution in Annex C 2017/LIM/13 and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next session declaring the year 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Ms Shin Hee CHO (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea takes the floor on behalf of the Asia Group. We would like to endorse the Draft Resolution of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture. The importance of this subject is huge and the attention of the international community for one full year on artisanal small-scale fisheries could have a very positive social, economic, and nutritional impact.

We believe that the celebration of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture will also contribute to raising awareness of the need for sustainable use of valuable fishery resources. The Asia Group trusts that the International Year will certainly support the fulfillment of barriers to SDGs and the implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Sr. Nazareno C. MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Hago esta declaración en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). Nuestro grupo regional endosa el proyecto de resolución para la declaración del año 2022 como al Año Internacional para la Pesca Artesanal y la Acuicultura. Asimismo, para el GRULAC sería muy grato que el proyecto mencionado sea endosado por esta Conferencia y que con esto se concluyan los pasos formales que la resolución debe seguir en Roma. La pesca artesanal y la acuicultura tienen relevancia global, tanto para países productores como consumidores. La importancia es económica y social, cuando vemos que aproximadamente 105 millones de personas del mundo en desarrollo trabajan en este sector y su sustento depende de esa actividad. 47 por ciento de ellos son mujeres y 73 por ciento trabajan en Asia. Sin embargo, las comunidades dedicadas a las labores relacionadas con la pesca artesanal se

encuentran entre las más pobres y marginadas del mundo, y al menos seis millones de pescadores ganan menos de un dólar por día. Adicionalmente, la mitad del total de las capturas en países en desarrollo provienen de la pesca artesanal, y entre el 90 y 95 por ciento de esas capturas se dirigen al consumo humano. La importancia de la pesca artesanal se refuerza entonces por su aporte nutricional y a la seguridad alimentaria.

Confiamos que este Año Internacional contribuya a alcanzar una mejor comprensión sobre la realidad de la pesca artesanal y la acuicultura, incluyendo la recopilación de datos, que es muy escasa y dispersa a la actualidad; incrementar la contribución de los productos pesqueros en la mejora de la nutrición y la implementación de dietas saludables, teniendo en cuenta que nos encontramos en el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición hasta el año 2025; trabajar en la sostenibilidad del recurso pesquero; utilizar el potencial de la acuicultura para satisfacer la creciente demanda de productos del mar, sin incrementar la presión de los recursos derivados de la pesca; contribuir a la implementación de las directrices voluntarias para lograr la sostenibilidad de la pesca de pequeña escala en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la erradicación de la pobreza, entre varias otras actividades que tienen un gran potencial para contribuir a mejorar los niveles de vida de nuestras poblaciones y alcanzar diversos Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible en 2030.

Mme Maria Esperança PIRES DOS SANTOS (Angola)

La délégation de l'Angola s'exprime au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur ce point de l'ordre du jour.

Nous souhaitons saisir cette occasion pour exprimer nos remerciements au Secrétariat pour la qualité de ses documents. S'agissant de la pêche dont dépend la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle de centaines de millions de personnes de par le monde, et particulièrement en Afrique, le Groupe a pris note de la proposition relative à la célébration d'une Année internationale de la pêche et de l'agriculture artisanale en 2022, qui a été annoncée lors de la 32^{ème} session du Comité des pêches, tenue du 11 au 15 juillet 2016.

Nous rappelons que la pêche et l'agriculture sont des activités humaines qui contribuent grandement à la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, à la réduction de la pauvreté et au développement rural. Conscient de l'importance que revêt la conservation et l'utilisation à long terme des écosystèmes aquatiques de toute la planète et de leurs ressources, le Groupe Afrique reconnaît que la pêche extractive et l'agriculture artisanale jouent un rôle important dans l'élimination de la faim, de l'insécurité alimentaire, de la malnutrition et dans utilisation durable des ressources halieutiques et que celles-ci contribuent ainsi à l'accomplissement des premier, deuxième et quatorzième Objectifs de développement durable.

La pêche artisanale, dans le contexte africain, est non seulement une activité de subsistance et économique mais elle intègre également les aspects socio-culturels qui sont transmis de génération en génération.

Les femmes jouent un rôle important dans l'activité de pêche artisanale, en particulier dans les domaines de la transformation et de la commercialisation du poisson. Ce rôle a grandement contribué à leur autonomisation.

Enfin, le Groupe Afrique souhaite que la Conférence approuve cette résolution.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement, as well as San Marino.

Artisanal fisheries, including small-scale coastal fishing, on foot, and inland fisheries, can contribute to poverty reduction, food security, employment, et cetera, when conducted sustainably as underscored in the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The promotion of sustainable artisanal fisheries remains a high priority for the EU as well as for its Member States given the prominent role of governments in securing sustainable small-scale fisheries.

For years the EU has dedicated significant resources to the support of the sustainability of the artisanal fisheries sectors in the EU, in particular to improve training, hygiene, health, safety, and working conditions for fishers, to promote the conservation of fishery resources and the protection of marine ecosystems and to generate employment in coastal areas.

Similarly, resources are dedicated to improving aquaculture sustainability through research and investments in greener technologies and methods. The EU and its 28 Member States are convinced that the decision to introduce an official International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture will not only increase awareness about the need to support the sustainability of both sectors amongst the general public but will also accelerate relevant international cooperation between countries and regions.

We therefore endorse the proposal to declare 2022 as International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

My Delegation associates and fully supports the statement made by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the Asia Group.

As part of its commitment to alleviate poverty and securing fruitful welfare and sustainable livelihoods of the people, Indonesia well notes that fishing and aquaculture are human activities that provide high quality food, social and economic benefits, and contribute to nutrition and food security as well as rural development.

My Delegation is of the view that by celebrating Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture we all reaffirm the urgent needs of raising public and government awareness at all levels of the importance of implementing specific public policies and programmes to promote artisanal fisheries and aquaculture in a sustainable manner.

Sr. José Manuel HERNÁNDEZ (Perú)

Nuestra Delegación hace suya la declaración efectuada por Argentina en nombre del GRULAC. Nuestro país cuenta con el endoso que hoy recibiría de esta Conferencia, la declaración del año 2022 como el Año Internacional para la Pesca Artesanal y la Acuicultura, luego de lo cual se deberá iniciar el proceso de aprobación de la resolución respectiva en Nueva York. Si bien esta iniciativa nació en el seno del GRULAC, su importancia global no escapa a ninguno de los presentes, y no escapa también a la comunidad internacional, que en junio pasado convocó a la Conferencia de los Océanos para, entre otros, abordar la sostenibilidad del recurso pesquero, que sigue siendo preocupante, puesto que el porcentaje de las poblaciones explotadas a un nivel biológicamente insostenible solo ha ido aumentando a través de los años, por lo que se hace urgente contar con sistemas eficientes de ordenación y manejo de los recursos pesqueros.

Confiamos en que este Año Internacional despierte la conciencia mundial sobre la necesidad de preservar el recurso para las generaciones futuras. A nivel nacional, en Perú estamos trabajando en la sostenibilidad de los recursos hidrobiológicos, el fomento al acceso legal y formal de los pescadores artesanales, el ordenamiento de toda la cadena productiva y su gestión integral, así como con la implementación de nuevas reformas legales asociadas a la modernización e innovación de las actividades pesqueras y acuícolas.

Todo esto con la finalidad de mejorar la calidad de vida de los pescadores artesanales, sus familias y la de las comunidades que se sustentan directa e indirectamente en estas actividades. Confiamos en que la declaración del año 2022 como el Año de la Pesca Artesanal y la Acuicultura contribuya, entre otros, a impulsar una mayor generación de inversiones, modernizar la pesca artesanal y de menor escala, generar mercados formales e inclusivos, fortalecer los sistemas de sanidad e inocuidad de los productos de la pesca y la acuicultura, crear instrumentos para mejorar la resiliencia de las comunidades pesqueras y acuícolas ante el cambio climático y de esa manera fortalezcamos la actividad pesquera, la sostenibilidad del recurso, los esfuerzos para alcanzar la eliminación de la pobreza, así como mejorar los niveles de nutrición y de seguridad alimentaria en Perú y en el mundo.

CHAIRPERSON

My conclusions for Item 18.4 are as follows:

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 155th Session for the declaration of an International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture in 2022 and adopted the resolution set out in C 2017/LIM/13.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 18.7 Proposal for an International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing

Point 18.7 Proposition relative à la célébration d'une journée internationale de la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée

Tema 18.7 Propuesta relativa a un Día Internacional de la Lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada (INDNR)

(C 2017/LIM/12)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move to the next item. The agenda item 18.7, *Proposal for an International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/LIM/13 in front of you.

I now invite Mr Arni Mathiesen to introduce the item.

Mr Arni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The global context of a growing world population and persistent hunger issues, fishery resources have emerged as an important commodity towards achievement of food security; however, efforts by the international community to ensure the sustainability of fisheries are being seriously compromised by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities.

Reportedly, Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing activities are responsible for the loss of 11 to 26 million tons of fish each year, which is estimated to have an economic value of USD 10 to 23 billion. To curtail this impact, Target 14.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 by the UN General Assembly specifically urges the international community to effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, IUU fishing, and destructive fishing practices by 2020.

Meeting this ambitious target requires strong awareness-raising efforts to draw the attention of the general public to the negative impacts of IUU fishing activities and activity in which FAO has been actively engaged. At its 39th Session in 2015, the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean of FAO proposed that an initiative belongs to declare an International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IDIUU).

Following extensive consultations, a proposal was submitted to the attention of the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries in July 2016. The Committee on Fisheries endorsed the proposal for the declaration of the IDIUU, taking into account the entry into force on 5th June 2016 of the agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing adopted by FAO in 2009.

As the entry into force of this agreement marks a historical event in adding this first international legally binding instrument specifically devoted to the fight against IUU fishing, the Committee recognized the importance of a specific initiative within the framework of FAO to raise awareness at all levels, including civil society and general public on the threats posed by this phenomenon to the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources.

Furthermore, the UNGA last year, through Resolution 72/123 on sustainable fisheries, welcomed “the endorsement by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a proposal for an International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and

Unregulated Fishing and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to take further action in this regard”.

The 155th Session of the FAO Council in December 2016 promptly followed up on that by endorsing the Draft Resolution of an *International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing* on 5th June set out in Annex of the document C 2017/LIM/12 in front of you to be submitted to the current session of the FAO Conference for adoption.

Allow me to underline that the celebration of the IDIUU on the very day of entry into force of the PSMA, namely 5 June, is expected to provide an occasion to give visibility to ongoing initiatives in the context of the implementation of this agreement, and more generally speaking, to any initiative that countries, organizations, including civil society organizations, and the private sector are promoting.

The detailed planning of global and regional actions and activities for the IDIUU will start after its adoption, but preliminary programme consideration and activities have been initiated with regard to outreach activities, countries' involvement, communication, internal networking, as well as identification of materials, activities, and partner organizations. Once adopted, the preparation process will be broadened and accelerated toward the first IDIUU to be celebrated on 5 June 2018.

This concludes my presentation. The Conference may wish to adopt the Draft Resolution in Annex of C 2017/LIM/12 and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider at its next session to include the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing in the official list of International Days currently absorbed by the UN.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand attaches great importance to IUU fishing. We recognized that IUU fishing is a great threat to food security and fishermen's livelihoods and also sustainable management of fishery resources. For the past two years we have expended our efforts to reform laws and regulations that enable us to assist to international agreements to combat IUU fishing. We also tried to push forward the preparation and implementation of regional fisheries' policy and agreements.

Thailand endorses the proposal of 5 June as the International Day for the Fight against IUU fishing.

Sra. Ivannia QUESADA VILLALOBOS (Costa Rica)

Los medios de vida de más de tres mil millones de personas dependen de la biodiversidad marina y costera. Sin embargo, el 30% de las poblaciones de peces del mundo están sobreexplotados, alcanzando un nivel muy por debajo del necesario para producir un rendimiento sostenible.

Por ello, el éxito de ratificaciones del Acuerdo del Estado Rector del Puerto, conocido como el Acuerdo MERP, evidencia la voluntad creciente de la comunidad internacional para afrontar, desalentar y eliminar la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada. Mi país reconoce el motivante diálogo que ha impulsado el Director General de la FAO, Don José Graziano Da Silva, en escenarios como la pasada Conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, en donde uno de los temas centrales fue el Acuerdo MERP, en vías de lograr la formalización completa en cada país.

Costa Rica, en su condición de país donde ya está vigente el Acuerdo MERP, prepara protocolos para normar la ejecución del Acuerdo, cuyas experiencias serán compartidas a nivel regional y mundial. Se debe reconocer la importancia del impacto de la pesca ilegal en cuanto a los volúmenes, valor de las capturas y actores involucrados, información que apoyaría a sensibilizar las decisiones de los líderes mundiales en la materia. Por ello, Costa Rica apoya la proclamación del Día Internacional de la Lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada, conociendo que contribuirá a elevar el perfil del tema, invitará a más estados a sumarse al Acuerdo MERP y apoyará la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible de erradicación de la pobreza, hambre cero y la protección de la vida submarina.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

Indonesia shares deep concern that illegal, unreported, and unregulated or IUU fishing continues to pose a serious threat to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of such resources. Indonesia is one of the biggest victims of the IUU fishing, a form of crime that has dire social, economic, and environmental impacts. The government of the Republic of Indonesia has renewed its commitments and has stepped up our efforts against IUU fishing. But as we learned from years of our experience fighting IUU fishing, we could not get the upper hand in our fight against IUU fishing if we do not stand up together.

Fighting IUU fishing requires steadfast commitments, close cooperation and coordination amongst governments. Indonesia appreciates all commitments and efforts in combatting IUU fishing and further urge action of raising public and government awareness on the threat posed by IUU fishing activities, as well as to continuously strengthen ongoing efforts to fight these IUU activities.

My Delegation welcomes the endorsement of the proposed International Day for Fight against IUU Fishing. The proposal for the declaration of the International Day for the Fight against IUU Fishing merits positive consideration by all of us. IUU fishing is negatively affecting our common endeavor to eliminate hunger and poverty. The government of the Republic of Indonesia, therefore, supports the proposal and we invite other FAO Member Countries to give positive consideration to it as well.

5 June 2016 was indeed an important date for our tireless fight against IUU fishing. More importantly, 5 June has been a historic date for the future we want. In this equation, I would also like to recall that World Environmental Days occurs on 5 June every year. Since 1973, World Environmental Days has been a flagship campaign for raising awareness on emerging environmental issues from pollution, human overpopulation, and global warming, to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime.

Mr Katsuyoshi MASUKAWA (Japan)

The Government of Japan places the highest importance on the sustainable use of marine living resources. Thus, we have been contributing to the global fight against IUU fishing through FAO, regional fisheries management organizations and other relevant international organizations. In this regard, I have the honour to inform the distinguished delegates that Japan has become a contracting party as of 18 June 2017 to the agreement on the Port State Measures to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

I promise that the Government of Japan continues to promote global efforts to fight against IUU fishing. Thus, we strongly support the proposal to declare the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing.

Mr Bernard REY (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement, and San Marino also aligns with this statement.

When the FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing was adopted in 2001, we were strong supporters. Today, 16 years later, we remain as dedicated in the fight against IUU fishing as we were back then.

In the meantime, we have introduced our own system to fight IUU fishing, but we have also prompted states and regional organizations to engage further while having pushed for the introduction of national, regional, and international measures to combat illegal fishing, in particular the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, the FAO Global Record of Fishing Vessels, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance, and last but not least, the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Cash Documentation Schemes.

We have experienced firsthand that cooperation between parties and the wholeness among stakeholders are the key issues in this battle against IUU fishing. The EU and its 28 Member States are convinced that the decision to introduce an official International Day against IUU Fishing will not

only increase awareness about the issue among the general public but will also accelerate international cooperation between countries and regions.

In this respect, we also recall FAO's role in pursuing the achievement of SDG 14 indicators, including the support of necessary reforms and promotion of knowledge and awareness necessary to end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing by 2020. We therefore strongly support the introduction of an official day against IUU fishing.

Mme Maria Esperança PIRES DOS SANTOS (Angola)

La pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée est l'une des menaces les plus graves que le monde d'aujourd'hui subit, à cause de son impact négatif sur la pêche et l'écosystème marin. Dans le contexte actuel, où les stocks de pêche sont en déclin, la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée se révèle extrêmement importante, car sans intervention, nous continuerons à assister à la dilapidation des ressources halieutiques et à la perte de la biodiversité.

L'institution d'une Journée internationale de lutte contre la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée permettra aux pays de consacrer au niveau local un peu plus d'attention à la diffusion et à la sensibilisation des citoyens sur le phénomène. Ces pays, en agissant simultanément, pourront produire une ample vague d'information à l'échelle mondiale concernant les maux que ce type de pêche produit et la nécessité de la combattre.

Aussi l'Angola, intervenant au nom du Groupe Afrique, soutient le projet de résolution en faveur de la déclaration d'une Journée internationale contre la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglémentée qui sera présentée par le Directeur général de la FAO au Secrétaire général des Nations Unies.

Mr Matthew B. HOOPER (New Zealand)

New Zealand also strongly supports this proposal. IUU fishing is a huge challenge. It has been said that managing fisheries is just like managing forestry except the trees move and you can't see them. The challenges in even quantifying IUU fishing are immense, let alone the challenges of countering it.

We often have an image of pirate fishing vessels being chased across the Southern Ocean with patrol boats in hot pursuit. Certainly this activity as IUU fishing is still a problem but it is less prevalent than perhaps in the past thanks to collective efforts and management of international fisheries.

We would hold that the bigger problem today is in areas such as misreporting of fishing activity, under and over reporting of catches, the breaching of specific license conditions by licensed fishing vessels, and make no mistake, this is also IUU fishing activity. Tackling these aspects requires really sophisticated monitoring of vessels and fishing activities, the inspections of vessels and ports and at sea, even things like genetic testing of fish and holds to determine exactly what species they are. All of this is hugely intensive.

The Port State Measures Agreement will certainly help the catch documentation scheme guidelines that we are hopefully endorsing at this Conference will also help. So will the use of new surveillance technologies, cameras on vessels, lots of things happening. But just to reiterate; much of the IUU activity in our part of the world takes place by licensed vessels, fishing in the waters, for example, of Pacific Island Countries or in surrounding high seas.

We would emphasize the need for assistance to developing countries and the implementation of the various measures are discussed in order to make sure they are truly effective. Again finally, we very much support this proposal for an international day for the fight against IUU fishing and the increased awareness it will generate of these important issues.

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

Brazil reiterates its full support to the proposal for a declaration of an International Day to Combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fisheries. IUU fishing imposes several threats to the sustainability of marine resources and shall be eliminated through appropriate measures. FAO has been adopting important measures to support countries in this regard such as the Port State Measures Agreement, the Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance, and the Voluntary Guidelines on Catch Documentation Schemes.

The declaration of an international day dedicated to this cause will certainly contribute to scale up awareness raising activities worldwide and keep the momentum going after the entry into force of the Port State Measures Agreement.

Sr. Hesiquio BENITEZ DIAZ (Mexico)

Nuestra Delegación apoya la propuesta relativa a un Día Internacional de la Lucha contra la Pesca Ilegal, No Declarada y No Reglamentada. Desafortunadamente, la pesca ilegal es uno de los grandes retos en países como México, donde, por ejemplo, la pesca ilegal de la totoaba con el fin de obtener sus buches o de la vejiga natatoria está afectando seriamente las poblaciones de la vaquita marina, quizás el cetáceo más amenazado del mundo.

Aunque en México se aplican distintas medidas, como el apoyo en la aplicación del Código de Pesca Responsable y apoyos para la pesca sustentable, incluyendo un sistema de denuncias para la pesca ilegal y el reciente decreto para la prohibición del uso de redes agalleras en el polígono donde se distribuye la vaquita marina, esto, como lo mencioné anteriormente, sigue siendo un gran reto. Por eso, apoyamos esta propuesta y los invitamos a la cooperación internacional para evitar esta pesca ilegal, no reportada y no regulada, y el apoyo a las pesquerías sostenibles.

Mme Martine GARCIA MASCARENHAS (Monaco)

La Principauté de Monaco, qui salue l'initiative de la Commission générale des pêches pour la Méditerranée (CGPM), intervient pour soutenir activement la proposition de Journée internationale de la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non-déclarée et non-réglementée, tout comme elle l'a fait pendant la 32^{ème} session du Comité des pêches, en juillet 2016, parce que cette lutte s'inscrit dans la mise en œuvre de l'objectif de développement durable (ODD) numéro 14, de ses cibles et indicateurs; cet ODD est au cœur de l'engagement multilatéral du Prince souverain Albert II et des actions de son Gouvernement en faveur de l'environnement, de la protection de la biodiversité et du développement durable.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Chile es un país costero que mira al Pacífico y cuyo futuro depende de la conservación de nuestro océano. Nuestro país está fuertemente comprometido con la lucha contra la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada para conservar nuestros océanos y las especies y la biodiversidad oceánica.

En el plan nacional, estamos concluyendo una nueva política contra la pesca ilegal y tenemos diversas instituciones involucradas en su lucha. Intentamos también fortalecer sus facultades. En relación a los compromisos asumidos por Chile, recientemente nos unimos al Fish Stocks Agreement de Nueva York, que permite controlar la pesca más allá de la zona exclusiva en altamar, y adhirió al Acuerdo de la FAO sobre Medios del Estado Rector del Puerto, participamos en la iniciativa del record mundial del agua y colaboramos con FAO en diversas iniciativas regionales en relación al control de la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada. Dicho esto, quisiéramos nuevamente expresar nuestro apoyo al establecimiento de este Día Internacional.

Mr Mette WILKIE (United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP)

UN Environment is a strong supporter of the fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing and seeks the designation of an official International Day as an efficient tool to create awareness and accelerate action.

As mentioned by Indonesia, 5 June is indeed an auspicious date and coincides with World Environment Day. However, there are precedents for having several International Days on the same date. There are five UN days on 21 March, for example.

But I just thought that I would be remiss if I did not bring to the attention of this meeting that it does coincide with World Environment Day and I would like to thank Indonesia for doing the same thing.

CHAIRPERSON

Now my conclusions for Item 18.7 are as follows:

The Conference considered the proposal endorsed by the Council at its 155th Session to declare the annual observance of the International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) on 5 June and adopted the resolutions set out in C 2017/LIM/12.

This concludes Agenda Item 18.7.

Item 16. Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (30 January – 3 February 2017)

Point 16. Rapport de la seizième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (30 janvier – 3 février 2017)

Tema 16. Informe de la 16.^a reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (30 de enero – 3 de febrero de 2017)

(C 2017/25)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on our agenda is item 16, *Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* that took place from 30 January to 3 February 2017. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/25 in front of you.

I would like now to invite the Assistant Director-General of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department (CB), Mr René Castro Salazar, to introduce the item.

Mr René CASTRO SALAZAR (Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department)

It is a great pleasure to present to you the Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) held from 30 January to 3 February 2017 in Rome, Italy.

I wish to recognize the strong spirit of collaboration and compromise, which all Members brought to the table, and which play a significant role in allowing the Commission to complete its impressive Agenda. The Commission prepared two Draft Resolutions for consideration by the Conference.

First, in reviewing and updating the multi-year Programme of Work, the Commission considered its contribution to the achievement of SDGs. In the last decade, the Commission has made significant progress in the, stepwise implementation, of its multi-year Programme of Work.

The Commission also picked up new and emerging issues. At its last Session, it decided to consider in the future, "digital sequence information on GRFA", and requested the development of a country driven global assessment of climate change effects on genetic resources adaptation and mitigation measures.

The Draft Resolution, the CGRFA and its contribution to the achievement of the SDGs is provided in Appendix D of the Commission Report, for your consideration and adoption.

Second, the Commission also reviewed its "*Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources*", a document the FAO Conference adopted in 2007. The Commission, prepared the Draft Resolution, reaffirming the world's commitment to the global plan of action for animal genetic resources in Appendix B, for your consideration and adoption.

The Commission also requested the Secretariat to convene in collaboration with the Secretariat's of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) Treaty at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and an International Workshop to assist countries in the domestic implementation of access and benefit sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Conference is therefore requested to welcome this workshop and to encourage donors to provide the necessary funds.

CHAIRPERSON

Now the floor is yours. Who would like to start? Brazil, you have the floor.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

Brazil attaches great importance to the work of the Commission of Genetic Resources of Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) of FAO and has been developing in the past decades.

The conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture (GRFA) are fundamental to food production and to all further mentions of food security. It is also crucial to the resilience of livelihood, and the impacts of climate change, including the development of adapted varieties and breeds as well as the identification of the nutritious value of wild and aquatic species.

Genetic diversity is a key component for achieving the 2030 Agenda goals as stated in Target 2.5 of SDG2. In Brazil's view, it is still necessary to scale up awareness raising activities of the important roles of the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture and of access and benefit sharing of GRFA for food security and nutrition.

It is also important to promote a better integration of genetic resources for food and agriculture, international food security and nutrition policies including public research and extension programmes, public procurement and education policies as well as market and value chain development.

We are confident that the establishment of the new Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department (CB), will inspire mainstreaming biodiversity. In addition to including genetic resources in agriculture, forestry and fisheries as well as further develop of linkages of the Commission's work with the technical departments of the Organization.

We call FAO to continue to support its Members in the development and implementation of country led regional or international projects on genetic resources for food and agriculture. Including resources from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and other sources and funding mechanisms. As an example, through the project biodiversity for food and nutrition funded by GEF and supported by FAO, Biodiversity International, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Brazil, Turkey, Kenya and Sri Lanka are advancing in mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in food security and nutrition policies.

The project foresees among other activities, the survey documentation and promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of neglected and under-utilized plant species with nutritional value or economic potential. In Brazil, the project has fostered nutritional composition analysis of at least 65 native food species in partnerships with public universities and research institutes.

These activities are providing evidence to promote greater biodiversity mainstreaming in public procurement programs, while improving the diversification of diets, supporting family farming and increasing biodiversity conservation.

As a first step towards mainstreaming, a list of native biodiversity products to be considered in institutional procurement programs, was jointly released last year by the Ministries of Social Development and the Environment.

Brazil also recognizes the role FAO can play in supporting countries to mainstream biodiversity into agriculture, forest and fisheries. We support and welcome FAO's commitment to launch the platform on mainstreaming biodiversity.

In conclusion, the Brazilian Delegation endorses the Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission of Genetic Resources of Food and Agriculture and supports the adoption by this Conference of the two resolutions as given in Appendix B and D of Document C2017/25.

We also welcome the proposal to organize an international workshop on access and benefit sharing, to be held jointly by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the ITPGRFA and the Commission of FAO, subject to the availability of resources.

Mr Alwin KOPSE (Switzerland)

Switzerland welcomes the progress made during the last Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA). The Commission demonstrated once more that it is able to successfully handle new and complex issues such as digital sequence information.

Switzerland approves the resolutions related to the review of the global plan of action for animal genetic resources and to the contribution of the Commission to the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs. In this context, my Delegation reemphasizes the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity through setting the right incentives for ecosystem services provided by sustainable agriculture through agroecological practices and through sustainable use of agrobiodiversity.

Moreover in 2018, mainstreaming of biodiversity will be a cross-sector issue of the meetings of the FAO Technical Committees on Forest, Fisheries and Agriculture. We invite FAO and its Members to establish strong links between these committees and the Commission to promote coherency.

Switzerland welcomes the international workshop to assist countries in their domestic implementation of access and benefit sharing to be held jointly by the Commission with the Secretariat's of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

In this context, Switzerland underlines the importance of an efficient and effective collaboration between the Secretariat's of the Commission, the International Treaty and the CBD to further their respective missions and objectives.

Sr. Hesiquio BENITEZ DIAZ (México)

Nuestra Delegación da la bienvenida al Informe de la reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, incluyendo el proyecto de resolución sobre el compromiso mundial con el Plan de Acción Mundial sobre Recursos Zoogenéticos.

En cuanto al borrador de resolución sobre la contribución de la Comisión al logro de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, apoyamos la invitación para integrar a la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura en políticas, programas y planes de acción nacionales y regionales en materia de agricultura, cambio climático, seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, como una herramienta importante para el logro del Plan estratégico para la diversidad biológica 2011-2020 del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, los acuerdos de cambio climático, así como la Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. En este sentido, es importante mencionar que la decisión 13 de la Conferencia de las Partes sobre Biodiversidad invita a la FAO a considerar el desarrollo de un Plan global de acción sobre Biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura basado en el reporte del estado de la biodiversidad mundial para la alimentación y la agricultura, del que México ha contribuido de manera sustantiva, ya que consideramos puede contribuir significativamente a la integración de la biodiversidad.

También apoyamos la invitación a la FAO para integrar la biodiversidad en sus distintos programas y proyectos, y proponemos se incluyan al Convenio de Diversidad Biológica como uno de los marcos mundiales pertinentes para destacar los vínculos entre la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura, como se indica en el párrafo uno de la sección preambular.

Consideramos que el tema de integración de la biodiversidad en los sectores agrícola, forestal y pesquero, además de establecerse de manera transversal en el marco de los Comités de Agricultura, Pesca y Bosques debe incluirse en esta Comisión, como lo han destacado las Delegaciones de Suiza y Brasil.

Las decisiones adoptadas en el marco de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Biodiversidad, así como la Declaración de Cancún, ya contienen elementos de gran utilidad para avanzar en los compromisos de diferentes convenios y agendas internacionales.

Por otra parte, apoyamos los indicadores y verificadores aprobados en la Cuarta Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo Técnico Intergubernamental sobre Recursos Genéticos Forestales, para monitorear el Plan de acción mundial. Destacamos la importancia de contar con una estrategia de conservación y manejo de

los recursos genéticos forestales de alcance global, que contribuya a mantener esta diversidad genética adaptativa ante el cambio climático.

En cuanto a la formulación de informes nacionales, México está elaborando su Informe nacional de avances en la implementación del Plan de acción mundial con una amplia participación de actores del sector forestal. Sin embargo, solicitamos a la FAO buscar financiamiento adicional que sirva para apoyar a los países en la elaboración de sus informes.

En cuanto a las Directrices Voluntarias de apoyo a la integración de la diversidad genética en la planificación nacional de adaptación al cambio climático, México favorece la diversidad genética para garantizar la autonomía alimentaria a través del fomento del intercambio de subespecies, razas de cultivos, intercambio de semillas y la selección artificial.

Finalmente, apoyamos la realización del Taller Internacional sobre Acceso y Distribución de Beneficios que se organizará en conjunto con el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica, y exhortamos a la FAO y sus diferentes Organos Técnicos a seguir colaborando con el Convenio y sus protocolos, tomando en cuenta las decisiones derivadas de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Biodiversidad, incluido el novedoso tema de las secuencias digitales sobre recursos genéticos que mencionó tanto el Señor Castro como la Delegación de Suiza.

Ms Galina JEVGRAFOVA (Estonia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and the Republic of Turkey align themselves with this statement as well as San Marino.

We wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the document C 2017/25 containing the Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. I would also like to express our appreciation to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (GRFA) for all of its hard work in preparing the report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and on the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We also appreciate the ongoing support for the global plans of action. In particular, the review of the Global Plan of Action for Animal Genetic Resources as well as the renewed commitment to its implementation.

We underline the importance of the Commission's work, competence and of FAO's technical capacity in the field of biodiversity and GRFA in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Along with the decisions taken at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13) held in Cancun, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016.

Therefore, the European Union and its Member States fully support the endorsement of the Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission as well as the approval of the relevant resolutions as provided in Appendixes B and D to the report.

M. Amadou NCHARE (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite des travaux de la 16^{ème} session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture ayant abouti à la production du rapport que nous examinons maintenant.

Le Groupe Afrique se félicite par ailleurs des avancées notables dans la production du rapport sur *L'État de la biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde*.

Nous attendons de recevoir, conformément au calendrier arrêté par la Commission, la version rédigée abrégée du rapport et nous invitons les Membres à formuler leurs observations dans les délais et à contribuer financièrement pour soutenir la production du rapport final.

Nous soulignons l'importance des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture en faveur de la production alimentaire et invitons les pays à mieux faire connaître l'importance du rôle de la

conservation et de l'utilisation durable des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, ainsi que de l'accès et du partage des avantages qui en découlent pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Nous avons pris note de la proposition d'organiser conjointement avec le Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (le Traité) et la Convention sur la diversité biologique (CDB), un atelier international sur l'accès et le partage des avantages dans les différents sous-secteurs des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Nous sommes en faveur de cette proposition et nous en appelons aux bonnes volontés pour apporter des contributions financières qui en faciliteraient l'organisation. Nous encourageons toute collaboration avec les Secrétariats de la Commission, du Traité et de la Convention.

Notre groupe régional a aussi examiné les deux projets de résolution, à savoir: «La communauté internationale réaffirme son engagement en faveur du Plan d'action mondial pour les ressources zoogénétiques» et «La Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et sa contribution à la réalisation des objectifs de développement durable». Nous les approuvons et demandons à la Conférence de les adopter.

Avec ces remarques, le Groupe Afrique approuve le rapport de la 16^{ème} session de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

Sr. Lucas CANDIA (Argentina)

La Argentina manifiesta su coincidencia con los principales lineamientos planteados en el Informe de la Reunión de la Comisión sobre Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, y se congratula con la respuesta favorable de la FAO, con más precisión de la Secretaría, a los documentos finales del Informe del país de Argentina sobre el estado de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura.

Por otro lado, quisiéramos expresar que el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura de la FAO, de la cual Argentina es parte, representa un avance en la materia a nivel nacional y una contribución al impulso y al desarrollo de las acciones tendientes a la conservación de los recursos fitogenéticos y la seguridad alimentaria. Así como un reconocimiento de la importancia de los recursos genéticos frente a la variabilidad y los cambios futuros del ambiente, el clima, y la valoración de los alimentos silvestres con potencial para su aprovechamiento sostenible y consumo.

Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)

The United States welcomes the international workshop on access and benefit sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture to be held in collaboration with the Secretariats of the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We also note that, in the language of the report proposed, does not correctly reflect the outcome of the CGRFA. The Conference Resolution refers to a jointly held workshop, rather than one led by the CGRFA and held in collaboration with other Organizations.

The language in the Conference Resolution should track exactly with the CGRFA Report as contained in the last paragraph of the Executive Summary of the Conference document on this topic, C 2017/25. We would be happy to submit edits in writing to help facilitate.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

Indonesia welcomes and supports the endorsement of the Report of the 16th Regular Meeting on the Commissions on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. We urge FAO to better enhance the harmonization of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Convention on the Biological Diversity, and Nagoya Protocol with the Commissions on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

The enhancement, is particularly for the issues on access to genetic resources and fair equitable benefits sharing in order to ease implementation at the national level. Lastly, Indonesia welcomes

efforts to mainstreaming biodiversity, especially genetic resources for food and agriculture and the international action plan of climate change adaptation.

At the national level, Indonesia has initiated a process of efforts in aligning our Indonesia biodiversity strategic action plan with our climate change national adaptation plan. This is within the context of nationally determined contributions as well as our long-term and mid-term development plan.

In this regard, we encourage FAO to facilitate this process of mainstreaming in line with the prepared voluntary guidelines.

Ms Qian LI (China) (Original language Chinese)

China endorses this report. China thanks the Secretariat for the report and commends the Commission for its achievement. We have the following comments.

Firstly, at the end of the Report, it reads “support developing countries’ capacity development in conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, including through South-South and triangular Cooperation”. China highly commends this South-South cooperation (SSC) and compliments significantly North-South Cooperation. China hopes that FAO will promote its work on genetic resources for food and agriculture through the SSC.

Secondly, China has rich genetic resources for food and agriculture and is willing to participate actively in the Commission’s work. It hopes that the Commission can provide guidance so that it can better protect and use sustainably genetic resources.

Thirdly, China calls upon developed countries to provide funds and technical support in the field of genetic resources in order to help developing countries with their capacity development.

Mr Katsuyoshi MASUKAWA (Japan)

Japan supports the Commission’s report and the Draft Resolution. Japan will keep contributing to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as it plays an essential role in achieving the SDGs Target 2.5.

Mr René CASTRO SALAZAR (Assistant Director-General, Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water Department)

Thank you, to all of the countries and regions, beginning with Brazil and Switzerland, Mexico, Estonia the European Union, the African Region, Argentina, United States, Indonesia, China, and Japan for their formal support to the 16th Regular Session of the Commission Report.

I think it is appreciated and we take note of the strong support for the international workshop on access and benefits sharing as well as the joint efforts with the CBD and the ITPGRFA. We also, take note of the comment from the United States will review accordingly. We would appreciate the written possibility.

With that, only to say that we will be working closer with other UN entities in addition to the CBD and the treaty and we want to host them in Rome. We are already sending invitations.

CHAIRPERSON

So thank you for your contribution to the discussion and thank you much to the Secretariat.

My conclusions for item 16 are as follows: The Conference

- a) welcomed and adopted the Report of the 16th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- b) adopted the resolution presented in Appendix B of the Report, reaffirming the world’s commitment to the global plan of action for animal genetic resources;
- c) adopted the resolution presented in Appendix D of the Report on the Contribution of the Commission to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and

d) welcomed the International Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing to be convened by the Commission Secretariat in collaboration with the CBD and Treaty Secretariat subject to the availability of extra budgetary resources and encouraged donors to provide the necessary funds.

This reflects exactly the wording I think of paragraph 25 of the Genetic Resources – of the Commission Report.

So is this agreeable? I see no objection. It is adopted.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

We support your summary. There is no problem with that. Just a clarification. What was the concrete proposal from the colleagues from the US delegation? It was to change something in your summary or in the Report of the Commission Session? Could you just clarify this please?

CHAIRPERSON

I think my understanding of the discussion was that the text that was used in the Draft in the Report was not correctly reflected because it was reflected that this international workshop will be organized jointly by the Secretariat but in reality in the Report of the Commission, it refers to be convened by the Commission Secretariat in collaboration with the two other Secretariats.

This is actually reflected in paragraph d) of the proposed decision.

With this, we conclude agenda item 16.

Item 17. Outcome of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors

Point 17. Conclusions de la treizième réunion de la Conférence des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique: Intégration de la diversité biologique dans les différents secteurs de l'agriculture

Tema 17. Resultados de la 13.^a reunión de la Conferencia de las Partes en el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica: incorporación de la biodiversidad en todos los sectores agrícolas

(C 2017/33)

CHAIRPERSON

We move now to Item 17, *Outcome of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity: Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/33 in front of you.

I now invite the Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, to introduce this item.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources)

Before introducing the document of item 16 of the agenda, I would like to mention that Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, accepted to join us for the discussion of this Item in the Agenda. She was here the full day yesterday on call, but unfortunately we could not discuss the item yesterday and she had to leave this morning. Then she requested Mexico as Chair of the COP 13 present her declaration.

But I would like to take advantage of this gathering to say that her presence yesterday and on Monday was proof of the excellent collaboration between FAO and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). I am confident that FAO and CBD will continue to further strengthen this collaboration.

Then as Mexico will present the outcomes of the COP 13, I will be concentrating on the biodiversity mainstreaming platform which I consider was the outcome more related to FAO work.

You may recall that in the last session of the Council, I reported on the outcomes of the United Nation Biodiversity Conference which was preceded by a high-level event. I represented FAO at the high-level event. The outcome of the high-level event was a declaration.

This Declaration calls for mainstreaming of biodiversity across policies, plans, and programs, and calls for close cooperation among the different actors, in particular with FAO. It also calls for the implementation of several instruments, some of them at the heart of FAO, such as the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

I would like to summarize the two key messages from Cancun. The first one was there is no alternative to collaboration. We need to work together.

And the second one, agriculture and environment have to work hand-in-hand. Yesterday you had a side event where the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said that Cancun was a paradigm shift where we had reconciliation between the conservationists and the users of biodiversity.

I think this was really one of the great outcomes, the reconciliation about the productive sectors and the ones who call for better conservation of the biodiversity, and they worked and they discussed together.

We all know that agriculture, forestry, and fisheries depend heavily on biodiversity. All the plants and animals provide our food. Biodiversity is also essential for the achievement of food security and improved nutrition. All agricultural sectors rely on biodiversity and ecosystem function and services they underpin. However, the agricultural sectors also affect biodiversity directly or indirectly. Then the Conference of Parties of the CBD invited FAO to support the development and implementation of biodiversity mainstream tools, guide the necessary transformation and sustainability, food and agriculture for biodiversity. FAO was asked to develop a coherent mainstreaming approach, acting as a biodiversity mainstreaming platform.

I think the Cancun Declaration was important and resulted in one great outcome of the last Council Session, which was the establishment of the new Department on Climate, Biodiversity, Land, and Water. This shows that biodiversity is on the FAO agenda.

The Conference will discuss today the FAO role in these processes, in particular as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform. In regards to the Platform, we propose that FAO facilitates, as a convener of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform, a dialogue between environmental and agricultural sectors at different levels and various stakeholders. When I said all different levels, it is at the global, regional and country levels, working with the private sector, governments and indigenous people.

We propose to facilitate information and exchange of data. The ultimate goal of the Platform would be the adoption of good practices across all agricultural sectors that will support biodiversity conservation and increase the productivity, stability, and resilience of production systems in an integrated approach.

How are we going to move towards the Platform? As a first step, FAO intends to facilitate an informal multistakeholder dialogue between the environmental and agricultural sectors, with a view to identify areas of joint action in developing an integrated approach for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

We want to start with a dialogue among all the stakeholders to define what we consider will be the value of the platform. What the platform can bring that is not yet done by other existing instruments. Our proposal is that the first informal multistakeholder dialogue to be held in spring 2018.

After we organize this multistakeholder dialogue, in the first quarter of the year, we will have the relevant discussion in all technical committees of FAO: COFI, COAG, COFO and also the regional conferences. Then the outcome of this multistakeholder dialogue will be reported to COP 13, COP 14 of CBD, which will be held in Sharm el Sheikh late November 2018.

Taking into account the outcomes of a multistakeholder dialogue, the platform could in the mid/long-term develop further activities, identify policy gaps and governance challenges related to biodiversity in all relevant sectors, investigate existing governance mechanisms and policy initiatives in this field, and share among the Members the uses of the platform, and contribute to the achievement of the relevant SDGs.

We know that biodiversity is important to the achievement of the SDGs and also the 80 biodiversity targets by coordinating biodiversity mainstreaming with efforts to conserve and sustainably use

genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. It leads and supports United Nations System efforts on biodiversity mainstreaming across agricultural sectors.

In this regard, the Conference is invited to welcome the FAO initiative to act as a biodiversity mainstreaming platform and request FAO to facilitate in collaboration with its partners the integration of biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional, and international levels.

This is what I would like to share with you at this moment.

Mr Chairperson, with your agreement, Mexico can share with us what Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity was supposed to say yesterday.

CHAIRPERSON:

Before opening the discussion, I would like now to give the floor to Ambassador Barcena, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Rome-based agencies, to give the contribution of Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ms Martha BARCENA COQUI (México)

I take the floor on behalf of Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and as the President of the Conference of State Parties to the Convention.

It gives me great pleasure to participate in the 40th Session of the FAO Conference as the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Following the last UN Biodiversity Conference, COP 13, that took place in Cancun in December last year, this FAO Conference provides a unique opportunity to discuss how to further integrate biodiversity across agricultural and food production sectors, a theme that was also central to our deliberations in Cancun.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Mr José Graziano da Silva, the Deputy Director-General, Ms Maria Helena Semedo, and all the technical staff at FAO for their strong and enthusiastic support for integrating biodiversity into agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. FAO's support contributed to the success of the Conference. I would also like to thank the government of Mexico for hosting COP 13 and for its leadership in promoting the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the agricultural and tourism sectors.

Meeting the increasing global food demand and addressing the loss of biodiversity are two key challenges at the heart of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Too often they are seen as in opposition to each other. But the truth is that if we want to meet everyone's right to safe and nutritious food, we must invest in sustainable agriculture.

Without protecting and using our ecological assets in a more sustainable way, we will not be able to improve productivity nor achieve our global objectives. We need transformative change in food systems, including the sustainable management of soil as a living ecosystem, the effective management and conservation of pollinators, and the use of biodiversity to control or reduce pests and diseases. We need to address our food production challenges together.

Biodiversity and healthy ecosystem services also play an essential role in making agriculture more resilient and less vulnerable to natural disasters and in contributing both to mitigating and adapting to climate change. Indeed, biodiversity is a key solution to climate change. These points are reflected in the Cancun Declaration adopted by Ministers and heads of Delegations at the high-level segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference which brought together Ministers responsible for agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, as well as tourism, and those responsible for environment.

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention welcomed FAO policy frameworks, guidance, and tools on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, and invited FAO to collaborate with the Convention in preparing further guidance on the concept of sustainability in food and agriculture. More specifically, the Conference of the Parties encourages FAO to develop a global plan of action on the basis of the forthcoming report on the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture.

CBD COP also requests the Organization to review and update the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators. In this context, we welcome the proposal to establish World Bee Day to be celebrated on 20 May each year, two days before the International Day for Biological Diversity. We just recently approved it.

Another exciting development in Cancun was the offer from FAO to act as a platform on biodiversity mainstreaming. I am confident that this will facilitate cross-sectoral dialogue and a stronger engagement of ministries of agricultural sectors to explore opportunities and to create synergies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Indeed, this proposal was welcomed with great interest by the 196 parties to the CBD which were present in Cancun. I look forward to working with FAO colleagues to conceptualize the platform.

As you might know, there are three years remaining to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and achieve the 20 ambitious targets set at our COP 10. A lot of action and commitment is still needed to achieve the implementation at national level.

Indeed, now is the time to accelerate your efforts. This way together we can collectively meet the global targets and thus safeguard the ecological infrastructure that underpins our existence and development. At the CBD, we are also getting ready to initiate reflections on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Beijing in 2020.

I look forward to collaborating with FAO and its Technical Committees as well as Governing Bodies in the development of this agenda, which I hope will build on all the good work that has been done in the 25 years of the Convention's existence while emphasizing the need for transformative action aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

Mr N K Martin SELEKA (South Africa)

This statement is delivered on behalf of the African Regional Group.

The Africa Regional Group welcomes the call by the UN Biodiversity Conference held by the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico for the mainstreaming of biodiversity across all agricultural sectors. We are in agreement that biodiversity forms the basis of all agricultural sectors as it is at the center of all crops and domesticated livestock and the variety among them.

Marine, coastal, and inland ecosystems host a variety of aquatic biological diversity that greatly contributes to the economic, social, and cultural communities around the world. Fisheries and aquaculture depend on the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems to maintain economic, social, and ecological benefits in the long term.

Forests hold the majority of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. Forest biodiversity includes all the life forms found within the forested areas as well as the ecological roles they perform. The ecosystem services that forests provide are of particular importance to the poor and vulnerable. Furthermore, for many people, they are an essential element of cultural identity, spirituality, and world view.

That said, we appreciate that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development puts biodiversity at the center of many economic activities, particularly those related to sustainable agricultural sectors. With biodiversity mainstreaming, the agricultural sector will thus significantly contribute to the achievement of SDGs 2, 14, and 15, and the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

We note that the Cancun Conference also welcomed the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform launched by FAO. FAO has a long-standing history in pursuing its goal to alleviate poverty and end hunger and malnutrition by promoting sustainable agricultural development and implementing ecosystem approaches.

At this end, the FAO Strategic Platform Programme 2 aiming to make agriculture, forestry, and fisheries more productive and sustainable reflects the need for biodiversity mainstreaming by demanding productivity increase in the agricultural sectors to go hand-in-hand with economic, environmental, and social sustainability.

With the recent establishment of the Climate, Biodiversity, Land, and Water Department, FAO's major area of work on ecosystem services and biodiversity and informal member networks under the Group of Friends of Agroecology and the recently launched Group of Friends of Biodiversity and Ecosystems, the Organization is well-positioned to act as a biodiversity mainstreaming platform. We welcome this initiative.

We are therefore confident that, acting as a platform, the FAO will ensure consideration of biodiversity by its Governing and Statutory Bodies facilitating dialogue among governments, communities, and other stakeholders in concrete and coordinated steps to integrate biodiversity across the agricultural sectors.

We support the idea that the platform will also facilitate the exchange of information and data among stakeholders to reach a common understanding of the status quo, trends, and tariffs, in the conservation and use of biodiversity services, as well as the exchange of expertise to improve the design and coordination of relevant policies from local to international levels. Acting as a platform, FAO will assist in translating the richness and variety of forms of knowledge into policy-related forums of knowledge that can be shared among the different agricultural sectors.

We support the ultimate goal of the platform, namely the adoption of good practices across all agricultural sectors, to support biodiversity, conservation, and increase the productivity, stability, and resilience of production systems in an integrated landscape, seascape approach, thereby reducing pressure on natural habitats and spaces.

This will also require better coordination among the different agricultural sectors as none of the sectors address biodiversity in isolation. With this cross-sectoral mandate covering all agricultural sectors, FAO is well-placed to act through the platform as a coordinated mechanism. We agree that for biodiversity mainstreaming to be effective, it needs to occur across all levels of government and include all the relevant stakeholders.

At the recent WFP Executive Board meeting, the Commission of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission, Ms Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, informed the Board that the majority of the world's hungry were in Africa. This confirms what the former UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, said, that Africa is a critical location for interim work.

We are therefore very grateful that through the platform, FAO will work in a spirit of global solidarity with the poorest of the poor and people in vulnerable situations and it will facilitate an intensive global engagement bringing together governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations System, and other sectors, and mobilize means of implementation from all available sources in support of diversity mainstreaming and the implementation and achievement of SDG 2 and other related goals.

The Africa Group in this regard welcomes FAO initiative to act as a biodiversity mainstreaming platform and also urges FAO to facilitate in collaboration with these partners the integration of biodiversity across the agricultural sectors at nations, regional, and international levels.

Sr. Mario ARRIOLA WOOG (México)

México tuvo el privilegio de hospedar la 13ava Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre Diversidad Biológica, celebrada en diciembre de 2016 en Cancún. Habida cuenta que su tema central fue la integración de la biodiversidad para el bienestar, con énfasis en los sectores agrícola, forestal, pesquero y turismo, por primera vez en la historia de la Convención participaron ministros de esos cuatro sectores en el segmento de alto nivel, quienes adoptaron la Declaración de Cancún sobre integración de la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad para el bienestar.

Nuestros Gobiernos se comprometieron en Cancún a realizar acciones para integrar la conservación y el uso sustentable de la biodiversidad en sus actividades productivas, posicionando a la biodiversidad en el corazón de las políticas, legislación y planes de gobiernos nacionales y sub nacionales. Sin duda, ello facilitará alcanzar las metas del Plan Estratégico para la Biodiversidad establecidas en el Marco de la Convención, pero también otros compromisos internacionales, como los Objetivos de Desarrollo

Sostenibles de la Agenda 2030, así como los del programa Estratégico 2 de la FAO: lograr que la agricultura, la actividad forestal y la pesca sean más productivas y sostenibles.

La intrínseca relación entre la dimensión agrícola y de biodiversidad se reafirmó en la COP13 CBD y reforzó la necesidad de fortalecer la coordinación y cooperación entre la FAO y la CBD. De las 67 decisiones que se adoptaron en la COP13 CBD, 18 contienen menciones explícitas a la FAO, incluyendo aquellas sobre la implementación de las metas 11 y 12 de Aichi, integración de la biodiversidad, cambio climático, restauración de ecosistemas, diversidad biológica y salud, diversidad biológica forestal, planificación espacial marina y otras más. Por ello, México se congratula nuevamente por el lanzamiento en Cancún de la plataforma de la FAO para la integración de la biodiversidad, así como por el establecimiento del Departamento de Clima, Biodiversidad, Tierras y Aguas de la FAO, encabezado por el Señor René Castro, que será vínculo fundamental para dar seguimiento a las sinergias entre la FAO y la Convención sobre integración de la biodiversidad.

Será fundamental otorgar el apoyo necesario a la realización de sus actividades con estructura, con mandato y con recursos. Así mismo, México recibe con gusto la propuesta de que la Plataforma para la Integración de la Biodiversidad tenga entre sus primeras actividades facilitar un diálogo oficioso entre las múltiples partes interesadas de los sectores medioambiental y agrícola, con el fin de identificar áreas de acción conjunta. Ello podría ser el primer paso para trabajar en una estrategia de biodiversidad propiamente de la FAO, al igual que la actualmente existente en el tema de cambio climático. De tal manera, México solicita a la FAO que facilite la integración de la diversidad biológica en todos los sectores agrícolas a nivel nacional, regional e internacional, de acuerdo con la propuesta contenida en el documento C 2017/33.

En el marco del 156º Consejo de la FAO celebrado en abril pasado, se anunció la creación del “Grupo de amigos de la biodiversidad y los ecosistemas”, actualmente conformado por Brasil, Colombia, Cabo Verde, Camerún, Egipto, Francia, Indonesia, Italia, Hungría, Noruega, Perú, Suiza y por supuesto México, con el fin de promover y trabajar en conjunto con el Secretariado de esta organización para implementar acciones que ayuden a facilitar la integración de la biodiversidad en todos los sectores agrícolas.

Finalmente, queremos agradecer el compromiso y disposición de la FAO para trabajar en la coordinación y alineación de agendas, así como por su apoyo técnico y político, mismo que hizo que la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre la Biodiversidad fuera un éxito. La celebración ahora de este debate y del evento paralelo que tuvo lugar el día de ayer por la mañana confirman la disposición de la FAO y los Estados Miembros para trabajar conjuntamente para que se considere a la biodiversidad como un ámbito central en todas las actividades encaminadas a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y desarrollar un sistema sostenible de producción agrícola.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

The meeting of the COP to CBD which was held in Cancun at the end of 2016 has successfully and timely addressed this important theme on the mainstreaming biodiversity for wellbeing. My delegation thanks and congratulates the Secretariat of UN CBD and the Government of Mexico.

Indonesia actively participates in the meeting as we believe that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs which strongly reflects biodiversity and provides new opportunities to address development challenges in a transformative manner and with a perspective that integrates environmental, economic, and social dimensions.

Moreover, biodiversity offers solutions to the pressing development and societal challenges that the rural community is currently facing.

Bearing in mind that the agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism sectors depend heavily on biodiversity and its components, Indonesia urges this Conference to acknowledge and support the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biodiversity for wellbeing.

The Cancun Declaration urged parties to work at all levels within all governments and across all sectors to mainstream biodiversity and encourage closer cooperation and synergies among relevant organizations of the United Nations System such as FAO.

Biodiversity is the basis of sustainable livelihood as it is at the origin of all crops and domesticated livestock and therefore a priority among them. Therefore it is essential for mainstreaming conservation and biodiversity – sustainable use of biodiversity across agriculture, forestry, tourism, and aquaculture sectors.

In this regard, Indonesia appreciates and welcomes FAO in taking an active role in biodiversity mainstreaming platforms. Moreover, considering the magnitude and importance of biodiversity issues, we would like also to urge FAO to promote biodiversity agenda as equally important as climate change agenda. Since both agendas are very much interlinked.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

I make this statement on behalf of the European Union and its twenty-eight Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

We welcome the outcome of the 13th COP of the CBD. We commend the work done by the Convention and FAO. We support the conclusions of the UN Biodiversity Conference held by the Convention on Biological Diversity on December 2016 in Cancun and particularly we agree that FAO should provide assistance for the preparation of further guidance on the concept of sustainability on food and agriculture with regard to biodiversity.

FAO should consider and support the development and implementation of measures, guidance, and tools to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity in all four sectors addressed in Cancun.

Biodiversity is essential for achieving food security and improving nutrition for all of us. Agricultural activities such as crop and livestock production as well as forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture rely on ecosystem functions and services which are inextricably linked to biodiversity.

At the same time, these activities may result in a loss of biodiversity through numerous direct and indirect mechanisms which may in turn potentially undermine food security and nutrition.

We have all agreed to the indivisible and integrated character of the 2030 Agenda and we should aim at supporting its implementation process. The EU and its Member States are therefore strongly committed to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as we should use the opportunities provided to advance a holistic approach to biodiversity in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors.

As indicated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, biodiversity can contribute to the sustainability of the agricultural sector, notably to make agricultural ecosystems more resilient and productive and to contribute to better nutrition and livelihoods.

SDG 15 in particular calls for the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in international, local planning, development processes, and poverty reduction strategies.

Together with SDG 2, it also advocates a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and facilitated access to such resources as internationally agreed. It is our common responsibility to support FAO in the continuous development and improvement of its activities. We wish to highlight the key role of FAO implementing the decision of CBD COP 13 and especially but not only, decisions XIII/3 and XIII/5 and the role of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in this regard.

Finally, we take note with appreciation of the FAO initiative to develop, implement, and promote a platform to mainstream biodiversity across all agricultural sectors. We suggest that as a first step, FAO should prepare a summary document, gathering the work related to biodiversity done so far within FAO and its bodies, for example, the work of Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and especially the Report on the State of World Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture.

We would also like further information on how the platform will interact with existing bodies and platforms. Looking forward to further data on this platform, we are ready to constructively engage in discussion and discussing its implementation.

Mr Sherif EL GAMMAL (Egypt)

Let me commend Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources and Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of CBD for their efforts and for the quality presentation. Also I would like to thank her Excellency, Ambassador Doña Martha Elena Federica Bárcena Coqui Mexican Permanent Representative Office.

Biodiversity is a crosscutting theme in many economic activities on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Since biodiversity mutually effects and is affected by food production and achieving several SDGs, especially SDG 2, 14, and 15.

Egypt expresses appreciation to Mexico, a current President of COP 13, for the establishment of the Global Friends of Biodiversity and Ecosystems and as a host of COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh in 2018 is ready to work with all interested Members and partners to capitalize on the Cancun Declaration as well as to review the Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and targets, focusing on the different important issues which are gaining momentum on the International Development Agenda.

Establishing a new department in FAO dedicated to climate, biodiversity, land, and water reflects the increasing importance of mutual work and synergizing the efforts of all countries and international parties in confronting the biodiversity challenges.

Egypt expresses its full support to the biodiversity mainstreaming platform initiative and is ready to work closely and actively with the platform and encourages all interested stakeholders to actively take part in its work.

M. Alwin KOPSE (Suisse)

Des efforts importants sont nécessaires pour intégrer la biodiversité dans les pratiques agricoles, comme l'ont préconisé les participants à la dernière Conférence sur la biodiversité à Cancun au Mexique.

La biodiversité et les fonctions écosystémiques, de même que les services qui en découlent, jouent en effet un rôle essentiel pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et améliorer la nutrition. Elle rend notamment les systèmes agricoles et alimentaires plus résilients. La mise en place de la plateforme par la FAO est un pas important pour intégrer systématiquement la biodiversité et établir des passerelles entre secteurs, notamment de l'environnement et de l'agriculture.

Ensemble, nous devons désormais définir quelles mesures de conservation, d'utilisation durable, de gestion et de restauration de la biodiversité biologique et des écosystèmes nous voulons mettre en œuvre aux niveaux national, régional et international.

Pour la Suisse, il faut davantage inciter les agriculteurs à adopter des pratiques agricoles plus durables pour réduire la perte de biodiversité et encourager la restauration des écosystèmes. Il s'agit également de renforcer les synergies entre les mesures en lien avec le changement climatique, l'agroécologie et l'utilisation durable de biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. C'est la raison pour laquelle la Suisse soutient le programme de la FAO relatif aux mesures d'incitation applicables aux services écosystémiques (*«Incentives for Ecosystem Services»*).

Nous encourageons la FAO et ses organes directeurs et statutaires, ainsi que ses Membres à soutenir rapidement l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'outils favorisant une prise en compte systématique de la biodiversité, ainsi que le développement d'incitations renforçant les services systémiques en cohérence avec le Programme de développement durable 2030.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to thank the Secretariat for the document. We have a few comments. They are as follows.

Firstly, biodiversity has been mainstreamed in FAO's work effectively for instance in the new department for climate, biodiversity, land, and water. Biodiversity is included in the name of this department. Also South-South Cooperation is extremely important at FAO and this is reflected in COAG and the Council's latest reports. However, neither of these names an FAO division or department which is why we hope the FAO will give them due consideration.

Secondly, biodiversity is extremely important and closely linked to GIAHS. If FAO can take both into account in FAO's configuration, then China will be able to support this.

Mr Martin LUNDEBY GRIMSTAD (Norway)

Biodiversity in agriculture is important to Norway. We therefore support the initiative that FAO could act as a biodiversity mainstreaming platform. We believe that the focus here should be on existing work by FAO and by their Member Countries on international, national and local bases rather than creating new measures and processes.

The biodiversity and mainstreaming platform should be used as a starting point to address how ongoing work by the FAO and Member Countries can integrate biodiversity perspectives. For example, the ongoing work with the completion of the first global status report on biodiversity for food and agriculture and the recognition of the Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture can contribute to an overview of biodiversity in food and agriculture.

Furthermore, the report can point to challenges in the management of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and provides a platform to raise awareness on biodiversity.

Sra. Silvina KHATCHERIAN (Argentina)

En primer lugar, realizamos esta intervención en nombre del GRULAC. Agradecemos a la FAO y a la Delegación de México por la presentación del Informe de la 13a sesión de la Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica que tuvo lugar del 4 al 17 de diciembre pasado en Cancún. Coincidimos con la Declaración de México y le agradecemos por la iniciativa de impulsar el tema de la integración de la conservación y de utilización sostenible de la biodiversidad en los sectores agrícola, forestal y pesquero en el Convenio de Diversidad Biológica de la FAO –y en la FAO, disculpe. De hecho, la biodiversidad es un importante factor para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la mejora de la nutrición. Asimismo, todos los sectores agrícolas dependen de la biodiversidad, así como de las funciones y los servicios de los ecosistemas a los que sustentan.

Sobre la contribución de la FAO a este proceso, el GRULAC quisiera destacar los siguientes aspectos de interés: América Latina y el Caribe acoge con satisfacción la iniciativa de la FAO de desempeñar la función de plataforma para facilitar la integración de la biodiversidad biológica en todos los sectores agrícolas a nivel nacional, regional e internacional. Con el reciente establecimiento del Departamento de Clima, Biodiversidad, Tierras y Aguas, el GRULAC está seguro de que la Organización se encuentra en buenas condiciones para desempeñar esa función de plataforma mediante su mandato interseccional, que abarca a todos los sectores agrícolas desde el punto de vista de la agricultura y de la seguridad alimentaria.

Reconocemos el importante trabajo ya realizado por la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura de la FAO, y también por el Tratado Internacional de los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Asimismo, reconocemos la necesidad de ampliar la información de los tomadores de decisión acerca de la importancia de la biodiversidad agrícola para la sostenibilidad de la agricultura y para la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, en particular en el contexto del cambio climático. Estamos de acuerdo en que la principal función de la plataforma podría ser la de facilitar el intercambio de información y datos entre las partes interesadas, con miras a alcanzar una comprensión común de la situación actual, las tendencias en la conservación y el uso de servicios de la biodiversidad, así como el intercambio de conocimientos especializados para mejorar la formulación y coordinación de políticas pertinentes, desde el nivel local al internacional.

Apoyamos la propuesta reflejada en los párrafos 19 y 20 del Documento de Trabajo C 2017/33, según la cual la FAO se propone facilitar, a comienzos de 2018, un diálogo oficioso entre múltiples partes interesadas del sector medioambiental y el agrícola, con el objetivo de determinar áreas de acción

conjunta que permitan elaborar enfoques integrados para la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad. Conforme solicitado por el 25º. periodo de sesiones del COAG, endosado posteriormente por el Consejo de la FAO, la incorporación de la biodiversidad será examinada por las conferencias regionales de la FAO y sus Comités Técnicos en 2018, ocasión en la cual los resultados de dicho diálogo podrán ser presentados a los Órganos Rectores de la Organización. Finalmente, queremos alentar a la FAO para que siga colaborando con el Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica, la Plataforma Intergubernamental sobre Biodiversidad y el Ecosistema, el Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente y otros actores internacionales relevantes para esa materia, de manera de evitar duplicación de esfuerzos y sobre posición de mandatos.

Por otro lado, quería pedirle si me concede la palabra para hacer una pequeña intervención en nombre de mi país.

La Argentina coincide con los principales lineamientos planteados en el documento en debate. Consideramos que la incorporación de la biodiversidad en todos los sectores agrícolas contribuirá significativamente a la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible 2, 14 y 15 y a la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible en su conjunto. En ese sentido, sería auspicioso considerar la interacción y sinergias con otros convenios o convenciones internacionales, como por ejemplo, la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático, la Convención de las Naciones Unidas para Convertir la Desertificación, entre otras. Finalmente, la Argentina saluda con agrado la intención de la FAO, a través de la Plataforma para la Integración de la Biodiversidad, de facilitar un diálogo oficioso entre las múltiples partes interesadas del sector medioambiental y el agrícola, y con el objetivo de determinar áreas de acción conjunta que permitan elaborar enfoques integrados para la conservación y el uso sostenible de la biodiversidad.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

Thailand requests FAO to collaborate with other relevant organizations to integrate biodiversity in agricultural sectors at local, regional, and global levels as well as develop guidelines for Members to implement in their national context.

Thailand supports FAO's goal as a primary biodiversity mainstreaming platform. Thailand is ready to engage in promoting indication of biodiversity in agriculture in many areas based on our experience.

Mr Katsuyoshi MASUKAWA (Japan)

Japan appreciates FAO's initiatives that build bridges between environment and agricultural sectors to promote mainstreaming of biodiversity. Japan would like to request that the informal multistakeholder dialogue to be held in 2018, where integrated approaches for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are discussed, will also discuss the means to increase productivity with due consideration to the environment while contributing to the achievement of SDG 2 at the same time.

Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)

The United States welcomes FAO's work to strengthen consideration of biodiversity and its linkages and contributions to agriculture, fisheries, and forestry. We support the engagement of FAO's technical committees, its departments, and key processes such as the CGRFA and the ITPGRFA or the Plant Genetics Treaty.

We support efforts of the biodiversity mainstreaming platform to strengthen consideration of biodiversity across sectors and to share information and lessons learned on how to achieve this integration.

Lastly, we expect that these activities will not require additional funding from the regular budget.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes the list of interventions from Member States. Now I would like to give the floor to observers. UNEP, you have the floor.

Ms Mette WILKIE (United Nations Environment Programme)

The United Nations Environment Programme also known as UN Environment welcomes FAO's initiative to facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors through its offer to establish a biodiversity mainstreaming platform in collaboration with key partners.

We look forward to being involved in the design and operation of this platform.

Let me just mention one specific contribution we would bring to the platform. In the past decade, UN Environment has been providing technical advice and practical support on how to mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors in thirty-six partner countries around the world with a combined investment of USD 266 million.

This work was partially funded by the Global Environment Facility and much of it was carried out together with FAO.

We will shortly be publishing a document entitled mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes which summarizes the lessons learned and describes the tools and approaches developed and tested as part of this very practical work on the ground.

To further build on existing knowledge and experiences, we would encourage a close collaboration with the intergovernmental science policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services and with the initiative led by UN Environment on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, also known as TEEB for Agriculture and Food.

This initiative is undertaking a comprehensive economic evaluation of the biodiversity and ecosystems services provided by current agricultural systems in order to help identify policy options to facilitate a transition towards more sustainable agricultural practices.

UN Environment, as the leading global environmental authority, stands ready to contribute to the further development of the biodiversity mainstreaming platform to support in cooperation of lessons learned from experiences so far and to bring in key partners from the environmental sector in support of this initiative.

Ms Maria Helena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Climate and Natural Resources)

Thank you all for the support. I think we receive clear support from the Member Countries, also clear guidance and how we should move forward the platform. As I said in the beginning, the platform will be an informal mechanism where we can have together all the stakeholders, the users, and the ones conserving and protecting biodiversity. The idea is to bring a new narrative that the productive sectors, they have the solution or they also are part of the solution on the protection of biodiversity and the use of ecosystem services.

The idea is not to create a new mechanism. It is to build on existing mechanisms to collect what we have so far but to create a space where the different, especially the Ministers of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries and the environment, they have a space for a clear dialogue. And we know that we do not have much space where they can sit together, they can coordinate, even at the same country and in the same government.

And how we can share the tools, we can share the best practices, we can see what are the policies existing but also identify the gaps for helping the countries to fulfil those gaps. This is what FAO is offering to bring to the table.

For sure, all of the partners will be called to this multistakeholder platform and dialogue. We are very grateful to UNEP, showing the work they are doing, some of them in coordination and collaboration with FAO, and for sure all of this work, all of those publications, all of the lessons learned and the sustainable practices will bring to the platform and will be shared among the users of the platform.

As for the question from China, for sure, GIAHS is one of the examples to be shared in the platform and GIAHS is under a new department on climate, biodiversity, land, and water, showing clearly the linkage between GIAHS and biodiversity.

Regarding South-South Cooperation, when I refer to best practices, we immediately think on South-South Cooperation, how we can share best practices, knowledge, and as the Director-General said yesterday, we are changing the name of the division on Office of Partnership to have also South-South Cooperation. I believe yesterday the Director-General mentioned that.

Regarding the question of the USA, we hope we are not creating any additional resources. All the resources needed, they will come through extra budgetary resources and what we agreed yesterday is FAO CBD, with the support of the presidents, will be trying to mobilize additional resources, in case it will be needed for further platforms. But we will not use our regular programme budget, if this can assure you.

This is what I wanted to say that we are really committed to move forward with the platform. Whatever we do will be shared with all FAO Governing Bodies as I mentioned, the Technical Committees. We report to the Council as we move forward receiving feedback and guidance from the Member Countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Maria Helena, and thank you to all of you for your contribution to the discussion on this item. My conclusions for item 17 are as follows:

The Conference:

- a) welcomed the FAO initiatives to act as biodiversity mainstreaming platform; and
- b) requested FAO to facilitate in collaboration with its partners, the integration of biodiversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional, and international levels.

I see no objection. This is adopted. Thank you very much. This concludes agenda item 17.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Item 14. Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

Point 14. Rapport intérimaire sur la mise en œuvre des activités relevant de la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et sur la suite donnée à la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN2)

Tema 14. Informe sobre los progresos respecto de la celebración del Decenio de las Naciones Unidas de Acción sobre la Nutrición y seguimiento de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2)

(C 2017/32)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us move now to the last item on our agenda which is item 14, *Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/32 in front of you.

I will now invite the Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department, Mr Kostas Stamoulis to introduce this item.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I would like to make a presentation as soon as it comes. It will also be a visual on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2).

We should first underline the fact that this should not leave our attention, that this is the only SDG for which there is a decade established. In April 2016, the UN General Assembly endorsed the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, two outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition and proclaimed the Nutrition Decade.

The aim of the decade is to provide a clearly defined time-bound cohesive framework to accelerate implementation of the commitments made at ICN2 and the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development and achieving the global nutrition and diet related non-communicable disease targets.

The nutrition decade's primary characteristics are country owned and country driven, promotes alignment among actors and actions and constitutes an umbrella for all stakeholders to consolidate nutrition actions across sectors.

Now, what does Resolution 70/259 ask us to do? FAO and WHO with WFP, UNICEF, IFAD and key stakeholders are requested to work within existing structures and available resources to identify and develop a Work Programme for 2016-2025 based on the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action along with the means of implementation and use existing coordination mechanisms such as the standing Committee on Nutrition and the Committee on World Food Security for that purpose.

It requested Governments and other relevant stakeholders including international and regional organizations, civil society and private sector and academia to first actively support the implementation of the decade including through voluntary contributions as appropriate and requested the Secretary-General to give biannual reports to the UN General Assembly on the implementation of the decade.

The Work Programme of the United Nations Decade for Action and Nutrition 2016-2017, has been developed through an inclusive and collaborative process.

In July 2016, the Decade was launched on the sidelines of the High-level Political Forum in New York and a further advocacy event was arranged in September 2016 at the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly. A draft was discussed at the CFS Open Ended Working Group on Nutrition in February 2017 and subsequently shared and discussed among the entire Membership of FAO and WHO through a joint video conference in February 2017 also, which has been shared with the missions to the United Nations in New York.

In addition, the United Nations Standing Commission on Nutrition convened two online consultations through a system, the Food Security and Nutrition Network, which is exactly a system based here in FAO for sharing online consultations and the Work Programme was finalized on 5 May 2017. I will show you the indicated links as long as they put the presentation up. The identity and the link to the Work Programme of the Decade. Now the Decade is not something that is second guessing the Framework for Action of ICN2. It is just restating it in six cross-cutting action areas.

The first area is derived from the 60 voluntary recommendations of the Framework for Action of ICN2. This area is sustainable resilient food systems for healthy diets. The second is align health systems, providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions. Third, a source of protection and nutrition education. Fourth, trade and investment for improved nutrition. Fifth, save and supporting environments for nutrition at all ages. Sixth, to strengthen governance and accountability for nutrition.

Now what about the means of implementation? The means of implementation of the decade include: The submission by Members of the ICN2 commitments for action in a smart format, specific measurable, etc. The form of submission could be to the Secretariat of the Decade or to the Director-General of FAO or to WHO at the high-level.

Second, the conveyance of action networks which are informal coalitions of countries aimed at advocating for the establishment of policies and legislation allowing the exchange of practices, highlighting successes and providing mutual support to accelerate implementation.

Finally, the mobilization of financial resources to support the implementation of national policies and programmes.

Now there have been some good examples. Brazil is the first country to make specific commitments in the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition during the 70th World Health Assembly held in May 2017. Brazil became the first country to make ambitious, concrete commitments as part of the Nutrition Decade and the concrete commitments you can see them on transparency. As a country, they want to focus on reversing the obesity trend. The announcement of three SMART commitments

supported by 41 policy measures was made by the Minister of Health of Brazil and they are to be achieved by 2019.

The second example is the one of Ecuador. At the same 70th World Health Assembly in May 2017, Ecuador's Vice Minister of Health announced five commitments that are supported by 15 different policy measures with a long-term aim of improving and safeguarding the health and well-being of Ecuadorians. Ecuador becomes the second country to make specific commitments to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. We hope that other countries including some in this room will follow.

Another example is Norway, which announced the first action network under the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition at the Ocean Conference in May 2017. They announced the establishment of a Global Action Network on Sustainable Food from the Ocean for Food Security and Nutrition and invited interested Member Countries to join this action network. Through this presentation we are inviting, as I said other countries to take the lead in the formation on action networks on important issues.

We just completed the International Year of Pulses. Can we have a country taking the lead to establish an action network on the promotion of pulses consumption? What about an action network to increase fruits and vegetable consumption? FAO and WHO are developing the guidelines on how the country led action networks could actually operate.

Some international developments related to ICN2: This slide highlights a few of the international developments after the ICN2 in 2014, especially in relation to FAO. The Report to Conference covers this in more detail.

In October 2016, CFS decided to scale up its role in advancing nutrition. To this end, it endorsed the Framework to step up its contribution to the global fight against malnutrition serving as an intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Global Forum on Nutrition.

In December 2016, FAO and WHO co-hosted in Rome an International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diets and Improved Nutrition. Among the other international developments highlighted in the Report is the nomination of two FAO special Ambassadors for nutrition, Her Majesty Queen Letizia of Spain in 2015 and His Majesty King Letsie III of Lesotho in 2016.

The Global Nutrition Report underlines the relevance of ICN2 commitments and recommendations. Some country developments related to ICN2: In the past two years, while efforts to implement ICN2 commitments have been actively pursued, global nutrition targets are yet to be achieved. Implementation is therefore to be scaled up and investments for nutrition need to be increased. Almost all countries have nutrition related policies yet nutrition is not always a stated objective in national sectoral policies and development frameworks.

FAO provided technical support to over 90 countries in the areas of nutrition and food systems. The Organization together with the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs, UNDESA, and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), led the development of a Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS which has launched in this Conference.

The Progress Report furthermore highlights the key activities at country level in each of the six action areas of the Work Programme of the Decade. Progress is reported against the recommended actions included in the ICN2 Framework for action.

Finally, here is what we suggest as action by the Conference. A similar Progress Report on ICN2 follow-up was sent to the World Health Assembly in May 2017 and the World Health Assembly was invited to note the Report as we do now.

Similarly, the FAO Conference is invited to welcome the proclamation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition by the United Nations General Assembly to acknowledged the progress made in following up on ICN2 commitments and implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition including the development of this Work Programme. Third, to provide guidance on further actions for the way forward. Thank you for your attention.

Mr Wendell DENNIS (United States of America)

The United States places a high priority on addressing malnutrition in all of its forms and thanks the Secretariat for this Progress Report on actions taken in follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

We welcome the opportunity presented by the Decade of Action on Nutrition to strengthen cross-sectoral action to address the spectrum of nutrition challenges facing our populations. We are encouraged by the progress highlighted in the Report while recognizing that significant gaps remain to reach our shared goals on nutrition. We encourage countries and localities to consider establishing public, private partnerships to develop and implement effective nutrition programmes as part of a comprehensive policy approach to reach nutrition objectives.

The United States supports FAO and WHO's coordinated leadership to support countries in accelerating progress to reach nutrition targets and encourage further refinement of the Work Programme on the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition as new evidence becomes available on the effectiveness of various nutrition interventions. As members pursue a number of policy options to implement the Framework for Action, we welcome the opportunity for technical collaboration and exchange.

Ms Laksmi DHEWANTHI (Indonesia)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive Report on the Progress of the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and follow-up the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

Indonesia welcomes the proclamation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 by the UN General Assembly. Indonesia is of the view that Decades of Action on Nutrition and ICN2 have important meaning for efforts to rebuild shared commitments at the global, regional and national levels to address various food security and nutrition challenges in the future.

The Indonesian delegation appreciates FAO's effort in advancing nutrition in food and agriculture policy and development. It reflected FAO's commitments to ensuring the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition and ICN2 commitments, for which my delegation very much welcomes.

At the global level we acknowledge that the progressive effort has been established by countries in following up ICN2 commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition including the development of eight Work Programmes. The Government of Indonesia has integrated the 2030 Agenda and the ICN2 Framework for Action which recommends actions at all levels to achieve three reinforcing objective as follows: first, strengthen the enabling environments for food security and nutrition. Second, improve the sustainability, resilience and nutrition sensitivity of food systems. Third, empower people and communities for improved food security and nutrition.

In line with Indonesia's participation in the Global Scaling-up Nutrition Network at national level as the United Nations platform has been integrated into Indonesia's 2015-2019 national Medium-Term Development Plan. This integration has been followed by the formulation of 2015-2019 Food and Nutrition Action Plan and its application in the field through formulation of food and nutrition local action plan and a local Medium Term Development Plan in each province and district.

Furthermore, as a follow-up of ICN2, Indonesia has implemented nutrition sensitive agriculture strategic programs including increasing the availability of nutritious food at community and household levels through the sustainable home yard food garden and fully commits to increase national food production capacity. Strengthen national rice buffer systems and strengthen microscale businesses. Increase access to vulnerable groups through proficiency of emergency food assistance. Improving balanced diets, and integrate nutrition education programmes, and to improve the availability and vulnerability analysis and data as well as early warning systems.

Indonesia believes that education, awareness raising campaigns, capacity building and evident based policies are essential for the success of the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on

Nutrition. As an example, since 2006, the Government of Indonesia promoted environment education within the framework of Programme for Education for Sustainable Development.

The Adiwiyata Green School Programme aims to encourage schools to adopt behaviors that are respectful towards the environment. This Programme aims to create a caring school environment. As such, it supports the development of policies in the field of learning, capacity building, environmental protection, creation of a healthy and clean school environment and the use of fun for activities related to environment education and action including the use of good quality healthy food as well as to reduce food waste.

We believe that there is a need of guidance on further action and cooperatively develop a Work Programme for the Decade of Action on Nutrition. This would significantly help countries in implementing this commitment on the way forward. We believe that this is the role that FAO could play in collaboration with WHO, WFP, IFAD and UNICEF. Furthermore, FAO could develop further guidance and assist countries particularly on strengthening multi-stakeholder partnership as it is an essential part of our success.

Mr Ruve SCHANK (Estonia)

I make this statement on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, the candidate countries to the European Union, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey align themselves with this statement and so does San Marino.

We welcome the proclamation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition by the United Nations General Assembly and appreciate the efforts to provide a clearly defined time-bound cohesive framework to implement the ICN2 commitments along with the Sustainable Development Goals.

We encourage FAO and WHO in collaboration with World Food Programme, IFAD and UNICEF to further mainstream nutrition in their respective Strategic Frameworks and to align their nutrition strategies with ICN International Agreements and the timeline from the Decade of Action. The United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition and the CFS which are developing their own contribution to the decade have a key role to play in this endeavor including enhancing links with Scaling Up Nutrition Movement.

We would like to see a strong linkage with CFS nutrition related activities in the action of Rome-based agencies, especially FAO. We note with satisfaction that the document mentions the need to coordinate its work with CFS. We would like to emphasize the importance of the implementation of the ICN2 commitments at regional and country level notably through support for including and harmonizing food and nutrition security in sectoral policies and the investment programmes.

We wish to highlight the opportunity to further strengthen links between agriculture food systems, nutrition, health, childhood and gender notably through policies addressing healthy diets, nutritional quality and dietary diversity and to end all forms of malnutrition including the indicator on minimum dietary diversity for women. The aim should be to consider the possible impact on the population's dietary habits as a crucial factor when making decisions on agricultural policy. The objective of producing food should be to contribute to a healthy diet of the population.

Ms Fernanda MANSUR TANSINI (Brazil)

Brazil reiterates its endorsement of the ICN2 outcome documents and its appreciation for the proclamation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition by the UN General Assembly.

The ICN2 represented a paradigm shift in the global commitment to eradicate malnutrition in all its forms through an integrated approach considering the centrality of sustainable food systems for healthy diets. More importantly, ICN2 in its outcomes have placed nutrition high in the international political agenda building the current momentum to gather efforts to ensure the human right to adequate food and the right to health.

As we heard from the presentation of Mr Stamoulis, Brazil was the first country to make SMART commitments in the context of the Decade. We hope others will follow. We would appreciate if the

Conference recognized the commitments already made by countries such as Brazil and Ecuador and reinforce the importance of the full engagement of countries in the Decade.

Our national commitments are: to stop the growth in the adult obesity rate, to reduce by at least 30 percent the consumption of sugar sweetened beverages among adults, and increase by at least 17.8 percent the proportion of adults who regularly eat fruits and vegetables.

We have also committed to providing even healthier and diverse meals and nutrition education to children in public schools and increasing the public procurement of foods from family farmers. We will revise regulations on food labelling and advertising of processed foods targeting children. We will increase breastfeeding promotion and promote access to healthcare for obese people.

With the great challenges that we all have ahead of us in implementing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, we believe the Decade of Action represents a unique opportunity to join international efforts to address the multiple causes and consequences of malnutrition, an opportunity that cannot be missed in the face of the millions of people who still suffer from undernourishment and of the rising trend of overweight and obesity worldwide. There is a lot to be accomplished for better nutrition in the forthcoming decade and the costs of inaction are too high.

Brazil wishes to highlight the central role that FAO together with WHO play in advancing nutrition and in the ICN2 follow-up. Based on their mandate, technical expertise and knowledge as well as its capillarity through its centralized offices. Moreover, FAO plays a leading role in the global governance on nutrition. With the CFS and UNSCN that should be further strengthened to fully comply with its mandate on nutrition.

Finally we encourage FAO and WHO to continue their collaboration in the context of the Decade and highlight the importance of its follow-up and the communication strategy.

Mr Kaba URGESSA (Ethiopia)

The Ethiopian delegate takes the floor to speak on behalf of the African Group.

Africa appreciates and commends the work of FAO, WHO and other United Nations agencies including the CFS in supporting the national effort to implement the outcomes of this Conference. The adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action in 2014 was a milestone in the context of international efforts to end all forms of malnutrition.

We are almost one year and a half in the path of the 2016-2025 United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. We welcome the Programme of Work of the Decade and its six focus areas. The Decade of Action on Nutrition endorsed by the Assembly offers the opportunity to mobilize increased efforts and commitments in Africa with renewed energy for joining actions towards eradicating hunger and preventing all forms of malnutrition affecting the Continent.

The 2016 Outlook Report on Africa's Food Security and Nutrition rightly stated that all the sum progress that has been made in eradicating malnutrition, Africa still suffers from multiple burden of malnutrition as defined by undernutrition, overweight or obesity coupled with rising levels of non-communicable diseases and micronutrients, vitamins and minerals deficiency. Significant proportions of children are underweight, stunted and/or wasting away. Similarities and differences in the degree of severity in the various forms of manifestation of undernutrition can be observed at the subregional and national levels.

The high levels of malnutrition bring negative economic, political and social implications. Hence, nutrition is central to the African Union Agenda 2063 and its ten years implementation plan. Through the Malawi Declaration on accelerated growth and transformation for shared prosperity and livelihood, African leaders committed to ending hunger and reducing stunting to 10 percent and underweight to below 5 percent by 2025.

The Malabo Declaration also declared that Africa would use agriculture as a key strategy to address its nutrition security challenges. Today, the world is facing four famines, three of them in Africa. The international community should deal urgently with these challenges. Otherwise, the achievements of SDG 2 of ending hunger and improving nutrition will not be achieved.

In particular, we want FAO to continue to cooperate with the RBAs, the CFA, and WHO to help align health systems providing universal coverage of essential nutrition actions and improve social protection and nutrition education.

FAO, through the Committee on Commodities Problems, can help ensure that trade and investment can contribute to improved nutrition.

While countries are encouraged to submit their ICN2 commitment for action for the implementation of the Decade, FAO should play an active role in building the national capacities in this regard.

Furthermore, an exchange of practices between countries through South-South cooperation can be useful in improving nutrition in developing countries.

We commend the important work that has been carried out by CFS, FAO, and WHO to scale up the Decade implementation activities to become a more international development related to ICN2.

We call upon the UN agencies to join hands with the private sector and the civil society, as well as with donors and international financial institutions for all forms of malnutrition, especially in Africa and other developing countries.

With this comment, the African countries welcome the proclamation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition by the UN General Assembly and acknowledge the progress made in following up on ICN2 commitments and implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition, including the development of this Work Programme.

Mr Yubo XU (China) (Original language Chinese)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the report. We have a few comments. They are as follows. Firstly, we welcome the declaration of the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016 to 2025. We support FAO in its active implementation of the commitments made in ICN2 and the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Secondly, we urge that FAO undertake nutrition sensitive research to reconcile nutrition and agriculture and to turn the supply of surplus agricultural products into a streamlined food system with a view to improving nutrition in countries.

Thirdly, while focusing on nutrition, we hope that FAO can fully harness its comparative advantages to solve the problem of food insecurity in lower income countries and food deficit countries so that it may take action in the view of strengthening nutrition one step at a time.

Mr Michaël WÜRZNER (Switzerland)

Switzerland welcomes the Decade of Action on Nutrition and acknowledges the progress made by the UN agencies to integrate nutrition in their strategic approaches. We would like to underline the importance to continue efforts of increased coordination among the UN agencies.

Sustainable agriculture that takes into account nutrition has a key role to play at every level of the food system. In this regard, Switzerland would like to particularly stress the importance to define and develop sustainable and healthy diets.

Switzerland also welcomes the current work on nutrition which is undertaken at the Committee on World Food Security in an inclusive way. Working towards a coherent policy environment for improving nutrition is key for achieving the goals, in particular those of the SDGs.

In this regard, Switzerland calls for an increase in the coordination between the RBAs, CFS, and other involved actors working on nutrition, sustainable nutrition such as multistakeholder partnership.

Finally, Switzerland would like to underline that assuring adequate dietary data including information on diet quality is vital for effective policy steering.

Ms Lineo Irene MOLISE MABUSELA (Lesotho)

Lesotho aligns itself with the statement made by the Honorable Minister of Ethiopia on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and endorses it. Lesotho also welcomes the progress report on the

implementation of the UN Decade on Nutrition and follow up to the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and we thank the Secretariat for the good quality of the report.

Lesotho supports and welcomes the declaration of the Decade of Action on Nutrition by the UN and to acknowledge the progress made in following up on the ICN commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

In the interest of time, Lesotho will speak on only three issues in the report. Firstly, Lesotho congratulates and commends FAO and its partners for the successful launch of GAP and looks forward to its implementation with keen interest.

Being a landlocked and a least developed country, Lesotho appreciates the challenges of food security and nutrition in small island developing states and therefore appreciates that the Global Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in the SIDS integrated with the 2030 Agenda and ICN2 Framework for Action will go a long way in strengthening the enabling environment of food security and nutrition in the small islands.

It will also improve the sustainability, resilience, and nutrition sensitivity of food systems. This effort to empower people and communities for improved food security and nutrition by FAO and its partners is therefore highly appreciated and applauded by Lesotho.

Secondly, Lesotho notes with appreciation the progress made on the Work Programme of the Decade and its six crosscutting and connected action areas derived in the Framework for Action recommendations, particularly in relation to building sustainable, resilient food systems for healthy diets. But we also realize the need for countries to intensify measures in the prevention and mitigation of food insecurity risk.

We therefore strongly urge and encourage countries to work together with FAO and its partners to intensify their efforts in order to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience of communities against the risk of threats and crisis.

Lastly, we applaud the progress of the Report of FAO on International Developments related to the Decade and ICN2, particularly in raising awareness of malnutrition challenges and building support for improved nutrition.

The nomination of two special Ambassadors for nutrition but in particular, his Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho in 2016 will give a new impetus to raising awareness to the challenges of malnutrition in the three African sister countries, that is Ethiopia, the Gambia, and Malawi where his Majesty will visit later this year in furtherance of his work as a FAO Special Ambassador for Nutrition.

On that note, Lesotho welcomes the Progress Report and endorses it.

Ms Juadee PONGMANEERAT (Thailand)

We thank the Secretariat for the presentation. Thailand acknowledges with great appreciation the proclamation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Thailand is committed and ready to do its part in order to shift the common goal. We would like to highlight the importance and the need of coordinated action among government agencies and partner organizations.

We encourage FAO to share knowledge and the budget to implement UN programmes and projects with other relevant UN organizations to support developing countries to achieve the nutrition objectives.

Mr Ilya ANDREEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on the events relating to the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and recommendations from the ICN2.

We welcome the first Joint FAO-WHO report on the decade which should become a platform for the coordinated work of the United Nations System and all stakeholder partners in combatting the triple burden of malnutrition.

The Russian Federation is satisfied with the start of the practical work in framing the Decade of Action, including the publication of the programme. We welcome the inclusion in the document of the issues of social protection, education, and awareness raising in the area of nutrition.

On a positive note, we highlight the International Symposium on Sustainable Food Systems for Healthy Diet and Improved Nutrition, held here at FAO headquarters in December 2016. We support the inclusion of nutrition as a crosscutting theme in the FAO Strategic Framework and also its inclusion of all of the Organization's activities.

In this connection, we welcome the attention devoted to nutrition by bodies such as the Committee on World Food Security and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

At a national level, Russia is striving to implement specific initiatives on improving nutrition, based on the outcomes of the ICN2. The Russian departments and research institutes are prepared to report on the Government policy for healthy diets which gives a clear picture of the trends in the country in this area.

In February 2016, this publication was submitted to the FAO Secretariat and in June of the same year, Russia adopted a strategy to increase the quality of food 2030 which is aimed at guaranteeing nutritious diets and preventing diseases. Among other things, it includes events to promote healthy diets, including via mass media, the development of specialized research, improvements in quality monitoring of food commodities, and encouraging producers to enhance the quality of the food produced.

We also recognize the importance of nutrition in the framework of international cooperation. This theme had a separate section dedicated to it in the International Conference for Food Safety and Risk Analysis which was organized by us jointly with FAO in Sochi this year.

With financial support, projects continue to be implemented by WFP and FAO to support healthy school meals and food security in several countries in the Eurasian Region.

Mr Katsuyoshi MASUKAWA (Japan)

Japan welcomes the progress report on the implementation of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition and follow-up to the ICN2.

Nutrition is a longstanding priority area of work for Japan and we have been promoting improvement of nutrition worldwide under the concept of human security in diverse areas, including food security, agriculture, and health.

We are also promoting international cooperation to achieve improved nutrition and would like to share with you two examples.

The first is the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA) which was launched at the TICAD VI held in Nairobi last year.

In this initiative, Japan and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) are collaborating with FAO and other international organizations to hold sustainable and comprehensive improvement of nutrition through coordination across multiple sectors such as health and education while raising emphasis on agriculture. We recognize FAO as a particularly important partner in this initiative.

The second example is the partnership with private sectors, an area that the government of Japan places emphasis in recent years.

In September last year, a platform called Nutrition Japan Public Private Platform (NJPPP) was launched to help food companies to start nutrition improvement projects in developing countries through support to facilitate business environments in partnership with private sector such as business corporations, civil society, and academia in institutions in Japan. Collaboration of social contributions and business will expand in the future. Japan expects FAO to join this kind of comprehensive effort.

Finally, we reiterate the importance of collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies in the area of nutrition based on each agency's comparative advantage and exercising synergies.

Japan would like to continue working with them in the future.

Sr. Edison Paul VALLEJO MADRID (Ecuador)

El Ecuador reitera su compromiso con el Decenio de la Nutrición de las Naciones Unidas y con los resultados de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2). Agradecemos también la presentación realizada por el Director de la División de Nutrición y Sistemas Alimentarios, que mostró el ejemplo de Ecuador como segundo país en el mundo en establecer el compromiso de SMART los cuales apuntan a mejorar la nutrición, la salud y el bienestar de su población en el largo plazo.

Entre los compromisos asumidos por el Ecuador están los siguientes temas: generar medioambientes que favorezcan la salud de la población; alentar la lactancia materna; brindar servicios de salud integrales y educación en materia de nutrición y salud a mujeres embarazadas, niños menores de cinco años y niños en el grado escolar; promover la participación intersectorial en las políticas públicas y finalmente promover la soberanía alimentaria. Los compromisos adquiridos por el Ecuador, los cuales están apoyados en más de quince políticas de estado ya están siendo implementados por nuestros ministerios y otras entidades públicas y privadas. Los esfuerzos del Ecuador se orientan a promover el derecho a la nutrición y a la salud por encima de los intereses económicos y comerciales de la industria alimenticia. Asimismo, estos compromisos buscan garantizar la soberanía alimenticia como un objetivo primordial de la acción estatal en la materia.

Basado en su experiencia, el Ecuador encomia a la Conferencia a que se reitere la importancia de que los Países Miembros de FAO asuman compromisos similares en el Marco del Decenio de la Nutrición y de la CIN2. Asimismo, el Ecuador reconoce los esfuerzos y avances obtenidos por la FAO y encomia a la Organización a continuar desplegando sus esfuerzos con miras a alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio y la Agenda 2030 en el ámbito de la nutrición y la seguridad alimentaria.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

Egypt welcomes and supports the proclamation of the Decade of Action 2016-2025. We appreciate the work being undertaken by FAO and WHO in following-up on ICN2 commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition, including the development of its Work Programme.

We call on FAO to continue to put nutrition as one of its top priorities, including through voluntary contributions, and to continue to support national efforts, in particular in developing countries to eliminate all forms of malnutrition in accordance with Agenda 2030.

Micronutrient deficiency, wasting, and stunting continue to have negative economic and social implications in many developing countries. Egypt highlights the importance of FAO's work in areas such as nutrition sensitive agriculture, school feeding programmes, and nutrition education as a way of addressing these challenges.

We continue to encourage FAO's active role in coordination with the CFS as well as in the context of the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition.

Additionally, we call on FAO through its Committee on Commodity Problems, to identify ways through which trade can lead to improved food security and nutrition. With these comments, Egypt adopts the Progress Report on the Implementation of ICN2.

CHAIRPERSON

Now I will give the floor to observers.

Ms Stineke OENEMA (United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition)

The UN System Standing Committee on Nutrition is pleased to announce its continued support to the implementation of the Framework for Action of the ICN2. It does so specifically in the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

The Decade is meant to intensify nutrition policy development programming and actions during a time bound window of ten years until 2026. Considering the huge gaps that still exist in all areas of malnutrition, this intensification of efforts is badly needed to build awareness and sharpen policy commitment and action.

Without this intensification, it is unlikely we will eliminate all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

The reports of both FAO and WHO to their Governing Bodies presented just now and earlier in May during the World Health Assembly show that countries are beginning to make important strides to translate ICN2 commitments into ambitious and coherent programmes, policies, and investments.

But the job is not yet finished, with perhaps the most difficult challenges still remaining.

Countries can count on the support of the UN System. All UNSCN Members have pledged support for the Decade. The three Rome-based agencies have announced their specific commitments to the Decade and these are publicly available on the UNSCN website. Other UNSCN Members will follow shortly with their specific commitments. UNSCN is facilitating the discussion and dialogue in the international fora about food and nutrition in Rome, Geneva, and New York, and across the entire UN System.

It includes topics such as trade, climate, and investments, as such maximizing policy coherence and coordination. In Rome, the Committee on World Food Security is one of these fora of course. In Geneva, UNSCN engaged with the World Health Assembly, the World Trade Organization, and the Interagency Task Force Against Non-Communicable Diseases to promote food environments that are more conducive for nutrition.

In New York, UNSCN engages with the High-level Political Forum for optimal integration of nutrition in all relevant SDGs.

Now with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition, nutrition is back on the highest level of the political agenda, the UN General Assembly. UNSCN is committed to working through the entire UN system to ensure the coherency and coordination of nutrition messaging, advocacy, and planning in these three key locations, Geneva, Rome, and New York.

Mr Kostas STAMOULIS (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

First of all, we thank all Members for the feedback on the Progress Report that we have presented and we are quite encouraged by your support for the Work Programme for the Nutrition Decade.

We do recognize, all of us, that we need to accelerate our efforts to implement the ICN2 recommendations. The suggestion made by the United States for PPP approach is well noted. We also have noted the suggestion to further refine the Work Programme once new evidence becomes available. This is actually the intention.

We welcome the suggestion to provide guidance on multistakeholder partnerships, and in this context, we would like to bring to your attention that the Work Programme is a living document and this will be updated on a regular basis.

The stakeholders of the Decade, should collectively advocate in a harmonized way for the mobilization of financial resources that countries may need to implement the decade.

FAO and the WHO Secretariat of the Decade will work closely together to convene its Membership together with other stakeholders such as the CFS, UNSCN, as well as WFP, IFAD, UNICEF, and other UN agencies.

The Decade addresses malnutrition in all of its forms, undernutrition, overweight, and micronutrient deficiency. FAO will continue providing support to strengthen national capacities to tackle malnutrition in all of its forms.

However, we should also note that formation of action networks as has been proposed by the Work Programme will help countries with weaker capacities to learn from countries with stronger capacities and get assistance.

Sustainable and healthy diets are the key areas of work in FAO. We agree that dietary data quality is essential for the type of evidence-based policy making that we are all working for. Within this context, I would like to inform you that we are working on a database called GIFT that includes information on individual food consumption surveys.

Furthermore, we are providing guidance on how food-based dietary guidelines can be used for policy making and informed decision making.

Some points that the essence of the Work Programme is to promote, this is responding to one of the comments – cross sectoral and cross stakeholder collaboration, is a key part of the Programme.

The Work Programme on Nutrition on the Decade is a general guidance which will then have to be taken, adapted, and adopted for individual, national level, or local level or regional level action.

Finally, we would like to inform you that FAO is organizing a regional nutrition symposia with the same modality as the December one which provides the opportunity to take the ICN2 recommendations to the regions and countries.

The exact dates are not yet known, around autumn, those symposia will be organized in all regions just like the one we organized in December.

Now I would like to see if my colleague and leader in this effort on the Work Programme on the Decade along with the WHO has anything more to add.

Ms Anna LARTEY (Director, Nutrition and Food Systems Division)

No, I think you have said everything, I wish to let Member States know that Brazil and Norway have set the pace in forming an action network and we welcome Member States that want to form an action network. FAO will give guidelines on how these can work. This is the way that countries can actually lead the way on the Decade.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for this clarification. My conclusions for Item 14 are as follows.

The Conference:

- a) welcomed the proclamation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 by the UN General Assembly;
- b) acknowledged the progress made in following up on ICN2 commitments and in implementing the Decade of Action on Nutrition, including the development of the Work Programme;
- c) encouraged FAO to further support its Members, including through the Decade of Action on Nutrition in their efforts to fully achieve the global nutrition targets in line with the ICN2 commitments and the SDG targets;
- d) encouraged Members to form action networks to provide mutual support to accelerate implementation of the work program of the nutrition decade and submit the smart commitments for action.

I see no objection so this is adopted. Thank you very much. This concludes agenda item 14.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

After consultation with the Secretariat, we are suggesting that the Drafting Committee starts its work tonight in order for the Commission to be able to adopt its report on Friday afternoon. We do not know the exact date. The first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place today at 20.15.

I just want to remind you the composition of the Drafting Committee.

The Chairperson is Mr Alexios Marios Liberopoulos from Greece and the Members are Australia, Canada, China, Congo, Ecuador, European Union, Kenya, Kuwait, Mexico, New Zealand, Sudan, Sweden, and Thailand.

Thank you very much to all of you for your active participation in the deliberation of the Commission. Thank you to the Secretariat for this report so far and thank you to the interpreters who have agreed to stay so late.

The meeting rose at 19.47

La séance a été levée à 19:47

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.47

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Fortieth Session Quarantième session 40.º período de sesiones
Rome, 3-8 July 2017 Rome, 3-8 juillet 2017 Roma, 3-8 de julio de 2017
SIXTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I SIXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEXTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
7 July 2017

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr François Pythoud,
Vice-Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La Sixième séance est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. François Pythoud,
Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta reunión a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia de la Sr. François Pythoud,
Vice Presidente de la Comisión I

**Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe
(C 2017/I/REP)**

Mr Francois PYTHOUD (Vice-Chairperson of Commission I)

We would like now to move to the adoption of the Report of Commission I. In this context, I thank and compliment the Members of the Drafting Committee for their dedication and good work, and the Chairperson, Mr Alexios Marios Lyberopoulos.

I now invite Mr Lyberopoulos to present us on the proceedings and results of the Drafting Committee.

Mr Alexios Marios LYBEROPOULOS (Chairperson Drafting Committee, Commission I)

Thank you, Chairperson, for giving me the opportunity to report on the work carried out by the Drafting Committee of Commission I which I had the honour and pleasure to chair.

We concluded our work in two sessions, on Wednesday evening and Thursday afternoon. Members of the Committee made every effort to ensure that the text of the Draft Report of Commission I is a fair reflection of the views of the Members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to my colleagues in the Drafting Committee for their commitment and contributions during our work. I would like to emphasize that our hard work was characterized by a consistently good spirit of cooperation and mutual respect.

Members of Commission I, Vice-Chairpersons of Commission I, the dedicated work by the Members of the Drafting Committee of Commission I has led to the report agreed by consensus which I am honoured to present to you today.

I think we are ready to adopt.

Mr Francois PYTHOUD (Vice-Chairperson of Commission I)

Thank you very much, Mr Lyberopoulos, for the report on the work of the Drafting Committee. I would like to thank the Members of the Drafting Committee, on behalf of all the Members of the Commission.

So after reflecting on the work of the Drafting Committee, I recommend to the Commission I to adopt the Report of the Drafting Committee en bloc. Is this agreeable?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

You all agree. Thank you very much for your collaboration. This will close this meeting of Commission I. I would like to use this opportunity to thank again all the Members of Commission I for the active participation in the work of the Commission.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 9.43 hours

La séance est levée à 9 h 43

Se levanta la sesión a las 9.43



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