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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
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# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-sixth Session  
Cent cinquante-sixième session  
156.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 24-28 April 2017  
Rome, 24-28 avril 2017  
Roma, 24-28 de abril de 2017**

**FIRST PLENARY SESSION  
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE  
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

**24 April 2017**

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.42 hours  
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 42  
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.42  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Please submit all corrections to Room A138. Pour toutes corrections s'adresser au Bureau A138.  
Para todas las correcciones dirigirse a la Oficina A138.



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**Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice**


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	Page
Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	
Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier	
Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario ( <i>CL 156/1; CL 156/INF/1 Rev.2; CL 156/INF/3</i> )	7
Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee	
Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction	
Tema 2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción	9
Item 3 Reviewed Strategic Framework	
Point 3 Cadre stratégique révisé	
Tema 3 Marco estratégico revisado ( <i>C 2017/7</i> )	10

**CHAIRPERSON**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 156<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today. A special word of welcome to the Philippines as new Council Member to replace Thailand until 30 June 2018.

I wish to inform the Council that Venezuela is considered to have resigned from the Council under the terms of Rule XXII, paragraph 7 of the General Rules of the Organization regarding arrears in payment of financial contributions.

Before proceeding, I would like to ask the Secretary-General of the Council to make a short announcement.

Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Thank you. I wish to bring to the attention of the Council that the European Union is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution.

I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its member states is contained in information document CL 156/INF/3. I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, who has joined us and I now invite him to address the Council.

Mr Graziano, you have the floor.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Thank you, Mr Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council; His Excellency Papa Abdoulaye Seck, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Equipment of Senegal; Her Excellency Dora Siliya, Minister for Agriculture of Zambia; His Excellency Gauri Shankar Chaudhary, Minister for Agriculture Development of Nepal; Vice-Ministers; Ambassadors; Excellencies; Colleagues; Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour to welcome all of you and open this Session of the Council.

This week, the main subject for your consideration is the Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19. The proposed PWB for the next biennium was presented to you during an Informal Seminar held last month, and it was also discussed in the last Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committees.

I thank the Members of the Finance and Programme Committees for supporting the proposal for the level of the budget in the next biennium, and for recommending this Council Session to endorse the budget level as proposed. I hope this can be done during this week.

If Council decides to endorse it, we will repeat the remarkable achievement we made two years ago and, for the second consecutive time, reach consensus on the budget level at the Session of Council preceding the Conference.

This will allow us to focus more on programmatic and substantive matters during the Conference to be held in the first week of July.

The PWB, the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and the Reviewed Strategic Framework, have been mainly designed to further align FAO's work with the Sustainable Development Goals. Our five Strategic Objectives will have the same targets of the SDGs, especially those to which FAO is most directly involved. And the work of the Strategic Programmes will also be measured by SDG indicators.

This way, FAO's work is projected to contribute to the achievement of 40 targets of the 15 SDGs, which will be measured by 53 SDG indicators.

This full alignment has been possible because of the centrality of food and agriculture to the sustainable development agenda 2030. And also because, over the last five years, FAO has adopted an integrated, interlinked and interconnected approach, similar to the SDGs.

In fact, to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve Zero Hunger, the overarching SDGs number 1 and 2, we have to act on many fronts. We have to tackle climate change, manage natural resources in a sustainable way, and build the resilience of poor family farmers and rural communities in the face of conflicts and protracted crises.

The combination of climate change and conflicts and protracted crises is a big challenge for Zero Hunger.

As we all know, famine is back. It has struck South Sudan. And other countries of Africa, such as Somalia and Northern Nigeria, are on the brink of starvation. The same is happening in Yemen.

If nothing is done, some 20 million people could starve to death in the next six months in those four countries. And famine does not just kill people. It contributes to social instability, and also perpetuates a cycle of poverty and aid dependency that endures for decades.

I visited the Lake Chad Basin region earlier this month. Poor family farmers and rural communities are hopeless. These people were already struggling against the impacts of climate change, related droughts, and the lack of public investments and opportunities, especially for the youth. And then their lives and livelihoods have been devastated by conflicts and armed groups.

If we do not support these people, they will have no option other than to join local militias or movements of distress migration.

FAO and our main partners in the region – WFP, UNICEF and UNCCR are already taking action. More than 1.2 million people in the most affected areas of the Lake Chad Basin will receive assistance from FAO and our partners in the coming months before the planting season starts.

Activities include the distribution of cereal seeds, animal feed and vaccinations, and the provision of cash transfers, just to name a few. We also envisage to start restocking the herds of pastoralists. Let me say that if we do not do this, those people will remain hopeless forever. They need to get back to their jobs, and FAO intends to help them do it.

The establishment of the new Sub-Regional Office for West Africa will also contribute to this purpose.

On this, I would like to inform you that we have decided to start negotiations with Senegal to host the new Sub-Regional Office. Earlier this month, we met the Representatives of all four countries that had manifested interest in hosting the Sub-Regional Office to explain how the decision was taken.

I also thank Mr Ngirwa for his support during the whole process.

The PWB 2018-19 provides a list of ten priority areas for FAO to increase its technical capacity in the next biennium. Climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable agriculture production, poverty reduction, water scarcity management, migration and the support of conflict-affected rural livelihoods are among these priority areas.

We are also continuing the work that we are already doing on sustainable food systems, statistics, fisheries, forestry and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), following the previous request of Members.

And we are bringing the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to 14 percent of the net appropriation. This is the minimum requested by Conference for the first time in 1989, and then reaffirmed by Conference in 2015.

Within the regular budget, we have found over USD 20 million to reinforce each of these areas. These resources will mainly come from efficiency savings, from the reprofiling of administrative posts, and from specific activities that we propose to de-emphasize.

But let me stress two points here:

First, I will be always committed to finding more savings and promoting more efficiency, as I have done over the last five years. But I have already cut to the bone. There is no more fat left.

For any area or activity to be added to the list of priorities, we also need to indicate what should be replaced, discontinued or reoriented.

Another option is to finance FAO's work through extrabudgetary funds. And this is the second point I want to highlight: voluntary contributions are of vital importance to FAO. Now more than ever.

We have circulated Information Note 1 that further explains the priorities and indicates the areas and activities in which we are expecting to allocate the voluntary contributions.

By the way, you will discuss during this Council a new scale of assessed contributions. Many countries will pay more, and many others will pay significantly less in the next biennium.

And for those who will be paying less, such as most OECD countries, I encourage them to keep their money in FAO as voluntary contributions.

Information Note 2, which we have also already circulated, aims to further clarify the areas of de-emphasis. We are de-emphasizing very specific activities where FAO does not have comparative advantage; or where these activities are not a central part of our work; or even can be done in partnership with other institutions.

We are streamlining our work, focusing where FAO can make the difference.

Some countries have been concerned about resources allocated to some conventions and treaty bodies, specifically the Committee on World Food Security that was kept at the same level as the current budget.

On this, let me recall that the CFS receives equal contributions from the three Rome-based Agencies. And the three heads of the RBAs have the common understanding that these resources that we are providing are to sustain the work of the CFS secretariat. Additional funding for their activities should come from voluntary contributions, not only from Member Nations but also from the private sector and civil society entities.

Also in relation with the three RBAs, I met the new WFP Executive-Director, Mr David Beasley, to discuss cooperation plans for the coming months. I have also invited him to participate in the closing session of this Council that will discuss famine. And he will try to do it by Video Conference from Geneva next Friday.

Some time ago I also met the new President of IFAD, Mr Gilbert Houngbo. And I am convinced that the three RBAs collaboration will be further strengthened in the future.

Let me refer now to the Independent Assessment of the Technical Capacity.

The external consultants have provided the new version of the report for your consideration. The leader of the consultants, Mr Anil Sood, will present the report followed by a short intervention from Maria Helena Semedo, who coordinated the work of the secretariat.

Let me recall that the report concludes that, in quantitative terms, FAO has increased its technical capacity in the period from 2012 to 2016, both at Headquarters and in Decentralized Offices.

And it has been achieved despite the flat budget, mainly thanks to efficiency savings and flexibility from the use of consultants.

I think this report is a good base line, not to say a very good one, for further systematic evaluations in the future, which could address more disaggregate data and a qualitative approach.

Making FAO a better organization, more efficient and more effective has been a huge effort. And I am committed to continuing on this path.

Focus, interlinkages, value-for-money, technical capacity and partnerships are today hallmarks that define FAO. This is a result of our work together. It does not benefit me or the secretariat, but FAO, our Organization.

And I could not achieve any of these goals alone without your support and stimulus.

And now, more than ever, we need to stay together and act together to overcome the challenges to achieve Zero Hunger and promote sustainable development.

I would like to thank you for all we have done together, and also for all we have still do in the next two years.

Before concluding, let me inform you that I have selected Mr Laurent Thomas for the position of Deputy Director-General of Operations. Mr Thomas has vast experience and a long career as an FAO staff member. I am sure that he will continue to give important contributions to the modernization of the Organization. You will receive a note with his CV asking for your endorsement.

I would also like to bring to your attention the issue of FAO governance costs.

As I said before, Management will continue to look for additional savings and ways to improve the efficiency of the Organization.

In this context, I encourage you to reflect on the number of meetings of the Governing Bodies that we have every biennium. These meetings place extensive demands on the Secretariat in terms of preparation of documents and time dedication, as well as costs regarding interpretation and other procedures.

Let me give you some estimative numbers of the current biennium, 2016-17, when governance costs will amount about USD 72 million.

This includes not only costs of secretariat for Conference, Council and Technical and other Committees (USD 18 million), but also the time of senior management and other staff in support of these meetings (USD 37 million), the related costs of CPA (USD 11 million) and also other aspects.

Of course that regular interaction between Management and Membership is fundamental, and it is also part of the operational life of any organization of the United Nations system.

But we should ask ourselves if such a number of formal meetings are really necessary for us to reach the decisions we need to take.

So I firmly believe that we have room for further enhancement of efficiency, and also for reducing costs, in the areas of meetings of governing bodies. And this possibility should be explored in times of such financial constraints.

In this sense, we have decided to reduce by two days the next Conference in July. Instead of starting on a Saturday, as it was in the past, it will begin on a Monday, from 3 to 8 July.

Time and money are valuable resources in our common quest to end hunger and extreme poverty by 2030. Let us use them wisely.

Thank you very much for your attention.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Director-General. The Council has listened carefully to your presentation and we will take into account the issues you have raised during our deliberations this week.

We have also taken note of your invitation for the Council to confirm the appointment of Mr Laurent Thomas for the post of Deputy Director-General (Operations). I wish to remind Council that the relevant document is CL 156/LIM/5, which contains the curriculum vitae of Mr Thomas.

May I take it that the Council confirms this appointment?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. This will be reflected in the Report of the Council under *Any Other Matters*. I wish to congratulate Mr Thomas on his appointment. Do any Members wish to take the floor?

**M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)**

Le Cameroun prend la parole à cet instant au nom du Groupe Afrique pour réagir à la déclaration que le Directeur général vient de faire à l'attention du Conseil.

Nous avons suivi avec une attention soutenue les avis et les orientations du Directeur général sur les questions que nous aurons à traiter au cours de cette session. Les positions de notre Groupe seront dévoilées au fur et à mesure de l'examen des questions soumises à l'ordre du jour.

Je voudrais cependant dire, comme le Conseil vient de le faire, le Groupe Afrique soutient fortement la proposition du Directeur général de nommer Monsieur Laurent Thomas au poste de Directeur général adjoint des opérations. Nous avons examiné le Curriculum Vitae de Monsieur Laurent Thomas - il parle de lui-même - nous le trouvons suffisamment étoffé pour le poste. Sa longue expérience à des échelons graduels au sein de la FAO l'a préparé à occuper ce poste.

Nous sommes donc contents que le Conseil ait entériné cette proposition.

Le Groupe Afrique a par ailleurs accueilli favorablement l'aboutissement du processus de sélection du pays devant abriter le Bureau sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, processus ayant abouti pour ce faire au choix du Sénégal. Les quatre pays qui étaient candidats avaient certainement des arguments à faire valoir. Nous les félicitons pour la qualité de leurs propositions. Le choix du Sénégal étant maintenant définitif, le souci du Groupe Afrique est de recevoir de la FAO, l'assurance que, dans la répartition des responsabilités entre le pays hôte et la FAO, le Bureau bénéficiera de toute l'attention nécessaire et disposera des moyens idoines pour conduire ses activités.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

**Mr Joao Carlos DE SOUZA-GOMES (Brazil)**

I am honoured to address you for the first time as the new Permanent Representative of Brazil.

As one of the largest agricultural producer in the world, Brazil attaches great importance to the foresight work of FAO to assist countries to ensure food security and better nutrition, as well as sustainable agriculture production and rural development.

Its five Strategic Objectives have anticipated in many ways the guidance provided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Now, we must drive the Organization to better pursue its broad mandate in face of the emerging challenges of our time.

FAO must act in a scenario of climate change and growing scarcity of natural resources, such as water and fertile soils, which affects food security and agricultural production worldwide.

It must act in a world where people migrate in growing numbers to flee from conflicts and poverty.

This trend brings both difficulties and opportunities to host communities. However, it disrupts the agricultural-dependant economies and societies in the least developed countries, where migration fluxes are much higher.

At the same time, I would like to stress that domestic migration also adds to the challenge, particularly given the growing urbanization of our nations. I am sure that many State Members and the Director-General are also concerned with this issue.

FAO must act, in collaboration with other UN agencies, in the worst food crisis the world faces in 70 years, as mentioned by our Director-General. One hundred and eight million people are severely food insecure and the demand for humanitarian and resilience building assistance will escalate as an increasing number of countries are at risk of famine.

FAO must also act to help countries promote sustainable food systems and address malnutrition in all its forms, especially in the context of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition.

And FAO must act – and more efficiently – in order to support countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal number 2, and implementing the Voluntary Guidelines to support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food, approved by this Council in 2004.

Brazil praises the wonderful job done by Dr. Graziano as Head of FAO, and supports the DG's proposal for the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium, with a few observations.

First, Brazil is glad that FAO's planning is overall aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby placing the Organization in the core of this global agenda.

However, its planned activities on energy, soils and biodiversity could be better reflected in the PWB as part of the responsibility of the new Department on Climate, Biodiversity, Land and Water.

As for FAO technical cooperation, Brazil praises the provision for increasing the budget appropriation share to 14 percent. This, however, is only the minimum percentage recommended by the Conference.

Brazil welcomes the DG's wise and realistic proposal to keep a zero nominal growth for the next PWB, given the adverse economic situation worldwide. We recognize that this containment is far from being ideal when FAO is required to assist countries to meet the ambitious goals agreed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the commitments made under the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Brazil is certain, though, that the DG and his team will make all possible efforts to further increase FAO's efficiency in benefit of its core activities.

This flat budget should be taken as an extraordinary effort given the growing challenges the Organization faces. With the new scale of contributions, developing countries will have their share in the regular budget substantially increased in comparison to developed ones – Brazil, for instance, will raise by 30 percent its contribution to FAO.

The increased burden shared by some developing countries should be matched by ever more generous extra-budgetary contributions.

While we are confident that FAO will continue to make the best use of our resources – as the Independent Assessment of FAO's Technical Capacity has just confirmed –, we would like to see a greater commitment from developed countries in financing FAO's activities through voluntary contributions.

The world seems to be evolving fast and to a not so clear direction. The global trends and constraints for agricultural development envisaged by FAO in its Reviewed Strategic Framework are an important reference but may be quickly surpassed by reality.

If the international community is faced with growing crises, FAO, as well as WFP and IFAD, may be called upon to respond to ever greater challenges in the near future.

Therefore, we must provide FAO with all means necessary to allow it to do its work as mandated by Member States.

Brazil is committed to do its best – and we are sure that all Member States will do the same.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

On behalf of the Asia Group, I would like to just make this brief comment. We have closely followed the issue highlighted by the Director-General in his statement and during the discussions, which will follow in this Council. The Asia Group will be providing its comments on the matters that have been highlighted.

We also would like to congratulate Laurent Thomas on his appointment as the Deputy Director-General for Operations. I have known and worked with Laurent for many years and believe that with his experience and knowledge of the activities of the Organization, he will add great value in delivering the mandate of his area of responsibility.

We are pleased that the Council has endorsed his appointment.



**Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom)**

I have called for the floor so that my colleague from Malta can make a statement on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Members.

**Ms Vanessa FRAZIER (Observer for Malta)**

On behalf of the EU Presidency who represents the EU 28 Embassies and the EU Delegation, we wish to congratulate Mr Thomas on his appointment as Deputy Director-General Operations. He has very valuable experience to bring to this role and we wish to assure him that he can count on the support of the European Group.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you for those encouraging words.

Ladies and Gentlemen, before continuing, in the interest of the safety of all of us, I request your attention for a short video presentation on fire safety.

*Video Presentation**Présentation vidéo**Videopresentación***CHAIRPERSON**

I now pass the floor to the Secretary-General to explain the procedure for asking the floor, and to provide us with an overview of document delivery for this session. Mr Gagnon, you have the floor.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I wish to remind delegates that in order to ask for the floor, they simply need to press the red button located by their microphone. The light will flash until the delegate has spoken. The order of speakers will be automatically noted and displayed on the screen above the podium.

With regard to document delivery for this session, I wish to inform that out of 12 main documents, seven were published by the deadline of 27 March, one additional document was published within that same week and the four reports of the Council Committees, which took place after or just before the deadline for despatch of Council documents, were published within the week following the end of their Session.

Finally, I wish to remind Members of the “PaperSmart” approach adopted by FAO, in line with the UN system-wide initiative, whereby a “Print-on-demand” service is available at the Korean Conference Service Centre for delegates requiring printed copies of Council documents.

**Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable****Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier****Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario**

(CL 156/1; CL 156/INF/1 Rev.2; CL 156/INF/3)

**CHAIRPERSON**

The first item on the agenda is the Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable as set out in documents CL 156/1, CL 156/INF/1 Rev.2 and CL 156/INF/3.

Document CL 156/1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 22 February 2017 to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this Session.

Since our 155<sup>th</sup> Session in December no invitations have been issued to Non Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, nor have there been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-item 9.1, *Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions*, and sub item 9.2, *Applications for Membership in the Organization*, can be removed from the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the proposed amendments?

**M. Mongui MÉDI (Cameroun)**

Nous n'avons pas de problème avec la proposition d'amendement à l'ordre du jour.

Le Cameroun prend la parole à cet instant précis au nom du Groupe Afrique pour solliciter l'ajout d'un point à l'ordre du jour qui traiterait du rapport de l'Année internationale des légumineuses.

Nous proposons pour ce faire, Monsieur le Président, un réaménagement du point 14 de l'ordre du jour, s'il plaît au Conseil, en lui donnant un nouveau titre: «Années et Journées internationales». C'est un titre que nous retrouvons déjà dans le Projet d'ordre du jour de la Conférence.

Ce titre comprendrait donc deux sous-points: 14.1 «Année internationale des camélidés» et 14.2 «Journée internationale des légumineuses».

Je souligne en passant, Monsieur le Président, que si le Conseil accepte cette proposition, les documents y relatifs seront mis en ligne immédiatement.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Are there any comments on the proposed amendments? I see no comments.

I take it that Members have no objection to include the proposed agenda item submitted by Cameroon on behalf of the Africa Group on the declaration of the annual observance of World Pulses Day.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

**CHAIRPERSON**

With respect to the Provisional Timetable, you have before you document CL 156/INF/1 Rev.2. I should like to point out that the items on the Provisional Agenda have been scheduled to allow the Drafting Committee to convene its first meeting in the afternoon of Wednesday 26 April. This in turn should enable the Committee to finish its work in good time on Thursday and thereby enable the Report to be adopted by the Council on Friday afternoon.

Does this draft Timetable, with the deletion of item 9 and addition of a sub-item on the Proposal to declare the annual observance of World Pulses Day under item 14, meet with the approval of the Council?

Thank you, the Timetable is approved.

*Adopted*

*Adopté*

*Aprobado*

**CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to draw the Council's attention to my pre session letter proposing that, as previous sessions, issues considered by the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting, not be discussed under their respective item, but be deliberated upon as follows: input from the Report of the 121<sup>st</sup> Session of the Programme Committee on the Reviewed Strategic Framework, to be considered under Item 3; inputs from the respective Reports of the Programme and Finance Committees and their Joint Meeting on the Medium Term Plan 2018-21 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19, be considered under Item 4.

This approach will assist in focusing our deliberations and avoiding repetition.

- Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee**
- Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction**
- Tema 2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción**

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We now move on to Item 2, *Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee*.

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: Ambassador Claudio Rozencwaig of Argentina; Mr Lupino Lazaro of the Philippines; Mr Sanglin Yoon of the Republic of Korea.

If there are no objections, I wish to congratulate the three Vice-Chairpersons on their election

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Mr Khaled El Taweel of Egypt as Chairperson, and the following countries as members: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Japan, Lesotho, Mexico, Romania, Russian Federation, Sudan, United States of America.

Are there any objections?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, it is so decided.

#### **M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)**

Monsieur le Président, veuillez nous excuser. Les discussions se poursuivent encore pour le deuxième membre de l'Afrique, pourriez-vous donner la parole à l'Angola pour qu'elle puisse nous faire le point sur la situation.

#### **Ms Maria Esperanca Pires Dos Santos (Observer for Angola)**

We are going to communicate the name in the course of the Council, or in the course of the day.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you Angola. It would be preferable in the course of the day.

As mentioned in my pre-session letter, I wish to reiterate the need for interventions to be kept as brief and focused as possible, and that preference be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

I will now hand over the floor to the Secretary-General for some further information regarding submission of statements. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

#### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I should like to remind Members that the full written text of interventions may be submitted for inclusion in the Verbatim Records of this Session, and a shorter version delivered orally in the interest of good time management.

Furthermore, may I also request that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting a copy of the text be provided to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas as clearly as possible. The relevant email address for the submission of electronic versions of statements will be projected on the screen behind the podium and is also given in the Order of the Day. Timely submission of texts is of considerable assistance for the work of verbatim reporters and ensures greater accuracy.

Finally, I wish to remind Members to speak slowly when making statements as this will ensure accurate interpretation. Thank you.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I also wish to remind Members that following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session.

The Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations in keeping with the practice established at past sessions of Council. I invite you to point out any inadvertent omissions that you believe should be included in the draft report rather than waiting for the meeting of the Drafting Committee. In this way the task of the Drafting Committee will be made easier.

In addition, may I remind you that in the interest of good time management, it is important that we start each meeting punctually. Please ensure that you are here in the Red Room at the times indicated in the Order of the Day.

#### **Item 3 Reviewed Strategic Framework**

##### **Point 3 Cadre stratégique révisé**

##### **Tema 3 Marco estratégico revisado**

*(C 2017/7)*

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We now take up Item 3, the *Reviewed Strategic Framework*. Please ensure that you have document C 2017/7 before you.

I now give the floor to Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management, to present the report.

#### **Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director, Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)**

As part of the established programme planning process, FAO has carried out the quadrennial review of its Strategic Framework in light of global developments, global and regional trends and major challenges in the areas of FAO's mandate. The document before you presents the reviewed Strategic Framework, including FAO's Vision, Global Goals and Strategic Objectives, taking into account the comments provided by the Council in December 2016.

There has been strong and consistent support expressed by the FAO Governing Bodies for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the Strategic Framework. At the same time, several important global developments occurred in the past two years, in particular the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change, which provide the broad context in which FAO will need to adapt and operate for enhanced delivery and impact.

The reviewed Strategic Framework provides the overall strategic direction for the Organization, starting from FAO's Vision and Global Goals, which have not been altered as part of the current review, that is: "*A world free from hunger and malnutrition, where agriculture contributes to improving the living standard of all, especially the poorest, in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner*".

During 2016, a consultative strategic thinking process has identified the main global developments and trends that will frame agricultural development over the medium term, informed by the sectoral and regional trends arising from FAO Regional Conferences and Technical Committees.

Ten challenges are identified and described, which represent the main development problems that countries and the development community will face in the near future. They formed the basis for the review of the conceptual framework and theory of change of the five current Strategic Objectives, which are to:

SO1 – To contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

SO2 – To make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable

SO3 – To reduce rural poverty

SO4 – To enable more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems

SO5 – To increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

FAO must also ensure that it has the internal technical capacity and integrity to achieve the expected results. Therefore the Strategic Framework continues to include a sixth objective, which has been retitled as requested by the Council to better reflect its scope of ensuring technical quality and the integration of statistics and the cross-cutting themes of climate change, gender, governance, and nutrition in the design and delivery of the Strategic Objectives.

An important consideration in the review of the Strategic Framework was to align the Strategic Objectives and their results frameworks with the Sustainable Development Goals in order to effectively assist countries to achieve their targets, as set out in the Medium Term Plan.

The Council is invited to review and recommend endorsement by the Conference of the Reviewed Strategic Framework, in particular FAO's Vision, Global Goals and Objectives.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I now give the floor to Ambassador Serge Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to report on the discussions on this item during the 121<sup>st</sup> Session of the Programme Committee.

#### **M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)**

Le Comité du Programme a tenu sa 121<sup>ème</sup> session du 27 au 31 mars 2017 au Siège de l'Organisation à Rome. Son rapport est présenté dans le document CL 156/3, et plus particulièrement au paragraphe 3 du document, s'agissant de ses conclusions relatives au Cadre stratégique révisé, qui avait déjà fait l'objet d'un examen approfondi à la session du Comité de novembre 2016.

Le Comité a noté que ce Cadre stratégique révisé intégrait les propositions de reformulation de l'objectif 6 proposé par le Comité et approuvé par le Conseil à sa dernière session. Il a aussi considéré que le document présentait de façon claire les principaux défis mondiaux. Le Comité a enfin souligné la pertinence et la cohérence de la vision et des objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, ainsi que la cohérence de ceux-ci avec les Objectifs de développement durable.

Je précise que plusieurs des membres du Comité ont exprimé des réserves sur certains éléments descriptifs du document, notamment par exemple la référence au Sommet humanitaire mondial ou aux questions relatives à la consolidation de la paix. Il n'y avait pas toujours un consensus parfait sur le langage utilisé par le Secrétariat dans la présentation narrative du document. Mais le Comité a considéré que l'objectif n'était pas d'approuver dans le détail le vocabulaire utilisé dans un document de 40 pages, car il ne s'agit pas d'approuver un texte négocié mot-à-mot.

Il s'agit au contraire pour le Conseil et la Conférence d'approuver la vision générale présentée, la liste des défis mondiaux et surtout de confirmer l'accord des instances de gouvernance sur les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO. C'est pourquoi le Comité a proposé à l'unanimité que le Conseil approuve ce Cadre stratégique révisé tel que présenté dans le document C 2017/7, en vue de sa présentation à la Conférence de la FAO en juillet prochain.

#### **Ms Marie-Therese SARCH (United Kingdom)**

I would like to request the floor for Malta to give a statement on behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States. Thank you.

**Ms Vanessa FRAZIER (Observer from Malta)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate country to the EU, Montenegro, as well as San Marino align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the Reviewed Strategic Framework, its clear structure and the analyses of the evolving global context and of the main challenges for food and agriculture presented in the document. In particular, we agree on the need to enhance sustainability, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. We appreciate the visible efforts to embed such transformations in FAO's Strategic Objectives and Outcomes.

We encourage FAO to continue to pay special attention to the links between the evolving global context, available resources and results. We appreciate the efforts to identify, develop and enhance FAO's contribution to facing the ten global challenges described in the document. We encourage FAO to continue its work in important areas such as the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, sustainable agriculture, food systems, rural development and in increasing resilience to protracted crises, disasters and conflicts, thus inter alia helping to address some of the root causes of migration.

We appreciate the revision of the Strategic Objectives in order to respond to the challenges in the overall context of the SDGs.

We wish to highlight the centrality of the sixth objective in the Strategic Framework, underlining the continuing relevance of the cross-cutting issues of climate change, gender, governance and nutrition in the design and delivery of the Strategic Objectives, as well as the importance of the integration of the key area of statistics in the framework – also in light of the increasing role FAO will play in this area in the context of Agenda 2030. However, some further light should be shed on how FAO intends to incorporate these cross-cutting areas into the other Strategic Objectives. Last but not least, the sixth objective also aims at ensuring excellence of technical quality of FAO work and knowledge production and dissemination through technical leadership and quality control by technical divisions, which is pivotal for our organisation and its normative role.

In light of these comments, we endorse the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

**Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

Afghanistan is making this statement on behalf of the Near East Group and we will not touch on MTP or the Programme of Work and Budget, which will come later.

The Near East Group welcomes document C 2017/7 and finds it to be well prepared. It wishes to underline the following seven features of the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

One, the relevance of the ten global development events and the implication of the 12 global and regional trends on the work of FAO, are presented soundly and convincingly (paragraphs 9 to 30 and paragraphs 31-61).

Two, the articulation of the ten global challenges with which FAO has to deal with is well done and received with appreciation (paragraphs 67 to 106).

Three, the alignment of the 20 Outcomes of FAO's five Strategic Objectives with 40 SDG targets is presented with clarity (paragraphs 113 to 149).

Four, the title of Strategic Objective 2 has been simplified to provide better focus (page 27).

Five, three new Outcomes have been added, one each for SO1; SO3; and SO4 (namely, Outcomes 1.4, 3.4 and 4.4). All the three new Outcomes are intended to build the capacities of Member Countries and in improving the implementation of the three mentioned Strategic Objectives (paragraphs 126; 138 and 143).

Six, the articulation of the 20 Outcomes has improved considerably (paragraphs 126, 132, 138, 143 and 149).

Seven, improvements have been made in the presentation of Objective 6, its four cross-cutting issues (climate change, gender empowerment, governance and nutrition) and the strengthening of the statistical capacity of FAO and of Member Nations (paragraphs 150 to 172).

To conclude, the Near East Group takes the position that the Reviewed Strategic Framework reflects further consolidation in FAO's programming effort, provides good framework for implementation and result-based management and improves on the articulation of issues and challenges impacting the work of FAO and its partners at global, regional and national level. We thank the Secretariat for the good job done as well as the Programme Committee for its reflection on the Reviewed Strategic Framework (paragraph 3 of CL 156/3).

With these comments, the Near East Group endorses the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

**Mr Muhammad Rudy Khairuddin MOHD (Malaysia)**

Malaysia has the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We thank the Secretariat for the presentation and preparing Document C 2017/7 – Reviewed Strategic Framework.

The Asia Regional Group commends FAO's effort to respond to the global developments, trends and challenges the food and agriculture sector is facing. The Reviewed Strategic Framework highlights trends that are regional in nature and that is expected to influence areas of work in agriculture, commodities, fisheries, forestry and food systems, which form the basis for the review of the five current Strategic Objectives as well as benefit the discussions in each of the FAO Technical Committees.

We welcome and appreciate this effort particularly in addressing the impact of increased climate variability and enhanced exposure to extreme weather. The task is becoming greater as extreme weather is expected to worsen; at the same time the challenge to sustain agriculture production is greatly needed as global population rises, including in our region. Food security remains the top priority we need to address.

We further welcome the inclusion of a sixth objective to ensure the Organization's technical leadership and integration of statistics and cross-cutting issues of climate change, gender, governance, and nutrition in the design and delivery of the Strategic Objectives.

We encourage FAO to make continued efforts on assisting countries to achieve national and international goals of food security through multiple channels including pushing forward the South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

We urge FAO to continue to prioritize its work where it maintains a comparative advantage by supporting member countries especially in the Asia Region through policy advice, technical information and standard setting. This includes the protection of plant resources from pests and diseases through appropriate development and implementation of phytosanitary measures; agriculture policy advice; increasing agricultural productivity through knowledge sharing; and building resilience of farmers affected by climate change, through knowledge sharing and carrying out innovative practices for sustainable agriculture production, such as those listed in the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.

On that note, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

**Ms Dora SILIYA (Zambia)**

Zambia speaks on behalf of the Africa Group and appreciates the work and efforts that the FAO Secretariat has made in coming up with a reviewed Strategic Framework that is in line with the demands and expectations of Member States.

The Africa Group commends the broad, inclusive and thorough process undertaken in reviewing the Strategic Framework. We commend the five Strategic Objectives of the framework as they offer a way forward that does not shy away from the complexity of today's challenges but recognizes the need for comprehensive approaches in order to best respond.

I would like to appreciate and comment on the fourth strategic objective that highlights the post production aggregation, processing, distribution and consumption of goods that originate from agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The Africa Group appeals for innovations that integrate agri-business models in the agri-business supply chains of the small-holder farmers as the links have become increasingly important to guarantee food and nutritional security, as well as income and job creation.

It is, therefore, essential that farmers learn about value addition, group marketing and financial literacy in order to be able to negotiate financial services that are appropriate for their needs. They must also be enabled to access innovation and business management training, in order to better manage farming as a business.

There are clear indications that agro-industries have a significant global impact on economic development and poverty reduction, in both urban and rural communities. However, the full potential of agro-industries as an engine for economic development has not yet been fully realized in many developing countries, especially in Africa.

Finally, the Africa Group is particularly delighted with the sixth objective as it highlights the need to strengthen the collection of high quality statistics. Statistical data is vital for informed policy decisions and we appeal for technical support in the area for reliable data collection tools.

We also welcome the two cross-cutting themes of gender and governance and note that there is substantial effort to integrate them across all Strategic Objectives.

**Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)**

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic Countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The EU countries, Denmark, Finland and Sweden align themselves with the statement made on behalf of the EU.

The Nordic countries can endorse the reviewed Strategic Framework with the following comments:

We appreciate the close alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. There is now a clear line of sight between FAO's work and the Agenda 2030.

We would like to emphasize the centrality of the crosscutting issues, the sixth objective; the climate change, gender, governance and nutrition, when delivering on the strategic objectives. Strong focus on the crosscutting issues is fully in line with Agenda 2030 and the centrality of the inter linkages between the SDGs and their indivisibility.

Further, when FAO is taking measures in response to the international migration flows, we would like to highlight the importance of addressing the root causes of involuntary migration, with set of policies that foster inclusive structural and rural transformation and economic growth.

**M. Dominique AWONO ESSAMA (Cameroun)**

Le Cameroun prend la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour pour soutenir la déclaration faite par la Zambie au nom du Groupe régional Afrique.

La réflexion stratégique qui a conduit au développement de ce Cadre stratégique révisé a montré son efficacité en ce sens que le processus, qui a permis une consultation large des membres, a grandement bénéficié des contributions de notre groupe régional. Ce document, qui conclut cet autre cycle de planification du travail de la FAO, rencontre l'adhésion totale du Groupe régional Afrique, d'autant plus qu'il intègre les priorités et les initiatives régionales de l'Afrique, identifiées lors de la Conférence régionale tenue en 2016 à Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire, notamment l'élimination de la faim à l'horizon 2025, l'intensification durable de la production, le développement des chaînes de valeur et le renforcement de la résilience dans les zones arides.

Par ailleurs l'arrimage de ce Cadre révisé aux Objectifs de développement durable du Programme à l'horizon 2030 a été sollicité par les membres afin que les futurs Cadres de programmation pays puissent s'appuyer sur cet arrimage et renforcer la cohérence des objectifs nationaux de développement.



Consciente de ce que le défi majeur de pouvoir nourrir une population toujours croissante se posera davantage en Afrique que dans les autres régions du monde, en raison de son taux de croissance démographique le plus élevé, mais aussi soucieuse de ses capacités limitées à assurer l'exploitation optimale des ressources pour accroître la production agricole, l'Afrique veut pouvoir compter sur les actions menées dans ce Cadre stratégique pour donner une impulsion déterminante à la lutte contre la pauvreté et à son ambition d'éliminer la faim dans le continent.

Nous ne saurions insister davantage, au regard des tendances actuelles (volatilité des prix, demande croissante de nourriture, crises prolongées, variabilité des systèmes alimentaires, emplois décents des jeunes...) et de la vulnérabilité de notre région aux aléas climatiques, sur la nécessité d'une croissance inclusive et partagée. C'est en cela que nous appuyons le travail de la FAO en matière de genre (parité hommes-femmes et autonomisation des femmes), de nutrition, de statistiques, de renforcement des marchés et de développement de chaînes de valeur ouvertes et équitables, de renforcement de la résilience et évidemment de changement climatique.

Nous faisons nôtre la proposition du Comité du Programme d'approuver la transmission de ce Cadre stratégique à la Conférence pour adoption.

Le Groupe Afrique a accueilli favorablement l'aboutissement du processus de sélection du pays devant abriter le Bureau sous-régional de la FAO pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, ayant abouti, pour ce faire, au choix du Sénégal. Les quatre pays candidats avaient certainement des arguments à faire valoir. Nous les félicitons tous pour la qualité de leurs propositions. Le choix du Sénégal étant maintenant définitif, le souci du Groupe Afrique est de recevoir de la FAO, l'assurance que, dans la répartition des responsabilités entre le pays hôte et la FAO, le Bureau bénéficiera de toute l'attention nécessaire et disposera des moyens idoines pour conduire toutes ses activités.

Sur une note tout à fait personnelle, le Cameroun tient à informer le Conseil que la mise en œuvre progressive des accords pour le fonctionnement du Bureau de partenariat et de liaison en République du Cameroun est effective. Le Gouvernement a déjà mis un nouveau siège à la disposition de la FAO et le déblocage de la première tranche du financement des programmes est en cours d'exécution.

Je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

**Mme Evelyne TOGBE-OLORY (Bénin)**

Le Bénin s'associe bien entendu à la déclaration du Groupe Afrique et souhaite néanmoins apporter quelques remarques complémentaires.

Le Bénin reconnaît la valeur du Cadre stratégique révisé ici présenté par la FAO qui est clair, qui relie bien le contexte de travail et les 5 +1 objectifs stratégiques au contexte mondial, à savoir le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 ainsi que l'Accord de Paris sur le changement climatique. Le Bénin apprécie particulièrement l'accent mis sur le développement des capacités, tant à l'échelle régionale qu'à l'échelle des pays, notamment pour le suivi de la mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable par nos pays en développement.

Le Bénin loue par ailleurs le fait que la FAO fasse ressortir la gouvernance comme l'un des quatre thèmes transversaux, les trois autres thèmes étant le changement climatique, la parité homme-femme et la nutrition, et nous applaudissons fortement le fait que le thème de parité homme-femme apparaissent de façon explicite dans quatre des cinq objectifs stratégiques.

Cependant, malgré toutes ces louanges, le Bénin voudrait partager avec le Conseil quatre réflexions principales.

La première réflexion est que les dix défis décrits dans ce document sont immenses et il nous semble que le niveau de ressources additionnelles requis, qui est indiqué de 265 non pas millions mais bien 265 milliards d'USD, tel qu'identifié par les trois agences romaines, et mentionné au paragraphe 48, ce niveau de ressources additionnelles nous semble donner matière à réflexion.

Deuxièmement, le Bénin reconnaît que la plupart des dix défis identifiés par la FAO sont des défis majeurs auxquels l'Afrique Sub-saharienne devra faire face. Nous voudrions cependant souligner deux défis d'importance non moindre pour l'Afrique qui, du reste, viennent d'être rappelés par le Cameroun, par exemple le défi du taux de croissance de la population en Afrique et son impact qui en découle sur

une demande croissante de la productivité agricole ou encore la proportion que représente la jeunesse, les 15-25 ans en Afrique, et le défi qu'ont nos pays pour les intégrer sur le marché du travail ou encore l'impact des changements climatiques sur la malnutrition en Afrique. Nous Africains, nous craignons que ces défis ne soient pas résolus d'ici 2030 et nous voulons rappeler qu'en effet, l'agenda régional Africain est à l'horizon 2063.

Troisièmement dans la section B2.7, les paragraphes 49 et 50 que la FAO intitule "ralentissement de la croissance des échanges agricoles et retour à une régionalisation du commerce", il nous semble, mais peut-être je me trompe, percevoir une certaine critique implicite de l'option faite par certains pays en développement, comme mon pays, lorsque nous voulons mettre l'accent sur des accords commerciaux régionaux plutôt que sur des accords mondiaux. Dans un contexte où les négociations multilatérales de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC) ont pour l'heure échoué, avec notamment l'incapacité reconnue dans ce document par la FAO de conclure les négociations liées au programme de développement de Doha, si le repli de certains pays en développement comme le Bénin sur des accords régionaux semble décrier, nous restons très modestement à l'écoute d'autres options ou meilleures alternatives viables que pourraient nous suggérer nos partenaires multilatéraux.

Comme quatrième et dernier commentaire concernant les aspects liés au genre, le Bénin note que malgré une claire reconnaissance de la féminisation de l'agriculture, malgré le thème de la parité homme-femme retenu comme un thème transversal et intégré dans tous les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, lorsqu'on en vient aux résultantes listées dans ce document, excepté l'objectif trois, aucun des autres objectifs ne liste la parité homme-femme dans ses résultantes. Nous faisons cette remarque non pas dans un sens de polémique mais plutôt parce que la FAO intègre bien les aspects genre et qu'il faudrait que cela ressorte dans tous les objectifs.

Sur la même lancée sur la parité homme-femme, au paragraphe 163, lorsqu'il est fait référence, je cite, "le secteur agricole ne fonctionne pas de façon optimale dans de nombreux pays en développement parce que la moitié des agriculteurs, qui sont des femmes, ne bénéficient pas d'un appui suffisant" etc., etc., fin de citation. Nous nous demandons si la proportion à laquelle il est fait référence, c'est-à-dire la moitié, est correcte. Ne faudrait pas plutôt dire que plus de la moitié des agriculteurs sont des femmes? Dans mon pays, le Bénin, les femmes représentent non pas la moitié mais bien 80 pour cent de la main d'œuvre employée dans la production agricole et des documents de la FAO indiquent que, de façon générale en Afrique Sub-saharienne, les femmes représentent 60 à 80 pour cent de cette main d'œuvre. Nous invitons donc la FAO à corriger cette proportion au paragraphe 163.

Avec ces commentaires, le Bénin est heureux de recommander au Conseil la présentation des 5 + 1 objectifs stratégiques proposés, pour l'approbation du Cadre stratégique révisé par la Conférence FAO de juillet 2017.

**Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)**

We welcome the reviewed Strategic Framework and we note that the strategic framework was aligned to the Agenda 2030 and its relevant SDGs.

We appreciate the thorough analysis of the main challenges facing Member States both at the regional and the international levels.

We note in particular the attention given to issues of increasing importance such as nutrition, climate change, Governance, statistics, commodities prices volatility as well as the causes of migration.

We appreciate the main reference to recent international developments in particular the adoption of the Agenda 2030, the Decade of Action on Nutrition, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement.

Nevertheless, we express our reservation to the reference to the World Humanitarian Summit which was not a UN mechanism nor with universal Membership.

While we endorse the strategic framework, we call on FAO to ensure that in any future reviews, reference should not be made to mechanisms that are not part of the UN system and not recognized by all Member States.

**Sr. Claudio J.ROZENCWAIG (Argentina)**

La delegación de Argentina acoge con satisfacción el documento C 2017/7, Marco estratégico revisado y su coherencia con la Agenda 2030 y sus 17 Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). Reiteramos la importancia de incluir la perspectiva de género en todos los desafíos y no solamente en el desafío número 4. En cuanto a los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO, deseamos llamar la atención sobre la importancia del Objetivo Estratégico 3, reducción de la pobreza rural, por el posicionamiento estratégico de la FAO para ayudar a los Gobiernos a mejorar la vida de los hogares pobres rurales.

Este Objetivo contribuye de modo significativo al logro de los ODS 1 y 2. Hablamos de empoderamiento de la mujer rural, de las organizaciones rurales, de acceso al empleo al trabajo digno, de sistemas de protección social y de acceso al crédito. En síntesis, hablamos de avanzar en la cohesión social rural.

Con respecto al desafío 5, poner fin al hambre y todas las formas de malnutrición, deseamos hacer una nueva referencia, tal cual lo realizamos en el Comité del Programa, al párrafo 86 del cual se desprendería la idea de que la carne roja no es saludable. El ejemplo brindado sobre el consumo de las carnes rojas deja de lado el aporte de nutrientes de las mismas que contribuyen a mejorar significativamente la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en muchos países en desarrollo productores ganaderos. Estos alimentos, contribuirán así a poner fin al hambre y a la malnutrición, ODS 2, cual es el desafío global del contexto del cual están mencionados.

Según el informe de agosto del 2016 del Grupo de alto nivel de expertos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial, si bien el consumo de alimentos de origen animal debe disminuir en algunas zonas y entre algunas poblaciones, debe aumentar en otras. Asimismo, en dicho informe se señala la función económica que la ganadería tiene en muchos sistemas alimentarios al proporcionar ingresos, riqueza y empleo, y por lo tanto contribuyendo a la erradicación de la pobreza, ODS 1. Reiteramos por ende una vez más, la importancia de la ganadería para la lucha contra la inseguridad alimentaria y su rol en el trabajo juvenil y del arraigo a la tierra a los efectos de desestimular el proceso de urbanización.

**Mr Hari PRIYONO (Indonesia)**

At the outset, allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your assumption as the Chairperson of the 156<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council. We believe your vast diplomatic experience will guide us through our work effectively and produce fruitful deliberation and lead to positive outcomes. My delegation is ready to work closely with you and members of the Bureau.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Group.

My delegation would also like to extend our appreciation for the hard work done by the FAO in reviewing the FAO strategic framework. The global community is faced with many common challenges and we believe the Reviewed Strategic Framework will maintain the relevance of FAO's works amidst those challenges. We support the reference to the Sustainable Development Goals, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Paris Agreement, Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Decade of Action on Nutrition, Port State Measures Agreement, and other relevant agreements in the Reviewed Strategic Framework. The reference to these important agreements will ensure the consistency between the works of the FAO with the obligations of FAO member countries under these agreements.

My delegation welcomes the addition of the strategic objective 6 in the Reviewed Strategic Framework. We believe this is an invaluable addition to the overall strategic objectives of the organization in addressing cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, gender mainstreaming, and nutrition, which would in turn benefit FAO member countries. Maintaining the high quality work of the FAO would undoubtedly help FAO member countries in attaining their priority programmes in the field of food and agriculture.

The FAO regional/country offices play a crucial part in ensuring the successful attainment of FAO goals and objectives. One of FAO regional/offices' core functions is to facilitate partnership between FAO and its member countries. This core function holds the key to meeting the strategic objectives of the FAO as laid out in the Reviewed Strategic Framework. In this regard, we believe both the FAO

and member countries would benefit from further strengthening the work of FAO regional/country offices in this aspect.

My delegation believes by further strengthening the work of FAO regional/country offices in this aspect, member countries should have greater access to means of implementation, including finance, investment, market access, capacity building programmes, transfer of technology, as well as policy support.

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

We are grateful to the Secretariat for drafting this reviewed Strategic Framework of the FAO, which takes into account several comments provided on several occasions. We are confident this document provides an overview of the key problems which the world agri-industrial sector risks facing. We welcome the close linkage between key provisions of the draft and those Strategic Development Goals that come within the purview of the FAO.

This should aid the Organization to make a worthy contribution to implementing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. And we are pleased to see that the FAO has received the role of coordinator within the UN System to monitor 21 out of 232 SDGs indicators. And will participate in the work of some other indicators, too.

We agree with the relevance and urgency of the current FAO global strategic goals. In this respect, we take a positive view of the inclusion in the title of Strategic Objective 2 of a dimension of the agricultural productivity. Also worthy of our support is the document expresses the issues of combatting poverty, strengthening social protection, combatting diseases of plants and animals and combatting agricultural pests along with dealing with the so-called triple burden of malnutrition. And providing statistics by sector. We note the importance of the standard setting activities of the FAO. Consolidating knowledge, a know-how and new developments in the different sectors. In our view, the organization must keep at the center of its attention the issues of sustainable mechanisation and intensification of agriculture. The development of the agrarian infrastructure and the rational use of land and soil. This last issue is totally in tune with FAO's mandate and with its comparative advantage.

However, unfortunately that word "*soil*" is not mentioned in the document a single time. We agree with a special emphasis on food safety to provide for food security and to preserve human health as reflected in paragraph 100 of the draft. And in this respect, questions arise by the fact that in paragraph 89 of the document there is a reference to the fact that food standards do not carry enough weight in the supply chain.

This problem and the next of the associated issues, including anti-microbial resistance and wholesome food will be discussed at the International Conference on Food Safety and Risk Analysis, which has been jointly organized by Russia and the FAO on 18 and 19 May this year in Sochi. And we welcome all interested countries to participate in this event. We are pleased to see that the draft reflects the cross-cutting issues by the FAO which is climate change, nutrition, governance and gender issues.

When we talk of gender, we view those positively with stress on extending the economic empowerment of women farmers, giving them training with the policy on health and nutrition and social protection in rural areas. We call upon the Secretariat to retain this balanced approach, which is first and foremost, based on the core competencies of the Organization.

The adaptation of the agrarian sector to climate change and its contribution to mitigating the effects of the climate change is one of the key themes of this document. We are confident that the expert professional capacity within the FAO will be activated not only to strengthen the resilience of agriculture in a world of climate risk, but also for the maximum use of any possible advantages from climate change as forecasted in a short term. We note in paragraph 16, which quite rightly stresses the important part played by forest in the global climate agenda, we are confident that in its work the Organization will devote the necessary attention to all types of forests, including boreal and temperate zone forests. We are expecting that to be the case.

We support FAO's work under Strategic Objective 5 on resilience of the agricultural sector, along with the disaster risk reduction (DRR), making emergency help to aid. We are forced to point out yet again, as Egypt has just done, that the results of the World Humanitarian Summit to which references

are made in the document under discussion were not agreed and adopted in the Intergovernmental format. For that reason, they cannot become the basis for the Strategic Framework on an equal level with the results of the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. And we note that the 156<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council already adopted a decision on this subject which is reflected in paragraph 8 f) of its report.

In this respect, we propose that we delete from the text all references to that Summit and so-called FAO “commitments” as declared by the Secretariat at that event without having been agreed with Member Nations. So this affects paragraph 9, 26 and 147 of document C 2017/7.

I would request that you, Mr Chairperson, should reflect this fact in your summing up of this agenda item.

Taking into account the above comments, if the above comments are taken into account, we are ready to support that this draft of the Strategic Framework should be passed to the 40<sup>th</sup> Conference of FAO.

**Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I would like to say thank you to the Secretariat for the documents provided as well as for the interventions. Just now we have heard about the discussion. Malaysia has made an intervention on behalf of the Asia Group. The Chinese Delegation would like to agree with what Malaysia had said. The Chinese Delegation overall endorse the vision, global goals and framework proposed by the document C 2017/7.

We would like to comment as follows. First of all, at the executive summary section of page 4, there is a final paragraph about actions recommended to the Conference. China would like to propose to change it based on the recommendations proposed by the Council Members on the package solution to the world food security and nutrition through South-South Cooperation framework. FAO shall further amend to revise the Strategic Framework. This is the first comment.

And to add to the following words after the paragraph 86, the population in developing countries continues to grow. The pressure of equal protection has been intensive continuously. Within such a context Developing Countries can no longer address hunger population and poverty in rural regions themselves. Although there was a clear advantage of South-South Cooperation. However, compared with the severity of tasks to address the challenges by developing countries is clearly not sufficient. Climate change and poverty are clearly interrelated. So it requires us to provide local employment, link trade channels, provide policy environment and develop science and technology talents. In this regard, we do not have sufficient consensus. Therefore, we need to adjust the wording to form a voluntary code to provide market trade processing, storing, marketing, and talents, infrastructure and all these serious issues.

By doing so can we provide further innovation and support to the South-South Cooperation? During the intervention of Malaysia just now, the emphasis was put on GIAHS importance and its results, therefore we would recommend to add equal friendly farming models in paragraph 109.

We would also recommend that in addressing the root causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition requires that a number of elements to be in place, mainly political commitment. We would like to recommend to add something behind political commitment. Supporting South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation by innovation and joint actions to coordinate parties in various forms of cooperation.

In paragraph 126, we recommend to revise 1.1 to countries that made explicit political commitments to eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition by 2030 through innovation and joint actions to coordinate resources of governments, international financial institutions, non-government organizations, civil organizations and private sectors to better fulfil the comparative advantages of the South-South Cooperation on addressing hunger and poverty.

So based on the above recommendations of revision, China would be prepared to endorse this document on Strategic Framework.

**Sra. Martha BÁRCENA COQUI (México)**

Es un honor tomar la palabra por primera vez como la nueva representante permanente de México ante la FAO y ante su Consejo.

La delegación de México se suma a la aprobación del Marco estratégico revisado y en particular a la inclusión del Objetivo Estratégico 6 ya que éste contribuye a alcanzar los demás Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO y la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible. La aprobación del Marco estratégico constituye un gran esfuerzo para alinear los Objetivos Estratégicos de la FAO y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) de las Naciones Unidas. Por ello, es digno de encomio el trabajo que han realizado al respecto tanto la Secretaría como los consultores externos y el Comité del Programa.

La delegación de México quisiera enfatizar alguna de las áreas que se mencionan en la evolución del contexto mundial y que muestran claramente el compromiso de México con esas áreas. Como es del conocimiento de los distinguidos delegados, en el mes de mayo habrá en Cancún una conferencia de seguimiento al Marco de Sendai para la reducción de desastres y riesgos.

Por otra parte, el gobierno de México está ampliamente comprometido con el seguimiento de la Cumbre sobre refugiados inmigrantes y copreside el grupo que está negociando el Pacto Mundial para migraciones seguras. La delegación de México saluda especialmente la inclusión del Objetivo Estratégico 6, como ya mencioné, y en particular la inclusión de los temas transversales de cambio climático y género. En el mes de agosto, se llevará a cabo un seminario en México sobre la relevancia de las mujeres indígenas en el combate a la pobreza rural y en la garantía de la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, la delegación desea subrayar la importancia de la creación del nuevo departamento de la FAO para clima, biodiversidad, tierra y agua que se encargará de apoyar a los países a adaptar sus sistemas alimentarios al cambio climático y a la conservación y sustentabilidad de la biodiversidad.

En este contexto, quisiera llamar la atención de este Consejo sobre la declaración de Cancún en relación a la integración de conservación y el uso sustentable de la biodiversidad para el bienestar, aprobada por la 13ª reunión de la conferencia de las partes (COP 13) del Convenio de Diversidad Biológica celebrado el pasado mes de diciembre en México. En la misma, 196 países se comprometieron a tomar acciones e hicieron recomendaciones para avanzar en la FAO en los sectores de biodiversidad y agricultura, pesca y bosques. En particular, la biodiversidad es la base de la agricultura al ser el origen de todos los cultivos. El ganado domesticado y la variedad entre ellos, y la pesca y la acuicultura, dependen del uso sostenible de la biodiversidad y los ecosistemas para mantener los beneficios económicos, sociales y ecológicos a largo plazo.

No podemos más que congratularnos de que la FAO esté otorgando una importancia relevante al cambio climático y la biodiversidad en sus programas futuros.

**Mr Sompong NIMCHUAR (Observer for Thailand)**

Thailand alligns itself with Statement made by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Group. We join others to thank the Secretariate for a well prepared document.

We have two specific questions for clarification.

First, paragraph 110 relateS to core functions of FAO in the last sentence: "This requires FAO to be a global policy setter, facilitator, partner and coordinator, as well as doer". Can the Secretariate explain a little more about the role of FAO as a "doer"? We would think that the word "initiator" or "starter" would be more appropoate. In certain circumstance, not business as usual, FAO can play the role as a "doer".

Second, in Strategic Objective 3 (Reduce rural poverty), paragraph 138, we notice that FAO have Outcomes related to gender in outcome 3.4. We wonder why don't we have Outcome related to gender in Strategic Objective 4 (Ensure more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems). "Gender" under SO4 will be broader and better reflect in cross-cutting issues.

**Sr. Oscar PIÑERO (Uruguay)**

Uruguay apoya lo expuesto por la delegación de Argentina sobre lo que expresado en el párrafo 86, así como con respecto al sesgo que contiene. Concomitantemente solicita su revisión, de acuerdo a dichos comentarios. Cabe recordar además que la II Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2) se refiere a dietas saludables, pero también equilibradas y diversificadas. No se hace mención a productos específicos, los que en muchos casos, como en el de las carnes rojas, presentan una variedad importante de calidades y de diferencias en los métodos de producción.

Esta preocupación por dietas equilibradas y diversificadas, no habilita a hacer declaraciones generales del tipo "un menor consumo", que no reflejan la complejidad de la realidad.

**Mr Winston RUDDER (Trinidad and Tobago)**

On behalf of 15 members of the CARICOM sub-region of Latin America and the Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago wishes to congratulate the FAO for an excellent document of the reviewed Strategic Framework. We feel insightful and pragmatic. Moreover, for small countries, it is an excellent methodological approach that can be adopted in countries as we seek to integrate the international, regional and national perspectives in developing the agricultural sector.

We also support the way the document has been presented and framed within the context of SDGs. It offers an excellent opportunity for FAO to work with the UN country teams in helping to get the message across that at the national level agriculture should be addressed in a much more coherent horizontal framework. One of the critical issues that the small countries have, I believe, it is the same for many countries, is the fact that there is a siloization that exists within the public administration where ministries and departments operate sometimes in complete ignorance of each other. I think this document presents an excellent framework for what I call "*smashing the silos*".

I want to refer to the global and regional trends. We are grateful that particular vulnerabilities of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are observed and recognized in paragraph 42 as it relates to the climate variability and other events. I think a good case could be made on reflecting the identified trends as a particular position of the SIDS and the challenges that the countries face. One of the critical issues that will arise as we go forward in the implementation is the fact that SIDS face the same problems but with much less resources and much less capacity. The extent to which they get the support of the FAO at country and sub-regional levels would be extremely important.

In this regard, and with those comments we wish to endorse completely the approach taken in the reviewed Strategic Framework.

**Sr. Elias Rafael ELJURI ABRAHM (Observador de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela)**

Agradecemos por la presentación del documento (C 2017/7) "Marco estratégico revisado", el cual compartimos y apoyamos.

En el 2015 la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas aprobó la Agenda para el desarrollo del 2015 y el documento final titulado "Transformar nuestro mundo: la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible". Allí se anunciaron los 17 Objetivos de desarrollo Sostenible y las 169 metas. Presentada como una agenda de carácter integrado e indivisible, que conjuga tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible: la económica, la social y la ambiental.

Hoy la FAO nos presenta su Marco Estratégico Revisado, alineado en perfecta sintonía con los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. Los objetivos de dicho Marco se centran sobre una Agenda Global de Grandes Desafíos: pobreza, hambre y desnutrición, Cambio Climático, Problemas de Productividad Agrícola, Cambios Demográficos, Migraciones derivadas de Conflictos bélicos, género entre otros.

En el Corto y Mediano Plazo observamos que la FAO enfrenta dos Grandes Retos en su Agenda Institucional, por un lado: 1) la Implementación y ejecución del Plan a plazo medio y Programa de trabajo, y por el otro que la FAO el custodio de 21 indicadores en el marco de los ODS. De los 21 indicadores, cuatro fueron clasificados como nivel 1, seis como nivel 2 y 11 como nivel 3; es decir, que en la mitad de mas uno de los indicadores, no se dispone de fuentes de información y de metodología.

El reto estadístico que debe enfrentar los países es de gran complejidad, por la insuficiencia de recursos humanos y económicos, el bajo Desarrollo estadístico de algunos Sistemas Estadísticos Nacionales, la ausencia de Marcos y directorios para realizar encuestas entre otros.

La FAO debe realizar sendos esfuerzos para que los países, que así lo requieran, logren acortar la brecha en poco tiempo, ayudando al Fortalecimiento de sus Sistemas Estadísticos Nacionales. Esto es garantía de que los recursos que se inviertan, sigan aumentando la disponibilidad de fuentes oficiales nacionales y no se haga uso por parte del Sistema de Naciones Unidas de estimaciones de grupos de expertos.

Creemos necesario como país, que a pesar de que la FAO debería crear una instancia (pudiese ser un Comité o Sub-comité) donde se discuta las cuestiones estadísticas en el marco de los ODS orientado hacia la: Planificación, Diseño, Construcción, Recolección, Procesamiento, Análisis, Difusión, Evaluación y Gestión de Archivo. Esto contribuiría enormemente a compartir buenas prácticas estadísticas.

Además, hacemos un llamado a incrementar la cooperación Sur-Sur como un mecanismo para la asistencia técnica y transferencia de conocimiento.

Con estas palabras, La República Bolivariana de Venezuela apoya el Marco Estratégico Revisado.

#### **M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)**

En premier lieu, je retiens de ces échanges que dans l'ensemble le Conseil soutient largement les grandes orientations de ce Cadre stratégique révisé et je m'en félicite; en effet je pense que ses orientations sont assez pertinentes. Je note en outre que beaucoup d'entre vous ont souligné l'importance des questions climatiques, des questions de biodiversité, de la question des sols, et comme la Chine, de la question des modèles d'agriculture respectueux de l'environnement. Il me semble que c'est un des grands tournants de ce Cadre stratégique et du travail qui a été accompli depuis quelques années à la FAO. L'importance de la protection de l'environnement et du capital naturel sont bien mieux pris en compte.

La Fédération de Russie a noté que la question des sols n'était pas vraiment abordée dans le Cadre stratégique révisé, ce qui est vrai. Cela aurait peut-être pu être fait, mais le Cadre stratégique révisé se situe à un niveau très général des objectifs globaux. En revanche, la question des sols est bien abordée ensuite dans le Plan à moyen terme (PMT) et dans le Programme de travail et budget 2018-2019, et je me félicite que dans les notes d'information qui ont été produites par le Secrétariat, notamment sur les secteurs qui devraient bénéficier de contributions volontaires, la question des sols est citée, notamment celle du stockage du carbone dans les sols qui n'est pas simplement un enjeu d'atténuation du changement climatique, mais aussi d'amélioration de la fertilité des sols.

Je suis, pour ma part, tout à fait favorable à la proposition qu'a faite la Chine d'intégrer une référence aux modèles d'agriculture respectueux de l'environnement. Cela me paraît le grand défi que nous aurons à relever dans les cinquante ans qui viennent. Cela dit, là aussi, la question est notamment abordée dans le Programme de travail et budget avec la référence à l'agroécologie.

Je voudrais finir sur deux remarques qui ont été faites par le Bénin, qui me paraissent importantes. La première porte sur l'intégration régionale. Peut-être qu'effectivement, c'est un sujet qu'on ne valorise pas suffisamment. Tous ceux qui ont travaillé sur la crise alimentaire en 2008-2009 savent combien, notamment en Afrique de l'Ouest, le manque de convergence des politiques agricoles et fiscales a créé des distorsions de concurrence et des problèmes d'approvisionnement sur les marchés et nuit à la complémentarité entre l'hinterland et les pays côtiers. L'intégration régionale est donc certainement un sujet prioritaire, notamment à travers les initiatives régionales.

On a souvent critiqué la Politique agricole commune. Il est de bon ton de critiquer l'Europe, y compris en ce lieu. Moi je n'oublie pas que quand je suis né, il n'y a pas si longtemps, on avait faim en Europe. On avait un déficit alimentaire majeur, et c'est la Politique agricole commune qui a permis, par des gains de productivité, d'arriver à une autosuffisance et même une balance alimentaire excédentaire. Nous n'aurions jamais pu le faire sur des bases purement nationales. La coordination des politiques agricoles et l'intégration régionale doivent donc être soutenues.



Dernier point, sur une autre remarque du Bénin à propos de la déconnexion entre les défis que nous avons à relever et le budget dont nous disposons. Je le soulignerai tout à l'heure dans le cadre des priorités du Programme de travail et budget 2018-2019; les ressources additionnelles que nous dégageons pour le prochain Programme de travail et budget, s'élèvent à une vingtaine de millions de dollars. Cela doit nous amener à être très raisonnables dans la définition de ces priorités et à ne pas les multiplier. Toute la difficulté d'une enceinte composée de 194 États Membres, c'est d'éviter l'agrégation de priorités pour parvenir à un consensus avec des ressources si modestes.

Je voudrais aussi en profiter pour faire une remarque sur quelque chose qui a été dit ce matin dans les remarques introductives sur la gouvernance de cette institution et sur le coût de cette gouvernance. J'appelle chacun à la plus grande sagesse sur ces questions-là. Au moment où nous devons mobiliser beaucoup de contributions volontaires pour parvenir à financer notre Programme de travail et budget, je crois que rien ne serait plus contre-productif que d'ouvrir un débat sur la gouvernance de notre institution. C'est le pire des signaux à envoyer aux donateurs. Certes on nous a dit que le coût de la gouvernance s'élevait à environ 72 millions de dollars sur l'exercice biennal; 72 millions rapportés à un budget de 2,5 milliards, c'est trois pour cent. Je ne crois pas que trois pour cent soit excessif pour assurer une bonne gouvernance d'une institution multilatérale comme la FAO. Pour ma part, en tant que Président du Comité du Programme, un comité de gouvernance important, j'ai fait des propositions pour essayer de réduire un peu la durée de nos deux sessions annuelles et d'organiser une troisième réunion pour aller au fond de la réflexion, que ce soit sur la politique d'évaluation mais aussi sur le cadre de résultats où le Comité du Programme manque à l'évidence de temps pour faire un examen, approfondi des produits, des résultantes, des indicateurs et des cibles proposés par le Secrétariat.

**Mr Boyd HAIGHT (Director of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management)**

Let me say on behalf of my colleagues at the table and those who have worked on the Strategic Framework: thank you very much for your careful reading of this document and the various comments and improvements you have suggested, which will be useful going forward for our Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget.

This is your framework. It is a framework that you set the goals and objectives to be obtained by Members with the assistance of FAO. I heard in many of the comments a very clear buy-in and agreement with these objectives. Of course, they are very closely related to the Sustainable Development Goals that have also been agreed in the international community.

I think my colleagues at the table may be better placed to provide explanations on some of the issues raised. I would just like to clarify one issue that was raised by Thailand on Paragraph 110 on the core functions, concerning what we mean by FAO being a "doer". Quite simply, the core functions are a mix of areas of work around, on the one hand, standard setting, policy advice, evidence-based decision making based on statistics, as well as providing capacity development to countries, facilitating the transfer of technology, advocacy and communcions – the "doer" part of the core functions.

If we only set policy, if we only set standards, but we do not build capacity for countries to provide and use, we are not going to achieve our goals and objectives. That is the way the core functions have been built as good mix of norms and development.

May I suggest my colleagues may wish to respond to some of the other issues raised.

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

I would like to refer to a few questions that were raised. First of all with relation to gender: Gender is referred to in many of the challenges as it is relevant to in the document. Also within the Strategic Framework, gender is a cross-cutting issue and there are indicators across the Strategic Framework that monitor the integration of gender across the Strategic Objectives.

Thirteen outcome-level indicators that allow tracking of important results related to gender including two under Strategic Objective 6, 20 output-level indicators, inclusion of gender perspectives and approaches applied to specific activities integrated in the Strategic Objective work plans and projects. Also the Medium-Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget in paragraph 287, you can see exactly how gender is integrated in terms of substance in the Strategic Programme.

Now the other question I would like to take; there is an issue about gender statistics in terms of women farmers. In this document it is not included, but what we have in the longer document which constitutes the basis for this, is the table “Future Food and Agriculture” that shows in which countries there is feminisation of agriculture. Women’s share of the economically active population in agriculture is increasing over time. Now there are two parts to the figures: one is women farmers, that is women who are involved one way or another in farming on their own farms, and then there are women workers who are economically active. These are two different types of data so I do not think we have any contradiction regarding the data.

Regarding international trade and regional trade arrangements. It is my understanding that in paragraphs 49 and 50, with more analysis in the longer document, what we are saying is exactly what Benin mentioned: that due to various factors mentioned in paragraph 49, including the fact that the multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture stalled there, is the proliferation of regional trade arrangements. As we see here, these have the potential to further liberalize agriculture trade and inject different disciplines in the rules that countries follow to ensure food policy, et cetera. So we are not condemning any of this.

In every regional trade arrangement there is trade creation and maybe some trade diversion. The question is how those will be related to the tariff structure arising from the most favored national programmes, but we consider it fairly and in all these big trade arrangements mentioned here, and others in the longer document, agriculture is actually included. Historically, a lot of regional trade or sub-regional trade arrangements usually left agriculture out but not now. I think a lot of these big trade arrangements leave agriculture in.

I would like also to pick up the issue of paragraphs 85 and 86 and the issue of livestock. We are not saying that livestock is not a fundamental part of nutrition. Let me remind the Members that Paragraphs 85 and 86 talk about how healthy diets and dietary patterns could actually become in harmony with achieving better sustainability in the management of resources, especially those related to livestock. There is a lot of evidence for this and I fully agree with the statement of Argentina that said not one size fits all and that there are some parts of the world where livestock production is not sustainable while there are others where it is practiced sustainably and it can expand in a sustainable manner.

In a document like this we cannot cover the diversity of situations like in a longer document. There are parts of the world where industrialized systems of livestock production are more environmental and sustainable but no industrial system per unit, per animal head in all this data. What we are saying here and it is said in Paragraph 86 is for instance we say there are dietary guidelines to recommend lower red meat consumption. There are plenty of cases, especially we say particularly among high consuming groups that this could help also promote environmental issues. That’s all we’re saying. We are not saying that we are promoting the across-the-board consumption of less red meat or other types of meat. Absolutely not. Actually in several parts of the world people eat too little of it. So we cannot just put everything under the statement of “eat less red meat”.

I think the paragraph says that within the context of what it is trying to addressing and it is consistent with the fact that there is no such thing as a blanket recommendation to reduce meat consumption, especially in places like Africa where overall it is hard to obtain meat. Consumption is only ten grams of meat a week, on the average, so we couldn’t propose something like a reduction in this case.

I think I have exhausted some of the questions that accrued.

**Ms Maria Helena M.Q. Semedo (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)**

I would like maybe to start where Mr Stamoulis concluded regarding the livestock sector and to assure you that FAO has a positive discourse regarding livestock.

But the challenge we have – you know that we have a growing population. We know that we have an increased middle class and we’ll be having more consumption of meat, globally speaking. And knowing that livestock production can have consequences on the environment, we said that we have to support sustainable solutions on how we can sustainably produce and manage the livestock sector.

And FAO has provided solutions in this regard, this is what we state within FAO and it is on the side of supporting production.

Regarding the consumption side, the discourse is, as Mr Stamoulis said, that we need to have a more balanced and more diverse diet. Maybe in some regions people eat too much red meat, while in other regions people eat too little red meat so how can we really have a balanced diet and a balanced consumption of the meat?

This is what we say in FAO and let's say that we have a really positive approach to the sector development in the way that we need to have sustainable management and consumption of livestock and red meat.

The second question is coming from the comments from Russia and China. Again, our appreciation for your comments, but we said that maybe soils is not talked about enough here, but for us soil is when you refer to natural resources. But when you go to the Programme of Work and Budget, you can see that in some areas to emphasize an importance we give to soils and other natural resources.

And our assumption is we need to produce more but we need to protect the environment so how should we preserve biodiversity, genetic resources, and ecosystems services?

Linked to that, I would like to thank the new Permanent Representative of Mexico for her intervention saying that as we discuss the platform, we will have to really mainstream biodiversity through the agricultural sectors. Further the establishment of the platform will bring together all of the sectors, environment and agriculture, forests, and fisheries, how we can really have an integrated and a sustainable approach.

But again you remember that in February, we organized in FAO a symposium on soil organic carbon and how we can really manage soil below ground. This is something new but very important to contribute to the reducing of greenhouse gas emissions and for climate change. And I am sure during the Programme of Work and Budget we will be further discussions on these important areas.

Regarding seeds, as you can see, it has been an area where FAO has been supporting more and more and we have the Global Action Programme on Food Security in the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, the linkage with healthy diets and also protection of environment, and I am sure in the Programme of Work and Budget we will see how important both vulnerability and seeds are in the FAO Programme of Work.

Regarding the food standards and the food systems, we thank the Russian government for organizing the International Conference on Food Safety and Risk Analysis in Sochi. For sure FAO will participate as already agreed and it is very important for standard setting and how we can have sustainable food systems and as Boyd said, FAO provides the standard setting and the guidelines through the CODEX.

And I believe those are the points I would like to make some comments on.

**Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General Programmes)**

I would have just one comment in response to Russia's remarks on the World Humanitarian Summit. Certainly we agree. I think we are all in agreement that the World Humanitarian Summit was not an intergovernmental meeting. It was not an agreed text. What came out of the World Humanitarian Summit is not the basis for action in the way that the Sendai Framework and other things are. That is for sure and that is certainly not the intent in the document.

Nevertheless, I think that the discussions leading up to and at the World Humanitarian Summit provide a particularly interesting reference point, especially now. I believe what will be remembered relates to our current context of food security crises and the call to pay more attention to breaking down the gaps between humanitarian work and development work and the need to see those as one common set of problems. That is to say:, the need to address prevention, the need to address policy, planning, to reduce risk, to prepare communities, countries, and households to reduce vulnerability and to be able to withstand vulnerable shocks including of course climate shocks.

In that regard, the discussions at World Humanitarian Summit are these days referred to quite often around the development humanitarian nexus that is in fact I think at the heart of many considerations about the current response to the crises that we see unfolding.

Besides, the other important aspect again as a reference point, but not of course as an agreed intergovernmental document is the commitment among the eight, now nine UN Agencies. It was eight UN Agencies plus the International Organization for Migration, which is now a full UN member, on what was called the new way of working and often referred to shorthand as the new way of working of how we collaborate more, of how we spend more explicit attention on capacity development of national capacities and governments in order to be able to respond. Moreover, the considerations were focused on how we work together in common assessments, how we cooperate for greater transparency on other issue. Then, those references do come out of the World Humanitarian Summit that I think are in fact useful in the context of what we have here.

Yet, we absolutely agree that it is not an intergovernmental agreement and not a basis for action as would other intergovernmental agreements be in that sense.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Let me thank you again for these very important interventions you have made. This is a result of your involvement in all of the stages of the development of the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

At various Council sessions, Members have given guidance to this subject and today this is reflected in our discussions.

Several comments on guidance have been given but, as always, we cannot include everything. We have also the records that we can always refer to.

Having said this, I hope we can come now to the end of Item 3. Allow me to make conclusions as follows:

The Council welcomed the reviewed Strategic Framework, and:

- a) noted that the document provides a clear understanding of the main challenges expected to be faced by countries in food and agriculture in the coming years;
- b) reaffirmed its support for FAO's Vision, Global Goals and Objectives;
- c) appreciated the alignment of FAO's Strategic Objectives with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- d) noted with appreciation that the Strategic Framework continued to include a sixth objective, with a new title to better reflect its scope of ensuring technical quality and the integration of statistics and the cross-cutting themes of climate change, gender, governance and nutrition in the design and delivery of the Strategic Objectives;
- e) cautioned against references to the World Humanitarian Summit, as a basis for action;
- f) endorsed the reviewed Strategic Framework, in particular FAO's Vision, Global Goals and Objectives, for approval by the Conference.

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

We agree with your summing up. However, in point e) we would propose that we should slightly change your wording and ask not to include reference to the World Humanitarian Summit.

#### **Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)**

The World Humanitarian Summit produced valuable lessons that many, many countries, especially those affected by lack of food security are using. So, the content was useful. Any useful document, FAO should use.

Now the question is a legal aspect. I mean, Russian Federation and Egypt, the two countries asked not to mention it. We accept the idea that we do not mention the World Humanitarian Summit and they ask to take it out of the document, but I do not see the inconsistency.

We take ideas from the G20, we take the ideas of G8 – these are not international organizations. All FAO members are not Members. We take ideas from OECD publications. OECD is not made up of all Member Nations of FAO.

In this regard, I do not see what is harmful to leave it as it is. What is harmful? Is it because it is illegal? I do not understand.

**CHAIRPERSON**

After listening to Afghanistan, I hope we can take the phrase as it is. Russian Federation?

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

We are grateful to our distinguished colleague from Afghanistan for that explanation. However, for various reasons we cannot agree with what is being proposed.

Firstly, we are discussing a high level strategic document which will be the guidelines for the Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization for the next few years and in this respect as we see it, the FAO should base its vision – I mean, FAO is its Member Countries, base its vision on what all of the Member States of the FAO agree on.

We also thank Mr Gustafson for the clarification. However, I need to note that such basic thing as closing the gap between the Development Agenda and the Humanitarian Aid Agenda, FAO has been working on before the Summit and will continue its work regardless whether the Summit takes place or not. We see no reason in mentioning the Summit as such.

If we look in Paragraph 47, we see that there is direct reference to the FAO commitments adopted at the World Humanitarian Summit. In our understanding, the FAO represents the Member States of FAO and the Member States have not agreed to those commitments. So they were given on behalf of the FAO without the agreement of the Member Countries, without the agreement of the Governing Bodies of the FAO. That is why we propose that we delete wording, including this paragraph from the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

I would also note that, despite the Secretariat's admission, the status of the Summit and the status of many other international events mentioned in this document is different. In Paragraph 9 they are mentioned in one paragraph and almost in one list. Regarding the governance, leadership, I would also like to note, the 155<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council already gave a recommendation on this issue which unfortunately was not fully taken into account.

Mr Chairperson, you have actually exactly reproduced the wording which the Council agreed at the last session, but it looks like, that wording was not sufficient. So we would kindly request that you, Mr Chairperson, should carry on this work and bare into account in your summing up wording which did not include this Summit.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me have information which I hope Members will agree, including, in particular, Russia.

We have got five minutes remaining and we have got only one paragraph for which I request your consensus and I hope the Russian Federation and Afghanistan will do so. Thank you.

Let me read it: (e) cautioned against references to the World Humanitarian Summit as a basis for action, noting that the outcomes of this meeting did not flow from an intergovernmental process.

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

We really value your attempts to achieve consensus. Although the wording which you just read out is not fully in tune with what we wanted to see specifically but we are prepared to accept it. Although we would ask Mr Gustafson to repeat to us that it will not be in the Strategic Framework which will be tabled at the Conference; there will not be a single reference there. If Mr Gustafson could confirm that, then we can go along with the consensus.

**Mr Daniel GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General Programmes)**

I do not think we can change the document that goes to the Conference at this point. I may be wrong on the procedural part, but I do not believe we can agree to that.

**Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)**

To fully understand, could we get a clarification; is there a legal issue or not when it comes to commitments FAO made at the World Humanitarian Summit or not? Could that help us if we got a clarification on that? If I understood Russia, they were hinting that FAO did something that was not legally appropriate to the Basic Text. So that could help us out.

But may I join also while I am having the floor – I do not see any need to delete this from the document.

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

If I may, I will have to go back into the history of this issue. The Russian Federation was deeply involved in the whole preparatory process, we took active part in sub-regional, regional and global consultations. Unfortunately, the preparatory process was not properly organized and we said this right from the start.

All of the discussions which took place with Member States were discussions on the broad humanitarian agenda. Then after the end of that process, the Secretariat of the Summit prepared what they called individual and collective commitments which were presented as outcomes of the Summit. They were not adopted in an intergovernmental format. In parallel, there were also group commitments. This partially answers the question raised by our colleague from Iceland, of what commitments made by the FAO we are talking about.

So at the end of the Summit there was an adoption of the so-called “Global Pact”, an agreement which was adopted by a limited number of countries and a limited number of International Organizations. The FAO was among that number.

So my question is who took on these commitments? If we say that it was the FAO, does that mean that it is the Member States of the FAO that took on these commitments? Or does it mean that it is the Secretariat of the FAO that took on those commitments?

As far as I know, there were no decisions by the Governing Bodies which are made up of the Member States on what the commitments could or should not be adopted. There was no such decision.

And in the Annex to the Global Pact on the last page, it lists the countries and International Organizations which participated in the drafting of this text. For instance, regarding World Health Organization (WHO) there is a footnote saying that the decision to be made after the discussion and confirmation with the Member States of the WHO. In regards to FAO, there were no consultations with Member Countries.

I am not saying that there is something incorrect in that document. Most of the ideas contained in that document – I am sure, most of the participating countries here would support. The point is that nobody ever invited either us or three quarters of the other Members, maybe four fifths of the other Members, to discuss this document.

Now here we are discussing the Strategic Framework document which lays down the guidelines for this Organization for the next two years. So it is as though we were putting on the same level events and agreements that Member States have spent many years on in order to develop consensus language and to make sure that there is no wrong language in those documents. And we are not prepared to put such documents that are being worked on in the traditional intergovernmental process. We are not prepared to put those on the same footing as documents which we, as Member States, did not participate in the development of.

Therefore, the results of the World Humanitarian Summit should not be given this place in the FAO Strategic document. That is why we are raising this issue.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We need to adjourn this morning meeting. Before we close, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for an announcement. Mr Gagnon you have the floor.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I wish to remind Members that with regard to item 10, *Arrangements for the 40<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference*, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday morning, there are a number of nominations for Officers of the Conference that have not yet been received. The nominations are subject to endorsement by this session of Council, which is the last one before the Conference in July.

The nominations required are as follows: Three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference; the Chairperson of Commission I (representative of a country from the G77 and China Group); the Chairperson of Commission II (representative of a country not within the G77 and China Group); seven elected members of the General Committee, which as you know will meet on the Monday morning, immediately after the opening ceremony of the Conference; and nine members of the Credentials Committee.

I also wish to remind Members that there will be two side events taking place during lunch time today, immediately following the close of this plenary meeting: from now until 13.30 the Side Event on *Supporting transparent, need-based and relevant responses to food crises through coordinated analyses – Presentation of the results of the Global Report on Food Crises 2017*, will take place in the Sheikh Zayed Centre; followed by a Side Event on *Engaging Countries in Capacity Development for SDG Monitoring*, in the Iran Room from 13.30 to 14.30. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Council will resume with agenda item 3 at 14:30 hours sharp.

*The meeting rose at 12:44 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 44*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.44*