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Продовольственная и
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Fifty-fifth Session
Cent cinquante-cinquième session
155.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 5-9 December 2016
Rome, 5-9 décembre 2016
Roma, 5-9 de diciembre de 2016**

**SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

7 December 2016

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.03 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 03
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 15.03
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Please submit all corrections to Room A374. Pour toutes corrections s'adresser au Bureau A374.
Para todas las correcciones dirigirse a la Oficina A374.



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(CL 155/2)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Sixth Meeting of the 155th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We continue with Item 9, *Report of the 103rd Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters*.

We have heard replies which were raised from the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting of Finance and the Programme Committee, also from the Legal Counsel.

Ladies and gentlemen as you may remember that, at the start of the week, the Director-General reminded the Council that consensus building takes time, but once achieved can pave the way for moving ahead efficiently, and together.

Since I became ICC, I have always striven to achieve consensus, which has united us as we pursue matters in the interest of the Organization and of its Members.

This consensus approach is also in the spirit of the reform of FAO approved by the Conference in 2008. I believe we should make a concerted effort not to backtrack to the pre-Reform era.

The arguments and counter arguments have all been put on the table today, and the various positions have been clearly stated.

It is also clear that all those who have spoken on this issue wish to abide by the established rules.

There has also been widespread acknowledgement that the present state of affairs *vis-à-vis* Secretaries of some Article XIV bodies is detrimental to the Bodies themselves, to their efficient functioning and, ultimately, to the mission of the Organization.

From the rich debate on Article XIV bodies that has taken place today, and in other Governing Body meetings before, it transpires that while there is broad support for the Director-General's proposal, which also calls for consultations and the participation of Members in the first two years, there are still some Members who wish to have further consultations.

Members of the Council, I call on you to help us move out of this impasse and to move on.

Naturally, consensus does not mean that we all share the same views or opinions, but that we strive to find sufficient common ground between the points of view that separate us, and this enables us to move ahead.

In this spirit, I beg the indulgence of those Members who have spoken in favour of continuing negotiations and ask them to concede to the proposal presented this morning, namely that:

- 1) "The Director-General issues Vacancy Announcements for the appointment of two Secretaries (IOTC and ITPGRFA) following standard procedures for the appointment of FAO senior staff with the inclusion of two representatives of Members in interview panels and subsequent referral by the Director-General of one candidate to the bodies for approval;
- 2) The Secretaries to be appointed for two years subject to confirmation of the appointment at the end of that period; the confirmation will be done by the Bodies;
- 3) The Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) carry out consultations during that period, including with the bodies themselves, with a view to agreeing and adopting a long-term solution."

I wish to propose that the Council agree to adopt this two-year solution, which includes a consultative role for the Independent Chairperson of Council to find a long-term solution.

The alternative would seem to be a protracted and inconclusive debate, which would be to the detriment of the work of the Organization.

Members of the Council, can I count on your support in helping us exit this impasse? Can we accept the proposal and move on?

If the Council chooses not to accept the proposal, we risk being locked in endless debate on this matter, to the detriment of Article XIV bodies and the mission of the Organization.

Members of the Council, I call on you to approve the proposal I have just outlined.

M. Gabriel AHOUANOGBO (Bénin)

Ce matin, le Bénin a fait une déclaration sur la base d'une mauvaise compréhension des faits. Je déclare que le Bénin retire sa déclaration du matin et se rallie à la déclaration du Groupe Afrique faite par l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that correction for the interest of the Africa Regional Group. Silence means you agree to my proposal.

Ms Cathrine STEPHENSON (Australia)

Well, I must say I find it very disappointing indeed that we have landed here. I know there was some ideas that people discussed with me over the lunch break about a very pragmatic way forward that we could have lived with but they may be voiced now so perhaps I will let colleagues from the European Union and Germany speak about those before I proceed.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

Thank you, Chair. I would like to pass the floor to the Slovak Republic.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States and we would like to thank the Secretariat and the Legal Counsel for the explanations that have been provided to us this morning. While we can see positive elements in the proposal tabled by the Secretariat, we have a number of concerns. We believe that more time is needed to carefully consider all the merits and implications of the proposal with a view to finding a compromise. We are willing and ready to continue discussions on the proposal possibly in the format of Friends of the Chair group with a view to moving forward on this issue and seeking a solution during this Council.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We would also like to express our concerns and we really need more time to consider this issue given that this proposal by the Secretariat was only shared with us in the evening of Friday and we have not really had time properly to consult with our Government.

Ms April COHEN (United States of America)

We have heard many points of view today and I wonder if we may propose a way forward by calling upon our colleague and friend to lead a consultative process with interested Member States and the treaty bodies themselves. Due to the urgency of the situation, we would ask that he submit a solution at the next Council with the hope that all those who feel their views will be taken into account.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

La Delegación de Argentina quiere apoyar completamente la propuesta realizada por Usted hace unos minutos y además queremos dejar en claro lo siguiente: nos parece que el Consejo debe dar soluciones efectivas, tenemos que tener resultados concretos, y como Usted mencionara, este tema debe ser resuelto con agilidad, ya que afecta las labores de los Órganos Estatutarios en virtud del artículo XIV de la Constitución de la FAO y afectan también la labor de la Secretaría de la FAO. Es por esto que mi país insta a las delegaciones a que podamos encontrar un consenso lo antes posible dentro de esta sesión.

Como señalábamos anteriormente, apoyamos completamente su propuesta y en caso de que existan ciertas cuestiones a debatir, estamos dispuestos a trabajar en un grupo de trabajo, pero durante esta sesión del Consejo, porque necesitamos resultados concretos lo antes posible para que se normalice esta situación.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Mi delegación también apoya su propuesta y la consideramos muy constructiva y balanceada, y que reúne en un criterio las preocupaciones de las delegaciones sobre este tema. No obstante, podríamos considerar que haya, como se menciona, un grupo de trabajo para discutir sobre la misma, pero como lo ha señalado Argentina, la decisión tiene que tomarse en este Consejo.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We fully agree with my colleagues from Argentina and Ecuador and agree with your proposal but we would like to add your proposal is not a permanent solution. A permanent solution would have been a negotiation which is part of this proposal in the long-term. Moreover from now to Friday it is impossible to come up with a solution so your proposal is the most intelligent way to go forward and solve this impasse.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

We agree with your proposal in the same line as Afghanistan here. We think it is the best option on the table at the moment.

Mr Gustaf Daud SIRAIT (Indonesia)

Indonesia takes the floor for the first time on this issue and would align itself with the position of the statement delivered by Malaysia on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. We would also like to align our positions and spirit with those of Australia, United States, Benin, Liberia, and also with our colleague, Japan.

Firstly, we would like to again convey our highest appreciation to the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal matters for the presentation and the proposals. We would like to acknowledge also the work that has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Indonesia has been following the discussion that took place since this morning. We take note of the proposal and shall deliver a full report including the dynamics of the deliberations reflected during this Council meeting to our Capital and to be further discussed with various related authorities dealing with Article XIV bodies in Indonesia. At the same time, Indonesia is highly encouraging the consultation by FAO with such bodies to continue.

Our discussion today is focused on the views and opinions of Council Members on the report of the 103rd Session of the CCLM. However, I believe that many of us present here today are not legal experts and with limited legal knowledge and backgrounds to discuss expanded related legal issues already mentioned by the Independent Chairperson of the Council which will lead to a never-ending debate.

We totally understand the requests that are being put forward by the Secretariat; however, it is also our strong belief and within the interest of all parties to seek the best way forward to resolve this matter accordingly and in accordance with the laws of nations. We must together try to find an amicable solution towards this matter without diminishing the spirit of togetherness in addressing many global food security issues.

In this light, we would like to welcome the proposals stated by Brazil and France, Chairperson of the Programme Committee and welcomed by the ICC to seek a concrete solution under the able leadership of the ICC. We would like to stress the need to proceed with the ICC inviting members of the Article XIV bodies to convene discussion and seek a comprehensive and composed solution in FAO headquarters.

As all of the respective members of the Council are already aware, Indonesia is a member party to both IOTC and ITPGRFA, two important Article XIV bodies that deal with food security issues, in particular the sustainable use of fisheries and agricultural resources. Indonesia has and shall

continue to play an important role within these bodies and to globally contribute to the preservation and conservation of all natural resources including but not only limited to the strong measures taken to fight IUU fishing in the area while bridging and maintaining the current relations with all related parties involved in the work of these bodies.

I would like to once again highly appreciate the concerns raised by the Secretariat and by some Members regarding this particular issue.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We support your proposal and we also agree with the comments made by Afghanistan.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Having heard from Members that currently your last proposal is not applying easily at least, I would like to align myself with those who believe that there is still a chance to find a common ground closer for both and everyone, so I would like to support the suggestion by European Union that we have Friends of the Chair to sit down and try once more. It is only Wednesday. They have to finish before Friday.

Sra. Perla CARVALHO SOTO (México)

México apoya la posición expresada por Argentina y Ecuador así de encontrar la mejor solución posible a este tema, y de acuerdo a lo ya presentado por Usted anteriormente.

Mr Joseph NGETICH (Kenya)

Having listened to the positions with the various delegations on this issue the Kenya delegation believes that, with the position you have just given, we will have a solution and we support your proposal.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Having heard the views from other delegations I feel that there are some concerns and quite a few number of delegations asking for more time to consider this issue and probably perhaps set up the Friends of the Chair or this kind of thing to discuss this issue and come up with some solutions at the next session of the Council. Japan can go along with that suggestion but probably still not agree because cannot really accept the proposal currently by the Chair at this moment.

Mr Mohammed ALGHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

Mr Chairperson, Saudi Arabia would like to support your proposal that has been recommended by my friend and colleague from Afghanistan. I think this is a very smart solution that will lead us forward as we have been reminded by Argentina and Pakistan. That said, I would like to support your proposal.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Apoyamos su propuesta y respaldamos el apoyo que ha recibido de las Delegaciones de Argentina, Ecuador, Afganistán, Zimbabue, Pakistán, México, Chile y Arabia Saudita.

Sra. Margarita VIGNEAUX (Chile)

Nosotros y nuestra Delegación se alinea con la declaración del GRULAC sobre este tema y en particular con la propuesta de Argentina y de Ecuador. Nosotros apoyamos también la propuesta del Presidente Independiente del Consejo.

Mr Kayoya MASUHWA (Zambia)

Zambia is speaking not as an observer but as a Member of the Council. We want to align ourselves to a statement that was made by the Africa group. We just wanted to say that we support your proposal.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

Listening to the honorable Council Members it seems to me that we do not have a clear consensus either on your proposal or from the discussion but, in that case, actually there is no solution. The solution is that we need to have some secretaries for the Article XIV bodies. It was said by

Afghanistan and other colleagues it is the ability to deliver an interim arrangement what you have proposed. In that case, my request to the Members is let us suspend the discussion on this item right now. You have time still. Then let us discuss with the Members so actually willing to discuss and then come up with a solution. If by two days we can find a solution let us accept it by the Council; otherwise, let us accept your proposal on an interim basis so that we can proceed to have the secretaries for these two bodies.

Sra. Marycel PACHECO GUTIERREZ (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

Queremos ratificar lo expresado por Argentina y Ecuador. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela se encuentra de acuerdo con su propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

Up to now we do not have a consensus on how to approach this issue. I can say that this agenda item is still on the table. I would like to know those who agree to have a Friends of the Chair which has been proposed. I will come back to this agenda item and see what comes from the discussion between now and maybe up to Friday. So could I say that each regional group has two representatives who will be my friends and then I postpone discussion on this agenda item until Friday morning because we still have other important agenda items to conclude on. We cannot be stuck on only one item and at the end of the exam, we find that we have failed! Whereas there are other questions which are easier for us to tackle so let us take it up on Friday morning and during this interim period I will come to those who want to be my friends. Two persons per regional group. Let me get the names before I close the session this evening. Thank you.

Mr Hinrich THOLKEN (Germany)

Just for clarification, would you require your future friends to be members of the Council?

CHAIRPERSON

That will be very helpful. I need two people from the Regional Groups, not European Union or OECD, G77 or Nordic countries. Thank you.

Item 11. Rome-based Agencies Collaboration

Point 11. Collaboration entre les organisations ayant leur siège à Rome

Tema 11. Colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma

(CL 155/12 Rev.2; CL 155/7)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we continue with Item 11. That is *Rome-based Agencies Collaboration*. The document before Council is CL 155/12 Rev.2. I am pleased to welcome Representatives of WFP.

I am pleased to welcome Representatives of WFP and IFAD.

Ms Mihoko Tamamura, Director, Rome-based Agencies and the Committee on World Food Security Division of the World Food Programme, and Mr Henock Kifle and Mr Shantanu Mathur on behalf of the Associate Vice-President from the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

I would like to remind Members that it is agreed at the outset of our work this week, the comments on RBA collaboration contained in the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 120th Session of the Programme Committee in the 164th Session of the Finance Committee will be taken into consideration under this item.

I now invite Mr Mario Lubetkin, Chief of Staff of the Office of the FAO Director-General, to introduce this Item. Mario, you have the floor please.

Mr Mario LUBETKIN (Directeur de Cabinet)

I have the honour to introduce document CL155/12: Collaboration among the United Nations Rome-based agencies: Delivering the 2030 Agenda.

This paper answers the call of the Membership of FAO, IFAD and WFP to outline the RBAs collaboration, including how they will support countries in implementing the goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The Joint RBAs Paper builds on good practices of collaboration and proposes a way forward to translate our wish to plan, programme and implement together at global, regional and country levels into concrete action.

This is done in the spirit of a true partnership for results, where each institution is contributing according to its mandated responsibility.

It also gives us pride to see the three logos of the RBAs on this document, which was prepared by a joint team of RBAs staff.

Before presenting the document, I would like to express my gratitude to my counterparts, the Chiefs of Staff of IFAD and WFP, Mr Henock Kifle and Mr Jim Harvey, and logically my friends and colleagues here that worked very hard with our team here in FAO, to try to concrete this very important document.

I want to thank both, in particular for their constructive role in the end-phase, in which our Sherpas spent many long hours here at FAO finalizing the document and they were both available to provide inputs and feedback.

Excellencies, the ambitious 2030 Agenda and the interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are a historic opportunity and a major challenge for the entire UN System.

We believe that this paper could not have been produced in a more crucial moment, as the UN System is addressing the challenges of ensuring a coordinated support to the implementation of the SDGs.

In that respect, the paper contributes to positioning the RBAs within the global development context.

It is important to stress that this is a consensus document, which we perceive as a compromise in terms of the mechanisms for the common actions it contains.

But we are optimistic and do believe that this is a good start and a solid basis on which we can build in the future.

We consider this a living document and will continue to update and add more issues on it, as suggested by Members.

In that respect, we look forward to continuous input from our Members. Their feedback is of high importance for the future collaboration of our three agencies.

We perceive this document as a reference against which all the upcoming activities of the three RBAs that have the potentiality to include joint work will be measured.

This is especially true at country level, where our support to Members in achieving the SDGs is central.

The document captures a new spirit of collaboration that we are working hard to introduce among the three RBAs.

We are looking forward to receiving the views of the Committee on the present document as well as its guidance on the way forward in implementing the suggested measures of collaboration it contains.

CHAIRPERSON

I now pass the floor to His Excellency Ambassador Serge Tomasi, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, who chaired the November 2016 Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, to report on the Joint Meeting's discussions on Rome-based agencies collaboration.

M. Serge TOMASI (Président du Comité du Programme)

La Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier a examiné le document conjoint sur la collaboration entre les organismes des Nations Unies ayant leur siège à Rome: le document CL 155/12.

Un consensus a aisément émergé pour, premièrement, se féliciter de ce papier commun et remercier les trois agences; deuxièmement, suggérer que ce papier puisse être amendé dans un sens plus opérationnel, en soulignant les expériences actuelles ou futures de collaboration.

La Réunion conjointe a aussi exprimé le souhait que ces présentations incluent les calendriers de mise en œuvre, des évaluations conjointes, ainsi que des mécanismes visant à éviter les chevauchements et les doublons.

Les membres ont aussi souligné le besoin d'aligner cette collaboration entre les agences sur les priorités des gouvernements, en insistant sur les niveaux nationaux et régionaux, cette collaboration devant s'inscrire dans le cadre des processus de coordination du système des Nations Unies.

Les membres ont aussi convenu de l'intérêt de programmer des réunions annuelles des organes de gouvernance des trois agences romaines, invitant à la présentation, lors de ces réunions, d'un rapport annuel conjoint des trois agences sur les progrès réalisés dans leur collaboration.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA COSTA (Brazil)

I would like to pass the floor to Bangladesh who will speak on behalf of G77.

Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Observer for Bangladesh)

I am honored to speak on behalf of all of the Members of the G77 and China. Mr Chairperson, G77 and China appreciates and thanks FAO, IFAD, and WFP for developing this RBA Collaboration Paper as a response to a request from the Membership.

We appreciate that the paper outlines the common vision and guiding principles for an enhanced collaboration as well as the distinctive strengths, prerequisites, and comparative advantage of each institution and how they can help Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Rome is the hub helping international efforts to achieve SDG 2 particularly, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. It is the centre of the United Nations activities on development, humanitarian and resilience assistance in the areas of food, agriculture, and transformative rural development done by all FAO, IFAD, and WFP.

When we look at the vision of all three UN Agencies, we will find that SDG 2 is at the heart of all RBAs. Therefore the main objective of developing this collaboration approach on how RBA country teams can support governments to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals is to enhance coordination and avoid overlaps, duplication, and gaps among all three institutions.

There is no doubt that adoption of the Agenda 2030 and the UN Agenda 2015 has created an immense opportunity for collaboration among RBA's in achieving SDG 2. The collaboration should be based on the respective mandates, capacities, comparative advantages and distinct strengths of each partner.

We appreciate the identification of the five guiding principles and four pillars of collaboration contained in the document. The principle of shared priorities in the context of country-led implementation process of 2030 Agenda needs to be strengthened. Joint technical support in the fields of nutrition, resilience building, data and statistics should also be stimulated.

The Group of 77 and China strongly supports the Coordination Mechanism of RBAs through the Senior Consultative Group (RBA SCG) which will follow up the shared priorities identified, particularly at the country level.

We appreciate the collaboration mechanism set out at the regional and global levels, including for thematic and cooperative services in areas outlined in the document. The G77 and China notes with appreciation that a number of countries' country office premises is shared by RBA's. We are of the opinion that the establishment of joint premises at the country level and regional levels could be considered as a possibility in the future depending on specific circumstances of each country and region.

The G77 and China considers that the way forward presented in the document is quite satisfactory. However, we underscore the importance of strengthening the country-level collaboration which in our view should be more specific and detailed in the document.

This is the crucial point since it is at the country level that projects and programmes will be implemented towards achieving SDG 2. It is our expectation to have more detailed information about how the country-level collaboration will work out, in particular during the development and implementation of the country programmes and projects.

Therefore we suggest the insertion of one or two paragraphs in the RBA Collaboration Paper to clearly outline the collaboration among the three institutions in the preparation and updating of FAO's Country Programming Framework that appears in WFP's Country Strategic Plan CSP's and IFAD's Strategic Opportunities Programme.

With these notes, the G77 and China endorses the RBA Collaboration Paper.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group 77. We commend the management of the three Rome-based Agencies for coming together and producing this document which we consider as a living document that will be subject to periodic updates and improvements to respond to the changes in the international agenda.

We call on the three organizations to jointly identify areas of potential synergy and collaboration, especially in areas relating to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular nutrition, food security, as well as dealing with the challenges in protracted crisis areas.

We call on the three organizations to enhance coordination, especially at the country level, and to work closely with host governments to ensure that this collaboration is in line with the demands and priorities of Member States.

We expect that this enhanced collaboration can result in more engagement with other UN agencies and international financial institutions to help achieve the mandate of the three organizations.

Finally, and in light of the living nature of this document, we expect that the results of the period assessments will guide the three organizations in improving their interventions in the future.

Mr Faisal AL HASAWI (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, we support the speech of Bangladesh on behalf of the G77 and China. We would like to congratulate the Secretariat for this document which clarifies the joint vision and the pillars for collaboration between the UN Agencies based in Rome because we need to take the best elements of each of the organizations in relation to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

There are four pillars of collaboration working together at the country and regional levels, cooperating at the global level, collaboration on the thematic knowledge, and finally the Joint Corporate Services.

On this cooperation, it needs to be technical, financing and administrative in an equal way, in an equitable way, and this to help countries in their realization of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as best as possible to face the challenges that these organizations have in their efforts.

This requires, and I insist on this, that work be done in a joint way and not individually in silos.

The biggest challenges that risk to have a detrimental effect on collaboration within the organizations are as follows. We need to avoid duplication on the technical front and also on the financial front because these Organizations need to work together in the field and their role is very important in the realization of development and food security, particularly at the country level.

The document mentions a collaboration mechanism and this is thanks to the creation of an advisory group at a high level which will examine the issues of common interests in an executive, operational, and financial way.

In this regard, we would like joint priorities to be presented in a clearer, more detailed and precise way. We also need to specify the mandate of this advisory group and that this mandate include a clear timetable, a timeline, and this should be submitted to Member States to allow everyone to realize the objectives that they are working towards on the ground.

This advisory group should not neglect also the financial aspect because coordination in financial matters will allow us to avoid all financial waste and avoid duplication in actions on the ground in the technical areas and also administratively speaking. We would suggest that this advisory group at a high level be made up of experts within the three agencies without any extra additional costs involved, as that would impact the budgets of these three organizations because the aim that we are looking towards here is more efficiency and more effectiveness. Cost efficiency is what we are looking for.

In conclusion, Kuwait insists on the role played by each of these three Rome-based Agencies. All three bodies are very important and their role is even more important in the future to come, especially in the Near East where the severity of crises is only continuing to increase.

All organizations that have a humanitarian dimension in their work need to work together to realize the Strategic Objectives and also the Sustainable Development Goals.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

Japan welcomes the preparation of the joint paper on RBAs collaboration, and we appreciate that the three agencies are making efforts to promote efficient and effective collaboration based on their technical knowledge and comparative advantages within their mandates, while avoiding duplication, in order to achieve better results in addressing global challenges, including the SDGs.

In terms of collaboration at the regional and country levels, we consider that the joint development of country work plans and mapping exercises to identify gaps are particularly meaningful in promoting context-specific, effective collaboration among the RBAs. Japan hopes that the RBAs continue to raise awareness of the positive impacts of their collaboration throughout all organisational levels, including through sharing of good practices, and to create an environment that fosters collaboration rather than competition.

Japan also requests the RBAs to regularly report on the progress to their Members and other relevant stakeholders. In this regard, we commend the addition of specific examples of collaboration to the revised version of this joint paper.

Furthermore, Japan places great importance on the humanitarian and development nexus. This is an area where the work of the RBAs may overlap, but, precisely for that reason, we believe that this is where RBA collaboration can make particularly significant impacts. Continuing and enhancing dialogue among the RBAs at the global, regional and country levels is key to increasing synergies of their work.

Finally, Japan reiterates the expected role of the RBAs to lead the global efforts towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the field of food security, nutrition and agriculture.

In this light, we encourage the RBAs to strengthen collaboration with all stakeholders, including other international organizations, governments, the civil society and the private sector.

Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

China would like to echo Bangladesh for the statement on behalf of the G77 and China. We encourage the three Rome-based Agencies to strength their cooperation and collaboration so they can have better strengths and avoid duplication or overlap or buck passing.

Currently, it is very important to collaborate across sector for SDG 2. China encourages the three Rome-based Agencies to input their resources more into the vast number of developing countries and they can be concrete activities such as for South-South Cooperation. The three RBA's can choose a leading department on a consultative basis.

FAO has its advantages, WFP as well, IFAD as well. So in general, China believes that FAO has more comparative advantage.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

Esta intervención la realizo a nombre del GRULAC. Se agradece y reconoce el esfuerzo de las agencias con sede en Roma por la elaboración y presentación del tan anhelado documento que se había solicitado por los Estados Miembros de las mismas desde el año 2015.

Los inmensos desafíos que presentan para la comunidad internacional, el crecimiento de la población y los desastres naturales ocasionados por el cambio climático exigen hoy más que nunca el trabajo coordinado de las agencias con sede en Roma para alcanzar las ambiciosas metas de la Agenda 2030 y los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible. Así, es fundamental identificar y reconocer las ventajas comparativas de cada uno de los organismos para garantizar la eficiencia del trabajo en el campo y reducir la duplicación de labores.

Se resalta que en el documento, en especial en los párrafos ocho al diez, se identifica de manera concisa el mandato de cada agencia y el aporte que pueden ofrecer hacia el cumplimiento de los ODS. En particular, el segundo: Hambre Cero. El documento, de manera acertada, enfatiza que se deben aprovechar las oportunidades para trabajar de manera coordinada y complementaria, aprovechando el conocimiento y las experiencias de cada agencia con sede en Roma, para que todos en conjunto ayuden y colaboren a fin de alcanzar los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Es oportuno resaltar la adecuada concepción del documento, que se estructura de manera clara y completa, incluyendo una introducción donde se alude al origen del mismo, recordando antecedentes similares, pero actualizado a las exigencias del momento y de la realidad y, más ahora con el compromiso de los Estados y organismos internacionales de lograr las metas de la Agenda 2030. Es decir, este documento se constituye en una herramienta más para ese objetivo y una declaración expresa para llegar a ese fin a través del esfuerzo común.

La segunda parte hace énfasis en la visión común, las oportunidades y desafíos para que las OSR constituyan a los ODS lo que se concreta en la tercera parte de manera ya específica con principios guías, entre los que sobresalen, los de colaboración como sus mecanismos y acciones a niveles regionales de cada país y a nivel global.

En efecto, disponer de ejemplos prácticos del trabajo conjunto sobre el campo por parte de las tres agencias demuestra que es posible, con coordinación y buena comunicación, llevar adelante las operaciones y cumplir las metas de cada agencia. Lo anterior es factible siempre y cuando se establezca con precisión que esa coordinación en los países es el reflejo de la labor permanente desde las sedes principales de cada agencia en Roma.

Es reconfortante para el GRULAC encontrar reflejado en el documento referencias hacia la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular, que es un tema reiterado por nuestros países, pues para esos objetivos ambiciosos se requiere este tipo de cooperación, aprovechando y compartiendo las experiencias exitosas de los diversos estados, canalizando a través de los adecuados canales que brindan las agencias.

El GRULAC lamenta que la presentación conjunta entre FAO, FIDA y PMA del documento, colaboración entre los organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma, cumplimiento de la Agenda 2030, programada para el 18 de noviembre, fuera cancelada, ya que se esperaba con ansias esta presentación con la participación de las tres agencias, y hacemos un llamado para que esta sea reprogramada.

Por otra parte, el párrafo 49 consagra con acierto la importancia de evaluar el esfuerzo común y la oportunidad de construir, a partir de las lecciones aprendidas. Sin embargo, se debería adoptar una metodología que presente los resultados tangibles en todos los niveles, para hacer un correcto seguimiento y evaluación de las acciones en conjunto en cada país.

Finalmente, como menciona el párrafo 56, este documento representa un aporte importante para el fortalecimiento de la colaboración de las agencias con sede en Roma, y refleja las observaciones frecuentes de los Estados Miembros para llegar así de la manera más constructiva y real a las metas de la Agenda 2030

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Mi delegación se suma a la declaración realizada por el Grupo G77 más China y por el GRULAC.

A medida que los nuevos ODS marcan prioridades de desarrollo sostenible a nivel mundial, redefinir las características esenciales y el alcance de la colaboración de los organismos con sede en Roma, con un mayor énfasis en las ventajas comparativas y los enfoques complementarios, resulta fundamental a la hora de reivindicar el liderazgo en la erradicación del hambre, la agricultura sostenible, la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Acogemos con satisfacción el documento CL 155/12, el cual define, a partir de una visión y objetivos comunes, un marco de actuación conjunta dentro de la perspectiva de apoyo a los países, para alcanzar los objetivos de la Agenda 2030.

Mr Hinrich THÖLKEN (Germany)

I would like to pass on the floor to the Slovak Republic.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the EU and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement, and the Republic of San Marino as well.

We welcome the document on collaboration among the Rome-based UN agencies (RBAs) and look forward to the more detailed discussions during the joint presentation at the seminar, hopefully organized soon.

We strongly support embedding the document in the Agenda 2030 and encourage further development, which provides both an opportunity and an expectation for enhanced, more strategic and deeper collaboration among RBAs committed to achieving the SDGs, mainly SDG 2 that lies in the heart of their mandate, by creating synergies, avoiding duplication and building on their respective strengths and comparative advantages.

The collaboration at the different levels should be defined within the framework of the respective mandates of the three agencies. This should be the main tool for avoiding duplications and to promote a long-term sustainable cooperation, specifically at field level

We acknowledge identification of potential obstacles to collaboration. We believe that the paper constitutes a good starting point from which to enhance RBAs collaboration and overcome these challenges. It is a long-lasting process that requires constant efforts at all levels, both at the headquarters and in the field.

We especially welcome the suggested “principles of action” and the four “pillars of collaboration”, as well as the focus on country-level processes and on efforts to improve collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence, which should in our view focus on the operational level.

We appreciate the emphasis laid on transparency, accountability and regular reporting. We would, however, encourage the identification of concrete deliverables and commitments with precise timeframes, to go beyond the suggestions outlined in the 'Way Forward' section. We believe that it is the duty of the RBAs themselves – and not, as mentioned in paragraph 30, of the membership – to ensure that effective monitoring mechanisms are in place.

We would welcome a commitment to more frequent meetings of the Senior Consultative Group and the RBAs country representatives, as well as informal annual joint meetings of the RBAs governing bodies, at which a joint annual progress report on RBAs collaboration could be presented and discussed. This would provide regular guidance to the respective teams, would help avoid duplication of work, and would go beyond an approach that could leave the exploration of potential untapped areas of collaboration up to the goodwill of staff members.

Pilot forms of coordination such as joint strategies, joint assessments or joint programming could be developed, perhaps on a country-by-country basis. The common 'mapping exercise' is also a welcome and useful process, but it would benefit from a more precise timeline. More detail would likewise be

welcomed on incentives for enhanced cooperation, for example on standard project documents and evaluation reports, and for staff to engage in collaborative work.

Similarly, we concur on the crucial importance of defining clear and agreed upon roles and responsibilities that give rise to effective division of labor. In this spirit, we would welcome further details on the thematic teams and working groups mentioned in paragraph 37, particularly on the potential for enhanced collaboration on climate change, financial inclusion, gender, and food loss and waste. We would also appreciate more information on collaboration on joint corporate services and communication. Furthermore, we would appreciate more detailed proposals on the possibilities of pooling back office functions.

We appreciate the references to the RBAs' engagement in the Committee on World Food Security. We call on the RBAs not only work together to disseminate CFS products, but also to enhance the implementation of such products at country level and in their partnerships. More generally, we encourage the RBAs to make better and more strategic use of the CFS, and to further engage in its work.

In closing, we would like to express our appreciation for the scope of the collaborative process that the RBAs have embarked upon, and strongly encourage the FAO to advance along this promising path.

Sr. Elias ELSORI (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea felicitar a la FAO, al FIDA y al PMA, por el documento presentado sobre la Colaboración de los Organismos con sede en Roma (OSR) y se suma a lo expresado por el GRULAC en este tema.

Quisiéramos añadir que tomamos nota con agrado de que en el documento se describen la visión común, los principios rectores, las condiciones previas y los compromisos relativos al modo en que los equipos en los países de los OSR pueden ayudar a los gobiernos y trabajar en común en pos de la aplicación de la Agenda 2030 mediante la mejora de la coordinación, evitando al mismo tiempo superposiciones, duplicaciones y carencias.

Así como en el párrafo 3 señala que los OSR definieron conjuntamente y clasificaron por orden de prioridad los indicadores relativos al ODS 2, tal espíritu de colaboración, coordinación y sinergia podrá servir de base para que puedan superar las asociaciones que exceden de sus competencias, señalado en el párrafo 5. Ello permitirá potenciar al máximo las sinergias y emplear las convergencias como base, y evitar de ese modo solapamientos y duplicaciones innecesarios, con el fin de aumentar la eficiencia y la repercusión, tal como se indica en el párrafo 14.

En consonancia con la intervención del GRULAC en el tema 3, relativo al “Marco estratégico revisado y esquema del Plan a plazo medio para 2018 –2021”, solicitamos que sea eliminada de la Nota al pie de página N.º 3 la mención a la Cumbre Humanitaria Mundial y su Compromiso de Acción, entre los principales procesos normativos mundiales que sirven de base para la colaboración de los OSR en apoyo de los ODS, indicado en el párrafo 17.

Con estos comentarios, apoyamos las recomendaciones contenidas en el documento CL 155/12.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

Zimbabwe makes this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group and first we want to begin by associating ourselves to the statement that is been read by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China.

We want to thank the management of the three RBAs for the document before us. The paper clearly indicates that some collaboration already exists among the RBAs. This is a good start and we would want to see this intensified, especially at country level where implementation of the SDGs is going to take place. We therefore look forward to future updates from the RBAs on this important issue.

With these few remarks, Africa endorses the document on RBAs collaboration.

Mr Joseph NGETICH (Kenya)

We support the statement delivered by Zimbabwe on behalf of the African Regional Group.

Kenya thanks the Secretariat for this well presented background and concept document.

Strengthening the strategic collaboration of the RBAs is particularly timely and welcome, considering the critical role that the three agencies played in shaping the 2030 Agenda and particularly SDG 2.

We believe that the ongoing efforts to reinforce the collaboration of the RBAs will create added value and increase the impact of activities carried out individually or jointly by the three Rome-based Agencies.

It is important to particularly draw and build upon helpful lessons learnt from existing collaboration particularly at country level where the work of the institutions have maximum impact. In Kenya, this is demonstrated by their support to the Kenya Climate Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Programme, in partnership with the European Union and Kenyan Government.

The programme is supporting vulnerable households and most resource-poor to shift from food insecurity to resilience and transformed livelihoods and aligns each agency's contribution by its comparative advantage and creates strong complementarity.

Kenya takes note with appreciation that this document presents a common vision, guiding principles for enhanced collaboration, the distinctive strengths of each organization, prerequisites, commitments and challenges on how RBAs country teams can support governments.

Further it outlines opportunities, challenges, how the agencies will work together based on particular contexts, and strengthened coordination efforts at the country, regional and global levels.

The proposed four pillars of collaboration would provide opportunity for each agency to leverage resources, knowledge, financing, and implementation support from other development stakeholders and generate tangible results.

With these comments, we support the document.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)¹

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.

We welcome the joint paper by the RBAs and take note of the conclusions of the Joint Meeting of PC and FC with the following comments.

We commend the agencies for its preparation and appreciate the annexes therein listing what is already done well.

Reiterate the importance of the UN development system to deliver on 2030 Agenda in line with the common UNDG country approach and "delivery as one".

Stress the importance that the paper must be a living document reviewed by the agencies whenever needed, taking into account relevant developments and experiences, not forgetting the QCPR resolution now being negotiated by member States in New York.

Finally, we support that the RBA's governing bodies hold informal annual joint meetings to present a joint annual progress report, as well as more frequent meetings of the Senior Consultative Group and the Permanent Representatives in Rome.

Further on the annual reporting, we would like to stress that it should not only be a long list of what is working well, that will probably only be a repetition of information from other documents already presented to the governing bodies, this reporting should be future oriented, about possible new developments, existing challenges, limitations and opportunities.

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

We would like to thank the Secretariat of the FAO, IFAD and WFP for the joint document. In comparison with the original version, the content has become more comprehensive with concrete

¹ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

specific examples related to the key workstreams, particular partnerships at the country and regional level, cooperation at the global level and thematic knowledge cooperation and associated administrative services.

We would emphasize that the cooperation between the three Rome-based Agencies should not be a goal in itself or prevent the improvement of working mechanisms but rather supplement them. In this document there is a reference to the fact that the inter-agency cooperation in order to implement Agenda 2030, will in the future be based on the so called global policy processes and this is something that is addressed in Paragraph 17. This is something that the Footnote 3 refers to, the commitment made at the World Humanitarian Summit, the so called commitment for action.

In this regard, and as the previous speaker has already said, this so called commitment for action is a voluntary notion and has not been confirmed in the process of conventional inter-Governmental approach. Therefore, it cannot be considered to be a basis for United Nations structure without prior agreement with Member Countries and with regard to the Rome-based Agencies or without the approval of the Governing Bodies.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First, we welcome the joint document by RBAs. Secondly, we wish to associate ourselves with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China and also with the statement made by Egypt.

We wish to limit our intervention to Part III of the document because it is there where the crux of the matter is discussed.

At the regional and country level, we agree that collaboration should focus on assisting the Governments and regional bodies in implementing the SDGs to the following six elements:

1. Building on the expertise and technical skills of each agency;
2. Creation of RBA regional teams to decide on focus countries;
3. Concrete collaboration process at the country level to identify gaps and overlaps, and to explore new opportunities for collaboration on joint programming;
4. To replicate successful collaborative efforts and, in the case of fragile situations, assist in building resilient communities to achieve the SDGs;
5. Explore modalities to enhance cross-sectoral, multi-sectoral and inter-governmental coordination at the country level.
6. Make greater use of the South South and triangular cooperation.

At the global level, we suggest that the ongoing collaboration should be expanded to include contributions to HLPF, UNFCCC, the Zero Hunger Challenge, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development, preparation of SOFI, support to CFS as a multi-stakeholder negotiation process and the global Food Security Cluster.

A few words about the way forward. What is stated in paragraphs 44 to 49 is indeed encouraging. In fact, paragraph 49 keeps the door open for further deepening of collaboration among RBAs, catalyzing on achievements and readiness to test other models of collaboration.

With these comments, Afghanistan fully supports the contents of the document.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nos sumamos a la declaración hecha por México en nombre del GRULAC y de Bangladesh en nombre del G77.

Queremos agradecer la presentación del documento conjunto con la presencia de los representantes de los tres organismos de Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma. Nos complace que el documento se base sobre una visión común y que la colaboración se plantee a nivel no solo mundial, sino también regional y nacional. Esa colaboración debe ser entendida desde la perspectiva de que el rol de las tres

agencias es prestar asistencia a los requerimientos de los países y no actuaciones desconectadas o fuera de lo solicitado por los gobiernos.

En nuestro criterio, la colaboración de los tres organismos debe ir más allá de la Agenda 2030 y los ODS. Debería estar en la razón misma de su trabajo. Esto implica un necesario cambio de cultura, a fin de que no se vean como posibles competidores, sino como socios. Y esto solo puede conseguirse sobre la base de un claro entendimiento de las competencias, mandatos y las ventajas comparativas de cada uno.

Al propio tiempo, hay que tener presente que los mandatos de FAO, FIDA y PMA tienen una estrecha relación, lo cual debe ser visto como una oportunidad para el trabajo conjunto, de tal forma que las iniciativas y acciones que se formulen sean planteadas desde perspectivas integrales que incluye planificación a corto, medio y largo plazo, así como la aplicación de enfoques de especialización de cada organismo.

Creemos que es muy importante el rol de los mecanismos de coordinación aquí en Roma, pero es igualmente importante que haya mecanismos de coordinación a nivel regional y nacional, por lo cual alentamos a que los representantes nacionales y regionales mantengan reuniones periódicas. No obstante, además de esos mecanismos de coordinación, deben establecerse mecanismos de rendición de cuentas, por lo cual respaldamos la recomendación de la reunión conjunta para que anualmente se presente un informe conjunto sobre la implementación del documento. Este informe conjunto de implementación debe basarse en las actividades, no solo en la sede, sino sobre todo del terreno, ya que como se ha visto en algunas evaluaciones presentadas por el Comité del Programa, es necesario una mayor colaboración en el terreno.

Finalmente, si bien el Consejo no va a tomar una decisión final sobre este tema, ya que el documento conjunto es un documento vivo y deberán incorporarse las sugerencias planteadas en la reunión conjunta y en esta reunión del Consejo, es importante que, sin perjuicio de lo mencionado, los tres organismos con sede en Roma inicien ya la colaboración y coordinación conjuntas sobre las bases contenidas en el documento.

Mr Ali Gadoom Elghali OSMAN (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to address this issue of the Rome-based Agencies collaboration. At the beginning, we commend the document on the collaboration between the three Rome-based Agencies. We fully support the four pillars of collaboration mentioned therein, namely working together at the country and regional levels, cooperating at the global level, collaborating on thematic knowledge and joint corporate services.

We also welcome the intention of the three agencies to focus on assisting the countries in the future in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and achieving its goals. We stress that the joint efforts and the current and ongoing actions focusing on the country level implementation of the 2030 Agenda should also include nutrition resilience data and statistics. These are the main areas of interest to our country. The work among the three Rome-based Agencies in a collaborative and coordinated manner will enhance the interventions of these organizations and will avoid any conflicts that may arise from a competition viewpoint. Capitalizing on the respective strengths of each agency by doing so, we will be able to enhance the collaboration in terms of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Each organization should focus on its respective comparative advantages and strengths according to its mandate and area of competency.

We also appreciate the mechanism of collaboration and the meeting of the heads and the senior consultative group on a regular basis to identify the joint priorities that require collaborative efforts and cooperation at the regional and country level, as well as at the global level and in the area of thematic issues through joint corporate services. We also agree with the proposal about linking the collaboration among the agencies with the national needs and requests of Governments.

We also stress the importance of receiving an annual progress Report from the three Rome-based Agencies on their collaboration.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Pakistan would like to align itself with the statement made by Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We approve this document that has been prepared in response to requests by Member Nations. To be exact, since 1996 there were discussions about this collaboration for many years, so the document is particularly welcome.

Many colleagues have made very valid and important points, so I will restrict myself to some general issues.

Mr. Chairman, since we have heard that this is a living document, it is our understanding that the proposed joint activities and the potential collaboration will be made more specific and concrete as requested in the Programme Committee's Report, and that there will also be regular reporting on this collaboration.

Some colleagues have mentioned collaboration in the financial and administrative areas, especially the Joint Corporate Services. This is another issue which has been discussed often. Although there is some collaboration amongst the three agencies in this area, the full benefits have not been achieved because all three agencies have different ERP systems, problems of compatibility.

We would therefore suggest that the RBA's should conduct a review to see what it would take to make their systems compatible, because once computability has been achieved, this would open up many more areas for collaboration and cooperation, thus resulting in significant savings. There could be a Joint Shared Service Center for example.

With these brief, general comments, Pakistan approves the document.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States thanks the three Rome-based Agencies for the important work they have done to put together this paper. We believe this is a good starting point and we are encouraged by the shared vision for future work together.

We support the RBAs presenting a joint annual report instead of individually reporting back to the respective Governing Bodies and we also support a joint coordination meeting once per year, on a cost-neutral basis, and look forward to seeing some concrete deliverables and steps that will improve RBA collaboration.

Mr Mario LUBETKIN (Directeur de Cabinet)

On IFAD, I think that we can highlight two aspects about your comment. First of all, I think that it is important to note that on 13 December, IFAD will organize the third consultative meeting in the IFAD Board – for the IFAD Board.

After this meeting of the FAO Council, on the meeting I think that three weeks ago in the WFP Executive Board in which IFAD reopened this discussion and this exchange and with dialog and we will continue the beginning of next year.

The second point that I think that this other information that is very important that you can take into account, in the middle of January the Senior Management of the three RBA's will meet in the IFAD Headquarters to start the process to put in practice this joint document and at the same time, you can be sure that we will add in our discussion your comments here, the comments that you did in the WFP, and the comments that you will do in IFAD, your comments and your advice because that will be and we will take into account logically in the first step of the implementation process that will start in January.

Mr Shantanu MATHUR (IFAD)

Thank you very much for giving IFAD also the opportunity to add our own words. First we thank all of you for your very positive statements and guidance. There is a remarkable confluence and coherence of views that all of you have expressed over various lists and also through individual statements.

I would like to certainly underline the fact that the Agenda 2030 has given us an amazing new renewed impetus to collaborate our management and our principles have also given us the power to collaborate together. And the new vision that we have developed, Agenda 2030 certainly underpins that very clearly and seeks that the RBA's should fully coordinate and collaborate in delivering as the lead entity cluster, not only SDG 2 in itself but also development approach so that they do so through the interconnected delivery of the other seventeen or sixteen SDG's.

We would like to assure you that we will pursue partnerships at all levels, at the Global Development Policy Platform levels. You have already seen a lot of collaboration at CFS43 last week in this building at the World Food Day in terms of common advocacy. At the thematic level, a number of you have also highlighted certain thematic areas where collaboration is already commenced and we will strengthen it in several areas that you have mentioned in the context of resilience, climate change, nutrition, gender, and the onset – the slow onset emergencies like El Nino for instance. So a lot of collaboration already going on in the thematic areas which we will certainly strengthen further.

And we will shift the focus or at least sharpen the focus of our collaboration very much at the country levels as you have said, working right through the – the programme and project cycles, from conception all the way to completion. And that is where it will be much more practical for us to develop a results measurement framework that many of you have mentioned which will make it easier for us to measure results not just at the output level but at the outcome level as well.

And has already been mentioned, we will try and look for a rubric for joint reporting on an annual basis to the extent that we can.

Ms Mihoko TAMAMURA (WFP)

Before stating a few words, I would like to thank FAO for having given us an opportunity to be with you, to be part of this important meeting.

This week WFP's Senior Management, including Regional Directors and Country Directors are meeting in Rome and we are as of now, we are discussing how to concretely assist Member States in achieving the 2030 Agenda.

I was personally heartened by some of the Country Directors approaching to see me to share concrete examples of RBA collaboration. I have been in this position for the last three years and I see a lot of differences in the Country Directors' behaviors and also perception about Rome-based Agencies' collaboration.

I feel that it is very much taking root in their minds and the need of the hour is for us to provide continuous encouragement and also guidance and concrete proposals as to how to promote their country level collaboration.

One example I would like to share with you is that the Rome – sorry – the Regional Director in Southern Africa has informed that the three RBA's meeting in Johannesburg to discuss specific country level collaboration in eight countries. And the meeting is taking place in February. The date is yet to be confirmed but this is one of the very encouraging initiatives.

And just to address one question or proposal as regards RBA collaboration on CFS. I fully agree – agree that we have to do more to disseminate CFS policy instruments at country level.

I would like to take this opportunity to demonstrate WFP's willingness to work together with FAO and IFAD in this regard.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Ambassador Tomasi. I thank the three RBAs, in particular for the additional information which is not contained in the document. It is a good way to collaborate and this is the desire of all of the Members. Thank you.

I will make my conclusions for item 11 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the joint document on Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) Collaboration and commended the three RBAs for its preparation, noting it was a useful reference for future joint activities of the RBAs and that it was a living document subject to periodical update.
2. The Council invited the RBAs to take into account the principles outlined in the joint document in the preparation of future strategic plans and recommended that proposed joint activities and areas for potential collaboration be made more specific and concrete by including inter alia timelines, joint assessments and incentive mechanisms, while avoiding duplication and overlap.
3. The Council welcomed the common objective to focus future collaboration on assisting countries in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. The Council welcomed the suggested “principles of action” and the four “pillars of collaboration”, as well as the focus on country-level processes and on efforts to improve collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence.
5. The Council noted with appreciation that the RBA regional teams would develop regional processes for determining focus countries, joint priority areas and joint monitoring of progress.
6. The Council agreed on the usefulness of holding joint meetings of governing bodies of the three Rome-based Agencies; and that an activity report on RBA collaboration be prepared on a regular basis.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)

Just one point that we believe is missing and was highlighted in our statement and by Sudan and is part of the Joint Report of the Finance and Programme Committees, which is the importance that the collaboration be in line with the demands and priorities of host countries.

If we could add something around this language, we would appreciate it.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

In general, we very much appreciate your summary as reflecting the discussion we had this afternoon.

We have a proposal on paragraph 6, where you mentioned the usefulness of the Joint Meetings and to discuss the joint report. We would appreciate a more specific timeframe: your suggestion is “on a regular basis” and we would welcome “on an annual basis” if that is possible.

We have heard from WFP that there is a need to do more on CFS so we would very much welcome a reference to one of our requests to encourage the RBAs to continue to be fully engaged with CFS work, to enhance the implementation of all CFS products at country level and in their partnerships, and to make better and more strategic use of the CFS.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

With regard to the paragraph 6, we do not oppose it but we would be grateful if the Secretariat of the RBAs could a bit elaborate on the format of the possible joint meetings and on the added value of such meetings, apart from discussing the joint paper.

Also the issue of interpretation is interesting to me in this regard.

Mr Mario LUBETKIN (Directeur de Cabinet)

If you remember, I think that happened the same in WFP and will happen in IFAD, the idea of this annual meeting. On the report, you know, one of the key issues that we discussed in the other RBA institutions is to use this meeting first of all to update. This is a global scenario, we are talking about the experience globally, regionally, and locally. We are talking to put into practice the mechanisms to reduce overlapping to try to complete and reinforce the experience.

The point is really an update about how we are working in link with the Joint Paper to try to think in results and in future perspectives. This is the idea in which we are thinking and that is one of the issues that we will start to discuss in our internal meeting in January.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me read those paragraphs where we have incorporated the issues which have been raised. Otherwise, Russia got a response from the RBAs.

4. The Council welcomed the suggested “principles of action” and the four “pillars of collaboration”, as well as the focus on country-level processes and on efforts to improve collaboration in the context of UN system-wide coherence and full engagement with CFS work.
5. The Council noted with appreciation that the RBA regional teams would develop regional processes for determining focus countries, joint priority areas and joint monitoring of progress in line with the demands and priorities of governments.
6. The Council agreed on the usefulness of holding joint meetings and Governing Bodies of the three Rome-based Agencies, and that an activity report on RBA collaboration would be prepared on an annual basis.

Thank you. We have concluded on this Agenda Item.

Item 12. Arrangements for the 40th Session of the Conference**Point 12. Organisation de la quarantième session de la Conférence de la FAO****Tema 12. Disposiciones para el 40.º período de sesiones de la Conferencia**

(CL 155/8)

CHAIRPERSON

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, we proceed now with item 12, *Arrangements for the 40th Session of the Conference*, including Provisional Agenda and a recommendation by Council on a topic for the general debate at Conference. The document before Council is CL 155/8 Rev.1 (English only).

The document gives an overview of arrangements for the 40th Session of the Conference, to be held from 3 to 8 July 2017, and contains proposals regarding the provisional agenda for the session; a topic for the General Debate during the Conference; a theme for Governing Body sessions convened in the 2018-19 biennium; the scheduling of agenda items; deadlines for receipt of nominations for election purposes; and, proposed resolutions and invitations.

I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General, who will inform us of the decisions Council is requested to take under this item.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Council is invited to take decisions on:

- The provisional Agenda of the 40th Session of the Conference which can be found in Appendix A of the document;
- A topic for the General Debate on the State of Food and Agriculture, when heads of delegation address the Plenary Meeting of the Conference;
- Limiting statements by Heads of Delegation during the general debate to no more than 5 minutes;
- A biennial theme for Governing Body sessions convened in the 2018-19 biennium;
- Deadlines for the receipt of nominations for The Independent Chairperson of Council for the period July 2017 to the 41st Session of Conference in 2019; and Council Membership for the period July 2017 to June 2019 and July 2018 to June 2020;
- The establishment of two commissions: Commission I on Substantive and Policy Matters; and Commission II on Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- Inviting Palestine to participate in the Session as an observer.

CHAIRPERSON

I suggest we begin by considering the draft Provisional Agenda proposed for the Conference.

Does Council wish to approve the Provisional Agenda for the 40th Session of Conference contained in Appendix A of document CL 155/8?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Regarding the proposed Agenda of the Conference we very much support the agenda items that have been proposed. In Section D which is Other Substantive and Policy Matters we support the Agenda Item 14 to have a Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action and Nutrition. We also note that the theme of the Conference or the topic for the general debate is climate change as well as the proposed topic for the biennium.

In this regard, we strongly believe that all cross-cutting themes should feature on the Conference Agenda and we would therefore request that an Agenda item be added under Section D: a Progress Report on the Implementation of FAO Gender Policy and United Nations SWAP as it was done at the 2013 Conference.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I would like to support the proposal made by Canada given the fact that at the last Conference this topic was not included in the Agenda and the last time was in 2013. If we do not contemplate it in the coming session of the Conference there would be a huge gap of six years between the appreciation of this topic in 2013 and eventually at the following Conference so my delegation thinks it is opportune that it be contemplated.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I am speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries and I can be brief after the intervention by Canada and Brazil. We fully support the suggestion.

Mr Thomas DUFFY (United States of America)

The United States would like to associate ourselves with the recommendation made by Canada and supported by Brazil and Iceland.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

Just very shortly we will also like to join the other delegations in supporting the Canadian proposal on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

Could Canada repeat the proposal?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

We would like to propose that the provisional agenda of the conference under Section D, other substantive and policy matters, does include an agenda item entitled "Progress Report on the Implementation of the FAO Gender Policy and United Nations SWAP". That is the title that was as well on the agenda of the 2013 Conference and would be aligned with the Agenda Item 14 which is a progress Report on the other cross-cutting themes of nutrition.

Ms Marina EMILIANI (San Marino)

My delegation would like to support the proposal made by Canada to add an agenda item to Section D on "Progress report on the implementation on FAO gender policy and United Nations SWAP" as gender is a cross-cutting theme.

Ms Yuri KUMAGAI (Japan)

We can also support the Canadian proposal.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Argentina quiere apoyar la propuesta de Canadá, que ha sido también apoyada por varios otros miembros.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

We fully support the idea but we are not sure that this should be covered in the next Conference for the following reasons. First of all, gender is a cross-cutting issue in all the five Strategic Objectives. Strategic Objective 5 was reviewed as the Chairperson of the Programme Committee has explained to us when we discussed the item on the Programme Committee. Gender issues under that evaluation was one of the weaknesses. Strategic Objective 1, 2, 3 and 4 are to be evaluated in 2017 and during the first half of 2018.

In addition, the role and work plan of the Office of Evaluation on the recommendation of the Programme Committee has an item dedicated to the evaluation of the gender policy that will be submitted to the Programme Committee in the spring of 2019. Reviewing gender issues without having the entire basic knowledge is a bit premature. It will be a good idea to include it in the Conference 4.1, not 4.0.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Bien sûr, je soutiens pleinement la proposition qui a été faite par le Canada, mais je voudrais faire deux propositions complémentaires sur la forme, non pas pour des décisions à ce Conseil, mais peut-être pour voir si le Secrétariat pourrait y réfléchir. À la dernière Conférence, lorsque nous avons fait son bilan, nous avons été plusieurs à noter que son déroulé était très formel avec une succession de déclarations formelles de tous les États Membres. Peut-être pourrait-on imaginer, pour la prochaine Conférence, qu'un certain nombre de thèmes puissent être abordé sous forme de «panel», de table ronde, avec des speakers auxquels ensuite les délégations pourraient répondre. Je souhaiterais qu'on examine la possibilité que ce format puisse être étudié pour la question «gender».

Deuxièmement, pour reprendre une proposition présentée mardi par le collègue de l'Iran, que cela puisse être une occasion d'inviter une agricultrice ou des agricultrices à venir à prendre la parole à cette table ronde. Ce serait une autre occasion d'inviter le monde agricole à la Conférence de la FAO, qui se limite quand même souvent à des déclarations purement officielles, et ce serait peut-être bien d'avoir des témoignages avec des acteurs du terrain.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I agree with some of the points made by Afghanistan and I have a question. Two of the items on the agenda of the Conference have to go through a process of reviews by the Finance and Programme Committees and the Council. They are the technical bodies which are reviewing items in detail before going to the Conference. Furthermore, the next session of the Council is going to consider an update on the agenda. We can thus ask ourselves whether it would not be appropriate for these bodies to review the subject matter before it reaches the Council in such a way there is an informed discussion. The Conference would then benefit from the view of its technical bodies.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nosotros vemos con buenos ojos la propuesta que ha hecho Canadá y que ha sido respaldada por Argentina y Brasil, entre otras delegaciones. Sin embargo, luego de haber escuchado a Afganistán y las razones que nos ha presentado, creemos que lo más oportuno sería, como mencionaba el delegado de Afganistán, esperar a la evaluación, que será presentada en el 2019, es decir, compartimos el criterio de que quizás sería más oportuno y relevante, sobre todo, al contar para entonces con más informaciones y la evaluación, que este tema sea presentado en el programa de la Conferencia de 2019.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Al igual que mi colega de Ecuador, después de haber escuchado el intervento de nuestro profesor de Afganistán, consideramos que es importante esperar que salga la evaluación del 2019 para poder afrontar el tema con la debida autoridad.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

We were considering the suggestion made by Canada and supported by many other Members which has of course justification since the issue of women's empowerment and gender equality is a very important one. It is a cross-cutting theme.

However, when considering this suggestion we had some observations to make in this regard. The first one was already voiced by Afghanistan and several other speakers. It is our previous decision to have an evaluation on the FAO work on gender during the Conference in 2019.

The second one is that although the cross-cutting themes of nutrition and climate change will be addressed by the agenda items of the next Conference, those agenda items are not devoted to those issues as cross-cutting themes.

I also want to recall the Report of the 153rd Session of the Council, namely paragraph 7(f) devoted to the gender issue, which welcomed the FAO policy on gender equality and women's empowerment. I quote, "[...] And looked forward to continued attention to mainstreaming of gender across FAO activities and to the implementation of the FAO policy on gender equality including consideration of United Nations swap as well as reporting thereon through the standing corporate accountability mechanisms, notably the programme implementation Report 2014-15 in May 2016, the Medium-Term Review in March 2017, and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be considered by the 40th Session of the Conference in 2017.

This decision, made by the Council at that time, clearly traces how this issue will be addressed in terms of reporting. The issue of gender is covered by the agenda of the 40th Conference. Therefore, I am not sure whether a separate agenda item should be included in the agenda of the Conference since we do not have separate agenda items for all the four cross-cutting themes. In addition, the gender issue as per the decision of the Council that I have just quoted will be addressed anyway by the Conference.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

We just raised our flag to agree with Afghanistan on this issue.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

A few comments. We see evaluations as separate from having an opportunity to discuss substantively and strategically FAO's work on important issues. Such issues were so important that we decided that it would be cross-cutting theme in a specific objective. That is why we welcome the fact that we can discuss on a regular basis. We will have tomorrow an opportunity to hear about the COP 22 and the outcomes of FAO's work on climate change. It will be a main theme, which is going to be a proposed theme for the biennium. The biennium has had an international symposium on nutrition, which we welcome. We will have also a progress report at Conference, so this is not mutually exclusive.

These cross-cutting themes are also reported on through the corporate standing reporting mechanisms. Gender should also be included. However, this third cross-cutting theme of gender, which is very important, is not receiving the same treatment. It is high time to have a substantive discussion on FAO's work and especially on how FAO is implementing its gender policy and how it intends to focus its work on it. When I am asked by my Capital what is FAO's approach and FAO's performance on gender equality and how it intends to address that in a context of the new global policy agenda it is still very difficult for me to answer. Whereas on the other cross-cutting issues we have constantly updates and substantive discussions so we believe that it is very warranted for this Conference.

Sr. Mateo Nsogo NGUERE MICUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

La República de Guinea Ecuatorial quiere simplemente manifestar su apoyo a la declaración pronunciada por el representante de Afganistán.

Mr Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brazil)

I would like to add that by contemplating this topic in the forthcoming Conference should not jeopardize the inclusion of this item in the agenda of the 41st Conference, as it was already foreseen. Actually both are complementary. I find the suggestions made by the Distinguished Representative of

France very interesting. One way of moving forward with this topic could be to include it and give it a different format. This format would highlight the field experience in implementing gender policy and would also allow for getting feedback from the stakeholder's concerns.

CHAIRPERSON

It seems that the proposal is receiving great attention so there seems to be an agreement to that. There are observations which have been put forward by Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ecuador, Nicaragua and the Russian Federation on the issue of binding to what is contained in the decision which was made by the Conference.

Moreover, according from the Report on the Programme Committee where it reiterated the importance of the cross-cutting themes including gender, nutrition, climate change and governance and looked for in its reporting there on through organizations existing reporting mechanisms.

Having these observations and listening to what Brazil has put on the table, I hope we can still have this as an agenda item but in a different format of reporting. It can be the progress, how far the issue is being taken up and we are updating on the progress so far which will take us to the 2017 reporting to the Conference. I hope there is an agreement for incorporating this into the Agenda item. The Secretariat wants to make a clarification.

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

Gender got a thorough review in the last PIR and the midterm synthesis Report will be coming in spring 2017. In addition, the substantive knowledge of how gender is being mainstreamed into the Strategic Framework will come out of the evaluations of the Strategic Framework. Evaluations, as outlined by Afghanistan, are very important to give us some guidance for reporting on gender as a cross-cutting issue.

The 2019 Conference, which has already foreseen evaluation of gender will be the most appropriate way of doing this.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Pour répondre à la question du Secrétariat, je crois que les deux exercices sont très différents. L'évaluation qui a été demandée pour 2019 par le Comité du Programme est un rapport d'évaluation classique, externe, qui en principe est soumis au Comité du Programme. L'idée serait d'utiliser la Conférence pour promouvoir les actions d'abord et les résultats atteints par notre Organisation sur cette question de parité.

Nous sommes très fiers de ce que fait l'Organisation, mais il faut le valoriser. La Conférence est une belle opportunité pour valoriser cette action, ses résultats et, du coup, avoir aussi un format de discussion dans cette Conférence un peu plus dynamique, vivant, permettant notamment d'associer, comme je le proposais, des acteurs du terrain et des agricultrices ou des agricultrices.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

This topic is not controversial. We all agree to say that this subject should be discussed thoroughly by the Conference. The only issue is the timing. Many of us think that the Conference should receive a high quality document. This document could be reproduced if there is material coming out of the evaluation of the remaining four Strategic Objectives and the final evaluation on gender in 2018.

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

In line with the proposal of the French Ambassador we can organize an event during the Conference. This event could be a side event or an event likely to bring several participants and discuss the gender issue, including the FAO's work on gender.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I would like to align myself with the first point made by Afghanistan and his previous statement that the issue is important and everybody wants it to be thoroughly discussed here in the Conference.

However, again on the format, and here probably the Secretariat could clarify a bit, I am a bit lost. I am looking at the Agenda of the 40th Session of the Conference and I can see the Progress Report on the Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. However, I do not think that it is identical to studying nutrition as a crosscutting theme within the FAO Strategic Framework. Rather, it is quite different.

This agenda item is included as a direct follow-up of the ICN2 and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the United Nations Decade of Action. But it doesn't have a direct link to the FAO Strategic Framework.

With regard to the biennial theme, it is a new element. This year, the main theme is climate change. Next year, it may be another theme. In any case, it is a decision on the biennial theme. It is different from studying climate change as an FAO crosscutting theme.

With respect to the crosscutting theme of governance, it can be addressed within other Agenda Items. Therefore, although acknowledging the importance of the topic of gender, including as a crosscutting theme of FAO's Strategic Framework, I have difficulty in figuring out how we are choosing between the full crosscutting themes.

I strongly believe that FAO lacked attention to gender. On the contrary, we tackled the issue during our discussions on Agenda Item 3 and 6 on the Programme Committee. Many Delegations noted that there was progress in this regard. More importantly, I would like to express concern about redefining the decisions that we have already made as reflected on the reporting by the Secretariat. The format of the reporting was adopted by the 153rd Session of the Council and then confirmed by the Programme Committee.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Quiero confirmar que para mi Delegación el tema de género es obviamente un tema muy sensible. En mi región nosotros somos pioneros en el tema. Lo que estamos diciendo nosotros es que, en este momento, lo que tiene más sentido es esperar los resultados de la evaluación. En tal sentido nuevamente me tengo que sumar a la declaración que hizo Afganistán y Rusia y confirmar que lo más idóneo, lo mejor que se puede hacer, es esperar la evaluación del 2019 para poder trabajar sobre una base completa.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I would like to agree with Afghanistan. The problem is not the discussion of the topic of gender, which everyone considers to be very important and relevant. The question is whether the Conference should have an item on its Agenda dealing with this issue. As pointed it out by Afghanistan, we should have a document resulting from the evaluations carried out. Besides, I have received no clarification to my question about the technical bodies of the Conference considering issues before it reaches the Conference. This is problematic. The Conference should base its discussions upon the views of the technical bodies, accordingly to the Basic Texts. This is the only way of having a really informed discussion.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Creo que todos estamos de acuerdo respecto a la importancia del género, y quizás deberíamos evitar entrar en debates dicotómicos. Creemos que la propuesta presentada por Brasil es una propuesta que tiene cierta flexibilidad y que, quizás, podría acomodar las distintas visiones, incorporando este tema a la próxima Conferencia pero con un formato distinto. Porque quizás se podría explorar la cuestión del formato, pero que esto esté incluido en la próxima Conferencia no obsta que sea tratado en la Conferencia 2019 de manera más profunda y con los informes que esperamos. Pero, en este sentido, nosotros queremos apoyar la propuesta hecha por la distinguida Delegación de Brasil.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Solamente para señalar que el tema de género y la propia política de género, a nuestro entender, va a ser considerada cuando se analice el tema de la agenda del Informe sobre la Ejecución del Programa 2014-2015. De hecho, allí se mencionan varios indicadores y metas con respecto a la política de género. Es decir, el tema del género y la política de género baje esto Informe de Ejecución del

Programa será ya analizado. No obstante, consideramos que sería positivo lo que ha surgido, o sea los planteamientos acá y un evento paralelo, en el cual se puedan tomar en cuenta lo que manifestaba el Embajador de Francia para dicho evento. Y esto obviamente con miras a la Conferencia 2019, en la cual se presentará la evaluación.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I will be very quick. It is just to support what was said by Afghanistan, Russia, and Pakistan.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

I support that we have found a solution through the suggestion made by Brazil. There could be a different form but for those who said that we need a quality document, I think it was Russia and the Secretariat, repeated what I would say. We are expecting a quality of reporting for the Conference next year. So, in my opinion there is plenty of reporting to the Conference. We only need the Agenda to take it further. As for a side event, this is something else. We can decide on that in another manner. We do not have to do that at the Council. I support the Item and the way forward as suggested by France and Brussels.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

I don't want to prolong the discussion but I just would like to read one sentence from the excellent FAO Gender Policy just to remind us that the FAO Conference and Regional Conferences include a standing Agenda Item on gender equality. So Gender Policy has been approved by the Conference, and it includes that a standing Agenda Item will be on each Conference and Regional Conference. We are very much flexible on what the Item would be, but it is part of the policy and we can support the proposal made by Brazil.

CHAIRPERSON

Let us now act as a Council, respecting our own decisions. During the 153rd Session of the Council, the Council noted the cross regional statement on gender equality and women's empowerment delivered by the Members, welcomed the FAO policy in this regard, and looked forward to continuing the attention to mainstream gender across FAO activities and to the implementation of the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, including consideration of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) as well as reporting to it through the standing corporate accountability mechanisms, notably the Programme Implementation Report 2014-2015 in May 2016, the Mid-term Review in March, and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review to be considered by the 40th Session of the Conference in 2017.

Under the Agenda of the Conference, Part D on other substantive and policy matters, this will be reported under Item 15.

So, we cannot have a repetitive of having another Item on the same issue. I would like to concur with the different approach or the different format as was presented by France and also supported by Brazil if the Council can recommend for a special event on gender to be organized during the Conference which allows for dynamic participation of Members. That is a way out. I hope there is an agreement on this.

Regarding intervention made by Canada, I would like to ask if you remember when we came out with this decision of the Council, do you know how long it took us? For more than two hours, we were on this issue of gender and the Council guided us and now it wants to go against this guidance of the Council. Why? There are good proposals that are coming from the Members. How can this be treated in a different way and at the same time it is going to be reported under Item 15.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I am absolutely in favor of all of the guidance that has been provided by the governing bodies of FAO and the Council on the issue of gender which has been quite forthcoming and I think that we should not consider again the issues of evaluation, the issues of formal reporting through corporate standing mechanisms, and an opportunity to discuss the FAO work on gender.

We very much support what France and Brazil have suggested and we would suggest that your proposal to take out a side event and we have an event but it is on the Agenda of the Conference. And you can decide – we are flexible on the exact title but it should be on gender and I think there is already activities that are planned and going on with the report that can easily be consolidated into presentation or lively discussion that would show where FAO is intending to treat this issue. I think that is a very constructive proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

That is a subject for discussion but it will not be part of the Agenda of the Conference. I agree on the fact that there can be an event.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

No, my proposal is that it is on the Agenda. I think that most of the comments that were made were not necessarily about the Agenda. It was more about a report that would be judging the outcomes of evaluation under the same quality. I think that as many other issues that are being discussed, there are ways to discuss an issue that is not contradicting other reports. Again, the progress report that we get on nutrition all the time is not something that will undermine the quality of other reporting on nutrition.

We are not talking about evaluating the FAO performance at the Conference. We are talking about discussing the gender issue in the strategic way given the new Medium-term Plan and PWB and, as you know, different activities that FAO has undertaken, updates that we should have. We always have to make the work of saying okay, you know, four technical committees have decided to have a gender item for all of the Regional Conferences highlighted. But it is not something that we have to do as a homework. It is easy to be able to elevate this work of FAO and have a constructive discussion on gender and food security and nutrition.

We are flexible on the format and the title but we strongly believe it should be on the Agenda of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

I think I am not ready to agree to this because it contradicts our decision.

We should not be weighing, for example if you say nutrition is not on the Agenda, or climate change or governance, why is it that this is not there? All of these are of equal importance. It is a matter of time. But it is going to be reported under Item 15 as it was decided by the Council. This will be progress and details.

I very much welcome and everybody welcomes the proposal based on France and Brazil.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Could the discussion on gender be consolidated under a sub item of item 15?

CHAIRPERSON

Under 15? What is the difference? What is going to be reported under the decision of the Council? It does not add any value. Anyway, I leave it to the Members to decide.

Mr Godfrey MAGWENZI (Zimbabwe)

I want to support your proposal, Mr Chairperson. As you are supporting what France and Brazil had proposed which is really a compromise between what we were saying and what other countries were saying. For some countries on that side to continue to insist, will mean we are going to continue to insist on our position as well. So I think the proposal that you have made on the basis of what France and Brazil said is the best way forward. We can only surrender our own position on the basis of that proposal.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA BARONA (Ecuador)

Nosotros solamente queremos apoyar la propuesta que Usted ha hecho y consideramos que incluye los elementos de Francia y Brasil.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Sr. Presidente, apoyamos su propuesta.

CHAIRPERSON

I think there is an agreement from the Members that you support my proposal, which was not really my proposal. It is a proposal which was put out by Members of this Council to try to be a custodian to the decisions made by the Council. That is all.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I just wanted to clarify that my understanding of the proposal made by France and Brazil was not necessarily to have a side event. It was just to propose a lively format to discuss this issue at the Conference. So I would like to find – and this is not in contradiction of the decision of the Council –if there is a way to have an event with a lively format to discuss this issue at the Conference during the Plenary Session.

CHAIRPERSON

If you want it in the Plenary, then it has to go into the Agenda.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

What I am saying is that my understanding of the proposal that was made by Brazil and France was not to suggest that it will not be on the Agenda. I think there is a way to have a proposal that you have a good, lively discussion in the Plenary on the Agenda. That is not contradicting the decision of the Council.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Je ne veux pas prolonger les débats, mais effectivement le Canada a tout à fait compris le sens de ma proposition, qui était d'avoir à l'intérieur de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence, un événement spécial avec un format plus vivant. Un peu sur le modèle de ce que nous avons lors de la session du Conseil ou du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, où des événements parallèles ont mis en lumière certains thèmes d'une façon vivante et dynamique.

Si l'on pouvait trouver une solution sur ce sujet et essayer d'arriver à un consensus avant de nous prononcer définitivement sur notre décision, car je suis frappé qu'effectivement on considère toujours que ce thème est très important, mais tout le monde veut le repousser. Si un thème est important, il faut en parler.

Sr. Junior Andrés ESCOBAR FONSECA (Nicaragua)

Sr. Presidente, nuevamente queremos apoyar la propuesta que hizo usted.

Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)

I fully support the intents of Canada and what was said by the Distinguished Ambassador of France: the issue is important and we have to discuss it and we will discuss it. I would like to address some points.

Firstly, many thanks to Slovakia for reminding the importance of the Gender Policy. However, there is nothing pointing out that there should be a standing separate item on gender.

I fully support what has been said by Canada, i.e. that we should discuss this issue in the context of MTP and PWB. From this point of view, I believe that the items devoted to the MTP and to the PWB are the ones where we should discuss all the four crosscutting themes.

A report could be easily consolidated based on the events that will take place this December. The Secretariat should assess the workload and determine whether such an event could be easily set up.

Lastly, while understanding and supporting the importance of the women's empowerment and the gender equality issues, I still observe that we are treating the four crosscutting themes not equally. There is a decision making it clear that this issue should be addressed through the QCPR discussion under Agenda Item 15 and through the EIR as mentioned by Ecuador.

Therefore we are more in favor of your proposal, i.e. a formal event or side event. It would allow for a very lively interactive discussion and exchange of views and good dialogue. This would stimulate further discussion on the sidelines of the Conference leading to the 2019 full-fledged discussion.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

We do not want to prolong this discussion anymore. As a compromise, we would like to propose to put on the Agenda the outcome of the high level event on rural women, which will be held next week, on Friday, under *Any Other Matters*. This item would be thus downgraded to the less substantial discussion. However, there will be a place something on the Agenda related to gender.

CHAIRPERSON

The proposal made is controversial because the proposed symposium will not have the authority of a governing body.

I urge you to agree on having a special event on gender to be organized during the Conference. Then, let us agree on approving the Agenda as it is proposed now.

Sr. Nazareno Cruz MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Creemos que estamos muy cerca de poder lograr un consenso pareciera haber un acuerdo general en la idea de tener un evento especial. En este sentido, quizás podemos aprovechar la experiencia del CCA como mencionara el embajador Tomasi. Estaba viendo precisamente el Programa Provisional Anotado del CCA, "Provisional Annotated Agenda" y en ese caso hemos tenido algunos eventos especiales. Hacia el final del programa se hace una mención a "other activities during the week, special events" y allí se estipulan cuáles serán los eventos de la semana. Recuerdo que dichos eventos no tuvieron necesariamente lugar en la sala de la plenaria, pero estaban estipulados en el Programa Provisional Anotado, pero hacia el final con un asorte de anexo que referia a otras actividades durante la semana. En este sentido quizás podríamos llegar a un acuerdo para poder acercar las posiciones al respecto de este tema.

CHAIRPERSON

The Provisional Agenda for the 40th Session of Conference is approved and will be despatched with the invitation to the session in early April 2017.

With regard to the main topic for the general debate of the Conference under Item 9 "*Review of the State of Food and Agriculture*", it is proposed that Council consider the topic chosen for the 2016 State of Food of Agriculture publication: "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security".

Before giving the floor to delegates I invite Mr Kostas Stamoulis, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department ad interim, to provide clarification on this proposal.

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

The negative impacts of climate change on agriculture and agricultural production pose a serious threat and growing one to food security, not least in countries that are already highly food insecure.

The agriculture sectors are also a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and have a unique potential for contributing to stabilizing the world's climate.

In adopting the goals of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the international community took responsibility for building a sustainable future.

But meeting the goals of eradicating hunger and poverty by 2030, while addressing the threat of climate change, will require a profound transformation of food and agriculture systems worldwide.

Changes will need to be made in ways that do not jeopardize the capacity of the agriculture sectors to meet the world's food needs.

Global food demand in 2050 is projected to increase by at least 60 percent above 2006 levels, driven by population and income growth, as well as rapid urbanization.

At the same time, efforts by the agriculture sectors to contribute to a carbon-neutral world are leading to competing demands on water and land used to produce food and energy, and to forest conservation initiatives that reduce greenhouse gas emissions but limit land available for crop and livestock production.

In the coming decades population increases will be concentrated in regions with the highest level of undernourishment and high vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

The effects of climate change on agricultural production and livelihoods are expected to intensify over time. The negative impacts of climate change on the productivity of crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry will become increasingly severe in all regions.

Productivity declines in agriculture resulting from climate change will have serious negative implications for livelihoods and food security.

Food supply shortfalls will lead to major increases in food prices while increased climate variability will accentuate price volatility.

The areas most affected will be those with already high rates of hunger and poverty.

Among the most vulnerable will be those who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods and income, particularly smallholder producers in developing countries.

To counter the threat of climate change, action must be taken now to make agriculture more sustainable, productive and resilient and to reduce farming's own greenhouse gas emissions.

Delaying the transformation of the agriculture sectors will force poorer countries to fight poverty, hunger and climate change at the same time.

The State of Food and Agriculture 2016 (SOFA) presents a careful analysis and overview of the challenges posed to agriculture and food security by climate change and discusses how to address them.

It examines the options available to farmers to adapt to climate change, while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Synergies and trade-offs of different measures and management practices are highlighted.

Of particular relevance is the evidence provided that the adoption by farmers of improved practices is still very limited.

Adoption is often hampered by a combination of policy, institutional, and financial barriers to change.

Smallholders, especially, face a broad range of barriers, such as limited access to markets, credit, extension advice, weather information, risk management tools and social protection.

The Paris Agreement represents a new beginning in the global effort to stabilize the climate before it is too late. It recognizes the importance of food security and agriculture in the international response to climate change, as reflected by the many countries focusing prominently on the agriculture sector in their planned contributions to adaptation and mitigation.

To help put these plans into action, the report identifies strategies, financing opportunities and data and information needs. It also describes transformative policies and institutions that can help overcome barriers to implementation of more sustainable agricultural practices.

Climate change and its relationship to agriculture and food security will inevitably form an important part of FAO's work over the coming years.

The contents covered by the SOFA report, combined with FAO's ongoing work on climate change, lay out the major challenges we face and the actions needed in order to address them.

We believe that the discussion in the Conference on "Climate change, agriculture and food security" can help us frame the debate on how effectively to turn commitments to address climate change into action in the areas of agriculture and food security. **Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

Will there be a special guest speaker on this theme for the Conference?

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

This is the fourth time we have a topic for the general discussion in the Conference under the state of food and agriculture. We usually do not have a guest speaker. We have not thought about it. There is a member of the Secretariat making the basic presentation and then there is a special document that is produced by the Secretariat ahead of time. Then the members take the floor and discuss the topic.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now conclude that the general debate will revolve around “Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security”. I also take it that statements by Heads of Delegations will be limited to five minutes as proposed in the document and as has been the case over many Sessions of the Conference.

Section C of CL 155/8 sets out the background as to why this session of Council is being requested to propose a biennial theme for Governing Body sessions convened in the 2018-2019 biennium. You will note that Council is asked to consider endorsing the following proposed theme: “Climate Change and its Impact on the Work in the Activities of FAO”.

I should like to request Ms Maria Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General Natural Resources Management and Environment Department to provide some background to this proposal.

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

I will start by hitting one paragraph from the State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) Mr Stamoulis has just mentioned and it states: “In the absence of climate change and with continuing economic progress, most regions are projected to see a decline in the number of people at risk of hunger by 2050. With climate change, however, the population living in poverty could increase between 35 and 122 million by 2030 relative to a future without climate change, largely due to its negative impacts on incomes in agriculture sectors.”

This shows how important is climate change and its effects in agriculture to achieve our common goal which is eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030.

During the COP 22 in Marrakesh in the Marrakesh Proclamation, it states: “We call for all parties to strengthen and support the efforts to eradicate poverty, ensure food security and to take stringent action to deal with climate change challenges in agriculture”, and we consider that FAO has a mandate and responsibility to work and to help the countries achieve this goal and work on the linkage between climate change, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

We consider that during the two years we should work with countries, we should have this debate at our Regional Conference and at our Technical Committees to help the countries doing what? To design the appropriate strategic policies to have a cross sectoral policy dialogue, if you see that all the countries or the majority of the countries in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), they presented agriculture as one agriculture sector, as the sectors which they will work to contribute to the reducing of greenhouse gas emissions and we should link these agenda to the Sustainment Development Agenda.

On the other side, we need to integrate the NDCs in development policies, they cannot be a stand-alone item. We need to help the countries also to prepare investment proposals to assess to climate change. We will work on the short hand supporting countries to integrate agriculture and food security and nutrition concerns into their first NDCs and work together to scale up climate finance for adaptation in agriculture.

Our medium-term goals will be to support countries to turn their high-level commitment into concrete action plans for the agriculture sectors, to keep agriculture at the forefront of the discourse on climate change, including in UNFCCC.

By proposing the biennial theme “Climate change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO”, Member Countries and FAO are able to constantly engage in a focus dialogue. This will lead to a more effective impact in delivering FAO's work in climate change. We consider that climate change and its

relationship to agriculture and food security will be an important item in FAO's work on the years to come, I think even beyond 2018-2019.

This is the reason why we propose to your consideration this theme for the next biennium to be the FAO's work on.

CHAIRPERSON

I open the floor for Members who need clarification. I see people nodding with agreement to this proposed biennial theme.

I can conclude that the theme for Governing Bodies held in the 2018-19 biennium will be: *Climate Change and its impact on the Work and Activities of FAO*.

We now move on to the proposed deadlines for submission of nominations for an Independent Chairperson of the Council and Council Membership.

The deadlines proposed are as follows: 5 April 2017 at noon time for the office of Independent Chairperson of the Council; and 3 July 2017 at noon time for Council Membership.

Does Council agree with these proposed deadlines or any question for clarification?

I note that there is agreement.

I would like to point out that, in keeping with regional rotation, the FAO Asia region was approached with a view to nominating the Chairperson of the 40th Session of Conference. The Asia Regional Group has informed the Secretariat that The Honourable Emmanuel F. Piñol, Secretary for Agriculture of the Philippines, is proposed as Chair of the Conference for endorsement at this Council Session.

Can I take it that Council wishes to endorse this proposal?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It is so decided.

Regarding the formation of the two Commissions of the Conference, it is proposed to appoint a representative of the Group of 77 and China to chair Commission I, which deals with substantive issues and policy, and a representative of a country which does not belong to the Group of 77 and China to chair Commission II, which deals with matters relating to the programme and budget. Can I take it that Council is in agreement with this proposal?

Thank you. You are in agreement.

As regards the General Committee and the Credentials Committee, I would suggest that membership of these Committees be discussed at our next session in April 2017.

Finally, does Council agree to follow past practice and to invite Palestine to participate in the Session in an observer capacity? It is accepted.

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me now pin everything together in my conclusion:

Arrangements for the Session and Provisional Agenda

The Council agreed to submit to the Conference the Provisional Agenda and the Arrangements outlined in document CL 155/8 for approval, and in particular recommended that:

- a) two Commissions be established to examine, respectively: (i) Substantive and Policy Matters in Food and Agriculture; and (ii) Programme and Budgetary Matters;
- b) the deadline for receipt of nominations for election to the Council be set at 12.00 hours on Monday 3 July 2017, and the election be held on Friday 7 July 2017;

c) recommended that a proposal to hold a Special Event on Gender during the Conference, allowing for the dynamic participation of Members, be further discussed at informal meetings convened by the ICC with the Chairs of the Regional Groups.

The Council further agreed to recommend to the Conference that the topic for the General Debate at the 40th Session be "Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security" and that statements by heads of delegation be limited to a maximum of five minutes each.

The Council also endorsed the following biennial theme for Governing Body sessions held in the 2018-19 biennium: "Climate Change and its impact on the work and activities of FAO."

Deadline for Nominations for the Post of Independent Chairperson of the Council

The Council decided to establish a deadline for the receipt of nominations for the Office of Independent Chairperson of the Council at 12.00 hours on Wednesday 5 April 2017; and Wednesday 12 April 2017 as the dates by which nominations would be circulated through the FAO Members Gateway and by letter by the Secretary-General.

Nomination of the Chairperson of the Conference and the Chairpersons of Commission I and Commission II

The Council noted that consultations within the FAO Asia Regional Group had led to consensus on nominating the Honourable Emmanuel F. Piñol, Secretary of Agriculture of The Philippines as Chairperson of the Conference. Furthermore, it agreed that the Chairperson of Commission I be from a country belonging to the G77 and China Group; and that the Chairperson of Commission II be from a country not belonging to the G77 and China Group.

The Council agreed to proceed at its 156th Session (April 2017) with the nomination of candidates for the offices of:

- a) Chairperson of the Commissions of the Conference;
- b) Three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference;
- c) Seven elected Members of the General Committee to the Conference; and
- d) Nine Members of the Credentials Committee.

The Council agreed to recommend to the Conference that Palestine be invited to the Conference in an observer capacity.

Item 16. Margarita Lizárraga Medal

Point 16. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga

Tema 16. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga

(CL 155/LIM/6)

We move on now to item 16, *Margarita Lizárraga Medal*. The document before Council is CL 155/LIM/6 Rev.1.

The medal is awarded in honour of the late Margarita Saucedo Lizárraga, Senior FAO Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and is awarded biennially upon recommendation of the Council, to a person or organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code.

It is proposed to bestow the 2016-2017 Award on the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, based in Australia, in recognition of its conservation and management of marine living resources in the Convention Area (Southern Ocean), consistent with the Code, in particular for the precautionary and ecosystem-sensitive approach taken by the Commission to balance environmental conservation with the rational utilization of resources.

The Commission's achievement can be considered a role model and catalyst for similar initiatives in other regions.

The Council is invited to endorse the nomination of the proposed candidate organization, which will be awarded the Medal during a special ceremony to be held in 2017.

Have any Members got any questions to ask?

I do not see any questions. Therefore, let me conclude on item 16 as follows: The Council endorsed the nomination of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and recommended that the Medal be presented by the Director-General during a special ceremony to be held before 31 December 2017.

Thank you. Item 16 is now concluded

Item 15. World Food Programme:

Point 15. Programme alimentaire mondial:

Tema 15. Programa Mundial de Alimentos:

Item 15.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board

Point 15.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM

Tema 15.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA

(CL 155/9; CL 155/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we now take up item 15, which concerns World Food Programme matters.

Under sub-item 15.1 the Council is requested to elect Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are CL 155/9 Rev.1 and CL 155/LIM/4.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat members:

Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary of the Executive Board and Director, Executive Board Secretariat; Ms Jane Pearce, Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division; and Ms Meemi Taalas, Chief, Performance Management and Reporting, Performance Management and Monitoring Division.

The Secretary-General will now give us an update on the candidates listed in document CL 155/LIM/4.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For List A there are two candidate for two seats: Congo and Zimbabwe.

For List B, there is one candidate for one seat: Pakistan.

For List C, there is one candidate for one seat: Argentina.

For List D there are two candidates for two seats: Canada and Germany.

CHAIRPERSON

Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats to be filled for Lists A, B, C and D, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by clear general consent.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

I should like to draw your attention to correspondence from the List Coordinators for List A, List C and List D regarding agreements that have been reached in those lists on the sharing of terms of office.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix B of document CL 155/9 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note that Guatemala had agreed to step down from the List C seat which would be occupied by Brazil as of 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2017.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

It is so decided. Brazil is elected for the aforementioned seat as of 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix C of document CL 155/9 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note the decision of Mauritania to stand down from the List A seat it currently occupies and that Benin be elected to this seat as of 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2018.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

It is so decided. Benin is elected for the aforementioned seat as of 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

As a result of the agreement mentioned in Appendix E of document CL 155/9 Rev.1, the Council is requested to note the decision of Mexico to stand down from the List C seat it currently occupies and to elect Peru to this seat for the period from 1 January 2017 until 31 December 2018.

Can I take it that the Council agrees to this?

I note that the Council agrees to this.

It is so decided. Peru is elected for the aforementioned seat for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Finally, Appendix F of document CL 155/9 Rev.1 mentions an agreement whereby Sweden will stand down from the List D seat it currently occupies and that Switzerland will occupy that seat for the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

Does the Council agree to this arrangement?

I note that the Council agrees to this.

Therefore, Switzerland is elected for the aforementioned seat for the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2018.

The Council is also requested to note the correspondence contained in Appendix A of document CL 155/LIM/4 concerning an agreement reached in List A for the seat to be occupied by Zimbabwe starting in January 2017.

I wish to congratulate all the newly elected WFP Executive Board Members and wish them well for the work that lays ahead of them.

- Item 15.2** *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2015*
Point 15.2 *Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2015*
Tema 15.2 *Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2015*
 (CL 155/10)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move onto sub-item 15.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2015*. Please ensure that you have document CL 155/10 before you.

I will now pass the floor to Ms Jane Pearce, Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, to introduce this report. Ms Pearce you have the floor.

Ms Jane PEARCE (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

The document that I am presenting to you this evening is WFP's Principle Accountability Document. It is the tool that the World Food Programme uses to demonstrate its results against the objectives set in the Strategic Plan and to communicate performance to all stakeholders.

The document follows WFP's Performance Management Framework at both strategic and management results level. This report is fully framed in accordance with the United Nations Principles for Harmonized Results Reporting. It reflects the findings of the report which was discussed and endorsed by WFP's Executive Board during this year's annual session in June.

First of all, I would like to point out that the work that WFP undertook in 2015 should be seen in context. At no time in history has WFP faced so many complex emergency over such a long period. For most of 2015, WFP was responding to six level three emergencies. Moreover, ten of the twelve

level two and three emergencies persisted throughout the year and now at the end of 2016, we know that this trend unfortunately continues.

In response and with strong donor support, WFP heightened and sustained its emergency response. Many processes and systems in which WFP has invested over the years, things such as the rapid response delivery mechanisms and advanced financing facilities, played a key role in enabling the results achieved.

While WFP recognizes the challenges of meeting immediate humanitarian needs such as implementing activities needed to end hunger over the next fifteen years, we kept our commitments in protracted recovery and development contexts as well.

This was possible through strong partnerships both locally and internationally, as well as a side portfolio of food assistance activities that WFP was able to provide, tailored to specific national contexts.

In November 2014, WFP presented a Management Plan in which it committed to reaching 78 million vulnerable people during the year, a goal post towards which we have worked in the following year.

With the resources received in 2015, WFP delivered more than 12.5 billion rations to 76.7 million people in eighty-one countries. The published report provides further details, including which activities they benefitted from and what was the split in terms of age and gender, the crosscutting issues.

In addition, the 2015 report includes for the first time an overview of assistance provided through trust fund mechanisms which includes an additional 1.6 million people in 2015. It includes an estimate of people benefitting beyond food and cash transfers. More than 2 million people received nutrition messaging, farmer support, and capacity development. There were an additional millions of people benefitting from assets created through our food for assets programmes through which a methodology is still being developed.

Acknowledgement of programmes which with the governments that then assisted millions of people, including countries such as India and Peru where numbers can go up to 30 million. In part two of the report, we examined the effectiveness of WFP as per the Strategic Results Framework.

79 percent of all programme expenditure in 2015 was spent on saving lives, Strategic Objective 1. WFP delivered positive outcomes, supported increased humanitarian access, and ensured uninterrupted implementation of the programmes.

Strong progress was achieved under Objective 2, post emergency settings. Emergency work reduced the extent of planned activities. 9 percent of resources were spent on this Objective.

Strategic Objective 3, risk reduction and resilience building, received the least financial support and comprised 5 percent of our expenditures. An outcome level performance was mixed.

However, WFP did progress in enhancing food and livelihood and security of communities.

Under Strategic Objective 4, reducing intergenerational cycle of hunger, WFP helped to reduce malnutrition and contributed to improvements in access to education. However, with 8% of overall expenditures spent on this Strategic Objective, there were some gaps at output level. It was also evident that WFP is still constrained by under reporting on capacity development. It is partially a resourcing issue but it is also a call to refine our approach to capacity assessment and monitoring, and this is something that we are working on.

Finally, a higher number of projects reported indicators related to crosscutting areas, gender, protection, accountability to affected populations, and partnerships. Results observed were overall positive, comparable to those in previous years.

In part three of the report, we examined our work based on the Management Results Framework. Indicators reflected strong progress in all of the defined dimensions, people, partnerships, processes and systems, programmes, accountability, and funding. We do still have some challenges that we will continue to work on.

In the people dimension, the Global Staff Survey showed good results and we can continue to work towards gender balance in international professional positions. This APR mentions some of the actions in place to address the challenges that we still face.

With regards to partnerships, I spoke already on capacity development and would like to stress the importance of working jointly with agencies to address this, including as part of the QCPR Agenda.

In processes and systems, the report provides rich information on metrics linked to lead time reductions. In addition, we continue to explore additional indicators on the efficiency of our supply chain. In programmes, strong overall progress under this dimension again links to the results shown in part two.

None the less, our projects did not always meet our targets. A stronger link between projected resources and results, one that is envisaged in the next Strategic Plan, will support more realistic target setting in line with funding projections.

In accountability and funding, the level of funding for 2015 was the second highest in WFP's history and WFP received one third of all aid in humanitarian appeals. We were the top recipient.

But requirements continue to soar. Long-term crises struggle to meet their sense of urgency and most donor currencies depreciated against the US dollar in 2015.

As a final comment, the report also included a section on looking forward in 2016. Much of what has materialized by now, including the approval of WFP's New Strategic Plan, the Corporate Results Framework, the Policy on Country Strategic Plans, and a revised Financial Framework for WFP. This was to be coupled by further organizational strengthening, including a review of the fit for purpose initiative, the results of which will be incorporated in the 2016 report which we are already well in the process of preparing.

I would just like to reiterate that the WFP Executive Board welcomed this report in June and gave us valuable feedback as always to further improve our corporate reporting efforts and continue to address monitoring challenges at field level.

I am new in this position. I have just come in from the field for WFP and these are some of the things that I will be taking forward and which I hope to present to you at the next time we present the annual report.

Mr Mitiku Tesso JEBESSA (Ethiopia)

Ethiopia is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Regional Group.

At the outset we would like to thank WFP management and its staff members at all levels for their unwavering commitment which has been made to save lives and livelihoods of people who were affected by natural and human made disasters.

WFP is the largest humanitarian organization in the world and for the past decades was engaged in providing humanitarian assistance to needy people across the world.

The year 2015 proved to be turmoil. Several emergencies brought more hardship and instability with devastating life threatening consequences. At the same time, persistent poverty relentlessly undermined food and nutrition security for many of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people with immediate and long-term physical, social and economic consequences.

The annual performance report describes the World Food Programme's actions and achievements in serving people's emergency, recovery and development needs in 2015. It also covers WFP's provision of vital, common platforms and services for the humanitarian and development community.

During emergencies in 2015, WFP made effective contributions to saving lives and protecting livelihoods by delivering positive food and nutrition security outcomes, supporting increased humanitarian access and helping to ensure uninterrupted implementation of relief programmes.

In 2015, WFP directly assisted 76.7 million people in 81 countries, most of them women and children. WFP also assisted an additional 1.6 million beneficiaries under trust fund, which are usually established with support from host governments. WFP responded by helping severe and complex

emergencies in Iraq, South Sudan, Yemen and the Syria region as well as Ebola-affected West Africa. WFP also responded to major emergencies in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Horn of Africa, Libya, Mali, Ukraine and Nepal. WFP's ability to respond to 12 major emergencies during 2015 was commended by many stakeholders. When we look at the assisted beneficiaries in 2015 in each strategic objective, 63 percent were assisted under strategic objective 1, 13 percent under strategic objective 2, 6 percent under strategic 3 and 18 percent under strategic objective 4.

Performance Against the Management Results Dimensions also shows WFP's commitment reporting on its work to improve efficiency and effectiveness and able for the first time to report strong progress across all five Management Result Dimensions.

In 2015 WFP received USD 4.8 billion in voluntary contributions. During the year, 79 percent of WFP's expenditure was directed to emergencies. However lack of funding limited the effectiveness of some of WFP's operations, for example in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. In many operations WFP was forced to reduce its assistance to focus on the most vulnerable people, leaving others with little or no food assistance. More than 91 percent of funds received in 2015 were earmarked by donors for use in specific projects or activities. This funding shortfall reduced the ability of WFP's country teams to plan for optimum use of resources, inhibiting nutrition impacts and achievement of programme outcome.

In 2015, WFP has started working on an integrated approach to strategic planning and financing aligned with the agenda 2030 SDGs and was approved in 2016 by the Executive Board.

The integrated plan will guide WFP's participation in humanitarian and development partnerships, and will promote enhanced advocacy. We look forward for the effective and efficient implementation of the plan.

Finally Africa Regional Group fully supports the 2015 report to be approved by the Council.

Mr Shengyao TANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We highly appreciate the report. The report comprehensively and systematically introduced the work done by WFP in 2015. WFP's endeavor in the eradication of hunger supports small scale farmers and supports the poor and supports the developing countries and South-South Cooperation. It is all what China wanted to see and are glad to see.

At the same time, we hope WFP can strengthen the cooperation with FAO and also especially they can use their resources to purchase FAO's services so that FAO can play their technical capacity as a knowledge center.

Ms Jane Pearce (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)

Thank you, Ethiopia, most appreciated comments. Thank you also to the Distinguished Delegate from China.

I just want to make a comment about the cooperation between FAO and WFP. There is very much a move towards strengthening the cooperation between us. I know from my own personal experience from working in WFP country offices that the cooperation between FAO and WFP is very strong. We will continue to build on that and to work closely with them as we move forward in the implementation of our Strategic Plan.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Members of the Council. Thank you, WFP, for coming to present this annual report.

I want to make the conclusion as follows:

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2015.
2. In particular, the Council:

- a) acknowledged WFP's results in meeting its Strategic Objectives, supported by the achievements by Management Results Dimensions;
- b) recognised the commitment of WFP staff in the field working in challenging circumstances, both in addressing concurrent Level 2 (L2) and Level 3 (L3) emergencies in addition to protracted crises;
- c) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, its engagement with partners towards zero hunger and for the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- d) welcomed the efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies;
- e) noted the ongoing work under the major change management initiatives, including preparation of the new Strategic Plan, Country Strategic Plans and related policy and Financial Framework Review, as well as the continued organizational strengthening envisaged; and
- f) noted WFP's implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review reporting into its Annual Performance Report, with a particular focus on gender, capacity development, South-South and triangular cooperation, "Delivering as One", alignment with the United Nations Development Group, results-based management and harmonization and simplification of business practices.

That is the end of the conclusion. Thank you.

Item 13. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2017-20

Point 13. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020

Tema 13. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2017-20

(CL 155/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is item 13, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2017-20*. Please ensure that you have document CL 155/LIM/5 before you.

As Members are aware, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's agenda. Due to the rolling nature of the MYPOW, it should be considered a "living document" and, as such, is subject to constant improvement and fine-tuning, also as a result of consultations on the MYPOW that take place at the regular informal meetings I hold with the Regional Group Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and the text you have before you has gone through that process.

The floor is now open for delegates who may wish to propose further improvements.

Mr Gerhard STIENS (Germany)

I want to give the floor to the Republic of Slovakia to deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Marieta OKENKOVÁ (Observer for Slovakia)

The statement of the European Union and its 28 Member States is very short, and also the Republic of San Marino, Montenegro and Serbia align themselves.

We welcome the Council Multi-Year Programme of work (MYPOW) for 2017-2020 as a good planning tool for the complex work of the Council in the coming years. It reflects the Council's objective as well as the expected results.

We expect the Council to continuously improve and adapt the MYPOW where it is deemed necessary. In addition, we consider the informal meetings initiated by the Independent Chairperson of Council (ICC) as a useful platform for keeping a good dialogue going among the Membership and would strongly like to encourage continued use of the platform.

We would like to underline the need to monitor the Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies effectively with a view to optimising the planned sequence of the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees and Council. Also, overlaps with meetings of WFP and IFAD should be avoided wherever possible.

Finally, we endorse the MYPOW for 2017-2020.

M. Belkacem BELGAID (Algérie)

L'Algérie prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe régional Afrique prend note des informations communiquées dans le document CL 155/LIM/5, relatives au Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020, et saisit cette opportunité pour exprimer à M. Wilfried Ngirwa, Président indépendant du Conseil, et M. Louis Gagnon, Secrétaire général du Conseil, ainsi que toute l'équipe qui l'entoure, ses remerciements pour la qualité et la clarté du document qui nous a été soumis pour examen. Le Groupe Afrique apprécie fortement la pertinence du contenu de ce rapport, qui présente les principaux points suivants: la définition des stratégies, des priorités et planification du budget, le suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance, l'exercice des fonctions de contrôle, le suivi et évaluation des résultats obtenus par la Direction, la planification des activités et méthodes de travail et enfin, les sessions et plan de travail du Conseil. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de l'excellent travail accompli par le Conseil et par son Président pour sa clairvoyance et pour son esprit de consensus qui a permis d'orienter les débats afin que l'Organisation puisse atteindre ses objectifs.

Toutefois, Monsieur Président, le Groupe Afrique estime qu'il y a des questions que je vais citer maintenant, qui sont importantes et méritent de notre point de vue un suivi particulier par la FAO. Ces questions concernent les cinq éléments suivants.

Le premier, il faut veiller, selon le Groupe Afrique, à ce que les priorités régionales arrêtées lors des Conférences régionales de la FAO, qui se sont tenues pendant le premier semestre de l'année 2016, soient mises à exécution.

Le deuxième point, il s'agit d'adapter le Programme du travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020 au Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 avec les objectifs qui y sont rattachés, au programme et au plan d'action d'Addis Abeba sur le financement du développement, et à l'accord de Paris sur le changement climatique, ainsi qu'aux conclusions et recommandations récemment adoptées dans le cadre de la COP22, notamment, les recommandations qui tiennent compte des trois «A»: «Adaptation de l'Agriculture Africaine».

Le troisième élément, intégrer le Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2017-2020 dans le cadre des Programmes de pays CCP de la FAO, afin de leur permettre d'atteindre les objectifs de développement durable, notamment les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO.

Le quatrième point concerne les questions de planification du budget qui s'avèrent cruciales dans le cadre du Plan à moyen terme et du Programme et budget, notamment en y intégrant les questions de décentralisation et de renforcement des capacités techniques des pays.

L'ultime point concerne le besoin de renforcer et de dynamiser la coopération sud-sud et triangulaire entre les états eux-mêmes d'une part et entre les États et la FAO et les institutions basées à Rome pour la mise en place de partenariats efficaces en vue de la mise en place d'une cohérence de politique, publique et leur intégration aux ODD et les engagements internationaux en matière de changement climatique.

Monsieur le Président, après cette synthèse des préoccupations et questions prioritaires pour le groupe Afrique, je voudrais réitérer que notre groupe appuie pleinement l'adoption du document CL155/5 relative au programme de travail pluriannuel du conseil pour la période 2017-2020.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we conclude this item, I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of any improvements made to our working methods. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that document CL 155/INF/9 Note on the Methods of Work of the Council is available for information on the Council webpage.

SECRETARY GENERAL

In keeping with the Secretary-General of the UN's call to adopt a "Paper Smart" approach to UN system activities, and the success of a paper free CFS session and Paper Smart COAG session in October 2016, I wish to report that this FAO Council session has been the first "Paper Smart". This

means that the documents desk is no longer handing out sets of printed documents to delegates at the start of the day, thereby reducing the environmental impact and its related costs.

Delegates who have not downloaded documents to electronic devices have made use of the “Print-on-demand” service at the Korean Conference Service Centre.

CHAIRPERSON

I note that the Council wishes to endorse its MYPOW for the period 2017-2020 and I can conclude on this as follows. The Council reviewed in the approved multiyear Programme of Work, MYPOW, 2017-2020 and took note of the issues to be identified by members for inclusion in the MYPOW.

Before I proceed I wish to request the Council members who have not yet done so to provide their names of two representatives from each of the regional groups who are members of the Council to participate in the friends of the Chair no later than 19:30 tonight for interpretation purposes. This is the purpose why I am saying that. The names will be provided 19:30 tonight so that the interpretation can be arranged accordingly. In this regard, I propose that the friends of the Chair convene tomorrow morning at 11:00 in the Lebanon Room.

Note that in the morning the drafting committee will not be meeting.

Item 14. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 154th Session of the Council

Point 14. État d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent cinquante-quatrième session

Tema 14. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 154.º período de sesiones

(CL 155/LIM/3 ; CL 155/LIM/3 Add.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 14, *Status of implementation of the sessions taken at the 154th Session of the Council*. The relevant documents are CL 155/LIM/3 REV1 and CL155/LIM/3 Add.1.

As foreseen in the multiyear Programme of Work the Council is invited to note information on the implementation of the sessions taken at its 151st Session in May-June 2016 and include updates on the decisions taken at the 153rd Session of the Council which took place in November and December 2015 and the 150th Session December 2014.

I will now give the floor to the delegations who wish to speak on the status Report set out in the relevant documents. The floor is open. **Mr Fabian Sumba MUYA (Kenya)**

Kenya is making this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group thanks you Mr Chairperson for the manner in which you are conducting this session of the Council and it also welcomes the document and its addendum and takes note of the document.

We thank the Secretariat for preparing this document that is elaborating the decisions so far taken and the ones pending. We have three comments.

The document contains 28 decisions taken at three sessions of the FAO Council: the 150th Session held in December 2014, the 153rd Session in November – December 2015, and the 154th Session in May-June 2016. We note that there are 12 decisions that are completed, 15 are ongoing and one is yet to be done being the evaluation of FAO's work on gender for consideration by the Conference in 2019.

Within the ongoing decisions, we take cognizance of the fact that this work is in progress in which there is more efforts to consolidate decentralization, including strengthening of the regional and other decentralized offices being included in the Mid-Term Review 2016 and Programme of Work and Budget 2018-19. We view this activity as an important one for it will enhance FAO's efforts in enabling food-insecure states to achieve food self-sufficiency and nutrition.

With regard to the creation of a separate Sub-regional Office for West Africa, preferably based in a francophone country, with the location to be determined by the Secretariat in consultation with the

countries concerned, we hope FAO will continue to work on this matter in order to reach on a decision by early 2017.

In conclusion, the African Group supports the decisions taken on this document and encourages FAO to continue implementing the remaining decisions.

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

We took note of the outcome of this session of the Council. We would like to draw attention to Page 10 on the Decision of the Council and the need for written translation in all of the FAO languages of the documents. We would also note the reference that was contained in this point on the terms of reference of the partnerships. We think that in this context it would be important to refer to the rules and procedures of the partnership, which were taken in 2013 and in particular Rule 3.9 which clearly deals with the need to provide translation and interpretation in all FAO languages. We would like this amendment to be effectively implemented.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm the need to provide regular written translation in all languages of FAO, including Russian, in the Global Soil Partnership Assembly. In this connection, we expect measures to be taken to ensure that interpretation is provided in the context of the preparation of the PWB for 2017 as set out in Point 10. We also note the status of these activities.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Russian Federation, for your comments. The amendment will be made.

We can now conclude on this item.

1. The Council took note of the status of implementation of the decisions taken at its 154th (December 2014), 153rd (30 November - 4 December 2015) and 150th (1-5 December 2014) Sessions.
2. The Council recommended that line 10 in document CL 155/LIM/3 should refer to both the Terms of Reference as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Global Soil Partnership.

Item 17. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2016-18

Point 17. Calendrier 2016-2018 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

Tema 17. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2016-18

(CL 155/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to item 17, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2016-18*. The document before Council is CL 155/LIM/1.

To avoid meetings overlapping, FAO draws up this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP and through the web-based Common Calendar, which may be consulted by Members at any time through the FAO Members Gateway on the FAO Home Page.

The schedule of meetings for 2017 is before Council for approval. Any changes made since the last Session, when the calendar was presented for information, are indicated with an asterisk. The Council is requested to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2017.

In this respect, I wish to announce that an additional session of the Finance Committee dealing with WFP matters was convened after the draft calendar was issued as a Council document. It is proposed that the 165th Session of the Finance Committee take place from 7 to 8 February 2017.

Any comments from the floor?

Mr Mitiku Tesso JEBESSA (Ethiopia)

The African Group really would like to accept the calendar that it suites to all the three Organizations.

Ms Larissa Maria LIMA DA COSTA (Brazil)

We note that in this calendar that was presented to us there was no reference to the next meeting of the FAO Committee on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that will take place here in FAO Headquarters from 30 January to 3 February 2017.

In the table in Appendix B of document CL 155/LIM/1 there is no reference to the Commission's meeting so we would like to see it included in the calendar. I see that the Commission is referred below the list as one of the FAO's subsidiary bodies but the next meeting of the Commission is not referred in the table. With these amendments, Chair, we can approve the calendar.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I think you are right. When you look at Appendix B, there is the list of the governing and statutory bodies whose meetings should be reflected there. It is an oversight and it will be included.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Let me conclude on Item 17: the Council took note of and approved the calendar for 2017 with the addition of the 16th Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to be held from 30 January to 3 February 2017.

Item 19. Provisional Agenda for the 156th Session of the Council (April 2017)**Point 19. Ordre du jour provisoire de la cent cinquante-sixième session du Conseil (avril 2017)****Tema 19. Programa provisional del 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo (abril de 2017)**

(CL 155/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to Item 19, *Provisional Agenda for the 156th Session of the Council (April 2017)*. The relevant document is CL 155/INF/2.

I will now give the floor to delegations who wish to speak on this item.

Sra. María de Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)

En nombre del Grupo de Latinoamérica y el Caribe, deseo expresar que en seguimiento a las recomendaciones del 25.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura y la decisión del 155.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, resulta pertinente incluir el tema sobre el Año Internacional de los Camélidos en el programa provisional de 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, que se realizará en abril del 2017. En ese sentido, el Año Internacional de los Camélidos deberá ser incluido en el programa provisional como tema nuevo.

En otros asuntos, de acuerdo al documento CL 155/INF/2.

Sra. Roxana OLLER CATOIRA (Observador de Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia)

Nos referimos a la intervención realizada por la presidencia del GRULAC para incluir el Año Internacional de los Camélidos como nuevo tema del programa provisional del 156.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO de abril de 2017, y por supuesto que Bolivia la apoya plenamente.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Ladies and Gentlemen. For item 19, I can therefore conclude that the Council endorsed the Provisional Agenda of its 156th Session to be held in April 2017 and agreed to add an item on the proposal to establish an International Year of Camelids.

Item 20. Any Other Matters**Point 20. Autres questions****Tema 20. Asuntos varios****CHAIRPERSON**

We can now move on to *Any Other Matters*. Ladies and gentlemen, as announced on Monday, a statement to Council on behalf of the Staff Representative Bodies will now be made.

I invite Mr Juan Coy, General Secretary of the Association of Professional Staff in FAO (AP-in-FAO) to deliver the statement.

Mr Juan COY (General Secretary, Association of Professional Staff in FAO)

At the outset, let us thank the Director-General for allowing the Staff Representative Bodies to address you once more. It is an honour for us to be able to regularly speak before the Council and share with you the views and concerns of the staff we represent. Our statements during your sessions are an event we take very seriously, as they give us the chance to convey what we see and feel being on the front line of the Organization's mission. And it is only fitting that it be so, for communication, dialogue and cooperation between the main stakeholders are essential, in our opinion, for a healthy and well-functioning Organization.

On this occasion, you, the members of the Council, are seized with some very important matters. First and foremost, the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the outline of the Medium-Term Plan 2018-21. In the run-up to the upcoming 40th Session of the Conference, this is the first step along the development of the programme that will guide FAO's action and determine its relevance in the near future, for the benefit of its wide array of beneficiaries and its Members.

On behalf of the Organization's staff, who are committed to their work and keen on advancing FAO's mandate, we wish you success in your efforts during the next few months to set FAO's course for the following quadriennium.

Concerning the relationship between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies, today we bring you mixed news. On the one hand, we are glad to acknowledge that the atmosphere and the tone of the discussions in the Staff-Management Consultative Committee have somehow improved lately. There has been a fruitful collaboration on some issues leading to results which are generally satisfactory for all concerned parties. Among these, we might mention the revision of provisions relating to short-term personnel, procedures for the processing of sick leave requests and principles and rules applicable to the use of information technology resources. We are pleased with this positive progress, especially in terms of the collaborative atmosphere.

On the other hand, however, we regret to say that some serious problems still afflict the relations between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies. These, we fear, are in essence the result of Senior Management's attitude towards the Staff Representative Bodies and towards staff at large.

Our role and input are, in our opinion, not adequately recognized and taken into consideration.

Instead of viewing us like another critical stakeholder, essential for the success of the Organization, we feel that Senior Management considers the Staff Representative Bodies as an obstacle to be avoided and staff as a mere tool that can be freely disposed of.

All too often this Administration takes unilateral action, bypassing the Staff Representative Bodies and thus infringing the statutory requirements for consultation and negotiation, as provided for in the Staff Regulations and more specifically in Article VIII on Staff Relations.

We saw this last year when the mobility policy that had been agreed between Management and the Staff Representative Bodies was superseded a few days later by a radically changed policy which completely disregards the views and personal circumstances of staff.

We saw it again with the issuance of the new policy on short-term personnel by which a maximum limit in employment was imposed whereas, in related discussions with the Staff Representative Bodies, Management had expressly excluded this possibility, and in writing, too. And we have seen it again this year, when the schedule of official holidays was revised superseding the previously agreed one. In the latter case, this action was followed by a revision of Manual Section 302 as well, against the objections of the Staff Representative Bodies, who had demanded clarifications on the rationale for the changes - clarifications that, to this day, have not been provided.

Therefore, we cannot be satisfied. Even less so when we consider that this management style is accompanied by an all-pervading lack of transparency. This is particularly worrying for us when it affects decisions about staffing and recruitment. The abolition of the centralized Staff Selection

Committees, in which the Staff Representative Bodies were present, and which was justified on the grounds that it would speed up the recruitment process, seems to have failed in that intent.

What it did succeed in doing was fragmenting the recruitment mechanisms and eliminating a previously existing measure of uniform oversight, as well as consistency of process throughout the house. Coupled with other developments (like the fact that General Service staff no longer have access to vacancy announcements or position details, and the fact that the results of the 2016 professional selection processes have not been made public, despite our requests to that effect), this makes for greater opacity. Which clearly facilitates episodes like the recent spate of “express” appointments (as many as 140 professional posts, it would seem) without vacancy announcements in some cases and even without consulting the concerned Divisions.

The hasty filling of posts, in what would seem an attempt to boost the statistics in the face of criticism from Members about the high rate of vacancies, could have detrimental effects on the Organization’s technical capacity in the long term. We are of the opinion that little regard has been given to the effective needs of the programme, as established by the units concerned. The risk is that FAO, in order to prove its speediness in filling vacancies, will have sacrificed quality in selecting staff that may be overall competent, but not adequate for the posts they are assigned to. A similar concern arises from the way the mobility policy is applied. When staff are transferred without the involvement and agreement of all parties concerned - releasing and receiving units and staff - or when they are less than two years, or even one, from retirement, it is hard to understand what contribution they will be able to make to the receiving units or how this will support FAO’s work overall.

We cannot be satisfied. To keep their hands free, Senior Management keeps information under shrouds. We have many times asked for data or for statements of position from Management with scarce results. A problem, by the way, that the Member Countries themselves seem to be experiencing, judging from some passages in the reports of recent governing bodies’ sessions. A case in point is the raise of the retirement age to 65 years for all staff by 1 January 2018, with due respect for acquired rights, as decided by the General Assembly in late 2015.

We have asked Management repeatedly to declare when it intended to implement this measure, so that we could appraise our constituencies, to no avail.

We were finally informed orally, just recently, that FAO is really assessing if it is legally obliged to apply the General Assembly’s decision on mandatory age of separation.

In our understanding, this means that FAO would be looking for a justification not to apply it. Which is why we especially welcome the Finance Committee’s call to Management, in its last session, and I quote: “To consider the expeditious implementation of the new mandatory age of separation”.

It seems obvious to us that what Member Countries decided was appropriate for the United Nations, should in principle be appropriate too for the other organizations of the common system.

Finally, we cannot be satisfied because when Management eventually provides information, it is often misleading. We would like to refer in this respect to document FC 164/7 on Human Resources Management. In paragraphs 4 regarding the abolition of PSSC19, regarding abolition of job growth and 49 regarding the introduction of the mobility policy, readers are led to believe that these actions were taken in accord with the Staff Representative Bodies. Nothing could be further from the truth. We disagreed, and we continue to disagree, with these initiatives (in the first two cases) or with the way they have been handled in the latter case, and we struggle to understand how this modus operandi may benefit the Organization. In this respect, we wrote to the Director of the Office of Human Resources, the officer responsible for the above-mentioned report, asking her to issue a revision to set the record straight. The reply was no reply at all, not even an acknowledgment of receipt of our communication.

And this brings me back to our main point. The root problem, as we see it, of the state of staff-Management relations: lack of recognition of and respect for the role of the Staff Representative Bodies in the functioning of the Organization. We have said it time and again. Our desire to participate in the decision-making process regarding issues which directly affect us is not to be confused with a desire to co-manage FAO.

We do believe, however, that we can provide valuable input which could help improve some aspects of the Organization's operations and administration, thereby making it more effective.

Regretfully, we are afraid that unless Senior Management's attitude is reversed, this will not be possible.

We will in any case continue to do our best, under the prevailing circumstances, to advance FAO's worthy goals, to which we all subscribe. But we will do so with a sense of frustration and impotence arising out of the realization that we are not being allowed by the hierarchy of our Organization to contribute to the maximum of our potential. Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Juan Coy for presenting the statement from the Staff Representative Bodies.

Ladies and Gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this meeting.

Algeria? You have the floor for Any Other Matters.

M. Mohamed MELLAH (Algérie)

Je vais faire une présentation au nom de l'Algérie, comme je l'avais sollicité lundi à l'occasion de l'ouverture de notre session, et conformément aux recommandations de la Réunion des ministres chargés de la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin de la région occidentale, qui s'est tenue le 25 octobre 2016 à Alger, et qui a demandé de présenter ses conclusions au Conseil de la FAO.

J'ai donc le plaisir de vous exposer au nom de l'Algérie, au nom des pays membres de la Commission de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale (CLCPRO), les conclusions de la déclaration d'Alger, issue de la deuxième Réunion des ministres chargés de la lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans les pays de la région occidentale des membres de cette organisation qui s'est tenue à Alger le 25 octobre 2016.

Je voudrais rappeler brièvement que, suite à l'invitation adressée par le Ministre Algérien de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et de la Pêche à ses homologues du Burkina Faso, la Lybie, le Mali, le Maroc, la Turquie, la Mauritanie, le Niger, le Sénégal, le Tchad et la Tunisie, et également les invitations adressées aux principaux partenaires techniques et financiers de la CLCPRO, l'Algérie a abrité cette deuxième réunion ministérielle, laquelle intervient après celle tenue il y a sept ans à Bamako au Mali.

La réunion d'Alger a permis de réaffirmer l'engagement des pays de la région dans la lutte contre le fléau du criquet pèlerin. Elle a compté avec la participation de six pays au niveau ministériel sur les dix pays membres de la CLCPRO. Les ministres des autres pays qui n'ont pas participé ont été représentés par leurs Ambassadeurs accrédités à Alger. Pour sa part, la FAO a été représentée au niveau du représentant régional pour le Proche-Orient et l'Afrique du Nord.

Monsieur le Président, la réunion d'Alger a été un rendez-vous important pour la mise en œuvre de la stratégie de lutte préventive contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région occidentale car c'est la seconde fois qu'une telle rencontre est organisée en période d'accalmie acridienne.

La première réunion, elle a eu lieu au mois de mars en 2009 à Bamako au Mali, à l'issue de laquelle les Pays Membres de la CLCPRO se sont engagés à financer durablement les dispositifs de lutte contre ce phénomène dans leurs territoires respectifs, ce qui a triplé les contributions annuelles des états membres du Fond Fiduciaire de la CLCPRO.

La réunion ministérielle d'Alger a été marquée par une atmosphère constructive qui a permis l'adoption des conclusions que je vais vous faire lecture tout à l'heure. Et elle a été marquée également par l'intervention de plusieurs personnalités, en commençant par les interventions du pays hôte, le Ministre Algérien de l'Agriculture, qui a livré la vision de l'Algérie, qui considère la menace acridienne comme étant un caractère transfrontalier qui n'a pas de frontières, comme en témoignent les

dégâts occasionnés par l'invasion acridienne pendant la période 2003 et 2005, lesquels dégâts ont été évalués à 570 millions de dollars avec des pertes considérables en termes de récoltes agricoles et de pâturage. Devant l'ampleur de ce phénomène, l'Algérie ne considère que la coopération régionale comme étant la solution idoine pour y faire face avec efficacité et célérité. Elle considère également que la mise en place d'une feuille de route commune s'avère plus que jamais nécessaire et impérative pour protéger les récoltes agricoles et les espaces verts qui sont, il faut le dire, rares dans certaines régions reculées de la zone.

Le représentant de la FAO et le Secrétaire Exécutif de la CLCPRO ont salué les avancées enregistrées en matière de lutte préventive contre ce ravageur dans la région occidentale et une présentation a été faite sur les acquis de la lutte anti acridienne. Il a été souligné que les statistiques récoltées montrent que la région est touchée par deux invasions de criquets pèlerins chaque trois ans. Lors des deux invasions majeures enregistrées en 1988 et en 2003, les pays de la région ont dû mobiliser 1.250.000.000 dollars pour y faire face.

Monsieur le Président, en dépit des efforts consentis par les Pays Membres dans la détection précoce du phénomène, et les résultats satisfaisants constatés, les défis engendrés ces dernières années par les contraintes d'insécurité prévalant dans certaines zones de la région, je me réfère à l'impossibilité d'effectuer des opérations de surveillance au Nord du Mali et du Niger, auxquels s'ajoute l'impact du changement climatique sur la fréquence d'apparition des résurgences du criquet pèlerin ont amené les Pays Membres de la CLCPRO à décider, lors de la réunion d'Alger, de se doter d'un instrument financier qui leur permettra d'intervenir rapidement en cas de résurgence majeure avant que la situation ne dégénère en une recrudescence. C'est ainsi qu'à l'occasion de la réunion d'Alger, les ministres participants et les pays membres ont décidé de la création du Fond Régional de Gestion du Risque Acridien dont le montant est de 6 millions de dollars, alimenté à travers des contributions volontaires de chaque pays membre de la CLCPRO et par celles des donateurs souhaitant apporter un soutien à cette stratégie, ainsi que par une contribution annuelle de la CLCPRO évaluée à 100.000 dollars.

La deuxième conclusion emblématique qui avait été adoptée à Alger concerne la création d'une force d'intervention de la région occidentale dans l'objectif de mutualiser les moyens d'intervention. Je me permets de vous faire lecture des autres conclusions qui ont été adoptées à l'occasion de la réunion d'Alger et qui sont au total de huit.

La première concerne le besoin de réaffirmer la nécessité de renforcer le Secrétariat de la CLCPRO. 2. Les Ministres ont décidé de réaffirmer l'engagement des Pays Membres à pérenniser les structures nationales de lutte antiacridienne à travers l'allocation de budgets conséquents inscrits annuellement dans la loi de finance de chaque pays.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Algeria for briefing Members of the Council on the deliberations made during the meeting of the Commission to Combat the Desert Locusts in the western region. This was the second session; the meeting held in Algeria. Your Report will be contained in the bottom. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, that brings us to the end of this long day meeting.

Before we close I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General for some announcements.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would like to remind Delegates of the side events which will take place tomorrow, Thursday, and Friday. Tomorrow the side event "Using national and global agricultural data for evidence based policy making" will take place in the Iran Room from 12:30 to 13:30.

On Friday, the side event on the "Pest des ruminants: global eradication programme" will take place in the Iran Room from 1:00 to 2:30.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to inform you again that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place this evening in the Iraq Room starting 20:30.

The second Meeting of the Drafting Committee will take place tomorrow afternoon at the time to be announced.

The Friends of the Chair will meet at 11:00 tomorrow morning in the Lebanon room.

Please note that, in addition to the two Representatives per Regional Group who are Members of the Council, one silent observer per Regional Group will also be invited to be present in the meeting room. One silent observer.

We shall meet again on Friday morning at 9:30 sharp for Agenda Item 18, *Development in the fora for importance for the mandate of FAO* which is presented to Council for information.

This Item will be followed by a briefing on Hurricane Matthew which will be jointly represented by His Excellence Pierre Guito Laurore, Minister for Agriculture and Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti, Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of FAO's Emergency and Rehabilitation Division and Strategic Programme Leader for Resilience, and Ms Denise Brown, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme.

Then we will take –a debriefing on field visits which took place from 11 to 15 September 2016 to Papua New Guinea, and from 18 to 19 September 2016 to Solomon Islands.

With those words, I wish you a good night and thank you for your resilience.

The meeting rose at 20:09 hours

La séance est levée à 20 h 09

Se levanta la sesión a las 20.09