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Organization of the
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Organisation des Nations
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Продовольственная и
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Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Forty-ninth Session - Cent quarante-neuvième session -
149.º período de sesiones**

Rome, 16-20 June 2014

VERBATIM RECORDS OF PLENARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

Rome, 16-20 juin 2014

PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES PLÉNIÈRES DU CONSEIL

Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014

**ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES PLENARIAS DEL
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COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

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Cent quarante-neuvième session
149.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 16-20 June 2014
Rome, 16-20 juin 2014
Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014**

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

16 June 2014

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.37 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 9.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the first meeting of the 149th Session of the FAO Council to order.

I wish to welcome Council Members and observers to this session, especially those of you who have travelled to be here today. A special word of welcome to the many Ministers we have with us today. Excellencies, it is indeed an honour and a privilege to have you here with us. Your participation will undoubtedly enrich our discussions.

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

SECRETARY-GENERAL

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

I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Union and its member states is contained in information document CL 149/INF/3, which is available on line and at the documents desk. I wish to draw the attention of the meeting to this declaration. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon.

I now wish to extend a warm welcome to the Director-General, Dr. Graziano Da Silva, who has joined us for the start of this opening meeting.

Director-General, you have the floor.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellency Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Your Excellency Lassad Lachaal, Minister for Agriculture of Tunisia, Chairperson of the FAO Regional Conference for Africa, Your Excellency Lkhasuren Choi-ish, representing the Ministry for Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia, Chair of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, Your Excellency Christine Grieder, Permanent Representative of Switzerland and Vice-Chairperson of the FAO Regional Conference for Europe, Your Excellency Carlos Furche, Minister of Agriculture of Chile and Chairperson of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Your Excellency Akram Chehayeb, Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon, Chairperson of the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Council, Distinguished Permanent Representatives, Distinguished non-state actors, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is a pleasure to welcome you to FAO.

As of yesterday, 12 Ministers had registered their presence at this week's Council. They come from the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cameroon, Chile, Congo, Côte D'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, Romania, and Tunisia.

We also have the registered participation of eight Deputy and Vice-Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and Undersecretaries from Argentina, Bangladesh, China, Mozambique, Philippines, Russian Federation, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

This high-level presence reflects your renewed trust in FAO's work and is the result of our close cooperation and frank conversations over the 30 months since I took up office.

This new relationship between FAO Members and the Secretariat has paved the way for many achievements. Let me highlight 10 of them, not necessarily in order of priority:

First and foremost, we transformed FAO into a more focused and results-oriented organization. And we are constantly working to make FAO even more dynamic and less bureaucratic.

Second, we enhanced our social protection capacity to maximize the synergies with productive agricultural support to improve food security.

Third, we strengthened the role of the Regional Conferences. As you will see this week, they are playing a key role in the definition of FAO's work, including of the regional initiatives that will drive our action in the regions.

Fourth, we supported the approval by the Committee on World Food Security of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure. FAO is now giving ongoing support to its implementation in more than 50 countries.

Fifth, we approved strategies for partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector. We now have clear guidelines on how to engage with non-state actors and we have an Office of Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development (OPC) to manage this important relationship.

Sixth, we integrated all FAO offices with the Global Resource Management System, GRMS, and improving the monitoring of the work by FAO's decentralized offices.

Seventh, we strengthened communication with the establishment of the Office for Corporate Communication.

Eighth, we contributed to the adoption of the Zero Hunger Challenge as a leading global initiative in the framework of the UN System.

Ninth, we established a close cooperation with regions and are firmly supporting their actions to end hunger. The innovative Africa Solidarity Trust Fund is a good example of our new approach in the region.

And, tenth, just last week, we supported the approval of the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries. This is an outstanding achievement and FAO will work with all interested countries in implementing them. It is also fitting that this approval happened during the International Year of Family Farming, since small-scale fishers are part of this family. I want to thank all of you for your collaboration in achieving this approval.

As I said, renewed trust is the foundation for our achievements. As you will see at this Council, the Regional Conferences echoed the clear message of commitment to the path FAO is on.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the December Council session last year, I informed that we had concluded the strategic planning process and were shifting our focus to implementation. Today, I am happy to say that the delivery phase has begun.

We are implementing 15 Regional Initiatives. They are the main delivery mechanism of our Programme of Work and Budget.

The Regional Initiatives cover the strategic objectives you endorsed. They were discussed and approved at the Regional Conferences. Let me give you a few examples of what we are doing in our five FAO regions.

We are supporting Africa's efforts to end hunger by 2025, commitment that is set to be adopted by its leaders at the African Union Summit later this month. We are also working to build resilience in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel regions.

In Asia and the Pacific, we are supporting the shift towards more sustainable and integrated agricultural systems, for instance, by combining fish and rice production – what I sometimes call the “sushi approach”.

We are assisting European and Central Asian countries to reduce rural poverty by supporting small-scale producers and family farmers.

We are fully engaged with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States to eradicate hunger by 2025.

And we are helping countries in the Near East and North Africa deal with water scarcity, their biggest constraint to increase agricultural production.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are moving ahead on the path that we charted together. However, there are still some issues that we must acknowledge and work together to find ways forward. The main one is the FAO budget.

As we will report to you this week, we fully delivered our previous PWB, despite finding an unprecedented amount of savings.

I can also say that we will also fully deliver our current PWB, even with the further efficiencies we were asked to find. There is always room to improve efficiency. You are witness to my and FAO's commitment to delivering best value for money.

FAO will continue to try to do more and better with what we have and, whenever possible, with less. This is part of our wider effort to improve the results we obtain on the ground. Sometimes I feel like we are "enxugando gelo", to use a Brazilian expression, or "drying ice". It is an effort that never seems to end.

But there is a limit to what we can do. I want to be very clear: at this stage, significant further savings will have a high organizational cost for a relatively low financial return for Members.

Let me add that we cannot forget or ignore the fact that FAO's budget has lost about 30 percent of its real value in the last 20 years.

While the Organization has suffered cut after cut, we are being asked to do more and more. These divergent paths cannot continue. And let me repeat: FAO cannot solve this equation on its own. For one simple reason: the action required to find significant additional savings do not fall under my authority.

They fall under your responsibility as Member Countries. You are the ones that decide upon the recommendations of the International Civil Service Commission, in New York, that FAO is obliged to follow.

I also would like to say that I appreciate the efforts Members are making in supporting FAO through voluntary contributions. You should have before you a blue folder named "investing for results". It identifies corporate funding priorities within the reviewed strategic framework.

We have clearly defined the areas in which we need additional funding to deliver our Programme of Work. Within these limits, we need flexibility to work.

Let me insist, however: voluntary contributions are important, but do not replace the regular programme budget. We need both.

I also would like to refer to decentralization. With your support, FAO is significantly strengthening our presence in the field without weakening our capacities at Headquarters.

As I have said before, there is no magic in this but a lot of hard work to find ways to free up funds that could support this process.

We are making significant progress, but there is still much to be done. FAO has started discussing with many Middle Income Developing Countries ways to increase their South-South Cooperation.

One of the issues that we will need to face is FAO country coverage. This topic was left out of the FAO reform because of its political sensitivity and financial implications. However, we must address it sometime. We do ourselves more harm than good by ignoring it.

Ladies and gentlemen, 2014 has been a busy year and there are still six months to go. We are in full implementation mode and we are starting to see the concrete results of our efforts. We already completed the cycle of Regional Conferences. The Technical Committees sessions began last week with the Committee on Fisheries. Next week we have the Committee on Forestry.

We are actively supporting countries as they define the post-2015 Development Agenda. In October, we will host the third FAO Ministerial Meeting related to international food prices. The theme this year is governance in international agricultural and food markets. And, in November, FAO and the World Health Organization will co-organize the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

I encourage your high-level participation at both these meetings. Please save the dates.

Let me say that preparations for ICN2 are progressing well. Political engagement of members has increased and we begun to receive high-level confirmations, including from Pope Francis.

I am fully committed to working with you to make ICN2 a success. As I have said before, nutrition is a public issue, with big impacts in many areas. Governments need to lead the way. But this also needs to be a collective effort. I am happy to say that thanks to a joint effort with WHO, we have improved the engagement of non-state actors.

In fact, later this week we will provide an opportunity for non-state actors and Member Nations to exchange views on ICN2, here in FAO Headquarters. Let me say that situations such as these help show why it was so important to reinforce our partnership capacities.

But we still have a funding gap of about USD 2 million to finance ICN2. I hope that we can resolve this soon. After all, if 20 countries contribute USD 100 000 each, the expenses of the conference will be covered. Please consider being one of them.

In this second semester, we also look forward to working closely with Italy as it assumes the Presidency of the Council, strengthening our collaboration with the European Union and working together to make ICN2 and ExpoMilano 2015 a success.

And, of course, everything that we do in FAO in 2014 takes place within the framework of the International Year of Family Farming.

Ladies and gentlemen, the renewed trust among us is the foundation that allows us to move forward. We do not take your trust for granted. We will continue to work hard to consolidate and increase your confidence in us.

We continue to need your support. We are on the right track, but we are still on the beginning of the road. We need to work together to consolidate transformational change and to translate our sharpened focus into concrete benefits at the country level.

We owe this to ourselves. We owe this to the millions of people that need our help to fulfill the dream of a food secure life.

We look forward to hearing your deliberations this week. Thank you for your attention.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Director-General for informing the Council of the achievements made by FAO, which indicate the hard work by FAO Staff, the Member Nations and the partners. The momentum needs to be sustained. The Council will work with you to tackle some of the challenges you mentioned in your statement.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to remind delegates that to ask for the floor they simply need to press the red button located by the microphone. The light will flash until the delegate has spoken. The order of speakers will be automatically recorded and displayed on the screen above the podium.

I now invite the Secretary-General to give a brief account of the documentation for this session.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The documentation for this session of Council includes 18 main documents, of which four are reports of meetings which took place just before, or one week after, 19 May, which was the date for distribution of Council documents.

Thirteen documents were published on or before 19 May. One document was published during the week of 19 May.

The four reports of sessions which ended after the 19 May deadline for publication were issued two weeks before the opening of this session of Council.

Item 1. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
Point 1. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et du calendrier
Tema 1. Aprobación del programa y el calendario
(CL 149/1 Rev.1; CL 149/INF/1 Rev.2; CL 149/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

Our first item on the agenda is the *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable* as set out in documents CL 149/1 Rev.1, CL 149/INF/1 Rev.2 and CL 149/INF/3.

Document CL 149/1 Rev.1 contains the Provisional Agenda which was distributed on 16 April 2014 to all Members of the Organization, together with the invitation to this Session.

Since our 148th Session in December 2013 no invitations have been issued to Non Member Nations to attend FAO meetings, nor have there been any applications for Membership in the Organization, hence sub-Item 9.1 “Invitations to Non-Member Nations to attend FAO Sessions” and sub-item 9.2 “Applications for Membership in the Organization” can be removed from the Agenda.

Are there any comments on the proposed amendment? I see none.

I furthermore wish to inform the Council that a request has been received from the FAO Staff Representative Bodies to address this session of Council. If Council is in agreement, I wish to propose that a Representative of the FAO Staff Bodies make a brief statement under Item 20 “Any Other Matters”, at the end of our substantive work on Wednesday 18 June.

Is Council in agreement with this proposal?

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

We are in agreement with this proposal, but on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, I have to make a remark before the Agenda is adopted concerning item 12 “Progress Report on the Preparation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2): *for discussion and decision*”.

Our understanding is that the Progress Report, that we welcome very much, is just for discussion and not for decision, so we would ask that “*and decision*” is removed from the Agenda.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Thank you Chair, and thank you Italy for this observation. As with any matters before Council, the Secretariat is in your hands on this issue.

I would like to point out, however, that if you look at document CL 149/9 for this item, there is a mention under the title “Suggested action by the Council”, which reads as follows: *The Council is invited to note the progress made in preparing for the Conference, providing comments as deemed appropriate. The Council may also wish to give guidance on the way forward with a view to ensuring a successful outcome of the Conference in November 2014.*

Council is given an opportunity to provide guidance, and the guidance so provided would be reflected in the Report and treated as a decision. I understand that the word “decision” may sound somewhat formal, but guidance is certainly one way for Council to express its decision. It is in this context that the Provisional Agenda mentions “for information and guidance”.

CHAIRPERSON

I think that is clearer now that the item is presented to Council for information and guidance. The decision is to be made in the ICN2 Conference.

Thank you for that clarification. I take it that the Council is in agreement with the Agenda and that it can be adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

With respect to the Provisional Timetable, you have before you document CL 149/INF/1 Rev.2. I should like to point out that the items on the Provisional Agenda have been scheduled to allow the Drafting Committee to convene its first meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 June. This in turn, should enable the Committee to finish its deliberations in good time on Thursday and facilitate the adoption of the Report by lunch time on Friday.

Does this draft Timetable, with the deletion of item 9, meet with the approval of the Council?

Thank you, the Timetable is approved.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

May I draw the Council's attention to my pre-session letter proposing the procedure to be followed when examining the reports of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and their Joint Meeting. Given that these reports contain advice and comments on specific items on the agenda of this session, I would like to propose that we follow the well-established practice of making comments on such matters when the pertinent item is taken up. I therefore propose that Members reserve their comments on the topic Progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 until we reach item 5, *Report of the Joint Meeting*. This will help focus our debate and avoid repetition. I take it that the Council approves this approach.

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

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Videopresentación

Item 2. Election of three Vice-Chairpersons, and Designation of the Chairperson and Members of the Drafting Committee

Point 2. Élection des trois vice-présidents et nomination du Président et des membres du Comité de rédaction

Tema 2. Elección de los tres Vicepresidentes y nombramiento del Presidente y los miembros del Comité de Redacción

CHAIRPERSON

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

Following consultations among the Regional Groups, the following proposals for the three posts of Vice-Chairperson have been received: His Excellency Ambassador Amr Mostafa Kamal Helmy, Permanent Representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt; His Excellency Mohammed Sherif, Permanent Representative of Liberia; His Excellency Neil Briscoe, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom.

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

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

For the Drafting Committee, the Regional Groups have proposed Mr Marc Mankoussou from the Republic of Congo as Chairperson, and the following countries as members: Afghanistan, Argentina,

Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ecuador, India, Japan, Jordan, Madagascar, Portugal, Russian Federation, and the United States of America.

Are there any objections?

Thank you, it is so decided.

May I suggest that, in line with our consolidated method of work, Council Members keep their interventions as brief and focused as possible, and that preference be given to interventions by representatives of regions whenever feasible, rather than single countries repeating comments already made.

Similarly, the quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace.

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

Furthermore, may I also request that if you wish to make a statement during the meeting you provide a copy of the text to the Secretariat in advance. This will allow the interpreters to convey your ideas as clearly as possible. The Order of the Day contains the relevant e-mail address for the submission of electronic versions of statements, thereby also facilitating the work of the verbatim reporters and ensuring greater accuracy.

Following the end of the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw-up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report of this session. The Report will consist of conclusions, decisions and recommendations in keeping with the practice established at recent sessions of Council. I invite you to point out any inadvertent omissions that you believe should be included in the draft report rather than waiting for the meeting of the Drafting Committee. In this way the task of the Drafting Committee will be made easier, allowing it to carry out its work more efficiently.

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

In this regard, as indicated in the Order of the Day, this morning's meeting is scheduled to end at 12.00 to allow the *Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals*, to take place here in the Red Room.

Item 4. Regional Conferences

Point 4. Conférences régionales

Tema 4. Conferencias regionales

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to item 4, *Regional Conferences*.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as you know I had the privilege of attending the Regional Conferences over the past months and to participate personally in these important Governing Bodies.

In my addresses to the Regional Conferences I highlighted the importance of their region-specific contributions towards the formulation and implementation of the programme of work of the Organization.

The reports of the Regional Conferences on programme and budget matters have subsequently been taken into consideration by the Programme and Finance Committees, and their Joint Meeting, in their review of progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17, in line with the programming cycle. The reports to be delivered today by the Chairpersons of the Regional Conferences will contribute towards the implementation of the Programme of Work for 2014-15, notably by way of the regional initiatives identified therein. They will also contribute to the review of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget for the next biennium.

Item 4.1 *Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East (Rome, Italy, 24-28 February 2014)*

Point 4.1 *Rapport de la trente-deuxième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (Rome [Italie], 24-28 février 2014)*

Tema 4.1 *Informe de la 32.^a Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (Roma [Italia], 24-28 de febrero de 2014)*
(C 2015/18)

CHAIRPERSON

The first item is Sub-item 4.1, *Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East*. Please ensure that you have document C 2015/18 before you.

I will now invite His Excellency Akram Chehayeb, Minister for Agriculture of the Lebanese Republic, to come to the lectern to present the report on the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East.

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient) (langue originale arabe)

Au nom de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient, c'est un honneur et un grand plaisir pour moi que de vous présenter la synthèse des résultats de cette 32^{ème} Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient. La Conférence régionale a eu lieu à Rome du 24 au 28 février 2014 avec la participation de 155 délégués, de 23 pays Membres, de sept pays observateurs, de trois organisations des Nations Unies, d'une organisation intergouvernementale, de trois organisations non gouvernementales internationales et d'un observateur.

A l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence régionale, nous avons les points suivants: premièrement les questions relatives aux politiques et réglementations mondiales et régionales, et deuxièmement les questions relatives au Programme de travail et budget. Je suis ravi de pouvoir présenter au Conseil les principaux résultats de cette Conférence régionale notamment sur les questions relatives au Programme de travail et budget.

Les recommandations de la Conférence régionale sont les suivantes. S'agissant des activités prioritaires de la FAO au Proche-Orient et en Afrique du Nord, la Conférence régionale entérine les activités prévues pour la Région puisque l'on a tenu compte des activités prioritaires formulées par les pays Membres et des recommandations des commissions régionales. La Conférence régionale a également appuyé les trois initiatives régionales sur la raréfaction de l'eau, la résilience pour une sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle accrue, et l'agriculture pour un développement inclusif comme moyens de renforcer le travail de la FAO dans les pays et pour la mobilisation de ressources pour le PTB 2015 et le PMT 2014-2017. La Conférence a également insisté sur la nécessité d'assurer une certaine continuité pour l'orientation stratégique pour que l'Organisation réalise l'impact de son Cadre stratégique pour la décentralisation et la mise en place de ses réseaux décentralisés.

La Conférence a entériné les mesures prises pour renforcer ses capacités et est favorable au renforcement des capacités des bureaux des pays. La Conférence a reconnu l'importance du fonds fiduciaire international et de ses programmes, puisque c'est un moyen d'entretenir une collaboration bilatérale entre la FAO et les pays Membres notamment par exemple grâce au programme de coopération entre l'Arabie Saoudite et la FAO ou la Lybie.

La Conférence régionale a également fait des propositions ou les demandes suivantes. La Conférence prie la FAO d'envisager l'ouverture d'une ligne de crédit pour le Forum sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, d'aider les pays Membres à réaliser un travail de plaidoyer et de communication. Au sujet de la situation terrible qui prévaut sur la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle au Yémen, la Conférence appuie l'initiative prise par le Directeur général de créer un programme pluri-donateur pour aider le Yémen dans ses efforts.

Pour ce qui est de la raréfaction de l'eau, il est bon d'avoir une stratégie conjointe et la Conférence a demandé à la FAO de bien vouloir étudier la situation pour voir où nous en sommes et évaluer

l'impact sur la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et promouvoir la collaboration dans ce domaine. Il faut aussi se soucier du changement climatique et de la désertification.

Au sujet de la parité hommes-femmes dans l'agriculture au Proche-Orient et en Afrique du Nord, nous demandons aux pays Membres de produire et de diffuser des statistiques pour connaître la situation des femmes dans les secteurs agricole et rural. Il faut aussi que la FAO fournisse un appui technique aux États Membres de la Région.

La Conférence régionale a insisté sur la nécessité pour les États Membres de participer activement aux travaux préparatifs de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition qui se tiendra à Rome en novembre 2014 car l'essentiel est d'améliorer le régime alimentaire et la nutrition. Comme je le disais tout à l'heure, il faut se préoccuper de la terrible situation alimentaire et nutritionnelle au Yémen. Le Directeur général a lancé un appel pour organiser une conférence pour des promesses de dons, et nous nous félicitons de cet appel.

La Conférence régionale a rédigé une déclaration ministérielle et nous avons toute confiance dans l'orientation stratégique de cette Organisation. Nous demandons au Conseil de bien vouloir avaliser les conclusions de cette 32ème Conférence régionale du Proche-Orient. Nous souhaitons que le tout soit pris en compte pour l'élaboration ultérieure du PTB et du Plan à moyen terme. Le plus important, ce sont peut-être les recommandations sur les trois initiatives régionales, le renforcement de la décentralisation et la suite donnée à l'initiative du Directeur général sur la situation au Yémen.

Mr Bandar Abdelmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to ask you to hand the floor over to the Delegation of Kuwait for a statement on behalf of the Near East Group.

Mr Yousef JHAIL (Observer for Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

On my behalf and on behalf of the Near East Group, I should like to thank His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture, Chairperson of the Regional Conference for the Near East, with regard to his statement.

On behalf of our group, we would like to affirm the importance of reconsidering the hierarchical distribution of the office in our region with regard to decentralization for the best use of the available capabilities on our regional and sub-regional levels. We should like to also request the Organization to provide their expertise in terms of training and supporting the initiatives and the recommendations by the Near East Regional Conference.

We look forward to a clear mechanism for a national strategy for the countries of our region. The group also affirms the importance of the Organization's coordination among the Member Nations in our Region and to drive forward the commitment to our initiatives and goals with regard to water scarcity. We look forward to having a clear Plan of Action in combatting desertification and climate change and their impact on agriculture in our region and on our food security.

We also look forward to coordinating with regional organizations such as the ICARDA, the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas, and we look forward to further efforts and plans of action for mobilizing resources from outside the budget to foster our regional programmes such as the regional account.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First, we thank the Minister and Chairperson of the Near East Regional Conference for introducing the report. We agree with the findings of this statement and the recommendation of the Regional Conference.

I have three points to raise with respect to the report. One, to seek an update about the status of the regional Solidarity Trust Fund in support of the three regional initiatives, namely water scarcity, building resilience for enhanced food security and nutrition, and sustainable small-scale agriculture for inclusive development.

Two, to be advised on the steps taken by the Regional Office regarding the establishment of the multi-donor programme for Yemen mentioned in the Ministerial Declaration included in the report of the Regional Conference.

Three, to be updated on the progress in the formulation of national plans in support of collaborating strategy for water.

Having said this, I see there is no representative from the Regional Offices on the podium so I would like to know who is going to respond to my question.

M. Akram CHEHAYEB (Président de la Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient) (langue originale arabe)

Il est vrai que la raréfaction de l'eau est un problème récurrent au Proche-Orient et en Afrique du Nord. Nous sommes exposés à des situations difficiles et les scientifiques le savent parfaitement. Ce n'est pas un problème pour lequel nous pouvons trouver des solutions simples. Il y a des aspects politiques et sociaux dont nous devons tenir compte dans la Région. Voilà pour ce qui est du contexte général. Pour ce qui est des questions techniques, je n'ai pas l'expérience nécessaire pour y répondre, je pense que les techniciens pourront le faire.

Ms Yuriko SHOJI (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

To reply to the question on the steps taken for the Regional initiatives, I would like to say that steps are being taken in the sense of staff capacities being assigned from the Strategic Objective teams. The Strategic Objective focus programmes have been set up and as far as I understand, resources are being set up.

CHAIRPERSON

As regards the question made by Afghanistan, I think we will get the answer later from the people who are dealing with resource mobilization and in particular on the Solidarity Fund.

Item 4.2 Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 10-14 March 2014)

Point 4.2 Rapport de la trente-deuxième Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (Oulan-Bator [Mongolie], 10-14 mars 2014)

Tema 4.2 Informe de la 32.^a Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (Ulaanbaatar [Mongolia], 10-14 de marzo de 2014) (C 2015/15)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move on to Sub-item 4.2, *Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific*. The document before Council is C 2015/15.

I would like to invite Mr Lkhasuren Choi-ish, Director-General of the Strategic Policy and Planning Department of the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia, to present the report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

Mr Lkhasuren CHOI-ISH (Representative for Chairperson, Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

On behalf of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, it is an honour and privilege for me to be here today and have the opportunity to address the Council regarding the outcome of the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific, which was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 10 to 14 March 2014.

The Regional Conference was attended by 206 delegates, including 13 Ministers and 9 Vice-Ministers representing 41 Member Nations, plus 23 delegations as observers.

The final report includes the summary of the main recommendations on Programme and Budget matters for the attention of the FAO Council, and another on regulatory and policy matters for the attention of the Conference. Please refer document C 2015/15.

In reference to the agenda item on Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region, the Regional Conference appreciated the major actions carried out by FAO in a timely and diligent manner to address the regional priorities during the 2012-13 biennium, including actions taken in response to the recommendations of the 31st Regional Conference; supported the existing regional priorities for FAO's work in the region which remain relevant, noting that the regional priorities were closely aligned with FAO's new Strategic Objectives and highlighted the important role of FAO in providing statistic and information for policy formulation, supporting the work of standard setting bodies and capacity development; supported the four Regional Initiatives, the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and Pacific, the Regional Rice Initiative (Phase II), Blue Growth and developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Island countries, as a mean to further focus FAO's work for country-level impact and for resource and mobilization within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 and Medium Term Plan 2014-2017.

The Regional Conference emphasized the need for a much stronger focus on outcomes and continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization; underlined the need for clear line of sight between the corporate Strategic Objectives and FAO's activities in the region, including those under the Country Programing Frameworks, in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework and the achievement of indicators and targets in the Medium Term Plan 2014-2017; requested FAO to promote regional implementation of the Globally Important Heritage System, and to address climate change adaptation and mitigations; emphasized the need to mobilize resources in the region, including at country level to correspond to CPF implementation, facilitate South-South Cooperation and work in partnership with the regional institutions.

With regard to Decentralization and Decentralized Office Network, the Regional Conference:

Endorsed measures pursued to reinforce capabilities within the Regional Office and the Decentralized Office Network.

Encouraged the use of the Technical Cooperation Programme in support of the CPFs and in particular for technical areas where FAO has comparative advantage.

Urged the strengthening of FAO Representations to improve the effectiveness of FAO's operation and enhance coordination and leadership.

Regarding Prioritization of the Country and Regional Needs, the Regional Conference:

Emphasized the importance of capacity building through education and training, technology transfer, sound agricultural policies and strategies, infrastructure development and increased investment in the agricultural and fisheries sectors as key needs.

Supported the efforts made by the Regional Office to enable FAO to deliver in a more effective, efficient and sustainable manner, with greater sense of empowerment and ownership of Member Countries, appreciated steps taken to decentralize roles, responsibilities, authorities, and resources and urged FAO to continue such decentralization measures.

Highlighted the importance of the strengthening collaboration with partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with the research institutions, multilateral development institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and other international and regional development and knowledge organizations; the value of the regional sharing of knowledge, experience and expertise, including through South-South Cooperation was particularly highlighted.

Took note of the statement of the Chairperson of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of the Agriculture forum in seeking additional representation for the Southwest Pacific Region on the FAO Council.

On Other Matters, the Regional Conference: Proposed to hold its next session in Malaysia in 2016. Reinforced high-level commitment to the outcomes of the Regional Conference through the 'Ulaanbaatar Communiqué'.

The 'Ulaanbaatar Communiqué', adopted by the Regional Conference, highlighted the positive effects and achievements of the transformational change put in place under the leadership of the Director-General during the last biennium and supported that sustained efforts will be needed to achieve the desired outcomes. In this regard, the Ministers expressed the confidence in and continued support to the new strategic direction of the Organization, and underlined the necessity for continuity to achieve the full impact of these changes.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Tehmina JANJUA (Pakistan)

I would like to thank the Director-General of the Mongolian Ministry of Agriculture for his presentation and also take this opportunity to thank the government of Mongolia for the excellent arrangements that were made during the Regional Conference.

The Asia and Pacific Region continues to face numerous challenges that were addressed by 32nd Asia and Pacific Regional Conference. These include climate change, water scarcity, low agriculture productivity, the need to improve livelihood for small holder farmers, rapidly expanding populations, food price volatility, the need for capacity development, lack of resources and increased risk of natural disasters. These factors undermine the capacity of countries of the region to ensure food security and nutrition for their populations.

Consequently, the region continues to account for over 60 percent of the world's undernourished population. We encourage FAO, to devote a stronger focus within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and the Medium Term Plan of 2014-17 to support regional priorities.

On the question of climate change, a recent report has indicated that there is a nine percent chance of El Niño striking this year. The phenomenon is expected to result in weaker monsoon rains in South Asia, in particular. Weather officials in the region have confirmed a delayed start of the monsoon season, which starts normally around first of June with the first week's rains 40 percent below average. Poor rains could hit summer crops such as rice, soybeans, corn and cotton thus raising food prices. This has the potential to undermine the region's food supply and its food security.

In Pakistan, we have had good monsoon rains over the last few years resulting in bumper crops, which have helped keep the food situation stable. However, a weak monsoon could change the situation in the entire region. It is in such a situation that FAO, being a knowledge based organization and therefore possessing a wide range of expertise should step in. It should undertake to develop with regional countries urgent strategies for dealing with this new situation, which has been predicted by experts.

It is in such a situation that FAO should step in to address and mitigate the effects of a lower monsoon this year as well as in dealing with food price inflation. I would request the Secretariat to kindly brief us if any efforts have been made about this end and what is being planned in this regard, because this obviously has serious implications and needs to be taken into account.

Water scarcity remains a critical issue for countries of the Near East Region as well, and I'm talking about the Near East Region because the report was presented earlier but we did not intervene then. We would like to take this opportunity to make a couple of comments. The endorsement of the regional initiative on water scarcity by the 32nd Regional Conference for the Near East was an important step. FAO and partners should expedite efforts to develop a collaborative regional strategy on sustainable water management for the food security, as requested by the Near East Conference. Member States would need help and assistance in developing their national water strategies as these have an impact on agriculture and food security.

Our final comment relates to the decentralization in Decentralized Office Network, both in the Asia Pacific and the Near East Regions. Pakistan supports a strong role of the Regional Conferences as well as FAO Regional Offices in addressing challenges confronting the Regions. FAO's support in mobilizing resources for the regions, particularly for the Country Programming Frameworks and

technical cooperation programmes remains critical. FAO should continue to make efforts for strengthening its representations and enhancing effectiveness of its operations in both regions.

We will talk about this later, as the Council discusses other matters, but there has been an indication of the job cuts that have been made at Headquarters and elsewhere by the Director-General, as well as in the reports that have been presented to the Council. Our concern is that these should not impact programmes in the region or programmes that are being undertaken in countries at the country level.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I shall be very brief and will touch on three points; one, to praise the decision of the Regional Conference in the setting of Regional priorities; two, to give strong support to the four Regional initiatives: Zero Hunger Challenge in the Region, Phase II of the Regional Rice Initiative, Blue Growth for developing the local value chain for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Island Countries. These countries deserve more FAO assistance. This point was also reflected in the evaluation of the Regional Office for Asia and the Sub-Regional Office for Asia which the Programme Committee reviewed, which we will see later.

Finally, I would like to thank Malaysia for hosting the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original language Chinese)

First of all, the Chinese Delegation would like to thank the Republic of Mongolia for hosting the successful 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We thank them for their work and efforts.

The Chinese Delegation endorses the major activities of FAO in the Asia and Pacific Region in the biennium 2012-13, including the recommendations put forward by the previous Regional Conference: the support to the priorities in the Asia and Pacific Region, the normative and capacity development work, as well as FAO's four initiatives which are the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Rice Initiative (Phase II), Blue Growth, and Developing local value chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific island countries. We support the promotion of the GIAHS work in that region.

The Global Important Agricultural Heritage System will also support the measures for the adaptation and mitigation of climate change, the promotion of South-South cooperation, and the strengthening of the capacity building for the Regional Office as well as the Decentralized Offices Network.

We also wish that FAO will support the Country Programming Framework through technical cooperation, especially in the areas where FAO has strong comparative advantages.

The Chinese Delegation supports the priorities set by FAO in the Asia and Pacific Region, including the four initiatives. We also hope that FAO will continue to promote the ongoing GIAHS, the fundraising, and South-South cooperation in this area. At the same time, we would like to thank the Malaysian Government for hosting the next Regional Conference.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

Firstly, we would like to thank the FAO Secretariat and FAO Regional Office for the Asia and the Pacific for having prepared the document of the 32nd FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

We would also like to thank the Government of Mongolia for having successfully organized the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Ulaanbaatar last March 2014. Indonesia was part of the meeting, and we would like to stress the importance of the 'Ulaanbaatar Communiqué' of the Ministers as one of the important outcomes of the meeting.

Indonesia recognizes that the decisions made during the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific are very important, as a milestone of a general contribution to the work, through Regional initiatives, including Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Rice

Initiative (Phase II), Blue Growth, and Developing Local Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Island countries.

In the 2012 Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in Viet Nam, countries in Asia and the Pacific reiterated that rice is an important staple food for almost all Asian countries and therefore we need to put it as a Regional priority.

Since the suspension of the International Rice Commission last year, this becomes an even more important priority for the Region. Therefore this was discussed comprehensively during the 32nd Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

My Delegation supports the effort of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific to continue this programme, to improve rice production sustainably, and to foster the contribution of this programme to reduce food insecurity and malnutrition in Asia and the Pacific.

With respect to the programmes of Decentralization and the Decentralized Office Network, we support the recommendation of the Regional Conference to strengthen FAO representations, improve the effectiveness of FAO's operations and enhance coordination and leadership.

We also support the strengthening of the collaboration between FAO and partner organizations at global, regional and national levels, including with research institutions, especially Indonesian.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia, on behalf of the Southwest Pacific Region, would like to extend our deep gratitude to the Government and people of Mongolia for hosting the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We experienced warm hospitality and were very grateful to learn a little about the culture and history of Mongolia and the agriculture sector in this country.

For those who don't know, the Asia and Pacific Regional Conference is a little different to the other FAO Regional Conferences as it actually includes the Membership of two FAO Regions, the Asia Region and the Southwest Pacific Region which Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Island countries, and Papua New Guinea are members of.

The Southwest Pacific Region had a significant and high level representation at the Conference and it was testament to the level of interest in increasing collaboration with FAO that the majority of the Pacific Island countries were able to attend, many at a Ministerial level.

This was despite the Conference being held a long way from their homes and in a very different climate to what they are used to. The Pacific Island countries in Papua New Guinea participated vigorously and effectively in the discussions during the Conference and also during the high level event on climate change focused on small island developing states and landlocked countries that was also held during the week in Mongolia.

Regarding the specific elements of the Conference Report the Council has been asked to consider, Australia offers the following comments. Firstly we welcome the establishment of the new Regional Initiative entitled Developing Local Value Chains for Food Security and Nutrition in the Pacific Island Countries and we look forward to collaboration between FAO and Southwest Pacific Members in developing and implementing this initiative.

Secondly, and as we have stressed on a number of occasions in governing Committee meetings, we emphasize the need for a much stronger focus on impact and outcomes in FAO. Critically we underline the need for clear line of sight between the corporate Strategic Objectives and FAO's activities in the Region, including those under the CPFs, in order to realize the full impact of the Reviewed Strategic Framework and the achievement of indicators and targets in the Medium Term Plan 2014-17.

Thirdly, we owe to the strengthening of FAO Representatives to improve the effectiveness of FAO's operations and enhance coordination and leadership.

Regarding the Regional Conference and the involvement of the Southwest Pacific Region, specifically the Pacific Island countries in Papua New Guinea, Australia welcomes the focus at this Regional Conference on a number of key issues for these countries in the Pacific.

This is in recognition of the special challenges faced by the Pacific Island countries in ensuring food security and nutrition. Realizing economic and trade opportunities in agriculture in a sustainable way will promote greater food security in the Pacific Island countries by boosting livelihoods and peoples' ability to access food.

Australia appreciates the recent progress made by the Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, taking into account the specific considerations and requirements of the Sub-Region. Without going into any detail under this item, we note that the recent RAP-SAP evaluation which we will discuss later this week highlights a number of challenges surrounding engagement between FAO and the Southwest Pacific Region that need to be addressed.

These include the need to find a mechanism which allows the Southwest Pacific to effectively contribute to the Regional governance and prioritization process, combatting logistics and cost. Secondly to enhance effectiveness within current financial resources, noting limited size and geographical location of Pacific Island countries. Thirdly, to find common issues of relevance for Pacific countries of the Asian Pacific Region, and lastly ensure issues concerning Pacific Small Island states are included on relevant Conference Agendas.

We also note, as the Afghanistan Delegation has already pointed out, the Programme Committee's recommendation to encourage particular attention by the Organization to challenges faced by the Pacific Island countries, and Australia looks forward to working constructively with the Organization to address those issues.

CHAIRPERSON

I will pass the floor to the Secretariat to respond to the issues which has been raised regarding the El Niño Effect and what are the measures now being taken by FAO.

Mr Dominique BURGEON (Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division)

What I can tell you, without entering too much into detail at this point, is that we are obviously following the situation very closely and that, as part of Strategic Objective 5, on building resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis, we have the second pillar which is called: what to safeguard on early warning systems and for early action.

As part of that, we are not only looking at monitoring the situation very closely in these countries, but we are also looking at strengthening the capacities of the countries by helping them to develop early warning systems and also by undertaking the training programme to build the capacities of the staff to do so.

We have a very good example in the case of Pakistan where we are working with the National Disaster Management Authority very closely towards the strengthening and the establishment of such a system and, of course, always keeping in mind the need to trigger early action. This is what we are doing in the particular context of the crisis, in response to the question of the Delegate of Pakistan.

The Global Information and Early Warning Systems is always ready to deploy what we call crop and food security assessment missions together with the WFP to get an in-depth understanding of the situation on the ground and to trigger the appropriate response action.

I would be available, if needed, later in the week to provide further specific information on the subject.

Mr Lkhasuren CHOI-ISH (Representative for Chairperson, Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific)

Thank you for your support in organizing the Regional Conference, FAO's presence and the FAO Council and the Members Nations. I hope we can solve food security and nutrition issues worldwide.

We can achieve the Medium-Term Plan involving the implementation of that work. Thank you for all of the interest.

Ms Tehmina JANJUA (Pakistan)

Just a quick follow-up to the comments made by the Director of the Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division. We would request that not just with regard to the Level 3 emergencies, but if a briefing could be held on the sidelines of the Council by FAO, to kindly identify what is being done with the experts, if you can get a few experts together, if not now, maybe later, to ensure that there is a focus on this issue and that we can talk about it and that we have regular briefings in this with regard to the El Niño Effect.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, the possibility will be explored. Sub-item 4.2 is concluded.

Item 4.3 Report of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa (Tunis, Tunisia, 24-28 March 2014)

Point 4.3 Rapport de la vingt-huitième Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (Tunis [Tunisie], 24-28 mars 2014)

*Tema 4.3 Informe de la 28.ª Conferencia Regional para África (Túnez, 24-28 de marzo de 2014)
(C 2015/14)*

CHAIRPERSON

The next item is Sub-item 4.3, *Report of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa*. Please ensure that you have document C 2015/14 before you.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Lassad Lachaal, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Tunisia, Chairperson of the 29th Regional Conference for Africa to present the report of the Regional Conference.

M. Lassad LACHAAL (Président de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique) (langue originale arabe)

C'est pour moi un plaisir et un honneur d'être ici parmi vous aujourd'hui pour participer aux travaux du Conseil de la FAO dans sa 149^{ème} session et vous présenter les principales conclusions et recommandations émanant de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique qui s'est tenue dans sa 28^{ème} session du 24 au 28 mars derniers à Tunis.

Permettez-moi également, à cette occasion, d'exprimer mes remerciements et ma considération à tous ceux qui ont participé et contribué au succès des travaux de cette Conférence; et également je me réfère aussi à l'ampleur et la qualité de la participation: 49 représentants sur 54 pays africains Membres de l'Organisation étaient présents ainsi que de nombreuses institutions et organisations représentées au plus haut niveau. En outre, je dois me féliciter particulièrement des relations étroites entre la Tunisie et la FAO et de la coopération fructueuse enregistrée tant au niveau de la préparation de la Conférence que pendant le déroulement de celle-ci.

En qualité de Président de la 28^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, j'ai le plaisir de confirmer que le Rapport adopté et final exprime clairement les conclusions et recommandations formulées lors de nos travaux. Il convient de noter à cet égard que le Rapport intègre la déclaration des organisations de la société civile dont la participation à la Conférence a été importante et remarquée, et qui joue un rôle important également dans nos pays. Comme c'est le cas dans la déclaration ministérielle de la Tunisie, il est clair que nous sommes engagés et que nous coopérerons avec la FAO pour réaliser nos objectifs communs.

La Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique est arrivée à présenter certaines recommandations et propositions qui visent à promouvoir le rôle de la jeunesse africaine dans le domaine du développement, de la production et de la commercialisation, entre autre. Afin de réaliser ces objectifs, il est nécessaire de créer un milieu favorable permettant aux jeunes de participer à travers des

politiques, des programmes de développement agricole, des programmes de développement durable et également avec le soutien et la participation des organisations de la société civile, des organisations non-gouvernementales ainsi que le secteur privé, tout cela pour promouvoir le rôle des jeunes dans le secteur agricole.

De plus et, après l'évaluation de la situation du secteur agricole dans les pays africains et la mise en œuvre du programme intégral agricole dans la région et également de l'agriculture familiale, nous avons réitéré au cours de la Conférence notre engagement à augmenter l'investissement dans le secteur agricole ainsi que le renforcement des efforts visant à soutenir l'intégration dans le secteur agricole aux niveaux régional, national et du continent.

Je vais vous présenter les recommandations que nous allons étudier durant la prochaine Conférence qui devrait se tenir en juin 2015. En plus des recommandations du point 3.4 de cette session, je vais vous en présenter d'autres sur certains points dont il a été question au cours de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique.

La Conférence a réitéré l'importance de continuer à adopter une orientation stratégique et de prendre en compte le rôle pionnier de l'Organisation, ce qui pourrait garantir la mise en œuvre de l'objectif stratégique. La Conférence a insisté pour que la FAO continue de prendre en compte le problème de l'égalité entre les sexes, de même que les programmes visant les femmes et les jeunes dans différents pays africains et le développement des activités visant à promouvoir la sécurité sociale. La Conférence a aussi recommandé à l'Organisation de travailler à la capacitation nationale et régionale, en particulier dans le secteur agricole et le suivi et l'évaluation des projets, avec notamment le développement des systèmes de collection des données.

Nous avons également considéré les effets positifs et les réformes entreprises durant le dernier exercice biennal. La Conférence a également reçu favorablement les progrès du côté des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux ainsi que le renforcement du rôle de ces bureaux tout en augmentant les prérogatives des représentants régionaux et l'offre de ressources humaines et financières additionnelles.

Il a également été question de prendre en compte l'égalité hommes-femmes.

La Conférence a aussi reconnu les mesures prises par l'Organisation pour la décentralisation dans les régions et les bureaux sous-régionaux, il a été recommandé de promouvoir les capacités administratives et humaines et d'avoir recours à des personnes ayant une bonne expérience et qualifiées.

La Conférence a exprimé sa considération des programmes de coopération technique dans le cadre des programmes nationaux au niveau des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux. Il est nécessaire dans ce cadre de dépasser les obstacles en fournissant les ressources nécessaires.

D'autre part, la Conférence a adopté la version amendée du Programme de travail pluriannuel 2013-2015, et il est convenu que la 29^{ème} session se tiendra en Côte d'Ivoire en 2016 et nous la remercions pour avoir accepté de recevoir la prochaine Conférence régionale.

La Conférence a reconnu le rôle important du Directeur général dans le domaine de la décentralisation ainsi que tous les efforts déployés pour l'éradication de la faim et assurer la sécurité alimentaire pour les peuples de l'Afrique. J'aimerais profiter de cette occasion pour exprimer au Directeur général, en mon nom et au nom de tous les collègues, tous nos remerciements et notre considération.

En conclusion, permettez-moi de réitérer en tant que Président de la 28^{ème} session de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, ma détermination à poursuivre la mise en œuvre de nos recommandations et propositions, la mise en œuvre des programmes et des projets et ce, jusqu'à la tenue de la 29^{ème} session en Côte d'Ivoire.

Nous, en Afrique, allons déployer encore plus d'efforts pour réaliser les ambitions partagées en matière d'agriculture au sein du système des Nations Unies pour aboutir à la paix, la sécurité et la stabilité dans toutes les régions du monde.

Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)

This is just a follow-up on the Conference held in Africa. Recently, in May, the Ministers of Agriculture, Fisheries and Lands met in Addis Ababa to look at the programme for our Heads of State and Governments that will be holding their summits in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea this month to review the current process, to determine the progress we have made and perhaps revisit the targets we have set ourselves, as a continent, under the Maputo Declaration in 2003.

During that meeting, we agreed to reinstate the targets of committing our Heads of State to the 10 percent budgetary allocation to agriculture, 6 percent sector growth rate, as well as, undertaking the current process for the remaining number of countries in Africa that are yet to undertake that.

We also added new parameters such as ending hunger by 2025, doubling productivity, as well as promoting youth and gender in especially small holder agriculture, and to improve resilience. That is, we have added a set of indicators to the Maputo Declaration 2003 and we, as Ministers, will forward that to all Heads of State and Government during the Malabo Summit to ensure that all Heads of State commit themselves again, during the Malabo Summit – be it Maputo Declaration 2 – so that they will ensure that in their respective countries they try to meet these commitments beyond just the budgetary allocation, sector growth rate, and undertaking the current process.

I just wanted to update this to the house.

Ms Edith Veronica VRIES (South Africa)

South Africa is making this statement on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Africa Group wishes to thank the Chair of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa, his Excellency Lassaad Lachaal, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Tunisia, for his excellent presentation of the Report.

We believe that he captured succinctly the most important outcomes of the Regional Conference for Africa. We look forward to his leadership over the next two years and his Excellency should know that the Africa Group remains ready to support him throughout his Chairmanship's duties.

A key highlight of the Conference was the intervention by the Chief Executive Officer of the new partnership for Africa's Development Methods, Planning, and Coordination Agency, Dr. Ibrahim Mayaki on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. Besides, Dr. Dlamini-Zuma noted that, apart from the fact that 2014 is the African Union year of agriculture and food security, it also marks the 10th anniversary of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

The Chairperson of the Commission also recalled that Africa would only achieve its goals through wise management of its natural resources: reducing inequalities, capacity development, empowering women and youth, and creating wealth and conducive investment environment for farmers. She also called for increased public investment, providing public goods to address market failures, promoting inclusiveness and catalysing investment particularly for African small holder farmers.

The Regional Conference for Africa highlighted the key partnership role played by FAO in achieving a continental aim as shown by the Director-General's emphasis on supporting African initiatives under Africa's guidance and by underlining the importance of investments that defend the rights of vulnerable communities and contribute to sustainable development.

The Africa Group looks forward to building on the foundation of an already solid partnership with FAO and to further strengthening it. In this regard, the reconfirmation of Africa's priorities during the Conference and building up on the outcomes and discussions of His Excellency's evaluation report of FAO's Regional and Sub-Regional Offices in Africa will also form very important building blocks.

Finally, the Africa Group wishes again to thank the government and the people of Tunisia for hosting the Conference, for the excellent arrangements and warm welcome given to our Delegations. We also look forward to having an equally successful 29th Regional Conference in Cote d'Ivoire in 2016.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

Le Congo voulait, au nom du Groupe Afrique et comme l'a souligné l'Afrique du Sud, remercier le Gouvernement tunisien de la bonne et excellente organisation de la 28^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique. Le Congo appuie à cent pour cent le rapport qui a été présenté par Monsieur le Ministre et souscrit à toutes ses recommandations. Toutes celles que l'Afrique du Sud a appuyées, le Congo le fait également et demande à la FAO d'intégrer les initiatives et toutes les recommandations que le continent a demandées au Programme de travail 2014-2015 et au Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017.

Mr Lassaad LACHAAL (Chairperson, Regional Conference for Africa)

First of all, I would like to thank FAO for its support before, during, and after the organization of the 28th Conference in Tunisia.

I wish to thank again all my colleagues and all the Representatives for their support and all those who came to Tunisia for accepting our invitation and spending a few days with us in Tunisia.

I also wish to thank all my colleagues and all Representatives for offering their support to make these next two years of my presidency a success. Last but not least, I wish to thank you, Mr Chairperson, for conducting this Council today and wish you all success in the deliberations.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Sub-item 4.3 is now concluded.

*Item 4.4 Report of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe
(Bucharest, Romania, 1-4 April 2014)*

*Point 4.4 Rapport de la vingt-neuvième Conférence régionale pour l'Europe
(Bucarest [Roumanie], 1-4 avril 2014)*

*Tema 4.4 Informe de la 29.^a Conferencia Regional para Europa
(Bucarest [Rumania], 1-4 de abril de 2014)*

(C 2015/16; C 2015/16 Corr.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us now move on to Sub-item 4.4, *Report of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe (Bucharest, Romania, 1-4 April 2014)*. The relevant documents are C 2015/16 and C 2015/16 Corr.1.

I give the floor to Ms Christine Grieder, Permanent Representative of Switzerland and Vice-Chairperson of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe, to present the report of the Regional Conference on behalf of His Excellency Daniel Constantin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, Chairperson of the Regional Conference.

Deputy Prime Minister Constantin could not be with us this morning as he is attending the European Union Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting in Brussels, but will address the Council plenary meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Ms Christine GRIEDER (Vice-Chairperson, Regional Conference for Europe)

On behalf of European and Central Asian countries, it is a pleasure to address the Council regarding the outcomes of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe held in Bucharest Romania from 2 to 4 April 2014.

The Regional Conference for Europe was attended by 46 Member Nations from the Region along with 22 observers while 23 Member Nations were represented at Ministerial, Deputy, or State Secretary level. We have just heard that the Regional Conference Report is available, and that it outlines the summary of the main recommendations that require the Council's attention related to the Programme of Work and Budget and other issues on page 3.

I will therefore limit myself to a short introduction and presentation of the conclusions reached from the ERC following intensive and interactive discussions.

With regard to Decentralization and Decentralized Office Network, I would like to mention some of the highlights of the debate. The Regional Conference recognized the positive effects of the FAO reform that was put in place during the last biennium and it commended the improved performance and impact of FAO's work at country level, including the reduced fragmentation and increased integration across all aspects of FAO's work.

The Regional Conference also welcomed the implementation of FAO's mobility policy and the enhanced turnover of FAO representatives based on merits. The Regional Conference willingly received the strategic use of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project in line with the country programming framework. The Regional Conference appreciated the document on Decentralization and endorsed measures pursuing to enforce capacities in the Decentralized Offices through a skill-mix review. The Regional Conference supported actions for strengthening the Country Offices in the priority countries of the Region.

It is important to highlight that the Regional Conference approved the establishment of the FAO country presence in Albania and a fully-fledged Representation in Uzbekistan. The Regional Conference also requested clarification regarding the long-term plans for new offices and the structure of existing offices in the Region.

As for the priorities of FAO's activities in the Region, I would like to underpin that the Regional Conference appreciated the work done in the Region in the 2012-13 biennium and commended the Organization for the results obtained in addressing the Regional priorities. The Regional Conference also considered right the relevance of the existing Regional priorities for FAO's work in the Region for 2014-15.

Furthermore, the Regional Conference appreciated the information on the two new Regional initiatives and supported the Regional initiative empowering small holders and family farms for improved rural livelihoods and poverty reduction. It also backed up the second Regional initiative agro-food trade and Regional integration, but it emphasized that FAO's work on trade related issues in the Region requires a cautious and balanced approach.

The Regional Conference sustained the other major areas of work in the Region, namely: the control of animal diseases, plant pest, food chain emergencies, socio-economic crises, natural resource management including fisheries and forestry, climate change, mitigation and adaptation; and lastly the conservation and sustainable use of plant and animal genetic resources.

The Regional Conference underscored FAO's important role as a neutral and inclusive forum for policy discussions and technical advice based on a sound knowledge. In particular, it recognized the positive effect of the FAO's reforms implemented during the last biennium. It also underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization in order to fully realize the plan of the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

Furthermore, the Regional Conference stressed that all extra-budgetary funds should be used in line with the new Strategic Framework and Regional priorities.

It urged FAO to concentrate on the identified focal countries and to work together with other Organizations, the civil society and to building up a public private partnership. It also stressed, *inter alia*, the importance of capacity development and insuring the availability of relevant documents in Russian.

Concerning the other matters and information items, the Regional Conference endorsed the Multi-Year Programme of Work and requested that Central Asia be included under the name of the Regional Conference for Europe.

We also approved the rules of procedures of the Regional Conference for Europe. The first Regional Conference with its own rules of procedure.

Besides, we underwrite a proposal to hold the European Commission on Agriculture and the European Regional Conference sessions separately in alternate years. Then, it has been agreed to hold the next session of the European Commission of Agriculture at the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia in 2015.

The Regional Conference also appreciated the work undertaken by FAO on Forestry in the Region and welcomed the close cooperation between FAO's European Forestry Commission and the Committee on Forest and the Forest Industry of the UN Economic Commission for Europe.

It was also underlined that the joint FAO-WHO second International Conference on Nutrition was a unique opportunity to review the progress made towards improving nutrition since the first ICN in 1992.

Finally, the Regional Conference accepted the invitation by Turkey to host the 30th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe in 2016. I would also like to inform that the session of the Regional Conference was preceded by a Consultation Meeting of the Civil Society Organizations in the Region. It was a Multi-Stakeholder Meeting related to the Committee on World Food Security and the European Commission on Agriculture.

Representations of CSOs attended the Regional Conference and their contributions were fully integrated in the discussions.

I thank you for your attention and I stand ready to provide further information on the deliberations and recommendations made by the 29th Regional Conference for Europe as the FAO Council may request.

M. Gianni GHISI (Italie)

Monsieur le Président, je vous demande de donner la parole à la délégation de la Grèce qui va prononcer une déclaration au nom de l'Union européenne.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the Report of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe which was held in Bucharest from 2 to 4 April 2014.

The Regional Conference hosted by the Government of Romania enjoyed the wide participation of Ministers and High representatives from most of the Member States in the Region, as well as the participation of the European Union Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloş, and the representatives of the civil society and the private sector.

The importance of Regional Conferences is evident, especially with a view to defining Regional priorities and strategies in line with the new Strategic Framework and the establishment of Country Programming Frameworks and the Global Resource Management System.

These measures are likely to contribute to an improved performance and impact at country level. However, this is still work in progress and special attention should be given, particularly to a balanced distribution of technical expertise between Headquarters and Decentralized Offices, to institutional capacity building and enhance policy advice, and to the full inclusion of gender.

It is also important to establish a close cooperation and partnership at country level with governments and with other partners, including within the UN System. Regional Conferences are also important to ensure an appropriate consultation process with Members in the Region when identifying regional priorities for FAO's work.

In this spirit, we welcome the proposal to hold the sessions of the European Commission on Agriculture, and the European Regional Conference, separately, in alternate years. We expect real added value from this provided that the ECA is held at least six months before the ERC, so as to improve the preparatory and decision process.

The next session of the ECA will be held in 2015 at the seat of the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. Thereafter, this new process should be carefully assessed with a view to making the appropriate decision, including on the future location of the ECA.

The European Union and its Member States support the existing Regional priorities and major areas of work in the Region. In this context, we consider it very important that the FAO works closely with the civil society and the private sector.

We can also agree with the two new Regional initiatives related to the empowering of smallholders and family farms for improved rural livelihoods and poverty reduction, and the agri-food trade and regional integration.

In that respect, the further deepening of partnerships is important and we urge the FAO to work closely with other organizations, in particular with the World Trade Organization and to avoid duplication of works as regards the products and services to be delivered.

FAO work on trade-related issues requires a cautious and balanced approach. Moreover, we can go along with the request from other Regional groups that the added value of Regional Initiatives should be carefully assessed also with a view to future ones.

We also acknowledge the importance of family farming, including smallholders and other forms of holdings with regard to sustainable agriculture and believe that strengthening family farms contributes to enhanced food security and rural development. An appropriate enabling environment is crucial in that respect.

We are very concerned about the impact of food losses and waste on hunger and malnutrition as was highlighted during the Ministerial Roundtable and agree that the FAO continues its work in sharing knowledge, information, and best practices to reduce food losses and waste as well as addressing gaps in availability of data and statistics.

We look forward to exchange views on the findings from the High Level Panel of Experts for Food Security and Nutrition on food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems to be presented to the CFS Plenary Session on policy convergence in October 2014.

Finally, the European Union and its Member States welcome the focus on 12 priority countries and the proposed establishment of an FAO country presence in Albania and the establishment of an FAO Representation in Uzbekistan.

However, in times of scarce resources and keeping in mind the need for a cost budget, the cost of opening new country offices should be carefully weighed against the advantages. Cost-sharing agreements with host countries, possible multiple accreditation of FAO Representatives, or sharing premises locally with other UN Bodies or Agencies should be considered.

Mr Alexander GORBAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I am going to be speaking about the Regional Conference for Europe and also concisely on the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific.

Russia highly values the role of the Regional Conferences of FAO. They have become one of the key steering mechanisms of the Organization, ensuring the way its global strategy stays in touch with the regional and country priorities.

We are satisfied with the results of the work of the FAO in Europe, Central Asia, as well as in the Asia and Pacific Region for the period 2012-13. We would especially refer to the European pilot initiative on agrarian structures implemented last year, assisting interested countries, including Russia, in adapting their agrarian policy to WTO requirements.

The Organization's links with the Eurasian Economic Commission have been strengthened *inter alia* on issues having to do with the formation of a single economic area and agro sector support measures in countries of the Customs Union.

We support the priorities for FAO work as adopted by the Bucharest Conference for 2014-15. We feel that two regional initiatives are of special importance: the one on empowering smallholders within a

general poverty reduction framework as well as the initiative on agricultural production within the Regional Integration Framework.

We would welcome the Organization's activities towards aims such as improving systems for food project safety, phytosanitary standards, veterinarian services, as well as activities on sustainable management of natural resources including forestry, fisheries, and soil resources.

Russia has adopted four regional initiatives for Asia and the Pacific for the present biennium period. We are especially interested in the Rice Cultivation Programme as well as the Blue Growth Strategy that has been positively assessed by my colleagues as well.

For the Region, the problem of the degradation of grasslands in the Region and addressing its root causes is also of great relevance. We are welcoming the attention that the Regional Conferences attached to reducing food losses and waste. We are sure that FAO is the ideal platform for the development of unified methodology to assess such losses as well as to ensure the access of Member States to cutting edge technologies in this field.

Russia is interested in developing the interaction of FAO with regional economic cooperation organizations. In May this year, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan signed an agreement setting up the Eurasian Economic Union which is going to be entering into force in the year 2015 and we count on having the FAO cooperation develop with this international organization, including its regulatory body, the Eurasian Economic Commission, as well as with all states which are interested in Eurasian economic integration.

In concluding, I would like to especially refer to the recommendation of the 29th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe on the need to have translation for publications and FAO materials into Russian. This is something that has resounded repeatedly. However, indeed, according to the conclusions of the independent assessment of work on Regional and Sub-Regional Offices of FAO for Europe and Central Asia, it has been noted that the absence of sufficient Russian translations can result in it being the main cause impeding a broader use of FAO products in this Region.

In this connection, we would suggest and propose that the Secretariat should indeed expand the use of Russian in all spheres of activity of the Organization in accordance with the UN policy of multilingualism.

Mr Vladimir KORONETS (Observer for Belarus) (Original language Russian)

I would like to thank the government of Romania for having organized this Conference and the Secretariat for having worked up all of the resulting information on the conclusions of this enterprise.

The highly valued outcome of the work of the Conference indeed is heartily welcome to our country and we are very happy indeed that in Bucharest it was highlighted that Belarus should become a new priority country for development in the Central Asian Region. We certainly welcome and applaud that fact.

As you know, one of the highlights of this Conference was to strengthen the work of FAO throughout Europe with Regional activities included, with the empowerment of smallholders, with improved rural areas' livelihoods through sustainability support systems as well as the mobilization of resources.

With regard to the third initiative, in relation to the recent MoU signed between the European Commission and FAO and the follow-up Eurasian Economic Organization formation, we would indeed like to applaud the development of these connections and we certainly would also call for having more Russian translations of FAO material and products.

Ms Christine GRIEDER (Vice-Chairperson, Regional Conference for Europe)

Thank you very much for all of the comments received. It shows actually also how active the discussions were in Bucharest and I appreciate that this has been reflected in the statements just made on our Regional Conference.

I do not have much to say. There were not many questions. I think all of the points that were made are in the report and it was underlined now how important they are. I hope that FAO is going to work on

these priorities and requests as reflected in the Conference document. I thank you for the active participation.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, as I prior mentioned to you, we have to close the meeting now so as to allow for the Millennium Development Goals and World Food Summit Award Ceremony to take place in this room.

When we reconvene at 14:30, we have to continue and finish the two Regional Conference reports.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

Señor Presidente, quiero solicitarle sus amables gestiones para resolver el problema de interpretación. Es un problema de micrófonos, porque nosotros no escuchamos la interpretación al español, solo en inglés y en los otros idiomas.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have to apologize with those who were listening to the Spanish interpretation. I was told that there was a technical problem which of course will be looked into during the lunch recess.

CHAIRPERSON

The morning session is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12:06 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 06

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.06

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-ninth Session Cent quarante-neuvième session 149.º período de sesiones
Rome, 16-20 June 2014 Rome, 16-20 juin 2014 Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014
SECOND PLENARY MEETING DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
16 June 2014

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.34 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 34
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.34
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the Second Meeting of the 149th Session of the FAO Council open. Before returning to item 4, I have an announcement to make regarding the composition of the Drafting Committee.

I have been informed by the Chairperson of the Near East Regional Group that Egypt has been proposed to replace Jordan as a member of the Drafting Committee of this session of Council.

Can I take it that Council agrees to this proposal? I don't see any objections, so it is so decided.

Item 4. Regional Conferences (continued)**Point 4. Conférences régionales (suite)****Tema 4. Conferencias regionales (continuación)**

Item 4.5 Report of the 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014)

Point 4.5 Rapport de la trente-troisième Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (Santiago [Chili], 6-9 mai 2014)

*Tema 4.5 Informe de la 33.^a Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (Santiago [Chile], 6-9 de mayo de 2014)
(C 2015/17)*

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to where we left off this morning: sub-item 4.5, *Report of the 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014)*. The document before Council is C 2015/17.

I give the floor to His Excellency Carlos Furche, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Chile, Chairperson of the 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to present the report of the Regional Conference.

Mr Carlos FURCHE (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

En nombre de los Países Miembros de América Latina y el Caribe, es un honor presentar al Consejo el informe de la trigésima tercera conferencia Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe realizada en Santiago de Chile entre el 6 y el 9 de mayo de 2014. En primer lugar, me complace informarles que la conferencia tuvo un alto nivel de participación; contó con la asistencia de delegaciones de 30 de los países de la región, incluyendo a 31 Ministros y Viceministros de Agricultura, Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Social, así como Representantes de la Sociedad Civil, del sector privado y de organismos internacionales en calidad de observadores.

En esta ocasión haré referencia a los principales resultados de la Conferencia Regional en relación a los asuntos programáticos y también a los asuntos presupuestarios. En lo que se refiere a los asuntos programáticos, debo expresar que en relación a las prioridades para la acción de la FAO en América Latina y el Caribe, tengo el agrado de comunicar al Consejo que la Conferencia Regional ratificó las tres iniciativas regionales planteadas en el marco del programa de trabajo y presupuesto 2014-2015, a saber: apoyo a la iniciativa de América Latina y el Caribe sin hambre; Agricultura Familiar y Desarrollo Territorial en Zonas Rurales; y mejoría en los Sistemas Nacionales y Regionales Alimentarios y Agroalimentarios en el Caribe.

Así mismo, la Conferencia solicitó mantener y reforzar el programa prioritario de apoyo especial para Haití, así como asegurar que la acción de la FAO mantenga la atención en temas transversales como género, juventud rural y pueblos indígenas. Debo agregar, además, que la conferencia adoptó una Declaración Ministerial destacando el cambio y transformaciones de la FAO en el milenio pasado y respaldando la necesidad de continuar la dirección estratégica y liderazgo de la organización con el objeto de lograr el máximo impacto de este cambio en el apoyo a los países miembros; en este sentido, agradeció explícitamente el liderazgo y determinación del Director General para darle

continuidad al proceso actual de cambios dentro de la FAO que son conducentes al logro de sus objetivos.

La Conferencia ratificó el programa de trabajo plurianual de la Conferencia Regional en su versión actual, incluyendo la importancia de facilitar y apoyar los procesos de consulta subregionales, que en el caso de nuestra región es América Latina y el Caribe. La Conferencia Regional destacó, además, el compromiso político en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza expresado por los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno en la primera y segunda cumbres de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños CELAC mantenidas en Santiago en el año 2013 y recientemente en la Habana en el año 2014, y en ese sentido la conferencia respaldó el plan de acción de la CELAC 2014 y resaltó la importancia de que la FAO apoye el diseño y la implementación de dicho plan, en especial los apartados sobre seguridad alimentaria y nutrición y erradicación del hambre y la pobreza.

Igualmente la Conferencia Regional acogió la solicitud señalada en el Plan de Acción de CELAC para que la FAO, en coordinación con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos ofrezca su apoyo técnico para el diseño e implementación de las iniciativas Regionales orientadas a la prevención, reducción y gestión de riesgos, así como para fortalecer los mecanismos nacionales, regionales y subregionales de asistencia humanitaria.

La Conferencia Regional reafirmó el papel central de la FAO en la Secretaría Técnica de las distintas comisiones regionales, resaltó la contribución de los bosques, la ganadería, la pesca y la acuicultura a la reducción de la pobreza y la inseguridad alimentaria, así como a la sustentación de los medios de vida de la población, especialmente de los agricultores familiares y recomendó a los gobiernos fortalecer su respaldo a los programas de trabajo de estas comisiones y favorecer la participación de oficiales principales en sus reuniones. La Conferencia Regional acogió las recomendaciones de la Conferencia Forestal para América Latina y el Caribe, de la Comisión de Desarrollo Ganadero para América Latina y el Caribe y de las Comisiones de Pesca para América Latina y el Caribe.

En términos generales, se solicitó el apoyo de la FAO entre los temas relacionados con el fortalecimiento de las políticas sectoriales y los marcos regulatorios. A saber el desarrollo institucional y el fortalecimiento de capacidades técnicas para la producción, el manejo sostenible y la adaptación al cambio climático en los sectores forestal, pecuario, acuícola y pesquero, el control de plagas y enfermedades y el desarrollo de estadísticas y sistemas de información y análisis. Se hizo énfasis en el apoyo de FAO a los sistemas de producción pecuaria familiar, acuicultura, recursos limitados y a la facilitación del diálogo en torno a las directrices voluntarias para la tenencia responsable de la tierra, los bosques y la pesca, así como las directrices internacionales para asegurar la pesca sostenible en pequeña escala.

En lo que se refiere a asuntos presupuestarios, la Conferencia Regional destacó los avances en materia de descentralización y su importancia con respecto a la capacidad de respuesta efectiva a las demandas de los países, incluyendo la atención de emergencias. Así mismo apoyó las medidas que se están tomando para asegurar la correspondencia entre los marcos y programación de país, las iniciativas Regionales y los objetivos estratégicos y la focalización en las tres iniciativas regionales como estrategia para mejorar la movilización de recursos y la eficiencia y eficacia de la cooperación técnica de la FAO. De otra parte, la Conferencia Regional destacó la importancia de fortalecer la presencia de la FAO en los países con cifras más elevadas de inseguridad alimentaria y pobreza, alentando al mismo tiempo el apoyo de la región para contar con la presencia de la FAO en los países de renta media y renta media alta.

La Conferencia Regional solicitó a la FAO promover la movilización de recursos a través de la cooperación Sur-Sur y la cooperación triangular entre otros mecanismos para la plena implementación de las iniciativas regionales y el marco de programación de país. Asimismo, la Conferencia Regional alentó la labor de la FAO en asociación con la sociedad civil y el sector privado.

Quisiera finalizar este informe como Presidente de la Conferencia para América Latina y el Caribe, ratificando el éxito de la Conferencia Regional y solicitando amablemente al Consejo respaldar las recomendaciones relacionadas con los asuntos programáticos y presupuestarios. Al mismo tiempo, dejar constancia del expreso reconocimiento que hicimos de la gestión y liderazgo del Director

General. Por último, quiero agradecer también la generosidad de México, que ofreció su concurso para ser la sede de la próxima Conferencia Regional en el año 2016.

Sra. Alejandra GUERRA (Chile)

Deseo traer a colación el trabajo de GRULAC Roma bajo la Presidencia de Cuba en la confección de la Agenda de la Conferencia Regional. En efecto, el Grupo Regional en Roma trabajó de manera armónica y efectiva con la Oficina Regional en Santiago, a través de videoconferencias, con el objeto de plasmar aquellos temas que consideramos vitales para la región. Partimos de la base de que lo fundamental, que fueron los Estados Miembros quienes señalaran sus prioridades para la región y a través de un diálogo fluido y eficiente se logró establecer en la Agenda de la FAO la necesidad de que la Organización se sumara a las iniciativas políticas de la región y trabajara de manera coordinada con las instancias y organizaciones políticas regionales y los Estados Miembros con el objeto de lograr aquellas metas que la región se ha impuesto.

Me refiero, por ejemplo, a la inserción del trabajo de la FAO en los compromisos regionales tales como: Iniciativa de América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre, los compromisos relacionados con la seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.

En el GRULAC estimamos que esta es la manera de proceder y cooperar con la Organización para lograr mayor eficiencia en el trabajo que realizamos, especialmente tomando en consideración, que tras la reforma de la FAO, es en las conferencias Regionales donde empieza el proceso de toma de decisiones y culmina en la Conferencia de la FAO.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Agradecemos al Señor Ministro de Agricultura de Chile su informe, el cual compartimos y respaldamos plenamente. Agradecemos también al Gobierno de Chile, la organización de la trigésimo tercera Conferencia Regional y la asistencia y hospitalidad brindada a los países participantes. Saludamos también a México y agradecemos su ofrecimiento y compromiso para ser sede de la próxima Conferencia Regional.

La reciente reunión en Santiago permitió un fructífero intercambio gracias al cual logramos consensuar las prioridades para la labor de la FAO atendiendo a las diversas realidades y condiciones nacionales de nuestra región. Destacamos el compromiso en la lucha contra el hambre, enfocada especialmente en los aspectos sociales, tal como queda indicado en los capítulos dedicados a los desafíos de la región y al establecimiento de sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios más integradores y eficientes a nivel local, nacional e internacional. También destacamos la necesidad de que la FAO apoye a los países de la región en la adaptación al cambio climático, al tiempo que se fortalece la seguridad alimentaria.

Esperamos que estas prioridades sean efectivamente una guía para el accionar de la FAO en nuestros países y que se refleje en la elaboración de los marcos de programación nacionales. Insistimos también, en que la cooperación Sur-Sur es una herramienta clave para lograr estos objetivos.

Para finalizar, remarcamos que se ha dado continuidad a las líneas políticas tomadas en la trigésimo segunda Conferencia Regional realizada en Buenos Aires en 2011 y se las ha reforzado, en base al renovado y fortalecido marco de acción de FAO. Este nuevo marco complementa y se apoya en las importantes acciones acordadas por las organizaciones Regionales de América Latina y Caribe que han establecido planes de acción y comprometido recursos económicos para erradicar el hambre y su causa original: la pobreza.

Mr John C. E. SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago)

My delegation supports the programmatic and budgetary issues reflected in the report of the 33rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean and specifically the efforts of Member Nations and regional integration bodies, such as the Caribbean community, to develop policies and plans for food security and poverty eradication.

We recognize the support given by the FAO in the past for the 2025 hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean initiative, and we reiterate the request for the Organization's continued support for this

initiative. Trinidad and Tobago wishes to highlight the specific priorities of the small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, in the context of their particular characteristics, such as their high food import bill and increased frequency of natural disasters and susceptibility to climate change. Hence, development community value chains for specific food and feed products, as well as risk management to reduce the impacts of natural disasters are among the priorities identified by the Caribbean sub-region.

Finally, my Delegation reiterates our commitment to partner with FAO to achieve the objectives of eradicating hunger and malnutrition, as well as developing sustainable agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean sub-region and the Latin America region.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

El Ministro de Agricultura de Chile, Señor Carlos Furche, Presidente de la Conferencia Regional de nuestra región, rindió a este Consejo el informe de dicha reunión. Agradecemos al Señor Ministro la presentación del mismo, el cual compartimos y respaldamos plenamente.

La Delegación de El Salvador, desea reiterar la importancia de las conferencias Regionales durante las cuales se ha evidenciado los efectos positivos del proceso de cambio que la FAO ha puesto en marcha. Estimamos, Señor Presidente, fundamental, continuar con este proceso.

Agradecemos a la FAO la identificación y aprobación de iniciativas regionales, como mecanismo de implementación del nuevo marco estratégico de la FAO a nivel regional y en ese sentido, damos nuestro apoyo a las quince iniciativas regionales que fueron definidas en las conferencias regionales, de las cuales, tres muy importantes para nuestra región.

Deseamos, así mismo destacar los progresos en el área de la descentralización como mecanismo para incrementar el impacto del programa de campo de la FAO. Es importante, sin embargo, realizar nuevos esfuerzos y propuestas para ajustar la cobertura geográfica de la Organización en función de las nuevas realidades de los países miembros de la FAO.

Para concluir, Señor Presidente, nos unimos a la Delegación de Chile en su reconocimiento a Cuba, presidente del GRULAC por el trabajo realizado para una coordinación eficiente para el logro del éxito de la Conferencia Regional de América Latina y el Caribe.

Sr. Miguel RUIZ-CABAÑA IZQUIERDO (México)

Quiero agradecer al Ministro de Agricultura de Chile, Don Carlos Furche, la presentación del informe de la 33ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe celebrada en Santiago en mayo pasado, y sobre todo, agradecer la excelente organización que el Gobierno y el pueblo de Chile dieron a todas las delegaciones que participamos en la misma. Fue una reunión muy provechosa con resultados concretos que refuerzan la determinación de los países de la región para erradicar el hambre en todos nuestros países.

Una de las iniciativas que se concretaron en Santiago de Chile fue un acuerdo entre México y la FAO denominado *Mesoamérica sin hambre*, lo cual tiene por objetivo la formulación y ejecución de proyectos en la subregión en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, intensificación sostenible de la producción agropecuaria, acceso a mercados de agricultura familiar, reducción de la pobreza y el desarrollo rural territorial. Estos proyectos serán formulados por la FAO en conjunto con nuestros gobiernos de Mesoamérica. Para este objetivo se estableció un fondo fiduciario México-FAO con una aportación inicial por parte del Gobierno de México de al menos 3 millones de dólares al año, durante 5 años, hasta completar 15 millones de dólares durante ese lapso; el fondo se ejecutará con dos mecanismos: un programa de cooperación ejecutado por la FAO y proyectos e Iniciativa de Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular para proyectos de corta duración.

México está muy complacido de colaborar con la FAO y con los países de la subregión en esta iniciativa, que complementa otros esfuerzos para cumplir con la meta de erradicar el hambre en toda América Latina y el Caribe antes del año 2025.

Entre estos esfuerzos se encuentra la Cruzada Nacional contra el Hambre en México. Los avances reportados la semana pasada indican que tres millones de personas ahora comen mejor y existen

avances concretos en 400 municipios identificados en la primera etapa de este programa. Confiamos que la meta de cubrir a los 7,2 millones de personas que padecen hambre en nuestro territorio se alcanzará en el año 2016.

Finalmente, como renovación de nuestra colaboración con la FAO y los países de la región, México ofreció la sede de la próxima “Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe,” que tendrá lugar en mayo del 2016, momento que nos permitirá a todos los países de la región evaluar el avance de las iniciativas regionales para erradicar el hambre y las tareas que haya dejado la Agenda para el Desarrollo después de 2015.

Sra. Gladys Francisca URBANEJA (Venezuela)

Agradecemos al Ministro de Agricultura de Chile por la presentación de este Informe ante el Consejo de la FAO, y agradecemos a Chile su acogida y sus atenciones que brindó a todas nuestras delegaciones para que alcanzáramos esa responsabilidad de llevar a feliz término esta Conferencia Regional.

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del Informe C 2015/17 sobre esta Conferencia y desea señalar que en cuanto a los asuntos programáticos reconocemos una vez más la incansable labor de la FAO en la erradicación del hambre en el mundo y en nuestra región, y ratifica los compromisos asumidos durante esta 33ª Conferencia para América Latina y el Caribe.

En cuanto a las agendas que se presentan, nuestro país ha tenido bastantes adelantos en la implementación de políticas públicas y de programas sociales que cuentan con una base sólida, legal, interinstitucional y que ahora ha estado fortalecida con un nuevo plan para el país que es el Plan de la Patria 2013-2019. Sobre la base de ese plan, el actual Presidente Nicolás Maduro Moro ha indicado que nuestro reto es terminar al 2019 con la pobreza y erradicar el hambre para esa fecha.

Realmente nuestro éxito ha sido reconocido, como se indicó en la mañana de hoy, por el cumplimiento del Objetivo 1 del desarrollo del milenio de las metas de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, y eso fue gracias a más de una década de esfuerzo y de iniciativas impulsadas por el Presidente Hugo Chávez Frías, las cuales permitieron obtener estos logros. Esto pero nos induce también a que tengamos que tomar en consideración y por eso pedimos a la FAO todo el esfuerzo y todo el apoyo que se expresó en esta Conferencia Regional, puesto que en la región todavía, a pesar de esos avances significativos que ha logrado Venezuela y otros muchos países, también hay que reconocer que hay millones de latinoamericanos y caribeños que aún padecen hambre, que es una región con una profunda desigualdad, y que sobre esa base, tenemos programas regionales que le hemos presentado a la FAO; es necesario, pues, ayudar a fortalecer y a consolidar. Nosotros creemos que ese compromiso de la región es cada vez más importante porque la crisis que todavía existente en el mundo conduce a altos precios de los alimentos, y a otros efectos que esta crisis sistémica tiene sobre la población más pobre y más desprotegida de programas sociales.

También sabemos que el cambio climático ha tenido efectos devastadores. Tenemos una región con alta incidencia de efectos producidos por el cambio climático que se acentúan cada vez más. Por lo tanto, creemos que en el siglo XXI, es el siglo pues que nos va a permitir al 2015, como lo indica la iniciativa “América Latina y el Caribe sin Hambre,” que eliminemos todos estos flagelos; y que eliminemos, por ejemplo, la discriminación de género y que tratemos de establecer políticas realmente con carácter hondamente social y humanitario para que atendamos a esos países con más dificultades.

Yo quisiera indicar pues que la Conferencia Regional llamó a la FAO para que impulsemos y fortalezcamos el Plan de acción de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños aprobado en el 2014, en especial en todo lo referente a la seguridad alimentaria y a la nutrición, la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza. Esto se ha logrado en todos los países de América Latina, fruto de compromisos políticos de toda la región de los países a nivel nacional y regional de los distintos poderes, tanto el Estado, los gobiernos, los parlamentos, y todas las instancias y procuradurías que deben resguardar los derechos humanos, y por supuesto hemos contado de manera maravillosa con la participación social civil y de la academia. Igualmente, queremos destacar el fortalecimiento impulso

que se está dando a la Cooperación Sur-Sur y Triangular y, por ende, es allí la FAO uno de los socios fundamentales.

Nuestras consultas subregionales enfatizaron algo que no quiero que se pierda de vista, o sea la prioridad que debemos tener hacia Haití. Por eso, se solicitó a la FAO que tenga un rol de facilitación en coordinación y asistencia de recursos de la propia región, desde los distintos países hacia Haití. En especial en esos aportes incluimos dos que no son de nuestra región para que todo ese apoyo pueda permitir a ese país salir de la situación que aún confronta.

Igualmente le agradecemos a la FAO el apoyo que ha dado al Plan de Erradicación del Hambre y la Pobreza Extrema en los Estados Miembros de Petrocaribe y Alba. Este Plan está absolutamente coordinado y encaja dentro de las directrices y los lineamientos establecidos por el Plan macro que sería el que ha aprobado la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos Caribeños.

Finalmente, respaldamos el contenido programático y presupuestario que aprobó la 33ª Conferencia, pero sin embargo, Venezuela desea guardar una reserva sobre aspectos que han sido debatidos previamente en el seno de las Naciones Unidas, ya que existen algunas propuestas que no coinciden, de hecho algunas son contrarias a posiciones asumidas por nuestro país en materia de organismos genéticamente modificados, la revolución verde, y el respaldo a acuerdos que hayan sido establecidos y comprometidos en Convemar y cualquier otra posición adoptada en asuntos comerciales y de cambio climático.

Yo dejo hasta acá y agradezco al Señor Presidente y al Ministro de Agricultura de Chile.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ecuador agradece al Ministro de Agricultura la presentación del Informe de la Conferencia Regional.

Queremos destacar el reconocimiento que hizo la Conferencia Regional al alto compromiso político que existe en la región en la lucha para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza. Así mismo, reconoció que las distintas políticas y programas que están siendo aplicados en los países de la región contienen los elementos suficientes para alcanzar esos objetivos en los próximos años. Para implementar esas políticas y alcanzar esos objetivos, los Jefes de Estado de los países de la región reunidos durante la II Cumbre de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), realizada en La Habana en enero 2014, han resaltado el rol clave que la FAO tiene para esos propósitos.

Entre otras acciones solicitadas a la FAO por los propios Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno, queremos reiterar el pedido que hace la Organización para que elabore un proyecto de Plan de región para la seguridad alimentaria, la nutrición y la erradicación del hambre. Consideramos que este aporte será muy importante para alcanzar los objetivos de la región.

América Latina y el Caribe está fundamentalmente constituida por países de ingresos medios y el alto potencial para la cooperación Sur-Sur ha sido resaltado en la Conferencia. En ese sentido se ha solicitado a la FAO que refuerce sus actividades en la región en este campo. Sin embargo, a pesar de ser países de ingresos medios, la pobreza y la desigualdad son todavía uno de los mayores retos para la región. Es por ello que la Conferencia Regional enfatizó que el acceso a los alimentos es el principal desafío de la región para lograr la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Una de las conclusiones de la evaluación de las oficinas regional y subregionales de América Latina y el Caribe que fue conocida por el Comité del Programa, señala que la mayoría de los proyectos estaban enfocados en incrementar la oferta de alimentos, y solo pocas intervenciones estuvieron dirigidas a facilitar el acceso a la alimentación. Con la priorización dada por la Conferencia Regional en este aspecto esperamos que los proyectos se orienten hacia el acceso a los alimentos, especialmente para las personas más vulnerables.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, queremos resaltar la recomendación de la Conferencia Regional para que el seguimiento de lo solicitado en el anterior período de sesiones de la misma Conferencia Regional, la FAO apoye un debate amplio e inclusivo para analizar el concepto de soberanía alimentaria, cuyo significado no ha sido consensuado por Estados Miembros de la FAO y el sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

We would like to express our appreciation to the Government of Chile for hosting the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago. We also support the report presented by the Minister for Agriculture of Chile. We thank Mexico for hosting the next Regional Conference.

We would like to express our support to the adoption of the 15 regional initiatives defined in the five Regional Conferences, believing they are a very concrete example of how a decentralized decision making process can add value to the work of this Organization.

Also we welcome the identification and adoption of regional initiatives as mechanisms for implementing the new Strategic Framework for FAO at the regional level.

Finally, we recognize the progress in the area of decentralization as a mechanism for increasing the impact of the Programme of Work of FAO in the field.

Mr Carlos FURCHE (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Simplemente para agradecer el respaldo del resto de colegas y Miembros de las Delegaciones de América Latina y el Caribe. Creo que es importante resaltar el trabajo que se ha hecho aquí en Roma, a través del GRULAC, y me parece que en los próximos dos años debemos reforzar tanto el trabajo acá en el GRULAC como en las conferencias sub-Regionales que nos permitan alimentar el trabajo para prepararnos adecuadamente a la próxima reunión que tendrá lugar en México.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. Sub-item 4.5 is now concluded.

Item 4.6 Input from the Informal Regional Conference for North America (Washington, United States of America, 15-16 April 2014)

Point 4.6 Éléments d'information issus des travaux de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (Washington [États-Unis d'Amérique], 15-16 avril 2014)

Tema 4.6 Aportación de la Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (Washington [Estados Unidos de América], 15 y 16 de abril de 2014) (C 2015/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The last item on our agenda this morning is Sub-item 4.6, *Input from the Informal Regional Conference for North America, 15-16 April 2014*. Please ensure that you have document C 2015/LIM/1 before you.

I will give the floor to the Co-Chairperson of the Third Informal Regional Conference for North America, Ms Natalie Brown, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO to present the report of the informal Regional Conference.

Ms Natalie BROWN (Co-Chairperson, Informal Regional Conference for North America)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief overview of the Regional Conference for North America.

On 15 and 16 April of this year, members of the FAO North America Region, the United States and Canada, met in Washington, D.C. in an informal regional meeting to discuss FAO's work and governance. FAO document C 2015/LIM/1, as the Chairman said, provides a full report of this event. It is our expectation that our region's views will continue to be integrated in the same manner as other regional perspectives on FAO priorities, budget, and governance.

Last April's meeting was hosted at the US Department of State and convened senior and technical level representatives from Canada and the United States and staff from the FAO Liaison Office and Headquarters via teleconference, video conference, and in person. The full participant list is included in Annex A of the report.

The Conference discussed FAO's work on biotechnology, particularly FAO's role as a leading proponent of unbiased and sound science in agriculture, and reaffirmed that innovation will be needed to close the agricultural productivity gap by 2015 and conserve natural resources. As a result of this conversation, we urged FAO to update its statement on biotechnology using a science-based approach to reflect a fact-based, up-to-date perspective. The region also reaffirmed that the United States and Canada will work together with FAO to support the development and adoption of science-based standards.

Regarding the Programme of Work and Budget, the North America Region agreed that the Organization should focus on its comparative advantages, in particular its technical expertise and knowledge, and supported the continued emphasis on finding efficiencies in the PWB. The conference also acknowledged the importance of including the outcomes of the post-2015 Development Agenda and the planning process for the next biennium. Further, the region encourages increased efforts to improve cross-sectoral dialogue, including communication and coordination among the Strategic Objective Coordinators, FAO's various technical committees, and FAO representation in the field.

Regarding partnerships, the North America Region discussed the implementation of the FAO partnership strategies with Civil Society Organizations and the private sector to date. We stressed the importance of the implementation of these strategies, especially at the country level, and look forward to Member States' consideration of this issue in the near future.

In a special session on the Independent Review of Governance Reform, the region appreciated the ongoing work of the Independent Review Team in carrying out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms as identified in the Immediate Plan of Action. The conference also acknowledged the important contributions of Regional Conferences to FAO governance, policy, and regulatory issues with region-specific priorities and recommendations, and noted the value of the flexibility afforded by the informal nature of the North America Regional Conference. To this end, the United States and Canada agreed that the current informal nature of the Informal Regional Conference for North America continues to be the most cost effective method for the region.

On behalf of the United States and Canada, I'd like to thank FAO officials for their cooperation and participation in the Informal Regional Conference for North America, particularly Boyd Haight and Ren Wang, and we look forward to continuing to work with FAO in the future on addressing priority issues of the North America Region.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We would like to express our appreciation to our American hosts for their preparations and excellent support which allowed for a very successful meeting. Although our Regional Conference remains informal in nature, it makes an important contribution in our view to Member engagement in the work of FAO.

In this regard, we also would like to express our appreciation for the support of the Director-General and the Members of the Secretariat.

We would also like to underscore the importance for Canada of the participation of the staff of the FAO Liaison Office in Washington in our Informal Regional Conference. It was very helpful to our understanding of their work, which allowed us to encourage them to increase their engagement within available resources with relevant stakeholders in Canada.

In our view, this engagement by the Liaison Office is particularly important in highlighting the activities and programmes at FAO, which are of significance and value for those Canadian stakeholders.

We are pleased to report that since the Informal Regional Conference, we have already seen increased outreach and engagement in Canada by the Liaison Office and we wish to recognize and welcome this development.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

We would like to thank the Chairs and Co-Chairs of all of the Regional Conferences for their presentations today.

As my intervention does not regard any particular Region, therefore I thought that I would make this after all of Regions had presented their reports. I have two comments to make.

First, India welcomes the reports of the Regional Conferences, especially the identification of the 15 Regional initiatives by the Regions. We recognize the 15 Regional initiatives as delivery instruments and catalysts for resource mobilization as it has been noted in the report of the Programme Committee, which we will discuss tomorrow.

However, to ensure that our identified Regional initiatives do not get lost in rhetoric and get the importance and focus they deserve, we suggest that the Secretariat brief the Council on a regular basis on the progress made in the implementation of these Regional initiatives. This could perhaps start from the next Council Meeting.

Second, without exception, all Regional Conferences have supported and welcomed the decentralization process and highlighted the increased attention due to the process. To our understanding, the decentralization process in FAO is based on three broad objectives;

First, to bring the Organization's technical and operational expertise much closer to those countries and Regions where the need is greatest; second, to reduce costs; and third, to make better use of national capacities which has increased substantially over the years.

While all Regional Conference Reports elaborate on the success of meeting the first objective, that is to bring the Organization's technical and operational expertise closer to the countries, we find little or no reporting on the second and third aspects of the decentralization process.

We therefore seek more clarity from the Secretariat, perhaps in the next Council Meeting, on the other two aspects of decentralization.

Point A: has the decentralization process had reduced costs for FAO as a whole? And Point B: have that succeeded in making best use of national capacities?

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I would like to make three interventions, one on what India said right now, second on the North America Regional Conference, and the third one on the three questions that I asked this morning on the Near East. I have now received replies, and the replies are such that I think that the Council should know about it. I would like to seek your guidance on the third point.

First on India. I fully support his recommendation that the future sessions of the Council should receive a progress report on the initiatives at each Region as well as the progress on decentralization. With respect to the Regional Conference for North America, we welcome the report of the Informal Regional Conference for North America which is brief and focused but which is somewhat different from the reports of the other Regional Conferences. In any case, we found the report to be refreshing.

From reading the report, I came across two principle issues. One is the contribution of biotechnology to future global agriculture and second, North America's views on regional priorities.

On biotechnology, we support the contents of paragraph 8 and 9 of the report. Biotechnology, when strategically adapted to local conditions, may be the best way to reverse the slowdown in productivity from the green revolution.

It is also scientifically well documented that biotechnology type technologies are expected to increase crop yields while herbicide is just a technology to reduce production costs. Also, the use of biotechnology is important in improving livestock and protein production. All of these things are important for the survival and growth of smallholder agriculture.

Paragraph 12 of their Report refers to Appendix C. A closer look at Appendix C shows that it is actually the preference list of North America under each of the five Strategic Objectives of FAO, including key implementation items. Altogether, there are 30 key implementations listed in their report.

The Report requests that FAO prepare a document on the progress of implementation of these priorities in advance of the fourth FAO Informal Regional Conference for North America in 2016. In our view, such a document would almost amount to be a mini Programme Implementation Report.

We wish to see clarification from the Secretariat about such reporting because under the present arrangement, none of the Regional Conferences receive a mini Programme Implementation Report relative to the achievements of the previous biennium. They only receive a brief report on the implementation of the recommendations as approved by the previous Regional Conference.

I say this because the Liaison Office in Washington is not a Regional Office. It is only a Liaison Office so I do not know their capacity to produce such a lengthy report.

Third, I thank sincerely Laurent Thomas for providing me so quickly a response to the three questions that I asked this morning and I want to share the contents of these three points.

My first question was asked about the uptake on the Near East Regional Trust Fund. Mr Thomas informed me that Iraq has pledged a contribution of USD 2 million, which we knew. He also says that as of now, no other country has expressed its willingness to contribute to the Trust Fund.

FAO is proposing to the Government of Iraq that this USD 2 million fund that they have contributed to should be used for activities within the framework of South-South Cooperation in the Region. I hope the Government of Iraq will agree.

Regarding the Yemen Programme, I am so pleased to show you this document I received and the title is Plan of Action for Yemen, title Towards Resilient and Sustainable Livelihood for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition for 2014-2018.

At good glance, it is an excellent document. It is a step by step approach and the Plan of Action is based on the Revised Country Programme Framework. Yesterday this Plan of Action was endorsed by the two main ministries in Yemen, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water, so congratulations.

It was also endorsed by the Yemen National Dialog which is a political organization moving Yemen forward. That is a very good sign. The Plan of Action has multiple objectives and its cost is estimated to be USD 145 million. FAO is also going ahead with the establishment of a multi-donor trust-fund to support the programme in Yemen.

My third and last question was about the strategy initiative. I am glad to see that things are moving forward. The Regional Office as now going forward has prepared the Programme of Work for water scarcity. There is a major manager appointed for this work. The focus here has been identified. Pilot countries are identified to test the strategy and everything is going ahead and many outsider holders are also in the work, major organizations.

Luckily, there are also funds coming out for some countries regarding water management. I am glad to say with the information provided to me that the Government of the Netherlands will authorize or will sign an agreement this month for Euro 3.5 million for the river basin and groundwater management.

The World Bank is also contributing a small sum. Also Netherlands has agreed to provide another Euro 5 million when needed. So, thank you Mr Laurent Thomas for gathering this information and I hope what I said is showing that FAO is moving forward.

Ms Tehmina JANJUA (Pakistan)

I would like to thank Ms Brown for the presentation regarding the Informal Regional Conference for North America but I take this opportunity particularly, to thank our colleague from Afghanistan for bringing to the attention of the Council the responses that he received from the Secretariat. I think it is very useful.

The responses that have been received from the Secretariat are of interest to the entire Council and, therefore, we should look at mechanisms on how these responses can be incorporated at the beginning of a new item because these are extremely useful responses and perhaps some follow-up can be done in the Council as well. So maybe the Bureau can look at the possibility of how responses can be incorporated to make the Council more interactive.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Ambassador. The advice will be taken and maybe the information that was given to Afghanistan will be shared with others.

I would like to call Natalie to give any feedback or any response on issues which have been raised. Some are more of a scientific nature and cannot be concluded in this kind of meeting.

Ms Natalie BROWN (Co-Chairperson, Informal Regional Conference for North America)

I will just elaborate on what Afghanistan raised with regard to the North American Regional priorities. Unlike most of the other Regions, there are no FAO activities in North America so when we look at the Strategic Objectives and look at the priorities, our intent is to think about how we can best help the Organization and what activities may be beneficial to other Member Nations, so our approach is more of a global one of suggestions that we think would be beneficial. We welcome the feedback.

This is a dialogue and we appreciate the responses and hope to continue the discussion about how the Organization can function most efficiently, can be more productive and serve the needs of the Member States and its people.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to conclude item 4 as follows:

The Council reviewed and endorsed the conclusions of the five Regional Conferences, and the informal Regional Conference for North America, held between February and May 2014, as contained in the respective reports, particularly in relation to programme and budget matters pertaining to priorities for FAO activities in the regions, as well as decentralization and the decentralized offices network.

The Council appreciated that in each of the Regional Conferences the updated regional priorities were defined in line with the reviewed Strategic Framework and new Medium Term Plan 2014-2017.

The Council supported the endorsement of 15 Regional Initiatives as delivery mechanisms contributing to the achievement of the Strategic Objectives and to ensure effective country-level impact taking into account the Country Programming Frameworks, as well as mobilization of extra-budgetary resources.

The Council welcomed the progress made on decentralization and encouraged the implementation of further proposals to improve the structure and functioning of the Decentralized Offices Network, in particular with regard to country coverage.

The Council looked forward to receiving progress reports at its next session on the implementation of the 15 Regional Initiatives and the enhancement of decentralization.

The Council noted and agreed with the declarations made in Regional Conference reports, recognizing the positive effects of the transformational changes put in place during the last biennium, expressing confidence in and continued support to the new strategic direction of the Organization and underlining the need for continuity to achieve the full impact of these changes initiated under the leadership of the Director-General.

The Council recommended that the outcomes of the Regional Conferences and the Informal North American Regional Conference inform the implementation and review of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and be taken into consideration in preparing the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17.

I don't see any flag being raised so I take it that everybody agree with these concluding remarks. Item 4 is now concluded.

I thank the Ministers who presented the regional reports and wish you good implementation, in particular in your intersessional work. The Council will always assist you and the Independent Chairperson will always be available to work with you in the intersessional period.

Item 3. Programme Implementation Report 2012-13

Point 3. Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2012-2013

Tema 3. Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2012-13

(C 2015/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed with Item 3, *Programme Implementation Report 2012-13*. The document before Council is C 2015/8.

I now invite Mr Boyd Haight, Director of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management to introduce this document.

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

I will briefly outline the purpose, format and the content of the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13, which is in document C 2015/8.

The Programme Implementation Report informs the Membership about the work carried out by the Organization over the last biennium. It is retrospective in nature, reporting on what the Organization has achieved in terms of programmatic results and financial performance compared to the targets set in the Medium Term Plan 2010-2013 and the Programme of Work and Budget for 2012-13.

The Programme Implementation Report is divided into three main sections. The first section, reviews four major policy developments in the biennium relating to the post-2015 Development Agenda, the adoption of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, progress on eradicating hunger, and transformational change.

The second section, called "Making a Difference", provides an overview of the Organization's achievements in advancing its policy agenda. This covers work under the 11 Strategic Objectives and the Functional Objective on effective collaboration with Member States and stakeholders and in the field through the regional offices, the decentralized offices network and the Technical Cooperation Programme. It includes an analysis of costs and the out-turn against indicators and targets of the Organizational results as presented in Annex IV.

The third section, called "Managing Resources Wisely", sets out FAO's managerial performance and combines a review of work done under the Functional Objective on efficient administration with the various financial analysis and other initiatives to improve internal efficiency. It includes information on the implementation of the FAO language policy in Annex II, gender and geographical representation of staff in Annex III, and a list of unscheduled and cancelled sessions in Annex V.

So what did we achieve during the 2012-13 biennium? As stated by the Director-General in his forward to the document, 2012-13 was a biennium of transformational change in FAO. We worked together with you to: reorient FAO's strategic direction and priorities, simplifying and bringing clear focus to what we do; improve how our technical units and decentralized offices collaborate to solve the most urgent development problems faced by you, our Member Countries; increase FAO's policy reach, its effectiveness and its efficiency by strengthening partnerships with non-state actors; establish a value for money culture that generated an unprecedented level of savings; and reinforce the network of decentralized offices by integrating development rehabilitation and emergency functions, and improving oversight and monitoring.

FAO worked to put food security at the forefront of the international agenda, and you saw some of the results of that during the special event we had at the end of the morning session. For example, one of the results of FAO's involvement in the discussions on the post-2015 Agenda was the outcome of the global thematic consultation on hunger, food insecurity and nutrition in 2013, which called for bold action to end hunger within a generation. This stronger global commitment was recognized by the

FAO Conference in 2013, which changed FAO's first global goal from the reduction of hunger to its eradication. Of course our work continued on the Strategic Objectives and the monitoring and reporting on trends, building international consensus around norms and standards, developing guidelines, and directly helping countries to tackle their most challenging problems on food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition.

A good example of our work in this area is the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, of Land, Fisheries and Forestry. FAO assembled a global partnership to develop the guidelines as well as a framework to have them applied at global, regional and national levels. In this regard, you did your part in adopting those guidelines in the Committee on World Food Security two years ago.

More information on these initiatives can be found in the first part of the Report, in "Major Policy Developments". Further examples of practical benefits generated by FAO's work are in the part on "Making a Difference" under each Strategic Objective. You will also find in this part a section on regional dimensions, which includes the conclusions of the six pilot regional initiatives.

On a more operational level, the indicators and targets set for the organizational results represent the formal basis for assessing FAO's effectiveness in 2012-13. We achieved 80 percent of our targets, up from the 76 percent in the previous biennium. The shortfall was due to changes in interests and priorities of our Members and stakeholders, and some over-ambitious targets, and in some cases optimistic assumptions about the costs of data collection as well as its timeliness and availability.

Moving on to finance and administration aspects, our budgetary management remains strong with the Organization spending 99 percent of the Regular Programme budget, that is the net appropriation approved by the Conference. Our total expenditure including that of extra-budgetary voluntary contributions fell by 9 percent compared with the previous biennium to a level of USD 2.5 billion. This reduction was mainly the result of the closure of the European Food Facility, which was funded at a level of over USD 200 million.

Other highlights include an increase in the proportion of expenditure taking place in the field, which is a tangible evidence of our progress on decentralization. Our efficiency savings during the biennium reached USD 71.6 million, this is an unprecedented level, as was emphasized by the Director-General in his statement this morning. It is a 50 percent increase over the 2010-11 biennium. We also streamlined our administrative and support functions, which among other things provided the resources that could be reallocated for the six pilot regional initiatives in 2013.

A review of past performance is also an occasion to identify opportunities for improvement. The major lessons learned involve the structure of the Strategic Framework, its result chain and the design of the indicators. These were addressed during the review of the Strategic Framework and the preparation of the new Medium Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15. These lessons include the potential of alliances and partnerships to increase FAO's influence, policy, reach and impact; the use of multidisciplinary approaches to better meet the needs of stakeholders, especially when combined with good science, statistics, monitoring and evaluation; investing in capacity building as an engine for sustainable improvements; and strengthening results based techniques and practices.

In conclusion, this is a brief overview of the material in the Programme Implementation Report. We look forward to your discussion during this session. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Haight.

We also need to be informed of the discussion of the Joint Committee on the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13, contained in the report of the session in document CL 149/6.

I now ask the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting, Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI, to take the floor.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am really very pleased to be here at this point in time to present the outcome of the discussions that took place in the Joint Meeting of the 150th Session of the Programme Committee and 154th Session of the Finance Committee on the Programme Implementation Report 2012-2013.

The Joint Meeting reviewed and endorsed the Programme Committee's initial Report as a comprehensive and informative presentation of achievements and financial performance during 2012-2013, as well as lessons learned for the current and future biennia. The Joint Meeting was satisfied that the transformational changes 2012-2013 represented a major achievement for FAO and underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework.

The Joint Meeting expressed overall satisfaction at the implementation of the Programme of Work in 2012-2013 and noted a major policy achievement of 2012-13 created to the United Nations post-2015 Agenda and the Zero Hunger Initiative as inspirational drivers for the current and future work of the Organization.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the unprecedented efficiencies and savings achieved in the 2012-2013 biennium. You have just heard what Boyd Haight had to say about it and also we had the Director-General this morning and he was very eloquent on this issue when he addressed the Joint Meeting. The Joint Meeting recognized the challenge of finding such high level of savings in future without continued staff costs and encouraged the engagement of FAO Members with the United Nations General Assembly and International Civil Service Commission in these regards.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the decentralization effort undertaken in 2012-2013 and stressed the need for further analysis in the future, in particular a review of the count and coverage and modalities of FAO's decentralized offices network as well as continued strengthening of monitoring internal control and accountability.

Members of the Council, the Programme Implementation Report is now before you for endorsement.

Ms Tehmina JANJUA (Pakistan)

I would like to thank the Director of Strategy Planning and Resource Management and Mr Medi who chaired the Joint Session of the Programme and Finance Committee for their presentations which were very clear.

The Programme Implementation Report 2012-13 provides detailed information and implementation of FAO's Programme of Work in 2012-2013 as well as its policy achievements relating to the UN post-2015 Agenda and the Zero Hunger Initiative.

The PIR also presents the transformational change, which FAO underwent during the 2012-2013 biennium in order to have a focused strategic direction for improving the delivery and impact of its programmes. In addition, measures for greater value for money were instituted to insure efficient delivery of FAO's activities. This has enabled FAO to set in motion a number of modernization and transformative initiatives to deliver its programmes.

An intrinsic aspect of such a report such as the PIR is the lessons that may be drawn from one biennium to another. This is particularly so for 2012-2013 which was a transformative biennium for FAO.

The re-orientation of the priorities of the Organization together with institutional strengthening will enable FAO to pursue its theme for the eradication of hunger and achievement of global food security. The report helps understand the transformational changes that are being undertaken in FAO. Because there was much debate and discussion about that but the report does help in understanding it.

An important element of the transformation change in the last biennium was the strengthening of the Decentralized Offices Network involving, *inter alia*, improvements in the areas of planning, priority setting, programme delivery, the strengthening of technical capacity and specific Delegation of Authority.

We are aware that decentralization is still a work in progress and the Organization needs to continue its efforts in analysis, in particular with regard to country office coverage and modalities to support the needs of Member Countries as well as the continued strengthening of the systems of internal control and monitoring.

We would like to encourage the expansion of FAO's work in the area of South-South Cooperation and in the normative methods it is adopting for resource mobilization. The side event that is being organized by the Moroccan delegation would be a useful input in this regard.

We note the substantial savings achieved in 2011-13 which are higher than either of the previous two biennia. We understand these savings resulted mainly through reduction in posts and a great deal of hard work and tightening of the belt.

We are concerned that these significant reductions in staffing positions could affect the capacity of the Organization and impact programme delivery. In a knowledge-based organization like FAO, staff costs always represent a high portion of the budget and understandably so because it has to provide the best advice that is available, the best experts that are available. So a knowledge based organization cannot compromise on quality and on expertise.

We agree with the Director-General who cautioned earlier in the day today against expecting further savings and as also pointed out by the Director of Strategic Planning. We fear that these savings, if expected, could only be done through staff reductions which may not be feasible without negatively impacting the operational capacity of the Organization to deliver its best.

The only option, it appears, for Member States, is to engage with ICSC processes and the UN General Assembly as was suggested by the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

In conclusion, the challenges ahead for FAO are significant. The transformational change appears to have set FAO on the course for achievement of its objectives. Therefore, the reports of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as that of the Programme Committee, underline the need for continuing the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

We also take this opportunity to underscore the importance of the gender issue in the whole discussion and we hope that this will be taken into consideration in the discussions of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee as well.

Finally, since I have the floor, may I seek your indulgence to backtrack a bit and go to the summation that you made on item 4? I had made a suggestion earlier on that the responses that are presented to the Council should also be presented to the Council entirely instead of being provided to the delegation that asks the questions. We hope that this finds reflection in the final summation that is going to be worked by the Drafting Committee. So we hope that the Drafting Committee will take this proposal into consideration.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Pakistan. It has been heard by all of the Council Members and I think it is useful to every Member. So there will be a statement in the draft.

Mr Segfredo SERRANO (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation of the Programme Implementation Report for the last biennium. We concur with the view expressed by the recent Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees that the report provides a comprehensive description of FAO's achievements and financial performance during the 2012-2013 biennium as well as lessons learned for the current and future biennia.

Allow us to highlight a few important areas covered in this report. First, we are grateful for the institutions continued support for the Regional Rice Initiative. As mentioned in the report, rice production is an important source of livelihood for millions of Asian farmers and rural poor which development is key to inclusive economic growth in these economies.

The initiative which started in 2013 will support the Regional Rice Strategy to develop and test technical options for sustainable rice production. Being one of the three pilot countries in this initiative, the Philippines would endeavour to further mainstream the project into the national policies for the next biennium.

In this regard, may we take this opportunity to invite Members to a side event this Wednesday, 18th of June, where we would share more information on this initiative.

Second, we are glad to see the increased collaboration by FAO with other Rome-based Agencies in recent years. We believe that such partnership plays a key role in carrying out the mandates of these agencies, not to mention efficiencies and cost effectiveness gained by these concerned agencies.

It was cited in the report that the preparation for and implementation of the 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) exemplifies such strength in collaboration. We would encourage closer collaboration, even beyond the celebration of IYFF this year as we complete this campaign, as the reinvigoration of a continuing process to promote the interests of and drive concrete benefits for family farmers and smallholders worldwide.

Finally, we appreciate FAO's effective response in emergency situations and enhanced support to the rehabilitation and resilience of disaster affected countries. FAO is one of the agencies that readily provided assistance and completed the efforts of the Philippine Government in addressing the needs of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan which hit our country in November 2013.

FAO has likewise supported the work including capacity building related to disaster risk reduction, disaster risk management, and climate change adaptation in the country as well as in the Asian Region. It would also be noted that FAO's work on globally important agricultural heritage systems identified sites with high agro biodiversity of global significance, procedural farming systems, and good practices for climate change adaptation.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I kindly ask you to give the floor to Greece as the Presidency of the European Union who will speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the second Programme Implementation Report, which we consider a valuable source of information giving a comprehensive overview of the implementation of the objectives and targets set out in the Medium Term Plan.

We appreciate the important work carried out by the Organization on major points and developments where each of the four areas mentioned are crucial for sustainable future development. We are pleased to see that FAO has further improved its results compared with the previous biennium and it has now achieved over 80 percent of its 174 top level performance targets.

We also note with satisfaction that the number of indicators found not to be measurable has been reduced since the previous biennium. This is a very positive development and I would urge FAO to continue its endeavours to make further improvements when it comes to defining measurable indicators.

It is essential that all of FAO work be coherent and further reinforces cooperation in multi-sectorial teams to avoid fragmentation and working in silos as well as to enhance a culture of results and accountability. In this context, decentralization has contributed to empowering regional and national staff members, which has increased the FAO's reach and ability to serve the Members.

However, it must be remembered that decentralization is a way, a tool for delivery, and not an idea in itself. FAO field coverage must be periodically evaluated in order to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.

We congratulate the management on savings achieved which are in tune with the global situation as well as the position of most Members. As there will be continued pressure to deliver value for money not only for FAO but for us all, we encourage further measures while awaiting the ICSC's recommendations.

We welcome the efforts made to cement good working partnerships with Civil Society and the Private Sector as well as with Regional Organizations. We are also looking forward to the first Progress Report on the Implementation and the results of the partnership strategies with the Civil Society and the Private Sector, in particular as regards their added value to the work of FAO.

We also strongly support the conclusions drawn from the lessons learned during the past biennium. Continued attention should be given to investing in such partnerships. They are vital to the Organization and in the next year, we hope to see further deepening of partnerships with, among others, the CGIAR system.

We support the continued efforts made to strengthen and modernize Human Resources Management by measures such as merit based appointments, improving geographic representation, and improving the gender balance that the Organization has reached.

We also hope that the new Competency Framework and the Corporate Mobility Policy will be helpful tools for further improvements when it comes to recruitment, increased decentralization and career opportunities.

In conclusion, the European Union and its Member States can fully align themselves to the assessment in the document that taking account of lessons learned during the biennium, the highest priority areas of attention for improved programmatic performance are: the importance of further investing in building relationships and confidence with partners; the aligning the level of work to be done with the level of resources available and managing expectations accordingly; and, better understanding the needs of beneficiaries and key partners and incorporating that understanding into the design of activities and projects.

We recognize that much work has been done since the period reviewed and look forward to the next period based on the Results Based Monitoring and Reporting Framework.

Mr Alexander GORBAN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for the very careful preparation of the documentation on this Agenda item before us. It really speaks for itself.

We are positive in our assessment of the outputs of the FAO's activity over the past two year period including the process of transformational changes initiated by the Director-General Graziano da Silva, as well as the Reviewed Strategic Framework Programme developed during these ongoing changes.

We believe that the changes made will enhance the capacity and capability of FAO to implement the changes. The sixth objective of the Organization in the field of technical expertise is stepping up the quality of work and services delivered as well as the demand for standard setting functions.

We see with satisfaction that FAO has achieved 80 percent of its top level performance targets in the framework of the previous planning system, but given the fact that one fifth of the targets were missed, we would suggest that the Secretariat take care as to how it sets its indicators and baselines in the new performance table.

A special note should be taken of Strategic Objective E, sustainable management of forests and trees which has an implementation rate of only 76 percent. We believe that here it is really necessary to beef up FAO's work in the sphere of forestry management.

On a positive note, we do commend FAO's work in these directions, such as implementing the UNSG's Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, the input made towards developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, promoting the uptake of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests as well as its work done on food losses and wastes.

We support the balanced process of decentralization and the strengthening of staff qualifications and effectiveness in Regional Country Offices. Russia also welcomes the adoption of the strategic partnership with CSOs and NGOs as well as business.

The next step should probably be improving the connections of the Organization's activities with those of the scientific community. We also applaud the full implementation by FAO of the Global Resource Management System for the period of account. We see that savings have been made by stepping up efficiencies and this to the tune of USD 71.6 million.

However, the savings that are being made should not be to the detriment of compliance with the principle of multilingualism in FAO. For example, we see that the number of publications in Russian for 2013 is at the same level as in the preceding period though the number of FAO publications actually went up almost 40 percent over the same period.

We would recall in this connection, the recommendation of the 146th session of the Council which stressed the importance of increasing the number of FAO projects translated into Russian and in this connection, we would appreciate getting an update on progress on this issue at the next Council session.

John C.E. SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago)

My Delegation thanks the Director and Chairperson for their most informative presentations, acknowledges the achievements of the FAO as detailed in the Programme Implementation Report 2012-2013, and expresses our appreciation to the FAO for its support to Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean community in our quest for food and nutrition security, development of our agriculture sector, mitigating the effects of climate change, and ensuring plant and animal health and food safety.

Please permit me to highlight in particular the significance and evidence based policy formulation and, in this regard, to indicate that the technical assistance from the FAO in the development of a food and nutrition information and early warning system for the Caribbean is most welcome.

Further, we congratulate the Director-General, staff and other partners of the FAO for the achievement of over 80 percent of the Organization's 174 top level programme targets.

Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago endorses the Programme Implementation Report 2012-2013.

Sra. Fabiola MENDOZA YAMAUI (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela felicita a la Dirección de la Oficina de Estrategia, Planificación y Gestión de Recursos por la presentación del Informe C 2015/8 sobre la ejecución del programa 2012-2013.

Asimismo, reconocemos los avances alcanzados por la administración del Director General en lo que ha significado todo el proceso de reforma y de reestructuración de la FAO, en particular en los niveles de ahorro alcanzados. Conscientes de que con el propósito de obtener mayores resultados a menor costo, lo cual se traduce en mayores avances para el logro de la erradicación del hambre en el mundo, la Organización se traza una serie de metas y objetivos y estrategias en base a un presupuesto y a un programa de ejecución.

Es indudable que la participación de la FAO en los diversos foros internacionales y el impulso otorgado para mantener dentro de los temas prioritarios de la Agenda internacional la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición en el mundo han dado pasos importantes en los últimos dos años.

Una demostración de los logros alcanzados se evidencia en las aportaciones para lo que será la Agenda post-2015, su participación en Rio+20, la promoción de las directrices voluntarias sobre la gobernanza responsable de la tenencia de la tierra, la pesca y los bosques en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria. Ha sido destacable la labor de la FAO en la promoción de la iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe Sin Hambre, la iniciativa Hambre Cero y el apoyo otorgado al plan de acción de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC) para la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza en la región, cuyos aportes consistieron en la presentación de las directrices iniciales.

Igualmente, ha sido notable su contribución en los proyectos de Cooperación Sur-Sur, de los cuales algunos cuentan con el financiamiento de Petrocaribe. Sin embargo, Venezuela reitera su preocupación porque fondos provenientes por parte de organizaciones no gubernamentales para la ejecución de los programas de cooperación de la FAO no afecten el ejercicio de la soberanía alimentaria y del derecho humano a la alimentación de los pueblos y una vez más exhorta a los países con mayores niveles de desarrollo a cumplir con los compromisos financieros adquiridos internacionalmente. En particular, con la asistencia oficial al desarrollo dirigida a los países con menores niveles de ingresos.

Ahora voy a referirme al Informe de la Reunión Conjunta del 28 de mayo de 2014, párrafos 2 y 3. Igualmente, Venezuela agradece al Presidente del Comité de Finanzas por la presentación de este documento y reitera aspectos señalados en discursos anteriores sobre los diversos temas contenidos en el documento, en particular sobre la satisfacción por los ahorros alcanzados por la Organización, los aspectos referidos del ámbito administrativo, como son la eficacia eficiencia, las estrategias, objetivos y metas.

También queremos alertar sobre la necesidad de evaluar la pertinencia de asumir compromisos con la CAPI hasta tanto no se aclaren algunos aspectos que han sido objeto de debate en el seno de la Asamblea General de la ONU y que tienen que ver con el manejo eficiente de los fondos. Asimismo, reiteramos nuestra firme convicción de la necesidad de mantener fortalecido el carácter intergubernamental de la institución, más aún en lo que respecta a la ejecución del programa de descentralización y en la procedencia de los fondos y presupuestos para el desarrollo de los proyectos promovidos por la FAO.

Por otra parte, reconocemos los esfuerzos realizados sobre la equidad de idiomas, sin embargo, estamos seguros de la pronta realización de avances, ya que la mayoría de los informes solo están disponibles en inglés. No obstante esto tomamos nota sobre los avances alcanzados en el período 2012-2013.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Esta intervención la hacemos en nombre de los países de Latinoamérica, el Caribe y GRULAC y en aras de la eficiencia solo vamos a hacer referencia a aspectos diferentes a los que ya han sido tratados por dos representantes de nuestra región, Trinidad y Tobago y Venezuela.

El GRULAC reconoce que el documento presentado recoge de forma muy detallada la discusión del programa 2012-2013. Este fue un período caracterizado por el proceso de reflexión estratégica que se llevó a cabo en la Organización y que fue liderado por su Director General. Fue necesaria entonces una armonización entre el cambio que se requería en la FAO y la ejecución del programa de trabajo y presupuesto. Este período de transición permitió en primer lugar modificar el primer objetivo estratégico hacia uno muy superior, el logro de la erradicación del hambre; realizó la reorientación estratégica y además se avanzó hacia la mayor descentralización y una mejora evidente en el uso de los recursos.

Los ahorros en este período se destacaron y permitieron reasignar 6,8 millones de dólares al fondo multidisciplinario, así como aplicar un nuevo modelo de movilización de recursos extrapresupuestarios que es coherente con el enfoque estratégico a que se orientó el programa. En cuanto a los gastos, es cierto que en el bienio anterior 2010-2011 fueron superiores y se logró reducir un 9 por ciento, aunque de esto ha comentado bastante el Director General en su discurso, nuestro grupo considera que es un aspecto que debe seguir siendo una prioridad para la Organización.

En cuanto a las iniciativas Regionales que apoya la FAO, en el caso de nuestra región ya se ha hecho una mención bastante explícita durante la discusión del Informe a la Conferencia Regional. Respecto a la descentralización, aspecto también tratado en casi todas las intervenciones que se han hecho hasta el momento, nuestra región considera que es necesario consolidar todo lo que se ha logrado en cuanto al trabajo de las oficinas. En particular modo la planificación, el establecimiento de prioridades y la flexibilidad. Igualmente, los marcos de programación por países requieren perfeccionamiento, por lo que insta a los Gobiernos y a la FAO a continuar trabajando de conjunto para ese propósito.

En cuanto a los proyectos de apoyo al desarrollo, consideramos que deben continuar siendo los fundamentales que ejecute la FAO. Igualmente, nuestro grupo considera que es importante ampliar las actividades de Cooperación Sur-Sur, que también debe hacerse con la cooperación triangular.

Llamamos la atención sobre la baja presencia de mujeres que aún se registra en los puestos D-1 y D-2, por lo que nuestro grupo alienta a continuar trabajando para alcanzar la equidad de género en los altos cargos de la Organización.

El GRULAC, por tanto, apoya la decisión de que el Consejo tome nota de los resultados que ha alcanzado la Organización y que se remita el Informe a la próxima Conferencia. Y por último, reiteramos la necesidad de la presentación de los documentos en todos los idiomas de trabajo con la antelación requerida.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ (El Salvador)

Acabamos de escuchar a la Delegación de Cuba que expresó a este Consejo la posición del GRULAC sobre el informe que estamos examinando, mi Delegación comparte plenamente lo expresado antes.

Desearía, sin embargo, puntualizar algunos aspectos de particular importancia para El Salvador

Al examinar este informe, estimamos que es importante destacar el alto grado de implementación de los programas durante el bienio 2012-2013, teniendo presente que estos dos años fueron un periodo de cambio transformacional.

Podemos indicar este alto grado de implementación como el mayor logro alcanzado en el bienio pasado, ya que ha colocado a la Organización en el camino correcto para la consecución de sus objetivos. Es fundamental que la FAO continúe con la nueva dirección estratégica a fin de que podamos ver los resultados positivos de este cambio transformacional que nos hemos fijado.

Otro elemento que fue indicado por el GRULAC y que consideramos de particular importancia es el relativo a los progresos alcanzados en materia de descentralización en el bienio analizado.

Profundizar el proceso de descentralización es fundamental para nuestros países, ya que nos permite mejorar el trabajo conjunto que realizamos en el terreno con la FAO y con todos los actores interesados en superar los problemas concretos que nos lleven a la superación del hambre en nuestros países.

Queremos recalcar la necesidad de que la FAO trabaje en el terreno de manera coordinada y en sintonía con el PMA y con el FIDA. Esta coordinación es básica para lograr óptimos resultados y utilizar mejor los limitados recursos de los Organismos y de los nuestros Gobiernos.

Asimismo es necesario que la FAO continúe reforzando sus equipos multidisciplinarios a nivel nacional, sub-regional y regional.

En este proceso es necesario realizar el análisis de la cobertura geográfica y de las modalidades de las oficinas descentralizadas de la FAO, ese es un tema que quedó pendiente de debate por parte de los Miembros durante el último proceso de reforma. Para continuar progresando en el proceso de descentralización es importante abordar estos temas.

Por último, deseamos alentar a la FAO a continuar con la promoción de asociaciones externas con la Sociedad Civil y el Sector Privado, así como a brindar cada vez más apoyo técnico en materia de creación de conocimiento y mejores prácticas para ampliar y profundizar las actividades de Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Antes de concluir, permítame señalar que el documento presentado por la Secretaria es sumamente informativo y exhaustivo sobre los logros y desempeño financiero durante el bienio 2012-2013. Consideramos, por lo tanto, que el mismo presenta un valioso conjunto de lecciones aprendidas que son de mucha utilidad para el presente y futuros bienios.

Con estas observaciones, apoyamos las medidas que se proponen a este Consejo sobre el Informe examinado.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

This is the last PIR of the old programmatic model. It measured results at unit level for each of the 56 Organizational Results of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-13.

The PIR of 2014-2015 based on the new Strategic Framework and with 17 outcome is likely quite different from the present one. As an Accountability Report, the document provides very useful information on the progress achieved during the biennium 2012-2013. However, for the Regular Programme, the old rate of performance targets, at Organizational results, was measured to be 80 percent, table one, page 21 of the English text, but it was much higher for the relevant Strategic Objective, 88 percent. The Field Programme delivery including funds from the Regular Programme declined by 15 percent, from 1.71 billion to 1.45 billion, but this was mainly due to the closure of the European Union food facility as shown in table ten.

Chairperson, we appreciate the section on Regional dimensions, paragraphs 226 to 321. Each Region shows progress in some key priority areas supported by country experience. For the Near East and North Africa, the six areas covered are indeed a priority, especially the Regional Initiative on water scarcity and enhancing food security and nutrition.

Chairperson, we wish to draw attention to the following four aspects of the PIR. One, efficiency savings amounted to 17.6 million in 2012-13, a 49 percent increase with savings in 2010-11. These savings covered practically all areas of work, see paragraphs 424 to 433. We think, together with many other Members, that the imposition of further savings will erode the technical capacity of the Organization and arrest the progress towards Decentralization.

Two, extra-budgetary resources, including core voluntary contribution in support of the regular programme reach 1.7 billion, which is an increase of 3 percent over the same level in 2010-11. The share of innovative funds in total extra-budgetary resources reached 37 percent in 2012-13. This is shown in table 17. We urge the Secretariat to give high priority to such innovative funding, especially under the new unilateral Trust Fund. As stated in paragraph 403, major progress was reached in GRMS, Global Resource Management System.

Three, the percentage of OAS to total delivery remain the same as in 2010-12, that is 9.6 percent, but there was an improvement in the rate of reimbursement. It reached 90 percent in 2012-13, compared to 84 percent in 2010-11 and additional 4 percent in 2008-2009. So progress has been made. The improved cost recovery has led to improved recovery costs.

Four, the estimated costs of Technical Support Services, was 99.4 million, which is 7 percent of the field programme delivery. Of this amount, only 27.6 million was recovered, as shown in table 12 and paragraph 386. In 2012-13, on average, 28 percent of professional staff time was devoted to providing technical support services compared to 26 percent in 2010-11.

Finally, we support the PIR 2012-2013.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

I would like to commend the FAO Secretariat for preparing this excellent Report. Based on this recognition, I would like to make some comments as follows. In order to save time, I would like to focus my remarks only on the technical and minor items which were not raised by other Delegations.

First of all, let me comment on the Section dealing with "Making a difference - Overview and Achievements". In the document, several indicators can be observed which measure the number of countries that established, adopted, developed and introduced policies, regulations, strategies, programmes aimed at achieving each Strategic Objective. In this context, I would like to point out that the core and utmost issue to be monitored when inviting the effectiveness of FAO activities is whether or not the targeted countries have actually implemented these regulations and strategies to the degree that these tools can effectively result in tangible outcomes. Therefore, it is important to use more outcome oriented indicators such as the number of countries which has implemented the policies, or the number of countries which FAO assisted in their implementation in order to measure the actual impact of FAO activities.

Furthermore, with respect to three indicators relevant to the Objectives of H03 on nutrition (page 33 of the Web Annex IV, I would like to point out that these indicators do not include the role FAO is expected to play in addressing the nutrition issue, such as the FAO activities to enhance agriculture production and promote food industry. For the entire Report, I would like to add one more comment. It would be useful if FAO could prepare additional and supplementary materials explaining FAO projects in more detail, in view of the high number of FAO projects and of the complicated process. This material could be posted on the FAO website and be available to the wider public and would not necessarily need to be printed. This is all the more important since the Strategic Objective in the Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 have become more integrated and are more abstract than before.

I would like to refer to the unscheduled meetings referred to in Annex 2 and web Annex 5. Our Office has, over the recent past, received several invitations to unscheduled meetings. I would like to seek clarifications from the Secretariat as to whether these unscheduled meetings are held using extra-budgetary resources provided by donor nations or not? In addition, I would like to request that invitations to unscheduled meetings be sent well in advance of the date of the meeting. The invitation should also be accompanied by core and detailed information providing information on the background of the meeting, the reason for the unscheduled meeting to be convene at short notice. Information should also be provided on the aims and expected final outcome of the meeting. Member Countries proposing FAO to organize such a meeting should also keep these points in mind and should not put extra burden on the FAO Secretariat.

Mr Mogens KJØRUP (Denmark)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

We welcome the PIR 2012-13 and the brief and focused presentation given by Mr Haight.

In our statement to the Council in December 2013, we underlined what the Conference in June 2013 stated in its report on FAO's Policy on Gender Equality, namely in paragraph 60: "welcomed FAO's ambition to become a model agency on gender equality" but in paragraph 63: "expressed concern about the visibility and prioritization of the gender work".

Having read the PIR and the chapter on Strategic Objective K, we note that work is being done, but that efforts need to be intensified to sustain and deepen the impact. The work on producing sex-disaggregated data strikes us as being particularly important. This data is needed to formulate baselines, and correct baselines are essential in order to set targets and, later, to evaluate how far efforts have had impact. Data which show the situation for both men and women also have the effect of shining a light on reality and will lead to further improvements in evaluating situations correctly.

The next version of the PIR will be very interesting as we will be able to contrast the different impacts of having a specific Strategic Objective on Gender equity with having it as a cross-cutting theme.

We look forward to the next year's PIR report focusing on impact rather than outputs and with a complete set of measurable indicators and related baselines.

We repeat our suggestion that one of the informal consultations with Member Nations is dedicated to discuss status and progress of the implementation of FAO's gender policy.

Ms Ala MASHTA (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, please allow me to follow-up on the intervention of the Delegate of Afghanistan with regard to the proposal by Mr Laurent Thomas, with regard to using the Iraq contribution of USD 2 million in the context of cooperation between South-South Cooperation.

We would like to first express, on the basis of our current cooperation with FAO, our willingness to the use of such a contribution to foster South-South Cooperation and we look forward to contributing to further coordination and discussion in this regard. The Republic of Iraq is looking forward to receiving an official invitation to discuss the modalities of such cooperation to the benefit of our Region.

With regard to the PIR for the period 2012-13, we should like to thank the Secretariat for having presented a comprehensive document which includes complete and full information on what has been achieved in the past period. I would like to point out the following and take into consideration the developments taking place and the FAO Immediate Plan of Action, which is scheduled to conclude by the end of this year. We consider that the reform process should be concluded within the planned period with regard to the performance of FAO and to identifying the points of weakness.

With regard to the External Review of the Governance Reform, which will be discussed at the next FAO Conference, we call on FAO and on all the stakeholders, to implement the recommendations which will be issued. We should not only take note of the assessment alone but we should take every necessary measure in order to implement such recommendations and to provide all the necessary human resources to that effect. We highly value the role of FAO with regards to the small holders agriculture as well as to fisheries and forestry, and we call on further Strategic Support to our countries which are in dire need of FAO's support to undertake the leading role in implementing such recommendations on the ground and to foster the Organization's capacities in that regard.

Please allow me to also speak with regard to the Decentralization project. We have discussed this matter, in relation to our Region in most Near East meetings. Despite the progress achieved in this regard, we call on FAO management to undertake all the necessary measures to foster the Regional efforts in that regard and to reinforce the capacities being provided at the Regional level, as well as to increase the level of cooperation between the Decentralized Offices. We call on FAO to support the Regional Office for the Near East, take into consideration the appropriate geographical representation of those employed and enhance the use of the Arabic language.

And with regard to the activities being undertaken in the Region and the initiatives at the Regional level, we thank FAO for the support provided to Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates. Unfortunately, we note that the document points out the lack of activities in 2010 and we would urge for the completion of such activities as soon as possible in the next biennium.

FAO can only achieve its set-out goals with the support of the Member States. However, we call on FAO to provide further support to our human resources training in order to achieve the goals set out by the FAO and in fostering our Regional initiatives by concluding further cooperation and partnerships in regard to food security.

We look forward to seeing further details on the activities undertaken by the FAO in the most recent biennium, especially with regard to the pilot Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity. We also look forward to seeing further efforts in supporting our capacities, such as the USD 31 million amount dedicated to that effort in the present biennium and we look to the further enhancement of such capacities and the increase of the field programmes and relative support.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

Au nom du Groupe Afrique, la délégation du Royaume du Maroc prend la parole sur ce point de l'ordre du jour relatif au Rapport sur l'exécution du Programme 2012-2013. Nous souhaitons saisir cette occasion pour exprimer nos vifs remerciements au Secrétariat pour la présentation de ce document et pour sa qualité exhaustive.

Le Groupe Afrique a pris note du rapport relatif à l'exécution du Programme 2012-2013 et des progrès accomplis en matière de gestion et d'administration, et de rationalisation budgétaire de l'Organisation. Nous nous félicitons cependant des efforts accomplis en vue d'accroître l'efficacité et la performance de notre Organisation. En effet, selon le rapport 71,6 millions de dollars ont été réalisés en termes de gains d'efficacité pendant cet exercice, cela sans pour autant affecter l'exécution des programmes de coopération technique qui représentent pour notre Groupe régional, vous vous en doutez, une priorité fondamentale.

S'agissant de la modernisation des structures de la FAO, le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la mise en œuvre du Système mondial de gestion des ressources qui commence à donner ses fruits et qui a permis d'obtenir des gains d'efficacité et de renforcer les contrôles internes et l'accès à l'information. Nous encourageons la Direction à continuer à œuvrer dans ce sens, afin notamment de renforcer le

réseau des bureaux décentralisés. Le Groupe Afrique, conscient des contraintes budgétaires de l'Organisation, exhorte la Direction à continuer ses efforts dans l'exploration d'autres modes novateurs de mobilisation de fonds à même de permettre la poursuite de l'exécution des programmes de coopération technique dont bénéficient les pays du Sud, notamment la coopération triangulaire. En tenant compte de tout ce qui précède, le Groupe Afrique exprime sa pleine approbation du présent rapport.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

I would like to express our appreciation to the Secretariat that has prepared the Programme Implementation Report for 2012-2013. We do share what has been underscored by the Director-General in his foreword to the Report, i.e. that FAO has successfully delivered its Programme of Work during the past biennium, both in the context of major policy developments and of assisting Member States in achieving strategic and functional objectives, as well as effectively managing the resources to support the delivery of the Programme of Work.

We acknowledge that FAO's work on policy developments encompasses major global development challenges in food security, agriculture, and rural development that are faced by countries all over the world, in particular developing ones, before and beyond achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

We take note of FAO and other Rome-based Agencies' active involvement in the process of formulating a post-2015 Development Agenda. As we are all aware, the *ad-hoc* Open Ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals established at the UN General Assembly and the parallel process initiated by UN Secretary General on post-MDG deliberations will be merged to form a new intergovernmental process, with a view to adopting a new Development Agenda beyond 2015.

It is apparent that the intergovernmental negotiations will be likely to define a set of Sustainable Development Goals that are universal, limited in numbers, aspirational, easy to communicate, and address the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic manner.

There is growing understanding among Member States involved in the Open Ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals on the areas that seem to be an unfinished business of MDGs, namely poverty eradication, food and nutrition, health and education, and gender.

These will be primarily reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals. Meanwhile, other focus areas that are widely understood as the new development challenges, namely energy, infrastructure, sustainable consumption and production, marine- and bio-diversity will need more deliberation to come to a consensus.

We also take note that Member States and other stakeholders are now negotiating principles for responsible agriculture investments within the context of fulfilling the MDG's goals and post-2015 Development Agenda, particularly on combating hunger and eradicating poverty, as well as achieving food security and nutrition. It is our expectation that the responsible agricultural investment as an internationally agreed principle would be of paramount importance to catalyze the increase of agricultural investments, notably by the developing world.

Increasing agricultural investments, in our view, should aim at ending hunger, ensuring the right to food, enhancing the sustainable food production capacity of smallholders, and creating decent conditions for agricultural workers.

Finally, on the issue of financial mechanisms, Indonesia appreciates the efforts that have been made and taken by FAO in managing its resources to support the delivery of its Programme of Work. We support FAO's measures to improve effectiveness and efficiency by strengthening internal control and access to information across all the FAO Regional Representative Offices around the globe.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

We also welcome the Programme Implementation Report and appreciate the Secretariat for preparing the report, which is clear and informative, and we endorse it. We also support the intervention made by our colleagues from Afghanistan and Iraq.

I just have two questions. Maybe Mr Haight can give me some clarification. The first question refers to the last sentence of paragraph 102, which says that “FAO also continued its work on the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels and, together with the International Maritime Organisation, has been involved in work on piracy”.

During the 30th Session of COFI, the Islamic Republic of Iran asked FAO to prepare guidelines in cooperation with countries involved in counter piracy during the fishing season and the IMO to help countries to protect their fishermen. We would like to have more information on the progress on this issue as mentioned in the last sentence of paragraph 102.

Secondly, I would like some clarification from Mr Haight on Table 1 regarding the 13 Functional Objectives. It seems that these are the chapter of expenditure for the Organization. I would like to know whether it would be possible next time to have the sum of operational work and administration work separated and linked to the implementation indicators provided in table 9.

Sr. Nazareno C. MONTANI CAZABAT (Argentina)

Argentina desea agradecer a la Secretaría por la elaboración del Informe sobre la ejecución del programa en 2012-2013, cuyo contenido apoyamos, ya que presenta de manera comprensiva, cuidadosa y satisfactoria los logros y el desempeño financiero de la Organización durante 2012-2013, así como las experiencias extraídas para el bienio en curso y para el futuro.

Este es un punto sumamente importante, ya que como han mencionado otras Delegaciones, el bienio 2012-2013 ha sido un bienio de transformación. Esto ha sido claramente explicado por nuestra colega de la Delegación de Cuba en nombre del GRULAC. Es por eso que creemos que este Informe nos sirve de base sólida y de guía para continuar nuestras labores hacia el futuro.

Queremos agradecer también la labor que ha realizado la Reunión Conjunta y la presentación que ha hecho el presidente del Comité de Finanzas respecto de las conclusiones de esta Reunión Conjunta, las cuales apoyamos plenamente y queremos destacar en particular las conclusiones del párrafo 2, inciso b), g), h), i) y j), en las cuales se expresa la satisfacción por la implementación del programa de trabajo 2012-2013.

Tomamos nota del progreso general en el balance de las lenguas de los productos de la FAO, urgiendo a continuar con los esfuerzos en los casos en que dichos progresos hayan sido insuficientes; se resalta la importancia de expandir las actividades de Cooperación Sur-Sur y la importancia de incluir información en relación con los partenariados con la Sociedad Civil y el Sector Privado, a la vez que se espera el reporte sobre la implementación de las dos estrategias a ser presentado en la Sesión Conjunta de otoño y se alienta el uso de modalidades innovadoras de financiamiento para ampliar la base para la movilización de recursos extrapresupuestarios.

Agradecemos el esfuerzo de este Informe, y creemos que vamos en la dirección correcta.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

Thank you for the hard work conducted by the Secretariat of the Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management over the last biennium and I would also like to praise the Human Resource Management for their achievements. From the last biennium, the selection process changed systematically and became more efficient.

Geographic and gender representation improved under the strong leadership of the Director-General. Regarding the budget savings, FAO succeeded in achieving further savings by reducing posts and internal cost savings and so on. This does not end yet.

I would like to ask FAO to take care of internal organization and make steps to accustom itself to current changes successfully and to commit to achieve its performance even more in the future and develop other tools to induce cooperation behind the Organization's goals.

I would like to thank again the Organization for all of its efforts and encourage FAO staff to pursue their efforts.

Mr Md. Ashadul ISLAM (Bangladesh)

My delegation fully endorses what other delegates mentioned about the report. With regard to the report, we would like to stress the engagement of Regional Offices and government counterparts in sharing information, particularly on Regional initiatives.

Also, we would like to stress the importance of South-South Cooperation, especially at the Regional level. We find the reference of South-South Cooperation in the report but more action-oriented programmes to promote South-South Cooperation at the Regional level would have more impact and be cost effective.

We take note of the partnership with Civil Society and Private Sector and the increase in innovating funding. Regarding cost sharing, we appreciate the increased efficiency in programme delivery but this should not hamper or reduce the core programmes of FAO. We think procurement of goods and services from the programme country can bring the cost further down.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia thanks Mr Haight for his presentation and the Secretariat for the preparation of the Programme Implementation Report for 2012-13.

Australia welcomes the report and notes the achievement of organizational results under the strategic and functional objectives. Australia appreciates the significant effort of the Director-General, of the senior management, and FAO staff around the world.

Given their importance for the future success of the Organization, Australia would like to highlight our support for the significant transformational changes made in the Organization during the last biennium in order to refocus FAO's work.

We strongly welcome the progress made. However, we emphasize the need to maintain momentum. There was a widespread view among Members that FAO needed to improve its effectiveness and efficiency dramatically.

The Director-General has led the revitalization process and has made significant progress in devising a Reviewed Strategic Framework and an implementation process that involves staff working together across the house rather than in departments or silos and critically involving close collaboration and alignment between the operations of Headquarters, Regional Offices, and the Decentralized Offices Network.

This progress appears to have put FAO on the right path. However, the real challenge is now before FAO and its stakeholders, that is to actually implement the Programme of Work using the matrix management approach to achieve increased impact and meaningful outcomes. We wholeheartedly hope that this occurs as we and all Members want FAO to be successful.

But this will obviously require close attention of management and we seek to be kept appropriately informed about key developments during this critical period.

While discussing the implementation of the Programme of Work, Australia believes the new Results Framework is a positive step forward that will hopefully lead to a stronger focus on results and impact and we look forward to this flying through to the next Programme Implementation Report.

We note however that the Results Framework is a work in progress and needs continued refinement of meaningful indicators used for monitoring and reporting. We also cannot over emphasize the need for continued strengthening of monitoring, internal control, and accountability of the operations of the Decentralized Offices Network.

As per previous guidance provided by the FAO Finance Committee, we would encourage for future editions of the Programme Implementation Report that there be specific attention given to identifying outcomes achieved from FAO's operation in the Southwest Pacific Region.

On the important issues of partnerships and the heightened focus that FAO has taken to working with other stakeholders to achieve its objectives, Australia stresses the need to ensure that FAO is engaging constructively and positively with all stakeholders, including the Private Sector and research

institutions, and we look forward to the first of the annual Progress Reports on FAO's partnership strategies.

Lastly, as per the Joint Committee's report, Australia stresses the need for further analysis of decentralization efforts including via a review of the country coverage and modalities of FAO's Decentralized Offices Network in order to support optimally the evolving needs of Member Nations.

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

I would like to thank all of the Delegates who intervened on the Programme Implementation Report. I take it as a very good sign that you were unable to confine your comments just to the 2012-13 biennium. Many of your interventions were looking forward and that's good because the Transformational Change process did not stop at the end of last biennium. We did achieve savings. We were able to reallocate some of those to strengthen decentralization and of course we will continue to do that based on the guidance that we are receiving, all of this to put in place better ways of working for the Organization. It hasn't been said today but we often say that we are learning by doing. We are flexible and are trying to be a nimble Organization to respond to your needs.

Now I would like to address some of the areas that were raised in your comments. The Philippines in particular mentioned Rome-based collaboration, which we are continuing to work on both here in Rome as well as in the field. For example, here the three agencies, FAO, World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agriculture Development have collaborated on preparing proposed indicators for the post-2015 Agenda. We are also starting to work on a study on the possibility of putting together our administrative systems, and of course we continue to work together on the ground and we are now contributing to the UN resident coordinator system, which should help us to work better together.

As far as our work on partnerships, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees will receive a Report on progress in November, which then you will have a chance to review and this is a particular important area for us to be able to extend our reach for impact.

To reply to a few of the other questions. Japan on meetings: indeed in Annex V most of the unscheduled sessions are in fact under projects, where in the very far left-hand column it says TF which is Trust Fund, so they are Trust Funded meetings. The one exception, big exception in fact, is the Finance Committee because several meetings of the Finance Committee have taken place for World Food Programme matters but not for FAO matters. We do dutifully record those as unscheduled because we don't know when they are going to happen when preparing the PWB.

On projects, Japan, also of course we do aim to simplify. In fact as was pointed out by the Director-General this morning, you should have received the folder on impact for results with the 11 corporate areas for resource mobilization. The aim is to attract resources at a higher level for the major issues where we feel that we need additional resources, most of which are around the Strategic Objectives. So this is a way that we can work with you to simplify our processes and reduce the number of projects and hopefully attract additional resources.

We have listened very carefully to the comments on the need to improve gender work. Indeed we will report on this in the next PIR, but it will be in a different way as it will also include gender balance in the staff of the Organization, as well as the languages covered, as we have heard here and in the previous items, and we will continue to report on that.

Iraq, I think you asked specifically about the Water Scarcity Initiative in the Near East, and of course the work on that is continuing and we will aim to finish it in the current biennium. That was a pilot Regional Initiative that started in 2013, which has really taken off now and involves more and more countries.

Iran, I am personally not going to answer your question on paragraph 102. The fisheries people are on their way so we can have an answer in the session rather than in writing, but I do take your point on the second question on table 1 to distinguish between the Strategic and Functional Objectives. I think this is a good point. In fact, this brings me to the last point that I want to make, which is probably the most

important. As Australia said it very well, in the end, what we are aiming for with Transformational Changes is impact.

We have a new Results Framework, which in fact you will have a chance to comment on tomorrow under the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committee. It is intended to measure not only FAO's outputs, the 50 output indicators that we have for what FAO itself produces, but a much smaller number of outcome indicators. In the 2012-13 results framework, the one that this PIR was reporting on, there were 174 indicators of organizational results which are outcome indicators. In the new Results Framework that we have from this biennium onwards, we have only 68 outcome indicators. Half of those are for the Strategic Objective outcomes and half are key performance indicators for the Functional Objectives.

So we have a very clear way to measure our outcomes, which are changes at country level for our Strategic Objectives and where we are developing a very rigorous way to measure those outcomes. Those outcomes are not what FAO itself is producing. We are contributing to outcomes but it is in partnership with Member countries and most of the outcomes are about changes that happen at country level. In fact, this was raised by Japan and others, pointing out the improvements from the previous Results Framework. In the new one we do have a more robust way to measure, with a baseline survey that has been undertaken, and the ability to have a dialogue then with the Membership on making progress on the outcomes, which can then position Members to achieve the objectives of the Organization.

And this provides support for the evidence based interventions that FAO can make, particularly with respect to policy advice, capacity development and the technical interventions that many Members have requested. Thank you.

Mr Lahsen ABABOUC (Director, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Economics Division)

I understand that the question is about the collaboration between FAO and the International Maritime Organization on the global record of fishing, refrigerated transport and supply vessels, and also the work on fighting piracy. What FAO is doing is adopting global record based on fishing vessel identifier that IMO uses for all different ships.

We are extending this to the fishing vessels that are above 100 gross tonnes. The decision taken between IMO and FAO has been highly appreciated by COFI last week and should enable us to fight illegal fishing in different regions. I think that is in a nutshell what FAO is doing with IMO on the global record and using the IMO fishing vessel unique identifier.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Let me thank all the Members of the Council for the positive comments made on our Report and the work that we did in the Committee. I personally recognize the validity of some of the points made by many Delegations including China, Cuba, the Russian Federation, and Venezuela, on the balance that should be achieved in the treatment of the language. I think it is a valid point which was briefly discussed and we can take it on board.

Also for the benefit of your summary, Mr Chairperson, probably may I also emphasize the general feeling among the Joint Meeting Members on the enhanced trust between the Governing Bodies, represented by the Members and the Secretariat. I think we must keep and maintain this momentum, especially as the Secretariat is focusing more today and we fail to report on results and impacts.

On the part of the Members also, the momentum needs to be kept because this trust goes along with the necessity of putting less pressure on the willing for making more efficiency savings and we can also consider that the call by the Director-General was also a valid call in the meeting and this Council.

I did not hear specific questions directed to the Chairperson of the Joint Meeting but may I seize this opportunity to sincerely thank all the Members of the Joint Meeting for their work. I think they were very positive in their assessment of this Report which concluded the work and gave us the summary that we had in our Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, we have come to the end of our discussion on item 3. I appreciated your very constructive engagement on this important item, and particularly your focused guidance to management on how to handle the next Programme Implementation Report.

I would like to draw conclusions for item 3 as follows:

1. The Council welcomed the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13 as a comprehensive and informative presentation of achievements and financial performance and noted that future versions would improve with the introduction of the new results-based monitoring and reporting framework.
2. The Council:
 - a) Expressed overall satisfaction at the implementation of the programme of work in 2012-13;
 - b) Welcomed the unprecedented efficiencies and savings achieved in the 2012-13 biennium, recognized the challenge of finding such a high level of savings in future without containing staff costs, and encouraged the engagement of FAO Members with the United Nations General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission in this regard;
 - c) Was satisfied that the transformational changes of 2012-13 represented a major achievement for FAO, and underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework;
 - d) Welcomed the decentralization efforts undertaken in 2012-13, and stressed the need for further analysis and action in future, in particular a review of the country coverage and modalities of FAO's Decentralized Offices Network;
 - e) Welcomed the mainstreaming of gender work across all FAO's programme and encouraged further development and use of gender disaggregated data in future activities, as well as higher representation of women in senior positions in the Secretariat;
 - f) Welcomed the efforts made to maintain good working partnerships with civil society and the private sector, as well as with regional organizations, and looked forward to a progress report on the implementation and the results of these partnership strategies;
 - g) Noted the general progress in language balance in FAO's products, urged continued efforts in those languages where the progress had been insufficient and asked for a progress report to be presented at its next session;
 - h) Noted with appreciation the enhanced trust prevailing between the Membership and the Secretariat.
3. The Council endorsed the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13 and recommended that it be submitted to the Conference in June 2015.

With this we conclude Item 3.

Item 10. Update on the Independent Review of Governance Reforms**Point 10. Point sur l'examen indépendant des réformes concernant la gouvernance****Tema 10. Información actualizada sobre el examen independiente de las reformas de la gobernanza**

(CL 149/LIM/4)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to item 10, *Update on the Independent Review of Governance Reforms*. The relevant document is CL 149/LIM/4.

As noted during the 148th Session of the Council, the purpose of this Review is to carry out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms and to identify areas for further improvement and adjustments.

I would like to inform the Council that Informal Meetings with Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups were convened on 7 February 2014, with the purpose of introducing the Review Team, their proposed work plan and methodology, and on 15 May 2014 to discuss the status of the evaluation.

I now invite Ms Maxine Olson and Ms Nadia Hijab, the members of the Review Team, to brief the Council on the process currently underway and the interaction undertaken thus far with the Governing Bodies and the Members.

Ms Maxine OLSON (Member of the Review Team)

It is a pleasure to be here as the Chairperson has mentioned and we have met many of you before. We have had meetings with the Regional groups in February as well as in May and also the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees also in May. While those meetings did focus on the process and scope of the review, after a very brief update on that, we do have some specific questions we would like to pose to you in order to get your responses to those. I know it is late in the day but we are hopeful that this is something that is of course of direct concern to you and we are looking forward to a very lively discussion.

In terms of the process, we are coming to the end of what we call the information gathering period. We have had extensive discussions not only in meetings, but individually with many of you within this, and we have also observed all of the Regional Conferences, the Programme and Finance Committees and the Joint Session, and some of the sessions of the COFI. We are here in the Council this week. We will be in COFO next week.

We will then after that be devoting ourselves to our conclusions, our findings, and to presenting these initial findings in the first half of September to an open ended informal meeting of the Regional Groups, and then making presentations to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in late November on the basis of a submitted report at the Council in December. The report will then be finalized and will be handed over to you.

I would like to thank all of you who have participated and given us information thus far. We are still relying on you to come forward for more any time. Even though our informal information gathering may be finishing, we are always interested in speaking further with you on this. I would also like to acknowledge the support that we have gotten from the Office of Evaluation, not only from the Director but also from Ms Tullia Aiazzi and as well Ms Federica Bottamedi.

During our observations and discussions with many of you, we have been guided by the distinction between the two broad functions of governance in FAO. Oversight of the Organization's work of course, which is primarily the work of the Council itself, and also, serving as a forum for policy, regular discussion and decision making.

The latter function is designed to have an impact on the work beyond FAO Secretariat *per se* and is expected to influence the work of the Member Countries themselves and their own countries, as well as members of the global community.

The IPA very carefully designated responsibilities for each of these functions among the Governing Bodies, and the questions that we pose today are a mix of both of those, to be able to elicit your views on those not only for the Council itself, but for those bodies that feed into the work of the Council itself as well as what you hand forward to the Conference as do other bodies as well.

These questions relate to Regional Conferences to the relationship between the Programme and Finance Committees and the Council and the Conference, as well as the role of the Conference itself in policy and regulatory matters.

I would like to invite my colleague, Nadia Hijab, to pose those questions.

Ms Nadia HIJAB (Member of the Review Team)

Indeed it is a pleasure to be here with you. As Maxine said, we have a few questions coming out of our work so far. The first one is: the Regional Conferences are now of course a formal part of the

governance process and we have been privileged to hear their reports this morning highlighting the Regional priorities and initiatives.

Of course, the other function of the Regional Conferences is oversight of FAO's work in the Region. Do you have a sense of how effective the Regional Conferences have been with regard to their oversight function or is more work needed in this regard?

The second question, as for the Programme and Finance Committees, the IPA opened up their deliberations to silent observers so that they could be more transparent and to facilitate in-depth discussion. Both committees have the responsibility for a very thorough scrutiny of the work of the Organization. In fact, so thorough that the Council should not have to reopen discussion in most cases.

Even with this understanding however, many of the people with whom we have spoken have said that it is important to get the discussion again at the Council so that a wider number of Member Countries can be consulted. What this may imply, though, is that the view of the Regional Groups may not be fully represented during the Programme Committee and Finance Committee sessions. Is this indeed the case? If so, what are the obstacles to making this happen?

We have been told that the Council is the real power in the Organization's oversight and work but if the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, and the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee do their work, what is the value added by the Council?

Moving on to the Conference and taking the 2013 Conference as an example, did you feel that there was a comprehensive discussion of the global or regional impact of any of the policy or regulatory issues emerging from the Regional Conferences and Technical Committees? Any examples that you might think of would be helpful to us.

A couple more questions before getting to the end and I should say that we are here all week so if we do not answer these questions right now or if you have anything to say about them, you know, we are available all week.

Moving on to the last couple of questions, the Regional Groups play an important, albeit informal role in facilitating the work of all of the governing bodies including increasingly in the Regional Conferences now that they have become a part of the governance system. Is there any kind of concern about blurring the line between the informal facilitation of the Regional Groups and the formal oversight of the governing bodies?

Finally, the review must also be concerned with cost effectiveness in the governing process. We know, of course, that there have been reductions in meeting costs since the IPA, but beyond that, are there further economies that could be made, including streamlining without the governing process itself? Again, we know this is late in the day and we are here all week should you wish to further discuss this but we would be also very grateful for any of your insights right now.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. As you are here for a week, those who feel to contact you will do so. You have also offered the questionnaire online and it will be made available to all of the Members tomorrow.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I have been involved in the personal interview and I have answered the questionnaire. In answering the questionnaire, first I thought I would attempt to answer as a draft when I read the first page which is then when I pressed next. Then when I went back to see what I had done, and everything had gone. But I continued up to the last one. I did try to answer all of it and I felt I had answered all the questions.

Have you by chance checked if my answers have been delivered to your office because when I went back to check, there was no copy unless pressing the next tab and do the print out, so that page is printed. But I tried to print everything at the end nothing would come out from the printer. So I thought there was a problem. Then I said well, what is gone is gone and I have done what I could do. So I went up to the last question and finished all of that you put for that format.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

These questions are serious, complicated, and controversial. We would have liked to have them on paper to think about it. I can only talk about one issue right now and that is: Regional Groups. Correct me if I am wrong. These Regional Groups are informal arrangements. They are not formal. They are not within the Basic Texts of FAO.

These informal arrangements are countries within the Region helping themselves, exchanging views among ourselves, and taking positions when we come to different meetings. To my knowledge, they have no governance capacity. We are not supposed to tell the Regional Office what to do. We would like to exchange information, but we are not their Governing Body.

Ms Ala MASHTA (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would like you to give the floor to the Delegate of Kuwait who will speak on behalf of the Near East Group.

Mr Yousef JHAIL (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

These discussions and questions would require considerable debate within Member Nations as was said quite rightly by the Representative of Afghanistan. We, as representing the Near East Region, are very interested in good governance process and in the overall process of reform of FAO as other Regions are likewise.

We do have a few comments to make and we would propose that the Group that has reviewed the evaluation and reform process take these comments into account.

First of all, we need to strengthen communication between the Regions and the Regional Offices., We need to rethink the nature of the relationship between these different parts of the Organization and consider them priorities in this relationship. It is important that in this way we strengthen the decentralization process of FAO.

The policies currently in place in terms of decentralization require re-examination, a consideration of the Country Offices and how to best equip them to continue the work in the future from a technical and scientific point of view. We also have to look at the technical bodies of these offices.

There is also the need to avoid duplication in the work of the Organization and this refers to the technical meetings and the meetings that are hosted at Headquarters. We believe that it is essential, that a major effort be made to avoid duplication and related work be maximized so that results can be obtained.

Paragraph 20 of document CL 149/LIM/4 states that the report that will be submitted by the Independent Review Team may not reflect the vision of FAO.

So, as the Near East Group we would like the report not to fully reflect the opinion of FAO, but the judgement of the Independent Review Team itself.

Having said that, the Near East Group invites the Review Team to establish a clear plan of action relating to Governance Reform in an effective and productive way, so that the recommendations contained may be implemented throughout the FAO Governing Bodies.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

L'Angola, qui se prononce au nom du Groupe Afrique, attend avec impatience et grand intérêt le rapport final en 2015 qui nous permettra de mieux comprendre les impacts de la réforme. Ses recommandations contribueront certainement à l'amélioration de notre Organisation. Il s'agit d'une étude approfondie, qui s'appuie sur les critères habituels utilisés dans la préparation de ces études, en particulier en ce qui concerne leur efficacité et leur impact.

Nous savons qu'il y a un suivi étroit des travaux de la part du Président indépendant du Conseil, et le Secrétariat a fourni des informations et des données nécessaires au travail du Groupe d'experts indépendants. Je profite de cette opportunité pour féliciter le Président indépendant du Conseil pour le dialogue qu'il maintient de manière étroite avec les représentants des États Membres. Sans vouloir

influer sur le travail de l'équipe d'évaluation, nous rappelons l'importance que le Groupe Afrique accorde aux aspects de la décentralisation, aux programmes de coopération technique, à la formation, à la parité des sexes et aux jeunes, ainsi qu'une meilleure utilisation des possibilités de coopération Sud-Sud.

Nous sommes heureux du rôle accordé aux Conférences régionales dans les décisions de la FAO, avec l'espoir que le Conseil et la Conférence considèrent de plus en plus leurs recommandations. La décentralisation des décisions doit être accompagnée par le renforcement des organisations régionales en termes de ressources humaines et financières et par la réduction progressive de la taille du siège de la FAO, mais sans amoindrir sa capacité technique et de coordination. Le fonctionnement des bureaux régionaux et des pays est à améliorer. La décentralisation du Programme de coopération technique a permis un plus grand contact et un dialogue des représentants de la FAO avec les autorités à différents niveaux, ainsi qu'avec la société civile. Mais c'est un travail en cours, qui doit continuer à être amélioré.

Nous devons également perfectionner la façon dont nous avons analysé et approuvé le Programme de travail et budget au sein du Conseil et de la Conférence, afin d'éviter de perdre du temps, de l'énergie et des ressources financières. Nous devons profiter de l'expérience d'autres organisations des Nations Unies en la matière. La pratique a montré que le soutien de la FAO aux pays ayant moins de ressources est utile à la participation des réunions de la FAO, en particulier dans les consultations techniques. Cela permet une plus grande contribution de tous et facilite l'application des mesures par la suite. La FAO doit poursuivre sur cette voie. Nous encourageons les Membres à donner suite au questionnaire soumis par les consultants afin que les points de vue reflètent effectivement la diversité de vision de tous les Membres.

La représentation de l'Angola a prévu de rencontrer l'équipe d'évaluation et se tient à sa disposition pour répondre à ses questions.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I agree with my colleague from Afghanistan that these are complex questions and need study, perhaps discussion amongst Member Countries before they can be answered. To give you an example, I will just deal with one of the questions, which was whether the Reports of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee should be such that the Council should not have to open a fresh debate.

There is of course the opposing view that the Council should have a debate because it has a wider participation.

The Programme Committee and the Finance Committee are technical Committees of the Council. They must give their technical view and by technical view, I mean technical view within their mandate and not a technical view on some technical subject.

If their report should be such that the Council is able to evaluate the issue, which is being considered, the Committee noted that they should be less noting and provide more analysis for the Council to be able to judge the merits of the issue being dealt in that respect.

However, even if the Programme and Finance Committees give a technical view, there are always broader considerations, which may have a political content that the two technical Committees should not deal with. That political aspect would always generate a debate in the Council because it implies wider issues. They are not just technical aspects of a point.

Therefore, I think there is no black and white aspect to this matter. There will always be a debate in the Council on certain issues, but I think that the Committees have to pay more attention to their reports. There is too much of noting, recognizing, instead of providing an analysis and a conclusion to the Council to make a decision.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I would like to ask you to please give the floor to Greece in the capacity as President of the European Union.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. I should clarify that these are European Union's general comments and not an attempt to answer the questions.

The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We reiterate that we welcome the launch of the Independent Review of Governance Reforms which is one of the last IPA measures. We trust that this work will take good account of FAO's current strategic priorities, within the scope provided by the Terms of Reference and that it will be completed in a prompt and efficient way.

Looking forward, benefits must be clarified and actions which have no end date must continue to retain momentum. One of the key lessons from the IPA process that FAO must not ignore is the need for continuous efforts to improve gender balance.

As a result of the Review we also expect suggestions for further improvements in the efficiency of governance. It should also include an assessment of the multiplicity of tasks and requirements of the role of the Independent Chair and provide relevant recommendations.

Finally, we look forward to the benefits in terms of efficiency gains and transparency approach in the framework of the Independent Review being achieved in a comprehensive way.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

Our Region has already stated that the questionnaire seems to be seen by us for the first time. Is that right?

The questionnaire you have raised has never been delivered in advance in some FAO meetings or is it the first time? If that is the case, the questionnaire is a very good one and it touches upon the very fundamental structures of the FAO cooperation in the long-term. So, I have to take this questionnaire to my Capital and I need some time for analysis and discussion with our colleagues to make a most complete reply to you.

As a person who has experienced FAO for a long time, the Council should have the final ultimate authority to intervene on any matters discussed in the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee, but this is my personal view.

This is only relevant to one question. The questionnaire should be written clearly on paper and I need to take some time for analysis and discussion with my people in the Capital and report to you as soon as possible, when the reply is completed.

I do not deny the possibility of discussion here, exchanging opinions among Member countries is fine, but I wish that Japan would like to be allowed to have time to take back this issue to the Capital and report after this Council is finished.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Given we have discussed the Regional Conferences this afternoon I will restrict my off-the-cuff comments to the issue of the new responsibilities of Regional Conferences. It is a comment that I would have made earlier when we discussed the Regional Conferences but we did it in a sort of context of focusing on each specific Conference. I guess a more general comment would be that there still is work to go in terms of Members understanding, the new increased recognition that the Regional Conferences do have in relation to FAO's governance oversight.

I think based on comments that I have heard from participants at various Regional Conferences that perhaps this series of Regional Conferences were an improvement on past ones both in terms of structure but also the heightened engagement of Member Countries in the Conferences. From my experience in dealing with the development of the Agenda for the Asia Pacific Regional Conference, I feel there is still a significant way to go in the organization of the Conferences, the interaction between the Regional Offices, Headquarters and Member Countries in the structuring and development of the Agenda for these Conferences and that would obviously be very much informed

by everybody having a common understanding of the purpose of Regional Conferences and having an active dialogue along those lines.

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

We in turn wish to thank the Members of the Review Team for having briefly presented the way in which this review is progressing. They've also put some very interesting questions that we'd like to react to but we'd also like to react somewhat later, if we may. For the time being, we would like to briefly observe that in our view, in the course of this review, there should be focus on the evaluation of the impact of the reform that was implemented, impact on the work of the Organization without establishing a task of launching a new reform process.

Furthermore, as part of this review, I think that the issue of measures also needs to be tackled, measures which were not able to be implemented as part of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal. We believe that this review will be a very significant contribution to debates in the 2015 Conference, debates which will pertain to the effectiveness of reform that was implemented for governance.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We don't have any prepared remarks. I just wanted to respond briefly to the nature of the questions that you proposed and I think it's been amply demonstrated by the responses you have had so far that on such complex issues spontaneity is not a hallmark of the Council. Even on some simpler questions, it is not in general the practice. We are a deliberative and deliberate Body so in many cases that is the most useful way to proceed but in cases of engaging in a conversation, it makes it more difficult.

Just on the nature of the Regional Group presence. Of course our Regional Group is very small. Its only two Members, but even so, we do make use of the Regional Group in many ways for almost a division of labour purpose. I think you have also seen this in the comments that have been given to you under this item. The coordinating role of the Regional Groups is very active on Council agenda items and there is a facility that is offered through the Regional Groups providing a broader range of use that might be possible if it was just up to each Member State to do so. So it may be more complicated and we certainly had our colleagues who are in larger Regional Groups indicate that it can arrive – take some time to arrive at common views but it is useful in many ways to them and to us when they do arrive at those views.

Ms Maxine OLSON (Member of the Review Team)

We realize that we provided a lot of questions which are ones that engage us very much and we wanted to put them out there and see what we got from that. We will certainly consult with the Chair as to how we might make those available in a format that you could consider further and then provide any kind of feedback that you would like to us as we go by.

Let me make a distinction between the questionnaire which you have received electronically, and we will certainly check in terms of the responses in the case of Eritrea to make sure that they are being well received and that the mechanics of the questionnaire are working well. That is a different set of questions, of course that are rather more clear-cut than the kinds that we have raised this afternoon, but both are very valuable to us and so it will be very useful to get what it is that would be possible from that.

And as we said before, we are very much open to small group discussion or one on one discussion once you have had a chance to be able to look at these questions and consult as you find appropriate, more extensively.

Ms Nadia HIJAB (Member of the Review Team)

I would just like to say that these are informal questions, not formal questions that need to be discussed more formally with Capitals. Just to clarify the nature of our questions, this is to give you a sense of our thinking so far and the issues that have come up for us to date and, as Maxine said, we will see how we can make those available to you tomorrow but we did want to put those out there just to give a sense of the issues that we are struggling with.

We will get a lot more data from the actual questionnaire and also we have a lot more information from our interviews that we have had with you already and just to remind that we will present our preliminary findings and conclusions to you in September.

I think we have both taken very careful notes of all of the points that you have been able to make already which are very valuable to us.

CHAIRPERSON

Today there have been very prompt questions by the Members on the Independent Review of Governance Reforms. The Review Team was able to answer to some of them today, but for some other they need more time to reflect on them and will probably come back on them tomorrow or directly to the Members in the course of this week.

As we have come to the end of item 10, I want to draw my conclusions as follows :

The Council noted that the Independent Chairperson of the Council had convened two Informal Meetings of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups, in February and May 2014, to discuss the Independent Review. The Council further noted that a discussion paper had been presented to Members in May setting out details of the methodology followed.

The Council appreciated the Independent Review team's Progress Report, which outlined the activities undertaken, including participation in the Regional Conferences and sessions of Council Committees, as well as the main themes to be looked into by the Review Team.

The Council appreciated the opportunity to interact informally with the Independent Review Team in session, over a range of issues including the functioning of Regional Conferences, the relationship between FAO Governing Bodies and the role of the Conference.

The Council noted that a third Informal Meeting of Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups would be convened on 9 September 2014 to discuss the preliminary findings and conclusions of the Independent Review, and looked forward to receiving the draft report at its 150th Session in December 2014.

These are my conclusions on item 10.

I thank the Review Team and Council Members for their willingness and interest in this subject because it is very important as we look for improvements in the work of FAO.

Ladies and Gentleman, that brings us to the end of this afternoon's meeting.

I wish to remind Members of the Side Event hosted by Morocco starting at 18.30 in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

We will resume our work tomorrow morning at 09.30 hours sharp.

The meeting rose at 18:18 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 18

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.18

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Forty-ninth Session Cent quarante-neuvième session 149.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-20 June 2014 Rome, 16-20 juin 2014 Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014</p>
<p>THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>17 June 2014</p>

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.36 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 9.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 6. Report of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee (26-30 May 2014)**Point 6. Rapport de la cent quinzième session du Comité du Programme (26-30 mai 2014)****Tema 6. Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa (26-30 de mayo de 2014)**
(CL 149/5; CL 149/LIM/6)**CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, I declare the Third Meeting of the 149th Session of the FAO Council open.

The first item on the agenda this morning is Item 6, *Report of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee (26-30 May 2014)*. The documents before Council are CL 149/5 and CL 149/LIM/6.

May I remind Council of the procedure we agreed upon at the start of yesterday morning's meeting when examining the reports of the Programme Committee, Finance Committee and their Joint Meeting. Accordingly, Members should reserve their comments on the topic Progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 until we reach item 5, *Report of the Joint Meeting*. As agreed yesterday, this will help focus our debate and avoid repetition.

I now invite Ambassador Cecilia Nordin, Chairperson of the Programme Committee, to introduce the Report.

Ms Cecilia Nordin Van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I think we can have a good exchange on what I and my Committee find are extremely important and interesting subjects.

I would also like to thank the Members of the Programme Committee on this. It is very clear that they are very experienced, well-tempered, enjoying good communication skills with their Regional groups, so we have had very interesting discussions. We also thank the Evaluators, which have produced good Reports. Our thanks go to the Secretariat and Management who have answered the recommendations in a frank and open way. Many thanks to the interpreters as well, who have made our discussions possible.

As you know, and also the Chair has just reminded us, the item on the Medium Term Plan will be set aside until we come to item 5 to speak only once on each item. I hope the consultants for the IPA Reform on Governing Bodies have noted that we are trying to be efficient.

We had two Evaluations to look at that hung together in a way. Those are the last two Regional Evaluations and it was the Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific. As I said, it was a well-crafted evaluation and it was clear.

The Programme Committee agreed that Decentralization be considered as a tool, which must be adapted to the Member Nations' changing situations and needs, so a regular review is necessary to meet the targets.

There needs to be good working cooperation among Offices at all levels: global, regional and national. Staff moral and capacity enhancement are important points that need to be taken into consideration for a successful Decentralization process and successful delivery. Staff must be able to absorb changes. And I am sorry to say again that the gender issue requires to be further worked on to be fully integrated.

When it comes to the Country Programming Frameworks, these show a promising start but they must be formulated and implemented together by all stakeholders.

One suggestion that was made was the use of Inter-Ministerial Groups to work with a formulation. That had worked well.

As for the Small Island Developing States, they need special attention in Asia and the Pacific because of their vulnerability and their very special conditions. We also advised stronger reinforced partnerships and enhanced South-South Cooperation, which we have also heard the Director-General talking about several times.

With regard to the evaluation of FAO Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Latin America and the Caribbean, we really liked this assessment. We found it to be of high value, because there was an appraisal of effectiveness and efficiency that you might like to look at to see if something could be further enhanced and used.

We also considered the Management response to be good and we appreciated that related work had already started to implement the recommendations. We made the same remarks concerning the Decentralization, that it has to be adapted to Member Nations' changing situations and needs and also the cooperation among Offices at all levels.

Besides, the CPFs need full involvement of concerned Ministries as well as participation of Civil Society and Private Sector. One particularity in Latin America is the many middle income countries, which they must be assisted to fulfill their South-South cooperation role.

In that regard, there is again a need for a proactive approach to fully incorporate Gender into the Country Programme Frameworks.

Finally, concerning these two recommendations, we looked forward to the synthesis document that will be prepared for the Conference next year. This document should bring together experiences and lessons learned from the Regional Evaluations with an eye fixed on the future. We would particularly like to see Decentralization and Gender in this synthesis document. We suggested that the synthesis be accompanied by a document detailing Management's efforts to improve its work. That concludes the Regional Evaluations.

Then, we had an extremely interesting assessment on FAO's role in the support of Crop Production. It was an honest and interesting evaluation, which brought a very good discussion in the Committee.

The Committee was of the opinion that FAO needs to consider its comparative advantage and balance its work on Global, Regional and Local levels. We underlined that these levels are interdependent. The Organization must preserve its position as an honest broker and provide a discussion forum for all stakeholders in line with guidance from Member Nations.

It must also actively monitor and follow scientific development as these are vital to production and sustainability as well as its outreach Programme. We strongly encourage building up more strategic partnerships and also we advised that the need for technical expertise at local level should carefully balance with the need to preserve a critical technical mass at global level. In this regard, the importance of Gender to be fully integrated was again underlined.

As you know, these Evaluations are not useless as the recommendations are made and then we just leave them ineffective. No, we have follow-ups at regular intervals. This time we had three follow-ups. We had one on FAO's work on Land Tenure, Rights and Access to Land where we were happy to note that the Voluntary Guidelines are now the framework within which FAO works on this important area.

The Voluntary Guidelines are now integrated into all aspects of FAO work. We also underlined the importance of further including them into the Committee of Food Security work, such as the Agenda for Action. Moreover, we encouraged the Organization to further increment its resource mobilization efforts in order to implement the VGGT.

Furthermore, we had the follow-up on the Evaluation of FAO's role and work in Food and Agriculture Policy. This is a critical area, which is part of FAO's core mandate. Solid policies are the basis for development, as it is building up partnerships.

In addition, we thought that the establishment of Multi-Disciplinary Teams is a vital point to avoid fragmentation. We supported further efforts to build, implement and impact an accountability culture, for which we also underlined the importance of reinforcing resources for this work as it has been done.

Finally, we had the follow-up on the evaluation FAO's response to the 2010 floods in Pakistan. It was an excellent Report. We endorsed the efforts made and we encourage FAO to continue its efforts to

build disaster and resilience systems. We underscored the importance of staff capacity and a correct skill combination.

I hope this has been very interesting to you because it is not over, as you will have another chance in November. We will be meeting from 3 to 7 November and as documents are progressively being delivered earlier, everybody will have a chance to read them and talk to their delegations in order for the Programme Committee to have good discussions.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux recommandations et conclusions du Rapport de la cent-quinzième session du Comité du Programme, nous nous félicitons des suites données aux évaluations des activités de la FAO en matière de régimes fonciers, de politiques alimentaires et agricoles et celles relatives au rôle joué par la FAO à l'appui de la production végétale, et nous sommes satisfaits de la qualité de ces rapports. Nous prenons également note des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations de ces évaluations.

Le Groupe Afrique invite la FAO à inscrire la question des régimes fonciers dans le programme de développement pour l'après 2015, à intégrer davantage ces directives dans les travaux du CSA et à intensifier les efforts de mobilisation des ressources en vue de renforcer les capacités des États Membres, notamment ceux de la région Afrique. Nous invitons également la FAO à continuer à mettre en œuvre des actions de suivi en réponse aux recommandations de l'évaluation en matière de politiques alimentaires et agricoles en s'appuyant sur les transformations en cours, ainsi que sur l'évaluation 2013 du rôle de la FAO en matière d'investissement pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, l'agriculture et le développement rural. Le Groupe Afrique invite la FAO à poursuivre son action relative au renforcement des capacités dans l'élaboration de politiques de la FAO au niveau du Siège et des pays.

Concernant l'évaluation du rôle joué par la FAO en appui de la production végétale, le Groupe Afrique met l'accent sur l'importance des recommandations dégagées de cette évaluation, notamment celles relatives à la nécessité de l'implication de la FAO dans le renforcement des politiques nationales et internationales dans ce domaine, dans la mise en place d'un partenariat stratégique, et la promotion du rôle des technologies pour relever les défis de l'agriculture durable.

Enfin, le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux recommandations et conclusions des évaluations des bureaux régionaux de l'Asie et de l'Amérique Latine et celles de l'intervention menée par la FAO en réponse aux inondations de 2010 au Pakistan.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

Could you please give the floor to Greece as the Presidency of the European Union?

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Observer for Greece)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States.

The candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We note with satisfaction the good discussions in the Programme Committee. These are based on thorough, qualitative evaluations along with clear Management responses, which are vital in enabling the Committee to formulate forward-looking, useful recommendations.

As the last two evaluations of Regional and Sub-Regional Offices have now been finalised, it is clear that there will be common conclusions to draw from all five. We therefore anticipate a clear and well-structured synthesis paper which will identify critical issues common to all regions, especially as concerns decentralization and gender. As the paper will be an important tool for Management when planning future activities, we also look forward to Management's views on how to tackle these issues. We expect these papers in good time before the Committee's spring meeting in 2015 to allow for maximum participation of Members.

The evaluation of FAO's role in crop production again brought to the fore some perennial but nonetheless crucial questions for FAO: what are the Organisation's core mandate and unique features? How can FAO as a trusted knowledge provider find the best balance between delivering excellent global public goods and providing field level assistance, without overstretching and suffering in quality? And how can FAO find the best balance between technical expertise requirements in areas such as production in the field and preserving a critical mass at the global level?

Additionally, we agree with the Committee that FAO needs to keep up to date with science-based technology in order to provide well-balanced information to its Members, while preserving FAO's important role as a neutral broker and discussion forum.

For the three follow-ups to evaluations discussed in 2012, we would like to emphasize that the monitoring of implementation of evaluation recommendations is essential, as is provision of validated update reports. At its meeting in November 2013, the Committee had two very useful independent validation reports – on FAO's work as regards nutrition and also on its work with gender – which contributed greatly to the discussions. We hope to see such validation reports for further follow-up discussions of larger evaluations in the future.

We commend the FAO work done on tenure, rights and access to land and natural resources where the VGGT now provide the framework. We also recognise the importance of FAO work on food and agriculture policy. While we agree with strengthening policy capacity, we underline the need to work in multidisciplinary teams and networks to foster joint action. This would also allow using the Country Programming Frameworks with a view to identifying the necessary policy support. As regards the report on FAO's response to the 2010 floods in Pakistan, we appreciate the excellent work done and encourage FAO to continue its efforts to assist countries in building disaster and resilience systems.

Finally, some common themes run through all the evaluations: the importance of partnerships; the need to search for coherence, i.e. that all staff work in unison; the need to finally give men and women equal opportunities to reach their potential.

We look forward to Management's continued efforts in this regard.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I was going to make four points but I will leave the one on Information Note on FAO Result Chain and Accountability for Delivery to Item 5. So, I will only give three points. I am not going to talk about the Report of the Programme Committee because I am a Member of the Programme Committee so my comments will be slightly different.

Our first point relates to the preparation of the synthesis document by the Office of Evaluation using the findings and recommendations of the five completed evaluations of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices and the Management response the European Union refers to. The Synthesis Report is to be submitted to the 39th Session of FAO Conference in 2015 for its consideration and decision.

The Programme Committee stressed, and the newly appointed Director of Evaluation, Mr Masahiro Igarashi agreed that the Synthesis Report will be forwarded looking with the aim of further strengthening the decentralization process as the major driver in maximizing the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of FAO's engagement at the country level as well strengthening partnership at country and regional level. In short, the further strengthening of decentralization should make FAO "Fit for Purpose", to borrow the term from WFP. The Synthesis Report, apart from consolidating the findings and recommendations of the five evaluations, should also be a consultative process with senior managers at HQ and Decentralized Offices. The recommendations of the Synthesis Report to the Conference should be limited in number, sharply worded, strategic in value and with shape of decentralization in the next Medium Term Plan.

Our second point refers to the progressive improvement in the working of the Programme Committee. The discussions of the Programme Committee are engaging, pleasant and penetrating. Also, the Members of the Committee work well as a team. The Reports of the Programme Committee to the

Council are concise and focused and this quality improvement has been registered in the Reports of the Council.

We wish to underscore that this improvement in the workings and outputs of the Programme Committee is much to do with the leadership exercised by the current Chairperson of the Committee, Ms Cecilia Nordin van Gansberghe of Sweden and also to the leadership of the previous Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ms Riikka Laatu of Finland. As a Member of the Programme Committee, we are grateful for their leadership and valuable contributions.

Our third point is our concern about the lack of balance in the distribution of programmatic and evaluation items in the Agenda of the Programme Committee. Over recent years, a greater portion of the time of the Programme Committee has been spent on reviewing the reports of corporate evaluations carried out by the Office of Evaluation and the Management response to this evaluation. In the 115th Session of the Committee in May this year, six out of seven substantive items of the Agenda dealt with evaluation matters.

I say this because Rule XXVI of the Basic Texts and as well as the Rules and Procedures of the Programme Committee which describes the role of the Programme Committee makes no reference to evaluation.

We hope that the two consultants currently undertaking the Independent Review of the Government Reform will examine this issue in depth. The Programme Committee itself could also review this matter in consultation with the Secretariat.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ecuador realiza esta intervención en representación del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe.

Acogemos el Informe del 115.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa y sus recomendaciones respecto a los temas abordados en dicha reunión, y al propio tiempo queremos realizar algunos comentarios sobre los siguientes aspectos: de conformidad con el pedido que nos hizo el Presidente relativo a los progresos realizados del Plan a plazo medio, lo haremos más adelante, y quiero referirme a las evaluaciones de las oficinas regionales y subregionales de América Latina y el Caribe y de Asia y Pacífico. Estas evidencian que, si bien ha habido progresos importantes desde el inicio del proceso de descentralización y el uso de los marcos de programación por países, existen todavía muchas debilidades en cuanto a la descentralización, como por ejemplo la desconexión que tienen las oficinas nacionales en ese proceso de descentralización, o que en el ámbito del Programa de Cooperación Técnica, la descentralización no ha logrado llevar las decisiones y responsabilidades al nivel de los programas en los países, para citar solo dos de las conclusiones de esas evaluaciones.

La debilidad que tiene todavía el proceso de descentralización requiere una urgente atención. Reconocemos que estas evaluaciones corresponden al desempeño de las oficinas regionales, en el contexto de otro marco estratégico y visión de la Organización, y que en estos últimos dos años muchas acciones han sido tomadas para fortalecer la descentralización. Sin embargo, es fundamental que, tomando en cuenta las conclusiones de las evaluaciones se logre, sin afectar la capacidad de la sede, una verdadera descentralización. Hay que potenciar la capacidad y autonomía de las oficinas regionales, especialmente la de las oficinas nacionales. Estas últimas deben tener un reconocimiento central en el proceso de descentralización. Solo con una Organización descentralizada se alcanzarán en el terreno los objetivos de la FAO.

Queremos igualmente reconocer que la evaluación de las oficinas regionales y subregionales de América Latina y el Caribe demuestran el reconocimiento de la región a la labor de la FAO. El importante aumento de la presencia y actividades de la FAO en la región así como el aumento de la movilización de recursos de los propios países de la región evidencian el grado de confianza en el trabajo de la Organización.

Igualmente resaltamos de las conclusiones de la evaluación el alto potencial que América Latina y el Caribe, como región fundamentalmente de países de ingresos medios, tiene en materia de Cooperación Sur-Sur, al igual que lo tienen otras regiones, así como la necesidad de fortalecer el trabajo de la FAO en este campo.

El GRULAC quiere solicitar que la Organización inicie un análisis sobre las potencialidades y desafíos de la labor de la FAO en los países de ingresos medios.

Finalmente, el GRULAC respalda la recomendación del Comité del Programa relativa a la necesidad de que, una vez que ya se han terminado las evaluaciones de las oficinas regionales, se prepare un documento que reúna las conclusiones y hallazgos comunes en cuanto a las debilidades en materia de descentralización, y que incluya las medidas adicionales que tomará la Administración para fortalecer el proceso de descentralización con miras a su presentación al Consejo en su próximo período de sesiones.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

With regard to the Committee meetings, we will be extremely brief in our intervention here. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Chair of the Programme Committee on the excellent handling of the Committee itself. We would also like to congratulate the Evaluation Office on the completion of the Evaluation Study of all of the Regional Offices. We look forward to receiving a focused, synthesized report of the five Regional Evaluation studies highlighting the common areas of concern and the management's views thereon.

However, we wish to make two small comments for consideration of the Membership and perhaps for further discussion in the appropriate *fora*. Both of these comments are linked to the findings from the Evaluation on FAO's Role in Support of Crop Production.

The first point relates to the need for FAO to ensure a critical mass of technical knowledge and expertise at the global level, despite the requirement to continue our Decentralization efforts. India feels that this is extremely important, as our experience tells us that Country and Regional Offices have often struggled to produce research and guidance that National Governments find useful for policy making. The central FAO cooperation with the country has remained the liaison between the National Office and Headquarters in Rome. We, therefore, believe that critical mass of technical expertise at Headquarters is a must. Perhaps, further deliberation in this regard would be useful.

The second point, which in a way relates to the first, regards FAO's global level work with its local Programmes. The Evaluation Study on Crop Production calls for a greater emphasis on global public goods. In response to this call, Management has noted the obligation to maintain a balance between Global Policy Work and Local Programmes.

The word balance sometimes can be quite odd, because I find the term somehow too subjective. What is balance? Is it 40/60, 50/50, 30/70, 60/40? I do not know. So, we feel that the concept of balance must be translated into a quantitative figure. There should be a consensus amongst Member Countries and with Management on the percentage of funds that FAO spends at the global level and the percentage of funds that it would like to spend at the local community level.

There is no suggestion on figures, but I believe that when we say balance, there should be some clear thinking, some clear idea as to what we are talking about when we say balance between global work and community work.

With these comments, we endorse the report.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

I would like to make a comment on the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices focusing on the Asian and Pacific Regional Office.

First of all, we would like to praise the Regional Offices that have come to play greater roles. This is well illustrated with the formation of the Regional initiatives as a result of Decentralization to respond more thoroughly to the Regional needs.

Now that more meetings are organized at Regional level than before, I must point out in this regard that the meeting at Regional level should be well planned and operated in an efficient manner, so that they do not put extra burden on Member Countries.

Finally, Japan fully supports the Programme Committee's evaluation outcome of FAO Regional Office for the Asia and Pacific written in paragraph 5(e) of the text which can be read, stressing the importance of a timely and substantial engagement by the Regional Office.

As a whole, we would like to praise the activities of the Regional Office of the Asian Pacific Region lead by Mr Konuma and his team.

Sra. Fabiola MENDOZA YAMAUI (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece a la Presidenta del Comité del Programa por la presentación del documento CL 149/5, sobre el 115.º período de sesiones del Comité del Programa. En particular queríamos referirnos a los literales f) y j) del párrafo 4. En primer lugar, respaldamos la declaración de Ecuador en nombre del GRULAC.

Sin embargo, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela desea expresar que no se tendría ninguna objeción en que el Consejo tome en cuenta las aportaciones de la Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte de todas las demás conferencias, siempre y cuando las mismas sean coherentes con las posiciones adoptadas por nuestro país en los diferentes foros de debate internacional, y en los diferentes convenios internacionales en los que es parte, sobre los temas vinculados a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, la agricultura, medio ambiente, cambio climático, pesca, mares y océanos, transgénicos, biotecnología, tecnología, propiedad intelectual, aspectos comerciales y de desarrollo, entre otros temas, por considerar que existen aspectos de la política exterior venezolana que son diferentes al enfoque que tienen los países norteamericanos. Todo esto está evidenciado en la diferencia existente en aspectos tales como la producción y el comercio agrícolas.

Por otra parte, deseamos exhortar a este honorable Consejo que a objeto de lograr una posición de mayor igualdad cuando se haga referencia a la temática mencionada en el literal j) del párrafo 4 del documento CL 149/5, se haga referencia a todas las conferencias regionales con sus correspondientes denominaciones.

Asimismo, pedimos a este digno Consejo evaluar la creación de un mecanismo que permita que el Consejo considere todas las aportaciones de las diferentes conferencias regionales, como corresponde, sin perjuicio de los programas e implementación de políticas de las demás regiones.

Por último, queríamos tomar nota de que en el Informe de su 115.º período de sesiones, el Comité del Programa pidió a este 149.º período de sesiones del Consejo hacer suyas las conclusiones de su Informe, así como sus recomendaciones sobre los asuntos comprendidos en su mandato.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We welcome the report of the Programme Committee and support its conclusions and recommendations. We also welcome the evaluations carried out and we find them valuable not only because they assist the Governing Bodies in their oversight functions, but they are also an important mechanism from a lessons learned aspect.

We acknowledge the excellent follow-up on the Evaluation of FAO's Response to the Floods in Pakistan and also thank FAO for the assistance it provided.

I have one comment on the evaluations, particularly the one which refers to the Regional and Sub-regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; there is no reference to what I am going to say in the Programme Committee's report because probably the issues concerned are more relevant to the Finance Committee.

The evaluation had nine recommendations and management accepted seven of them. One of the ones which it rejected is an important one and it concerns recommendation eight. The evaluation recommended that the HR Officers based in the Regional Offices should be outposted and not belong to the Regional Offices.

I have raised this issue on several occasions because it concerns the basic principles of internal control. An internal control system in every organization ensures the orderly functions and operations of its activities.

Yesterday in discussing the decentralized offices, almost all Members made reference to internal controls when decentralizing. In this case, the Evaluation Report's recommendation I,s in addressing this important aspect which impacts on the system of internal control, in the delivery of the HR functions.

The basic principle of any internal control system is the segregation of duties and functions between those people who are responsible for discharging programmatic functions and those discharging fiduciary functions.

The HR Officers in the Regional Offices are discharging fiduciary functions. In the case of these HR Officers in the Regional Offices, this segregation of duties and functions does not exist because the HR Officers are in the budget of the Regional Office. They are staff members of the Regional Office and they report to the Regional Representative.

There is only a secondary reporting line to the Director of HR and I can assure you in past experience, that that secondary reporting line does not function.

In contrast, the finance officers have been outposted. There are other functions which have been outposted. I don't quite understand why there is this exception to the HR Officers who discharge an important fiduciary function. Why are they not outposted when every other function, the fiduciary ones, are?

Mr Richard OLIVER (Trinidad and Tobago)

My delegation notes the findings of the Programme Committee and concurs with the comments of Ecuador and Venezuela on behalf of the GRULAC Region. We also welcome the evaluation of the FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In particular, Trinidad and Tobago appreciates the value of monitoring the effectiveness of FAO's work based on Country Programming Frameworks. Accordingly, Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the follow-up on the Evaluation of FAO's Role and Work in Food and Agriculture's Policy.

This is especially significant to Trinidad and Tobago since we are currently receiving technical assistance from FAO in formulating a sectorial policy for our agriculture covering the period 2014-18. In this regard, Trinidad and Tobago supports the findings of the Programme Committee as well as its recommendations on matters within its mandate.

Mr George DOUVELIS (United States of America)

We would like to thank FAO and the Programme Committee Secretariat and the Chair of the Committee for this report. The United States endorses the Report of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee.

The Programme Committee explored issues arising from numerous independent evaluations and the United States is pleased to see that the independent evaluation process appears to be progressing in a robust and transparent manner.

We believe that independent evaluations serve a critical function in enabling institutions to evolve and improve. We would also like to welcome the new Director of the Evaluation to this position. With this in mind, we must express our concern in the decision by FAO management to not fully accept the recommendations made in the independent evaluation of FAO's role in support of crop production.

This evaluation made several actual recommendations for improvements and changes FAO should consider in order to retain its technical capacity, modernize, and evolve as a forward thinking leader in the agricultural arena.

As it stands, management seems opposed to many of the recommendations made in the evaluation and while we know and accept that there could be challenges in implementing some recommendations, we really urge FAO to act boldly and proactively to ensure the Organization's continued excellence and relevance in crop production.

Finally, we would like to do something that we don't do often do, agree with Dr. Ayazi that the leadership of the Programme Committee Chair has been excellent and that of the Secretariat also.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia would like to focus its intervention on the item on the Programme Committee's report dealing with the evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Asia and the Pacific.

Yesterday Australia highlighted the importance of FAO increasing its focus on assisting Member Countries in the Southwest Pacific, specifically the small island developing states in Papua New Guinea. Australia believes that these Members have in the past not received due attention by FAO relative to the special challenges they face in ensuring food security and nutrition.

We are heartened by the Director-General's recent statements that indicate this needs to change and the evaluation's findings provide valuable advice on what changes need to be made. Australia appreciates the recent progress made by the Sub-regional Office for the Pacific. However, we believe that there is still a long way to go.

As I mentioned yesterday, the evaluation highlights a number of challenges surrounding engagement between FAO and the Southwest Pacific that need to be addressed. These include the need to find a mechanism which allows the Southwest Pacific to effectively contribute to the Regional governance and prioritization process, combatting logistics and costs to enhance effectiveness within current financial resources, noting limited size and geographical location of Pacific Island countries to find common issues for Member Countries of the Asia and Pacific Region and lastly to ensure issues concerning the Pacific small island states are included on relevant Conference agendas.

We encourage FAO to give serious and due consideration to the evaluation team's suggestions for improvements in the operation of RAP and SAP, supporting Southwest Pacific Members. Just because these countries are not able to be present in Rome on a permanent basis and that there are significant challenges operating in the Pacific does not mean that these countries should be ignored.

Later in the week, in line with previous practice, I will have the honour of presenting informally to the Council on the FAO Permanent Representative Field Visit to the Southwest Pacific Region. This field visit which involved participation of Representatives from five FAO Regions had the pleasure of talking to FAO staff, national governments, and other stakeholders in three countries in the Pacific Islands, namely Fiji, Samoa, and Solomon Islands.

The observations of the field visit are in alignment with the number of the findings of the formal Evaluation Report pertaining to FAO's operations in the Southwest Pacific.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

J'aimerais concentrer mon intervention sur deux points.

Le premier concerne l'évaluation du rôle joué par la FAO à l'appui de la production végétale. Nous nous félicitons de cette évaluation qui met en évidence des aspects importants, positifs mais aussi négatifs, de l'activité de la FAO dans le domaine de la production végétale. Nous nous félicitons également de la réponse de la Direction.

Nous sommes toutefois préoccupés par la perte de qualité technique et de la diminution de la masse critique au Siège.

Pour mon pays, il est de première importance de maintenir une masse critique au Siège pour la production végétale, mais aussi de manière beaucoup plus générale pour l'ensemble des activités de la FAO. Selon nous, la priorité doit aller aux activités normatives au détriment des activités de terrain. Nous sommes également satisfait du fait que la Direction accepte sans réserves les recommandations 4, 6 et 8 de l'excellente évaluation, notamment la recommandation quatre qui demande à la FAO d'établir une véritable stratégie en matière de ressources humaines à moyen et long terme qui soit directement liée à la théorie du changement.

Mon deuxième point concerne la suite donnée à l'évaluation des activités de la FAO en matière de régimes fonciers. La Suisse constate avec satisfaction que les Directives volontaires sont intégrées dans les travaux de la FAO en tant que thème transversal. Nous souhaitons que la FAO poursuive ses activités de sensibilisation et de collaboration, notamment avec la société civile et le secteur privé,

dans la mise en œuvre des Directives volontaires. Nous aimerions également que la FAO conduise une revue à mi-parcours de son programme de mise en œuvre des Directives volontaires.

Ms Cecilia Nordin Van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I just wanted to say that in my presentation, we always talk about things that can be improved but I was very glad to see that many Members commended the good work already done because much is being done, for instance when it comes to the Pakistan floods. So I shall try and remember that in the future.

I would also like to thank Professor Ayazi who is a very appreciated and longstanding Member of the Programme Committee and he always has constructive and good suggestions. So I think we will try and have a discussion in the Programme Committee about the balance and hopefully to prepare our discussions in November we could make greater use of the web forum that we have for Programme Committee Members. I would like my trusted Finance Committee colleague Mr Médi and the Secretariat comment on Pakistan's query about the outposting of Human Resources Officers.

I would also like to thank Afghanistan for concurring with the view that the Programme Committee is indeed working well in an open climate, which means that we are happy to look at our proceedings in order to improve them, so I really hope that if you have any constructive advice to give us, we will be very happy to note it. My predecessor Riikka Laatu, she was really an inspiration to me and many others.

On a personal note, I accept Afghanistan's, India's and the United States' very kind words with deep gratitude.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I think Pakistan is right. We had some discussion on the issue of the outposting of HR staff in the Committee because this comes to the element of accountability. I think the process is on, unless the HR Director contradicts what I am saying.

To the best of my knowledge, and I think this was also replied to Pakistan, there are already two outposted HR staff members in the regions and they report directly to the ADG Regional Representative. They are staff assigned at the P4 level, but the recruitment process is ongoing. I think they have taken on board the idea of outposting the HR staff in the region, but I think also the HR Director is sitting behind us here and she can complement what I have just mentioned on this issue, but I know that we have discussed it in the Finance Committee.

Ms Monika ALTMAIER (Director, Office of Human Resources)

Just to complement what Mr Médi just said, we have outposted HR Officers, but the reporting line and budget is with the Regional Offices and not with HR as you well stated. It has not yet been discussed internally how and when to change, so we will have further discussion on that.

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

I have experience from the Regional Office for Africa where you have HR Officers outposted and the reporting line with the ADG is only for technical guidance. They receive guidance, as all the other staff from Headquarters, and accountability is directly linked with the Regional ADG and I can testify that from my own experience.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Perhaps there is a little misunderstanding on the word "outposting". The outposting function is that the Officer belongs to his or her parent division and is outposted from the parent division to the Regional Office. It does not belong to the Regional Office budget. It does not report to the Regional Representative. It reports to his or her parent division just like the finance function is doing.

An HR Officer in the Regional Office who reports to the Regional representative is not an outposted Officer according to the definition of outposting. It is an Officer recruited and placed in the Regional Office reporting to the Regional Representative.

Mr Daniel J. GUSTAFSON (Deputy Director-General, Operations)

I would like to provide some comments on the synthesis paper and, to some extent, on the question of balance.

On the synthesis paper, it is important to remember that the series of five Evaluations of Decentralization at the Regional Offices took place over quite a long time span.

The first one was undertaken in the Near East region, and was reported on in 2011, which is quite a while ago in terms of changes with regard to the Strategic Framework and other Decentralization measures. The sequence of the five evaluations is really a very interesting one, but the synthesis paper will, as many of you have pointed out, need to be forward looking and bring information up to date. In any case, a sort of synthesis can be found in those Reports because a number of changes have of course occurred over the course of those five evaluations and, in fact things continue to change even after the submission of the Report of the last one, in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

With regard to the balance on finances and budget between Headquarters and the field or between Regional Offices and Country Offices and Headquarters, in addition to the balance of Regular Programme funds, it is also important to look at the balance between Voluntary contributions and Regular Programme funds as extra-budgetary project funding are the overwhelming majority of expenditures at the Country Office level.

The balance between Headquarters and field in terms of regular programme is certainly important as India has pointed out. I would also like to highlight the need to look at the Extra-budgetary and Regular Programme balance, which came out very clearly in the Latin America and Caribbean Report and will also be looked at in the synthesis paper.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I think we have come to the end of agenda item 6, and I would like to make my conclusions as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the report of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee.
2. The Council welcomed the evaluations and management responses relating to FAO's Regional and Sub-Regional Offices in Asia and the Pacific, and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and:
 - a) stressed the importance of decentralization efforts thus far, and encouraged further analysis and action, in particular with regard to country coverage;
 - b) recognized the importance of South-South Cooperation activities, including Triangular activities;
 - c) welcomed the use of Country Programming Frameworks;
 - d) encouraged the building of partnerships with regional and sub-regional organizations, inter-governmental bodies, civil society and the private sector;
 - e) looked forward to the synthesis report of the five evaluations of Regional and Sub-Regional Offices, to be submitted to the Conference in 2015;
3. In addition, the Council:
 - a) appreciated the evaluation and management response relating to FAO's role in support of crop production, highlighting the important role of technologies, building strategic partnerships, and the need for balancing technical expertise in the field and at the global level;
 - b) noted the progress of FAO's work relating to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
 - c) recognized the importance of FAO's work in food and agriculture policy, welcoming the use of Country Programming Frameworks, encouraged continued strengthening of policy capacity of the Organization, both at Headquarters and at country level; and
 - d) noted the lessons learned from the excellent FAO response to the 2010 floods in Pakistan, in particular with regard to staff capacities and adequate skill mix in disaster responses.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

En general mi Delegación comparte el resumen que ha realizado solamente en el tema que mencionó con respecto a la Cooperación Sur-Sur y si se pudiera incluir la referencia a los países de ingresos medios, y el pedido que hizo el GRULAC para que se considere un análisis de las potencialidades del trabajo de la FAO en esos países.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. That will be included.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

In relation to your point number two, I suggest an inclusion of a new sub-point on the issue that Australia raised on behalf of the Southwest Pacific that encouraged particular attention by the Organization to challenges faced by the Pacific Island States.

CHAIRPERSON

That will be taken under item two. It is well understood.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I thank Ecuador and Australia because one of our original questions made reference to South-South Cooperation being very general, and I think the additional details provided capture the discussion more accurately.

We also had a question with regard to your final point on the follow-up to the evaluation of the response to the floods in Pakistan. If I heard you correctly, you used the word “excellent” to characterize the response when I think in fact it was used to characterize the Evaluation. If you could just read that out again, perhaps it needs to be corrected.

CHAIRPERSON

I read it as follows: “Noted the lessons learned from the excellent FAO response to the 2010 floods in Pakistan, in particular with regard to staff capacities and adequate skill mix in disaster responses.”

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I think that is actually the issue that I identified. The characterization of excellent was in reference to the follow-up evaluation with which we agree. There were some issues with regard to the response which is why the evaluation was requested. We do fully agree that the lessons learned have been well identified and are being implemented however.

CHAIRPERSON

Then following your suggestions this will read as follows: “Noted the lessons learned from the FAO response to the 2010 floods in Pakistan, in particular with regard to staff capacities and adequate skills mix in disaster responses.”

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We do not have a problem with your summary but, in view of the comments made yesterday by various delegations about the adequacy of internal control in the Decentralized Offices and in view of the comments today and in view of the evaluation Report’s comments on recommendations which impact internal control, I was wondering whether a point could be included in the summary to the effect that this issue of internal control would be looked at or reviewed or any such general word so that management focuses on internal control to see all aspects of it.

CHAIRPERSON

This is not a matter of evaluation and I think we will have it when we look at the work of the Finance Committee.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Would you please give the floor to Greece as the current presidency of the EU and its 28 Member States?

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Observer for Greece)

In our statement, like other Members of the Council, we made reference to the preservation of a critical mass at global level and the best balance of technical capacity between the decentralized Office and Headquarters. We would like to have this reflected in your comments.

CHAIRPERSON

Maybe there was no mention of the expression “critical mass” but I think it is contained in my summary, under point 3(a) which reads as follows: “Appreciated the evaluation and management response relating to FAO’s role in support of crop production, highlighting the important role of technologies, building strategic partnerships, and the need for balancing technical expertise in the field and at the global level.”

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, we fully agree with your summary. There is only one point that I did not properly understand. Under point 2(e), could you add a wording that says that the synthesis will be forward looking?

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. It will be added.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I recognize that the European Union has accepted your summary but I think the point they made is an important one and we wondered if you could add not just a question of balance because you can have balance if there’s one and one.

It is a question of critical mass at Headquarters level for global policy. We would appreciate if you could add that into that line: balance also recognizing the need for maintaining critical mass at global policy work.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, that will be added. I now close this item.

Item 7. Reports of the 152nd (21-22 January 2014), 153rd (12-14 May 2014) and 154th (26-30 May 2014) Sessions of the Finance Committee

Point 7. Rapports des cent cinquante-deuxième (21 et 22 janvier 2014), cent cinquante-troisième (12-14 mai 2014) et cent cinquante-quatrième (26-30 mai 2014) sessions du Comité financier

Tema 7. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 152.º (21 y 22 de enero de 2014), 153.º (12-14 de mayo de 2014) y 154.º (26-30 de mayo de 2014) del Comité de Finanzas
(CL 149/3; CL 149/4; CL 149/11; CL 149/LIM/2)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is item 7, *Reports of the 152nd, 153rd and 154th Sessions of the Finance Committee*. Please ensure you have documents CL 149/3, CL 149/4, CL 149/11, as well as CL 149/LIM/2 regarding the Status of Contributions and Arrears, before you.

Document CL 149/LIM/2 sets out the status of contributions and arrears as at June 2014.

As at 9 June 2014, the Organization had received USD 137.25 million and Euro 93.67 million in respect of 2014 assessments. This represents 51.98 percent of USD assessments and 49.1 percent of Euro assessments.

In 2014, approximately USD 4.73 million were received from Members in full settlement of arrears and USD 51.8 million were received for partial payment of arrears.

As at 9 June 2014, the total 2014 assessed contributions in USD equivalent which remain outstanding are USD 252.93 million. This is lower as compared to the same period in 2013, when the figure was USD 265.16 million.

While total arrears have dropped significantly to 7.8 percent of current assessments, 55 Member Nations still have arrears outstanding from 2013 and previous years.

There is no decision to be made on this point, but the Council is invited to emphasize the importance for all Member Nations to honour their financial obligations to the Organization in order to enable it to continue to fulfil its mandate.

I now invite Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI, Chairperson of the Finance Committee to introduce this item.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Today, I am pleased to present the Report of the 152nd, 153rd and 154th sessions of the Finance Committee.

As the Chairperson mentioned, these Reports are submitted to the Council on documents CL 149/3, CL 149/4 and CL 148/11. In addition, document CL 149/LIM/2 has been prepared to provide the Council with an update on the status of contribution in arrears as of 9 June 2014.

While the 154th session dealt with FAO issues, the 152th and 153rd sessions were special sessions convened to deal with the above few matters. Our Reports on the above few matters have been submitted to the above Executive Boards for their consideration and this was done during the first session and the Annual Session of the Board this year.

As agreed, I will therefore not come back to those Reports.

In a concurring opinion with the independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you the highlights of the Report of the 154th session of the Finance Committee.

I want to notify that given the heavy agenda of the Report and our intention to be exhaustive, please bear with us if the Report looks a bit long. The Report covers five broad areas, namely: monitoring, financial position, budgetary matters, human resources and Strategic Information System Framework and oversight. In addition, the Report also addressed improved measures of work and efficiency of the Committee and other matters.

Now, let us discuss the monitoring and financial position. In reviewing the financial position of the Organization, the Committee noted that while the liquidity position of the Organization at the 31st December 2013 had improved compared to December 2011, its ongoing cash flow was dependent on a timely payment of the two 2014 assessed contributions. It then urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contribution to ensure that FAO continue to meet our position, the operating cash requirement for the Programme of Work.

Observing the significant value of contribution reported, as received in advance from extra budgetary donors that amounted to USD 706 million at the end of 2013, the Committee requested the Secretariat to provide further information and analysis of its budgetary contributions, when a financial proposal of definitions to future sessions of the Committee was presented.

The Committee reviewed the 2013 Actuarial Evaluation of Staff Related Liabilities and noted the results of the evaluation, together with the further information provided by the Secretariat on the possibilities to address the funding gap and After Service Medical Coverage liabilities.

The Committee requested the Secretariat an Informal Meeting of the Committee be scheduled where the options could be discussed in greater details, including related information on the ongoing discussions with the United Nations System on this matter.

The Committee reviewed the Report on Investment 2013 and remarked a positive performance of the short-term and long-term investment portfolios during 2013. The Committee appreciated the solid

governance arrangement in place for investment and concurred with that. So, it encouraged the Secretariat to continue its prudent investment approach for the short-term investment portfolio.

The Committee considered the effectiveness and cost of administering the incentive scheme to promote the prompt payment of contributions, including a review of the part of the scheme on collation rates of assessed contributions over the past 12 years.

The Committee concluded that the incentive scheme did not have an impact on promoting prompt payment of contributions and was not cost effective. Therefore, it recommended that the Council propose to the 39th Session of the Conference that the scheme be abolished.

The Committee endorsed a proposed Conference Resolution putting in place a new procedure regarding the reservation of voting rights to involve the Finance Committee and the Council, prior to consideration by the General Committee of the Conference. As always, the Committee has endorsed this resolution following a technical analysis of the merits of the resolution under the limit of its mandate.

In this regard, I would highlight that the procedure described in the Draft Resolution is a technical measure and the Conference would continue to exercise its prerogatives as the ultimate decision making body on matters related to the reservation of voting rights.

With regard to budgetary matters, the Committee reviewed the Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and the Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2012-13 biennium. It took note of the final 2012-2013 budgetary outcome based on audited accounts of the Organization.

The Committee approved the final Budgetary Transfer and supports chapter 11, USD 1.4 million, and chapter 13, USD 8.4 million distinguished from chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 12 as shown in the Annex 2 of the report you have in front of you.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed the focused chapter distribution for 2014-14 budgetary appropriation of USD 1,005.6 million, arising from the preparation of Biennial Work Plans and Efficiencies.

The Committee sought and received clarification on the realignment of resources to results and support functions in the final stage of Work Planning. Then, it recommended that lessons learned from the planning should be taken into account in preparing budgetary questions in the next PWB.

The Committee took into consideration the implementation by the Secretariat of the measures approved by the General Assembly at its current session in the context of the ongoing ICSC Review of the UN Common System Staff Composition Package. In the light of that, it recognized the importance of engagement by Members with the United Nations General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission in order to achieve meaningful containment of staff costs at FAO.

The Committee reviewed and gave an update of the development of a comprehensive financial framework for the cost recovery. It welcomed the latest information received on developments in addressing support on cost issues in the UN system and the identification of FAO specific financial, administrative, and operational issues.

The Committee endorsed in principle, the aim, assumptions and principles of the initiative and look forward to reviewing the final concept of implementation at its next regular session.

With regard to Human Resources, the Committee considered the progress made on the implementation of the Human Resources Action Plan for both the previous and current biennium and the Human Resources Strategic Framework for 2014-15 and 2016.

The Committee welcomed the new Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan, and it took note with satisfaction of the progress made on the Human Resources initiatives. It therefore encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to reform and modernize Human Resources Management in the Organization.

As for the Administrative Information Systems Framework, the Committee reviewed a progress report on the Global Resource Management Programme related to the progress made during the period September 2013 to March 2014 plans for the period from April to September 2014.

The Committee reiterated the importance of the successful implementation of the Global Resource Management System in 2013 and noted the ongoing work to ensure stability of the system to meet enhanced business process requirements and to address and identify risks and challenges.

The Committee observed that activities to support the IPSAS implementations were on track and requested that Management provide strong oversight to ensure that risk of delivery were duly administrated.

As regards the oversight, the Committee considered four separate reports in its review of oversight matters. They were the 2013 Annual Report on the Office of the Inspector General, recalling the Director-General's comments, the 2013 Report of the FAO Audit Committee together with the Director-General's comments, the 2013 Annual Report of the Ethics Committee, and the Progress Report on Accountability and Internal Control Framework.

The Committee examined the 2013 Annual Report of the Office of the Inspector General, noting that the work of the Office of the Inspector General presented was really relevant and a useful tool for the management and governance of the Organization. The Committee underlined the importance of the appropriate resourcing and capacity in the Office of the Inspector General.

The Committee noticed the positive response of the Director-General to the report and underscored the importance of strengthening internal control in the Organization, in particular in relation to the Decentralized Offices Network.

The Committee reviewed the FAO Audit Committee 2013 Annual Report to the Director-General, including the Representation provided by the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

The Committee acknowledges the important role of the FAO Audit Committee in providing an independent statement and advice, and it expressed satisfaction with the FAO Audit Committee advice. In particular, its advice on the internal control environment of the Organization and implementation of internal audit recommendations.

The Committee welcomed the Director-General's concurrence with the recommendations presented in the report, and advised that management give special focus on actions to improve the performance of the Decentralized Offices in view of the results of the Inspector General's audit and the observation of the Audit Committee in this regard.

The Committee endorsed the Director-General's commitment to extend the term of the Audit Committee's Carolyn Dittmeier for three more years, and that Ms Enery Quinones and Mr Verasak Liengsrirawat are appointed as members of the FAO Audit Committee for an initial period of three years.

The Finance Committee examined and approved the 2013 Annual Report of the Ethics Committee. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the Financial Disclosure Programme and noted the proposal for an increased cooperation among Rome Based Agencies in the implementation of the mentioned Programme.

The Committee noted that its determination as to whether the Ethics Committee should be established on a permanent basis or its *modus operandi* re-examined would be made in due course. The Committee considered the progress made on accountability, risk management, and internal control and made attention to the completion of the Risk Enterprises Management Project.

The Committee reinforced the critical importance for the Organization to have a strong, effective accountability and internal control framework and it encouraged FAO to continue building risk awareness and internal control through the Organization. It highlighted the importance of these measures in the delegation of authority through the Decentralized Offices.

Concerning the improvement towards work and efficiency of the Finance Committee, the Committee agreed to amend its existing rules of procedure relating to the Vice Chairperson of the Committee,

thereby reducing the number of elections required to take place during the Committee's terms of Office. The amendment of this rule to the existing one, please see paragraph one, is presented in paragraph 43 of the report in front of you.

As for other matters, the Committee considered a request by the Italian government that the Offices of its Permanent Representation to the United Nations based in Rome be located within the premises of FAO. The Committee expressed its gratitude for the unfailing support that the Government of Italy as host country had extended to the Organization over the years and recognized its need to move its Permanent Representation to a more cost effective location.

The Committee requested the views of the CCLM on a range of legal issues raised during the discussions and agreed to re-analyse the request in the Autumn session of 2014 in light of the views of the CCLM and of any relevant additional information available at the time.

In conclusion, on the whole the sessions of the Committee were very productive. In particular, I believe that it was possible to address a number of important issues facing the Organization and the Agenda of the Committee was eloquent in this regard.

On behalf of the entire membership of the Committee, I would like to extend our appreciation to the Secretariat for its assistance with a special thank you to the Secretary, Mr David McSherry and all of his team because they facilitated our deliberations.

I would also like to extend our gratitude to the Member Nations of FAO for providing us with the opportunity to assist the progress of the important work of the Organization. I will be pleased at this point in time to provide any further explanation you may have regarding our report.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt) (Original Language Arabic)

I am delivering this statement on behalf of the Near East Group. We would like to extend our thanks to the Director-General for his strategic views concerning the achievement of the five Strategic Objectives of the Organization. We would like to pay tribute to Mr Médi for his able leadership of the Finance Committee and we should like to lay emphasis on the following points.

First, while we welcome the improvement in the liquidity situation of the Organization at the end of 2013, we nevertheless would like to stress the importance of the full payment of assessed contributions by the Member Countries in order to allow FAO to implement its Programme of Work and implement its Strategic Objectives.

Secondly, our group would like to stress the importance of the technical cooperation programmes as approved by the General Conference. These programmes should be fully aligned with the needs of the Member Nations.

Thirdly, we would like to support the recommendations of the Finance Committee to abolish the system of incentives. This, because we consider that this scheme was not efficient; however, we would like to request the Secretariat to submit a possible creative set of measures in order to encourage Member Nations to pay their contributions in due time.

In addition, we would like to take note of the measures taken by the Organization to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency savings. However, this should not be done to the detriment of the Objectives and mandate of the Organization. We would like to welcome the new Human Resources Framework of the Organization.

We believe that the Human Resource System should be updated and geographical distribution should be ensured when recruitment is done. Furthermore, we believe that Regional Offices and Sub-regional Offices should be given the necessary support to promote their performance.

We would also like to point out the importance of South-South cooperation. We believe that the Organization can play a vital role in promoting the transfer of technology and the cooperation between Member Nations.

Finally, we would like to support the recommendations of the Finance Committee. We would like to pay tribute to the Inspector General's recommendations, particularly the internal control issues and

the need to supervise and inspect activities of the field Offices and would like to pay tribute to the Director-General in this connection.

Ms María Laura DA ROCHA (Brazil)

The Brazilian Delegation wishes to commend the leadership of the President of the Finance Committee who has led the hard work and the heavy agenda of the Committee with great serenity, knowledge and experience. Mr Médi, thank you.

I would limit the intervention to a few points which are representative of the work done so far.

First, the information provided by the Secretariat. The documents are very detailed and precise. They reflect the directions gave by the Director-General in the sense of transparency and provide all the data the Committee needs to exercise its oversight functions. The quality of the documents has indeed improved and the need for supplementary information has decreased.

Second, the information provided in the human resources domain is a clear picture of the planning and execution of this core functions. The work done is in line with the directions given by the Members in area which is responsible for three-quarters of the regular budget of FAO, and key in an Organization which has the knowledge as one of its main assets.

Third, the internal control mechanisms. The interventions by the Office of the Inspector-General appointed issues which need corrections and adjustments which have been adopted and implemented by the Management. The independence of the Office is commendable and my Delegation supports the assurance of the necessary means to the exercise of this important function.

One point that still raises concerns is the rising liabilities due to the After Service Medical Costs Coverage. My Delegation fully appreciates that this is a systemic issue that affects the whole UN System and that a solution to the problem needs to be found in the long run with the involvement of the ICSC. However, it is important to devise measures that can be taken internally. Finally, Brazil supports the approval of the documents.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I kindly ask you to give the floor to Greece, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Observer for Greece)

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

We welcome Finance Committee's reports and in particular the one of the 154th session which provides an excellent overview of the Committee's important work.

We are pleased to note from the excellent document FC 154/2 on the Financial Position of the Organization that the liquidity position of the Organization at the end of 2013 has improved compared to December 2011, foremost due to timely payment of assessed contributions. In this regard we strongly support the Committee's call for timely and full payment of assessed contributions.

Concerning the *Annual Report on Budgetary Performance and Programme and Budgetary Transfers in the 2012/13 Biennium Programme*, we recognize the conclusions of the Finance Committee and welcome in particular that all open IPA actions to be implemented by the Secretariat were completed with the resources allocated. We expect to receive additional information on the planned use of the unspent balance of USD 9.6 million in 2014-15 to cover additional expenditures of a one-time nature.

We acknowledge the *Progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17* and underline the relevance of the results framework – based on sound indicators, baselines and targets – for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the MTP.

We encourage the FAO Management to prepare more accurate budget allocations in the next PWB, in order to avoid significant rapid shifting between chapters just after its approval by the Conference.

Nevertheless, we can accept the forecasted chapter distributions of the 2014-15 budgetary appropriation arising from preparation of biennial work plans.

We appreciate the value of advance payment of extra-budgetary contributions and would be happy to hear how such contributions developed during the first semester of 2014 as compared with the forecasts. We fully endorse the Committee's request for further information and analysis of extra-budgetary contributions when presenting the financial position of the Organization to future sessions.

In view of the experienced delays in the payment of Members' contributions we can agree to maintain the Working Capital Fund as a safety net for the Organization's liquidity. We are therefore expecting proposals for its replenishment in the context of the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17.

Regarding the Special Reserve Account we recall that it had originally been introduced to protect the Organization against financial risks arising from volatile currency exchange rates. Since FAO is now receiving assessed contributions split in EURO and USD, the main currencies it is working with, such risks appear negligible and do, in our view, not justify a Special Fund any longer which should therefore be dissolved, and any remaining balance be transferred to the Working Capital Fund.

We recognize the significant increase of the deficit in the General Fund as recorded in accordance with the IPSAS requirements. This deficit is primarily due to the Organization's full recognition of staff related liabilities which remained to a large extent unfunded. We strongly encourage Management to remain actively involved and contribute to a solution on this matter in the relevant fora within the United Nations System. At the same time, we encourage Management to continue its efforts to constrain the increase of the liabilities as far as possible.

We agree with the Committee's positive views on the development and implementation of FAO's new Human Resources Strategic Framework and Action Plan and encourage strengthening its human resources management throughout the Organization. We consider this crucial in order to further improve the competence of FAO as knowledge based organization and as provider of global public goods and technical assistance. We still see the need for FAO to improve its gender balance at all levels.

We support the Committee's views on the importance of the successful implementation of the Global Resource Management System, particularly also for ensuring a sound and solid implementation of IPSAS. We look forward to being informed at future sessions about the business benefits realized through the implementation of the GRMS, in particular related to Finance and Human Resources.

We particularly welcome the very open and transparent Annual Activity Report of the Office of the Inspector General and we strongly agree that internal control within the Organization and in particular in relation to its Decentralized Offices Network should be strengthened. Therefore, the Office of the Inspector-General should continue to keep attention on the status of GRMS implementation and operation, as well as on monitoring the progress in the preparation of the Organization's 2014 IPSAS-compliant financial statements.

We support the Committee's request that, with advice of the Office of the Inspector General, the Organisation's workforce planning proactively gives due regard to the requirements for implementing sound internal controls. In line with FAO's zero tolerance policy, we encourage Management to apply strong measures where its personnel and third parties are found to have engaged in fraud. Since the work of the Office of the Inspector General is a very relevant and a useful tool for the management and the governance of the Organization, its appropriate resourcing and capacity are crucial.

Since the current system for Project Cost Recovery is not up-to-date, we welcome the development of a Comprehensive Financial Framework for cost recovery and endorse in principle the aim, assumptions and principles of the new approach. We are looking forward to receive a draft of the new concept after summer. We expect that the Comprehensive Financial Framework will take into consideration the budgeting cycle of donors, and provide transitional arrangements for the implementation with respect to projects already agreed. We welcome that Management agreed to provide information on the project support cost rates that apply to the various types of projects.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the Progress Report on an *Accountability and Internal Control Framework* and aligns itself with the Finance Committee's conclusions.

We appreciate the Director-General's compliance with the Audit Committee's recommendations, encourage him to give special focus on actions to improve the performance of the decentralized offices in view of the results of the Inspector General's audits and the observations of the Audit Committee in this regard.

Finally, we endorse the Director General's recommendations for the members of the Audit Committee. We would like to thank the outgoing members of the Committee for their excellent service.

M. Mohamed DIOUMESSI (Guinée)

La Délégation guinéenne intervient au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point 7 de l'ordre du jour. Nous voudrions dire auparavant que nous avons travaillé sur les Rapport des cent cinquante-deuxième et cent cinquante-troisième sessions du Comité financier dont nous mesurons les enjeux notamment pour le PAM dont le Conseil d'administration a validé et adopté ces rapports.

Nous félicitons le Comité financier pour son travail aussi complet et sanctionné par l'adoption du Conseil d'administration, en particulier sur la méthode de calcul au PAM du taux du coût de réservation sur le coût d'appui dans le cadre du financement anticipé, les finances, le budget et le contrôle.

Le Maroc aura l'occasion de faire des observations sur cette partie concernant la FAO.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

First of all, thanks to the Chairperson and to Mr Médi for your excellent leadership and hard work.

The Report of the Programme and Finance Committees are very organized and very informative. Decentralization is a very important strategy to meet Regional needs and priorities, as well as to communicate more efficiently with Member Nations. Korea fully supports the process and the procedures of FAO Decentralization.

There is one concern regarding how important it is the way that the Organization and a clearly established mission for Country Offices, acting as a contact point, can contribute to the goal and mission of FAO. I would like to ask both Committees to take this point into consideration on their Agenda.

M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)

Intervenant juste après la Guinée, intervention à laquelle nous souscrivons entièrement, le Royaume du Maroc intervient au nom du Groupe Afrique pour exprimer les remerciements des membres de ce Groupe régional au Secrétariat pour la qualité du travail et des documents élaborés.

À l'examen de la situation financière de l'Organisation jusqu'à fin décembre 2013, nous exprimons notre satisfaction quant à l'amélioration de la situation de la trésorerie générale par rapport à la même période de l'année 2012. Cette amélioration reste un élément essentiel pour la mise en œuvre efficace des programmes et projets de la FAO notamment ceux se rapportant au Programme de coopération technique. Dans le même contexte, nous encourageons la Direction à continuer les efforts déployés en matière de réalisation de nouveaux gains d'efficacité et d'économie, conformément aux orientations de la Conférence générale. Nous nous félicitons que les gains réalisés jusqu'à présent s'alignent parfaitement sur ces orientations en accordant la priorité à ce que les projets arrêtés de coopération technique – primordiale pour les membres de notre Groupe – ne soient en aucun cas impactés.

L'un des éléments importants pour la préservation de l'équilibre financier de notre Organisation réside dans le règlement régulier des contributions. Le plan d'incitation appliqué n'a malheureusement pas donné les résultats tangibles escomptés. Je souhaite par ailleurs, au nom du Groupe Afrique, encourager la Direction à réfléchir et à nous soumettre de nouvelles propositions alternatives à ce plan. Nous continuons à nous associer aux appels de la Direction afin d'exhorter les pays Membres à s'acquitter de leurs arriérés. Au sujet justement de la résolution relative à la restauration des droits de vote des pays ne s'étant pas acquittés de leurs arriérés, nous devrions en

particulier veiller à doser scrupuleusement le niveau contraignant des normes avec l'impératif d'un minimum de flexibilité à même de garder l'efficacité du recouvrement et préserver le statut des États au sein de l'Organisation.

Permettez-moi enfin d'insister également sur l'importance accordée au volet des ressources humaines et sa contribution à la réalisation des objectifs escomptés. Sans politiques agissantes en ce domaine, il est évident que tout effort de modernisation sera inutile. C'est pourquoi le Groupe Afrique encourage la Direction à poursuivre ses efforts pour faire avancer les initiatives se rapportant à la gestion des ressources humaines; particulièrement en matière de réduction des délais de recrutement, de la représentation géographique des jeunes cadres, de la politique de mobilité au sein de l'Organisation, de la parité hommes-femmes, ainsi qu'en matière de délégation des pouvoirs pour renforcer la décentralisation.

Enfin, le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux décisions et recommandations de ce rapport et félicite le Comité financier pour l'excellent travail accompli.

M. Dominique AWONO ESSAMA (Cameroun)

La République du Cameroun prend la parole au nom du Groupe des 77 et la Chine concernant le point 7 de l'ordre du jour, les Rapports des cent cinquante-deuxième, cent cinquante-troisième et cent cinquante-quatrième sessions du Comité financier

En nous félicitant des rapports des cent cinquante-deuxième, cent cinquante-troisième et cent cinquante-quatrième sessions du Comité financier, et nous voudrions attirer votre attention sur les paragraphes 16 et 17 du document CL 149/4 *Examen par le Comité financier de la situation des États membres redevables d'arriérés, préalable à la session de la Conférence*. Ces paragraphes se réfèrent – je cite – au «projet de résolution de la Conférence, approuvé par le CQCJ, dans laquelle il est décidé que les demandes de rétablissement des droits de vote et les plans de règlements échelonnés seront transmis au Comité financier pour examen à la session de printemps de celui-ci, les années de Conférence, et que le Comité financier communiquera son avis au Bureau de la Conférence par l'intermédiaire du Conseil.» Les détails de cette proposition sont définis au paragraphe 17 du même document.

Le Groupe des 77 et la Chine reconnaît et se félicite du travail du Comité financier pendant sa dernière session. Notre Groupe remercie le Président et les membres du Comité financier pour leurs efforts dans l'analyse des questions techniques en vertu du mandat du Comité, mais nous pensons que le Conseil doit également examiner cette question.

Le Groupe des 77 et la Chine soutient également la nouvelle orientation stratégique de la FAO et s'engage fermement à respecter les principes et les idéaux de l'Organisation. Dans cette même perspective, nous nous félicitons de l'esprit renouvelé de coopération et de collaboration entre les membres dans la poursuite de nos buts et objectifs communs.

Le Groupe des 77 et la Chine se félicite des économies réalisées depuis 2012 et appuie les conclusions que le Comité financier a recommandées au profit de la situation financière de l'Organisation, tant que les capacités de l'Organisation ne sont pas endommagées dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre du Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017. Par conséquent, le Groupe des 77 et la Chine approuve dans leur majorité les recommandations du Comité financier.

Cependant, nous ne pouvons pas appuyer le projet de résolution de la Conférence proposée sous le titre *Rétablissement du droit de vote des États membres ayant des arriérés conformément à l'article III, paragraphe 4 de la Constitution*. Le Groupe des 77 et la Chine croit fermement en l'importance de respecter les obligations financières envers l'Organisation. À cet égard, nous appuyons l'appel lancé lors de la 148^{ème} session et des sessions antérieures du Conseil afin que tous les États Membres effectuent le paiement ponctuel et intégral des contributions et pour que l'Organisation continue de répondre aux besoins des demandes de fonds pour le programme de travail.

Nous sommes d'avis qu'il relève de la responsabilité du Conseil de reconnaître la gravité des circonstances qui échappent au contrôle des États Membres et qui se manifestent généralement de façon inattendue, comme les crises, les conflits et les catastrophes naturelles.

À ce propos, nous sommes convaincus que le projet de résolution proposé ne prévoit pas l'équilibre nécessaire, et qu'en connaissance de cause le Conseil ne peut pas l'approuver dans son état actuel.

En outre, le projet de résolution introduit un processus long et difficile qui impliquerait non seulement le Bureau de la Conférence, mais aussi le Comité financier et le Conseil dans l'examen des cas individuels et des plans de mise en œuvre. Ce projet de résolution propose l'inclusion d'une bureaucratie plus pesante à la gouvernance de la FAO qui pourrait être redondante en termes de temps, de ressources et d'efficacité.

Étant donné que l'examen indépendant des réformes de la gouvernance évalue l'efficacité avec laquelle nous agissons en tant que Membres et en tant qu'Organisation, nous considérons que l'approbation par le Conseil d'un tel projet de résolution n'est pas appropriée.

Par ailleurs, le rapport du Comité financier lui-même démontre que grâce à la confiance et au consensus que nous essayons toujours d'atteindre à la FAO, il y a eu des améliorations dans la réception du paiement des cotisations et dans la réduction des arriérés. Par conséquent, l'introduction d'une résolution dans le sens proposé pourrait être inopportune. Nous soutenons une amélioration continue de l'esprit renouvelé de confiance et de collaboration entre les Membres que nous avons récemment obtenue après y avoir travaillé dur.

Cependant, nous pensons fermement que le Conseil doit agir de façon responsable dans le contexte plus large de son mandat.

Pour conclure, nous voudrions donc recommander que le Conseil suspende toute décision sur cette question jusqu'au prochain exercice biennal, afin de donner le temps au Comité financier de réexaminer et de reconsidérer les faits sur lesquels nous attirons votre attention aujourd'hui.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

As others have noted before us, it is an obligation of all Member Nations to provide their assessed contributions on time and in full. We regret that the incentive scheme appears not to have had an impact on prompt payment of contributions and that therefore the Finance Committee has felt it necessary to recommend its abolishment. We look forward to learning what other measures might be proposed, particularly in light of the last statement, at the autumn 2014 Session of the Committee on this issue and in due course the recommendations to Council and Conference that will be better designed to have a positive impact on the timely payment of assessed contributions.

I also wanted to speak on the issue of the cost recovery discussion. It is noted in the Committee's Report that the Committee receives quite a bit of information on developments in regards to support cost issues and on the project support cost rates as they apply under various elements of FAO's work. We believe this information might be of value and interest not just to the Finance Committee Members but to the broader Membership and we would like to suggest that the Secretariat consider this subject as an informal briefing for the full Membership in advance of the Finance Committee consideration.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We are Members of the Finance Committee; hence we endorse the Report of the Finance Committee. I would just emphasize very briefly a few points. We agree and we emphasize the need for a solution to the after service medical coverage and efforts are in process to make this coherent with what is happening in the UN System and we support that.

We support the views of the Chairperson of the Finance Committee regarding the draft Conference resolution relating to voting rights. We welcome the savings but would caution that no further meaningful savings would be possible without damaging the capacity of the Organization to deliver hence as has been recommended by the Joint Session and the Finance Committee, the engagement

with the ICSC process is necessary. We would reiterate the importance of stabilizing GRMS and the implementation of IPSAS.

Finally, we would also like to place on record the efficient leadership of the Chairman of the Finance Committee in effectively handling the long and varied agenda of the Finance Committee. In fact, every Finance Committee session has a huge agenda.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

Australia thanks the Chairperson of the Finance Committee not only for his comprehensive presentation on the Committee's deliberations but also for his leadership and resilience in chairing the Committee.

Australia agrees with the Finance Committee's recommendations to the Council, takes note of the Committee's decisions, and fully supports the guidance provided to the Secretariat by the Committee. We will confine our intervention to a small number of matters discussed in the Committee Report for emphasis. Firstly, we agree with the recommendation to abolish the incentive scheme.

Secondly, we wish to highlight the critical issue of the need for Management to give special focus on actions to improve the performance of the decentralized offices. This is in view of the results of the Inspector General's audits and the observations of the Audit Committee. It would seem that although there clearly have been improvements made in the Decentralized Office Network, there needs to be a stronger focus on how to get transformational change in operations globally, so that FAO is no longer seen as patchy in its performance. This is obviously linked to a number of factors, systems, improvements the introduction of GRMS will greatly assist with the quality of human resources and in this regard, we noted yesterday that the Asia Pacific Regional Conference urged the strengthening of FAO Representatives to improve the effectiveness of FAO's operations.

Relatedly and reinforcing our comment from yesterday, we fully support the Finance Committee highlighting the importance of continued strengthening of internal control in FAO, in particular in relation to the Decentralized Offices Networks.

Lastly, we agree with the Finance Committee bringing attention to the need for appropriate resourcing and capacity in the Office of the Inspector General so as to enable it to effectively discharge its function.

Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)

Also Japan, as the Member of the Finance Committee, fully supports the endorsement of the recommendation of the Report of the 154th Session of the Finance Committee with three observations, hoping they will stimulate a useful discussion among Member Nations in coming days.

Firstly, Japan recognizes its important completion of the Immediate Plan of Action which itself is very important as the action which resulted in more efficiency of FAO. Japan welcomes sincerely the completion of IPA and at the same time we believe as the actual IPA completion itself include to show how the unspent balance of USD 9.6 million be used in this biennium 2014-15 whose PWB was discussed carefully and adopted by Member Nations. In this vein, Japan expects for receiving further information through discussion at the Finance Committee.

The second comment is on the review of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account. Regarding the proposals related to the replenishment of the results of the Organization, in the context of the PWB next biennium 2016-17, Japan would like to express our fundamental opinion that any discussion must be carefully considered to avoid Member Nation's burden. Warmly informed the current situation and the importance of the Working Capital Funds in providing a safety net for the Organization, with respect to the impact of delays in the payment of Members contributions, Japan finds that it is the exact point we would like to reiterate. The increasing burden on the Member Countries might cause itself the delays in the payment of the assessed contribution. Japan would like to request careful consideration of this matter, not to replenish the reserve of the Organization in the context of increasing budget coming proposition of PWB next biennium.

Finally, timely and full payment assessed contribution is vital to FAO's work. In this regard, Japan would like to add our view on the abolishment of the Incentive Scheme to encourage Prompt Payment of Contributions. As the country's full fiscal year starts in April, Japan would not be able to have the privilege to have the discount. We would like to express as supportive, therefore, for the recommendation of the Finance Committee regarding the abolishment of the scheme. However, Japan remains to intend to continuously and actively contribute to the FAO's work.

In this spirit, Japan started procedures for the payment soon after the passage of budget bill through the Diet, which have been already received by FAO last week.

We expect to find the Incentive Scheme in the future, which is effective and which is not abolished so quickly to avoid any confusion in Member Countries and to encourage prompt payment.

Ms Natalie BROWN (Unites States of America)

Like my other colleagues from the Finance Committee, I would like to lend our voice of support for the dedication and the seriousness with which Mr Médi has led the Finance Committee. I would also like to say that the United States fully supports the Report of the Finance Committee.

On the issue of arrears, it is an extremely important topic it is extremely important that Members address their obligations to the Organization to ensure its operations. We support the draft resolution and the report and we believe that it is important to find the mechanism to address the voting rights of Members who have more than two years of arrears and we certainly look forward to the continued work of the Finance Committee, certainly with management to find the means to come up with an efficient and effective mechanism that benefits the Organization and all of the Member Nations.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to join the others to congratulate you, Mr Médi, for your leadership in the work of the Finance Committee.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

Let me at the outset say a big thank you to all of you who expressed your satisfaction with the work of the Finance Committee. I have to say it is not an easy committee and Members of the Finance Committee should be satisfied with the appreciation of the Council in their work and I think it is our duty to see to it that we continue to further the work of the Organization.

I take this opportunity to address a few issues and I think that some of them came up in various statements made by the European Union, Canada, USA, Morocco, Egypt, Brazil, and the G-77. The first thing that I would like to address is the process which the Finance Committee has agreed to put in place within the framework of discussion on the cost recovery.

I think Canada, you mentioned it. We are expecting to continue discussions. Now you want it to be inclusive, if I understand that, we have no problem. I don't think there is any problem on that, but again, it is whether these are very technical issues and I hope the inclusiveness will not delay too much, the examination of that.

But I think it is something that we take into consideration and Mr Chairperson, probably in your summary you might take that also into consideration.

You have also the issue of the review of the Incentive Scheme. I think that also is a process which we will have laid and I think it will further the work of this issue. For the Working Capital Fund and the Special Reserve Account (SRA), we want to continue discussion under the preview of the next PWB discussions and it is important in the Working Capital Fund, the SRA, one should be replenished at this time because the situation of those funds are jeopardizing heavily the financial situation of the Organization. I think the purposes for which they were created are still there and valid, so probably it is important that we further the discussion on these issues to see what decision the membership can take on the position of Japan, especially on the area of the SRA. We might come as a membership to the conclusion of the issue.

And for the After Service Medical Coverage, I think also that process is still going on, the Committee has considered that this will be done within the framework of the UN System in general, so we are moving forward with that. The liabilities are so heavy that if we continue at this pace, they will continue to increase.

Probably we should have a discussion on how to at least stop that, while the discussion in the UN system is going on, as we are not sure when this discussion will end, it might take another 10 or 20 years, something must be done within FAO to see to it that we stop the increase in the liability. We must have courage to discuss that. I think I encouraged Members to think about this, and that is what the Finance Committee also feels.

Now let me handle the situation of the Voting Rights and I think the resolution that is being proposed is framing everything. I have not heard any Member talking about, or talking against, that resolution. I did not hear this from anything. The process that the Committee has put is not in the resolution, so the resolution is one thing and the process that we have put in place is to facilitate the discussion in the General Committee to include the work, the technical work of the Finance Committee and the political work of the Council.

We don't see that process as being a bad process. In the statement of the G-77, I heard that it will be a cumbersome procedure but we, in the Committee, did not think so. We just want to facilitate the work of the Secretariat. That is the aim and also for the membership to have a look at what is being done and how it goes and to help the Members themselves, to call Members to more responsibility to fulfill their financial obligations *vis-à-vis* the Organization.

We understand that some of these issues could have some political implications but we see in the resolution it is clear that it is the Conference to take the decision and I said it in my earlier statement. The General Committee keeps its prerogatives toward voting rights based on its own criteria, but the technical criteria that are laid down by the Finance Committee remain.

This is what we want to see and I really want the Committee to support what the decision of the Finance Committee ends up with and I think we have to say clearly that the work of the Finance Committee is to further the work of the Organization. Members of the Finance Committee worked very hard to do that.

I wish to thank personally the Members of the Finance Committee. If they did not have the spirit of a team, we would not have achieved what we have produced today, to be considered by the Council. And I wanted to thank everyone, every Member of the Finance Committee, every Member. It does not matter. Everybody worked very hard and I thank you so much for also helping me as a Chair to achieve.

Mr Denis AITKEN (Assistant Director-General *ad interim*, Corporate services, Human Resources and Finance Department)

I just wanted to talk on three issues that we are going to be continuing to work on thanks to the initiatives taken by the Finance Committee. First is on the matter that Canada, Egypt, Morocco and others, have raised which is the incentive for people to make payment on time.

You have asked us to come up with some innovative ideas since the current scheme, you have all agreed, should be stopped. We will do our best for November to come up with some thoughts as to what might encourage individual payment. We will check on best practice on that.

The second area I wanted to touch on is on internal control, where I heard under your previous item and under this item, the need for us to focus particularly in the Decentralized Offices on how we are managing internal control. You saw it from the report of the Inspector General where the shortcomings were, where we could make some progress.

Internal control ranges from the issues that were touched on by Pakistan under the previous item: who reports to whom, where the line of responsibility is, across another vast range on budgeting, on reporting, and just on the basis of how an organization manages itself.

I think the Committee made a very wise suggestion, which was that we should make regular progress reports on this and the next time we will be reporting back to you is in November. We have taken seriously, the comments of the Inspector General. We will be looking at all of the mechanisms possible and again reviewing some of the best practices in the field so that we can report back to you comprehensively on that issue.

And lastly on cost recovery that as with the After Service Medical Coverage, two issues that were mentioned in the debate, the Committee, I think wisely, has agreed that it should have informal sessions to take these two somewhat complex issues forward.

On the After Service Medical Coverage, we will try and arrange for the session to be before the General Assembly's discussion in New York because as the Chairman of the Committee said himself, there are two issues. One is here at FAO itself where we need to be able to hold and control this issue pending any UN system wide decisions and secondly, we need to fit in properly to the General Assembly debate, as the more that Member States here understand that issue, the more they can influence the General Assembly debate on that issue as well.

So I think a timely, informal, in-depth consultation, which is what has been suggested, is the proper way forward on that After Service Medical Coverage issue.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

The European Union and its 28 Member States ask to be informed on the status of voluntary contribution mobilized for 2014 and how it compares to the forecast. At the end of May 2014, an amount of USD 279 million had been mobilized which is equivalent to what was mobilized last year for the same period.

2013 was a relatively good year in terms of resource mobilization since all together USD 882 million were mobilized. So in terms of forecasts, a different way of looking at it, we can say it is not too bad but we are of course encouraging you, all of you, our resource partners, to change gears in terms of resource mobilization.

The Director-General, as presented to you in the opening folder, investing for results which highlight our corporate arrears for resource mobilization, it is time for you to consider how you could partner in supporting this resource mobilization.

Finally, I would like to make two comments. One, we are encouraging you to provide resources to support the priorities you have approved through all types of mechanisms available and particularly mechanisms that allow less earmarking of resources.

Finally, we would like to thank the European Union and its Member States for their generosity of the support and the contribution made in 2013, since for the European Commission only, without speaking of bilateral contribution of Member States, we received in 2013 USD 176 million of contribution which is equivalent to 21 percent of the voluntary contribution received during the year 2013.

CHAIRPERSON

I hope the Members are satisfied with the response.

You have heard a long presentation which has been compressed for the Council, as a matter of fact it was even longer in the Finance Committee with almost 21 Agenda items.

Your interventions have been taken into account. I would like to make focused conclusions not including everything but only issues which matter for follow-up.

My conclusions for item 7 are as follows:

The Council endorsed the reports of the 152nd, 153rd and 154th Sessions of the Finance Committee, and in particular:

- 1) urged all Member Nations to make timely and full payment of assessed contributions to ensure that FAO continues to meet the operating cash requirements for the Programme of Work;

- 2) endorsed the recommendation of the Finance Committee that the Incentive Scheme be abolished and that this be forwarded to the Conference for approval; while encouraging the Secretariat to explore alternative measures to encourage timely payment of assessed contributions by FAO Members;
- 3) noted that in accordance with Financial Regulations 4.1 and 4.5, the Finance Committee had authorized final budgetary transfers arising from implementation of the 2012-13 Programme of Work in favour of Chapters 11 (USD 1.4 million) and 13 (USD 8.4 million) from Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 12;
- 4) noted that the Finance Committee had endorsed the forecasted chapter distributions of the 2014-15 budgetary appropriation of USD 1,005.6 million arising from preparation of biennial work plans; and looked forward to more accurate budgetary chapter allocations in the next Programme of Work and Budget;
- 5) welcomed the efficiency savings achieved since 2012, and expressed concern that further savings should not impact negatively on the delivery of the programme of work;
- 6) supported the Finance Committee's recognition of the importance of engagement by FAO Members with the United Nations General Assembly and the International Civil Service Commission in order to achieve meaningful containment of staff costs at FAO;
- 7) noted the importance, as stressed by the Finance Committee and as conveyed in the 2013 Annual Report of the Inspector General, of strengthening internal control in the Organization and in particular in relation to the Decentralized Offices Network;
- 8) endorsed the extension of the term of Ms Carolyn Dittmeier for a further three years and the appointment of Ms Enery Quinones and Mr Verasak Liengsriwat for an initial period of three years, as members of the FAO Audit Committee.

The Council did not endorse the draft Conference Resolution on the Restoration of Voting Rights of Member Nations in Arrears, and looked forward to reviewing the matter in the next biennium following further review by the Finance Committee.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

I would suggest that we include a new point just to highlight something that was expressed by a number of delegations, including Australia, about the need for FAO management to give special focus on actions to improve the performance of the Decentralized Office Network.

CHAIRPERSON

That will be taken into account. I thank you for your acceptance of my conclusions and I can say we have come to the end of Agenda item 7.

May I remind you of the side event on *Achieving Food Security through South-South and Triangular Cooperation* which will take place from 13:00 to 14:30 in the Iran Room.

We will start the meeting at 14:30 hours.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have been asked to announce that the European Union will have a coordination meeting at 14.00 hours in the German room.

The meeting rose at 12:25 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p>Hundred and Forty-ninth Session Cent quarante-neuvième session 149.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 16-20 June 2014 Rome, 16-20 juin 2014 Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014</p>
<p>FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</p>
<p>17 June 2014</p>

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.38 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 38
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.38
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

CHAIRPERSON

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fourth Meeting of the 149th Session of the FAO Council to order.

Please note that, as mentioned in the Order of the Day, Council proceedings are scheduled to close at 18.30 this afternoon to enable two events to take place here in the Red Room.

The first event, at 18.30 hours, will mark the *World Day to Combat Desertification* and will be followed at 19.30 by an event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of G-77, followed by a reception in the Aventino Room, which is on the eighth floor of Building B.

Before continuing from where we left off this morning, I would like to inform the Council that His Excellency Daniel Constantin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania, and Chairperson of the 29th Regional Conference for Europe, has not been able to join us due to his participation in the European Union Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting in Brussels and the need to return to the capital immediately thereafter.

Although item 4 has been closed, the Delegation of Romania has requested, on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister Constantin, the inclusion of a statement in the Verbatim Records of this meeting, in line with the established practice.

Mr Daniel CONSTANTIN (Chairperson, Regional Conference for Europe)¹

As Chair of the 29th European Regional Conference it is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to address the Council today. I would like to thank Ms Grieder as one of the Vice Chairs of the 29th ERC for making the presentation on the outcome of the Regional Conference in my absence. I align myself fully with her statement.

I would like to use this opportunity to share some general observations with you in relation to the Regional Conference.

The Region of Europe and Central Asia is very diverse. It has some of the richest and some of the poorest countries of the world as members. This makes the work of the Organization difficult, but it also provides opportunities.

The very good and high level participation at the Regional Conference confirmed the positive effects of the FAO transformational changes and recognized the need for continuity in order to achieve the full impact of the reforms initiated under the leadership of the Director-General.

With the new modalities of working and in line with the decentralization, FAO's presence in the Region will be further increased and its technical expertise will be made available in a more focused way. This will also result in an increase of the impact at the country level. The FAO Representations in Albania and Uzbekistan will contribute to the consolidation of the Organization in the Region. I am also looking forward to the results produced within the regional initiatives: Strengthening Small Holder Farmers and Agri-Food trade and regional integration.

An important contribution in this context will be also the planning of the European Commission on Agriculture as main preparation body into alternate years to the Regional Conference. This will in my view reinforce the governance in the Region and emphasise the important technical dialogue required with the members in the inter-sessional period. I believe it will also contribute to the technical focus of the work and the decision making process at the Regional Conference.

Having Fisheries and Forestry as information items on the Agenda is important to further integrate these technical areas into the Regional Conference. It would be however, beneficial to all of us to have them as standing items and also to make further efforts in having the regional technical commissions reporting to the Conference.

I am also glad that the European Regional Conference is the first to have adopted own Rules of Procedure, which provide the good basis for the work in the Region in the coming period.

¹ *Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.*

I would also like to mention that the increasing partnership with the Civil Society Organizations has been successfully demonstrated by their involvement in the European Regional Conference. The integration of their statements into the Conference report has been an important step. More should be done in building dialogue with the private sector. I am confident that further collaboration with the CSOs and the private sector will be important for the governance in the Region.

I would like to make a few remarks regarding Family Farming, as this year we celebrate the International Year of Family Farming.

It is well known that small family farms are key to reducing poverty and improving global food security. Today, we are witnessing a paradox situation in which someone's development may generate someone else's poverty. It is clear that we have a common responsibility in finding a solution to this problem.

An essential part can and must be played by small-scale agriculture, a resource that is not used enough and which can be a significant food supplier on the market.

This type of agriculture can better meet local market demands and traditions. Unfortunately, this opportunity has not been properly addressed in rural development programmes.

It is true that modern technologies will allow us to increase agricultural production in developed countries, but it is equally important to manage our resources prudently and in a balanced way.

With this philosophy in mind, we have to put a strong accent on small-scale agriculture, subsistence farming and include it as a key component in rural development programmes.

Family farming generates food and income for hundreds of millions of rural people, including the poor and the marginalized, it creates jobs for women, men and young people, both within their family farms and in related fields of activity, along food and agricultural value chains.

It provides models of adaptability and resilience for more sustainable food production, it is socially and culturally part of communities and territories, and, as such, it supports national food security in most countries. It safeguards and protects environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

There are, unfortunately, a lot of challenges that family farmers face, such as climate change and climate variability; lack of tenure security in a context of increasing competition for land and water (population growth, urbanization) and inadequate governance of land tenure; limited access to financial resources, inputs, technology, training, research and advisory services, and education; price volatility (energy, food, etc.) and limited access to markets.

These are the obstacles we must fight in order to protect and develop the family farms.

Therefore, what I want to say is that big agriculture must coexist with small agriculture, both in farming and in the markets, while technological and economic research have to come up with clear solutions so as to put this at work.

I thank you for your attention and the opportunity to address the Council session and I am looking forward to further collaboration in my capacity as Chairperson of the 29th Regional Conference until its next meeting in Turkey in 2016.

Item 5. Report of the Joint Meeting of the 115th Session of the Programme and 154st Session of the Finance Committees (28 May 2014)

Point 5. Rapport de la Réunion conjointe du Comité du Programme et du Comité financier (respectivement cent quinzième et cent cinquante-quatrième sessions, 28 mai 2014)

Tema 5. Informe de la Reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa en su 115.º período de sesiones y el Comité de Finanzas en su 154.º período de sesiones (28 de mayo de 2014)
(CL 149/6)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, we now proceed to item 5, *Report of the Joint Meeting of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee and 154th Session of the Finance Committee (28 May 2014)*. Please ensure that you have document CL 149/6 before you.

I would like to remind the Council that the section of the Joint Meeting Report on the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13 was considered under item 3 yesterday afternoon. As agreed when the Timetable was adopted, we will not need to return to this matter under item 5 this morning.

Mr Mougui Médi, the Chairperson of the Finance Committee, who chaired the Joint Meeting last month, will introduce the Report.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I am pleased to present to you the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 150th session of the Programme Committee and 154th Session of the Finance Committee.

This Report is available for you in document CL 149/6. As agreed with the Independent Chairperson of the Council, I shall now present to you the highlights of the Report of the Joint Meeting except for those matters related to the Programme and Finance Reports 2012-2013, which are covered under agenda item 3.

As for the matters pertaining to Regional Conferences, please consider agenda item 4. Yet, since we did not present the matter that was discussed under the mentioned agenda item on the deliberation of the Joint Meeting for the Regional Conferences, I will submit what was prepared as Draft introductory remarks to the issues of the Regional Conference to the Chairperson, probably with his advice. Possibly, it might be circulated to the Members of the Drafting Committee.

The Joint Meeting welcomed the Progress Report on the Medium Term Plan, MTP 2014-17 and supported the views and recommendations arising from the discussions held separately in the Programme Committee and Finance Committee.

The Joint Meeting recommended that lessons learned from the planning exercise be taken into account in preparing more accurate budget allocations in the next Programme of Work and Budget, in order to avoid significant transfers shortly after its final approval.

The Joint Meeting encouraged the use of innovative funding modality in order to broaden the base for mobilization of Extra Budgetary resources and noted the importance of the strategic use of technical cooperation programmes endorsed in this regard.

These were the deliberations, of the Joint Meeting on the progress of the Medium Term Plan 2014-17, the Regional Framework, Regional priorities and budgetary adjustment from work planning and efficiencies.

CHAIRPERSON

I now pass the floor to the Chairperson of the Programme Committee, Ambassador Cecilia Nordin, for any additional inputs she may have.

Ms Cecilia Nordin Van GANSBERGHE (Chairperson, Programme Committee)

I would like to share with the Council the remarks that were made in the Programme Committee prior to our Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee.

For the document progress on the MTP, we commended the work that has been done since the Council in December 2013 when you will remember that it appeared mostly as an outline, indeed a lot of information was missing.

We noted the evolutionary nature of this work in progress and that it is also the nature of the Decentralization process. We found the use of qualifiers very necessary. Expressions like ‘adequate’ need to be qualified, which we appreciated.

We realized that the implementation of the Monitoring Framework described will be essential for the Evaluations. It goes without saying that baselines need to be solid in order to establish targets and to carry out an Evaluation exercise.

The importance of partnerships has been underlined and we underscored it yet again in our meeting. Besides, the integration of the Regional Initiatives into the Strategic Framework and their focusing on the Strategic Objectives were priorities, as the further highlighting was essential in relation to the Regional Initiatives in the Corporate Resource Mobilization Programme. We encouraged and recommended inter-regional exchange of result based experiences of the Regional Initiatives.

We also thought that, since the biennium started already on 1 January 2014, we support the Organization to speed up delivery.

In the Committee, we suggested a short document make links among Objectives, Outcomes, Targets and Indicators being available to the Council.

So we are very happy to see that the Information Note on FAO Results Chain and Accountability for Delivery, Council document CL 149/LIM/6, is available on the web. I hope you will find this useful.

Mr Mogens KJØRUP (Denmark)

This statement is made on behalf of the Nordic countries: Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

As concerns the progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17, we welcome this well-formulated document, for instance the use of qualifiers is vital. We note the evolutionary nature of this work in progress. The implementation of the monitoring framework described will be essential for evaluations and future improvements. Furthermore, baselines need to be solid in order to establish targets and to carry out evaluations, and as we pointed out in our statement on agenda Item 3, sex-disaggregated data is indispensable in order to establish correct baselines.

It is clear that (a) decentralization is a vehicle for FAO delivery to Member Nations and not a goal in itself and (b) that it is work in progress. We support the Director General in his ambitions to periodically review FAO decentralized offices network in order for the organisation to function optimally.

We recommend that the membership is regularly updated on the enhancement by the work of the decentralized offices.

The integration of the Regional Initiatives into the Strategic Framework, and their focussing on the Strategic Objectives, are priorities. They can also be further high-lighted corporate resource mobilisation, as part of a more innovative resource mobilisation approach.

We appreciate the short document suggested by the Committees on links between objectives, outcomes, targets and indicators as well as the in-house structure for delivery. The structure is now rather complex, especially with the adding of a new layer/position of “Delivery Managers”.

We are now several months into the biennium and we encourage the Organisation to speed up delivery.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

I would like to ask you to give the floor to Greece, who will speak on behalf of the European Union.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

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

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Finance Committee for providing us with the report of the Joint Meeting of the Programme Committee and the Finance Committee.

Concerning the *Programme Implementation Report 2012-13*, we support the Joint Meeting's conclusions.

We welcome the comprehensive format of the Report and encourage FAO management to further improve future reports, in particular by implementing the new results-based monitoring and reporting framework.

We also would like to emphasize the need for continued efforts to strengthen monitoring, internal control and accountability, *inter alia* through the Global Resource Monitoring System which we consider a precondition for a successful decentralization process. We see the need for further analysis and action, in particular a review of the country coverage and the modalities of FAO's decentralized offices network.

We acknowledge the *Progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17* and would like to stress the relevance of the results framework, based on sound indicators, baselines and targets, for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Medium Term Plan. In this context, using qualifiers for expressions such as "adequate" is essential, as are solid baselines. It is clear that decentralization is a vehicle for FAO delivery that is still work in progress. There is a need to further explore the coverage of decentralized offices, with a view to maximizing the impact of these offices without increasing their total number. Furthermore, the accepted recommendations of the regional evaluation need to be taken into account. Regional Initiatives must indeed be integrated into the Strategic Framework and be focused on the Strategic Objectives. Furthermore, experience from Regional Initiatives should be shared across regions in order to improve the level of work, with special emphasis on women.

Recognizing the difficult decisions on PWB 2014-15 as well as the inter-relationship between the programmatic consolidation and its forecasted chapter distributions, we encourage FAO Management to seriously take into account the lessons learned from the planning exercise in preparing more accurate budget allocations in the next PWB in order to avoid significant rapid shifting between chapters just after its final approval by the Council.

Finally, as we are now several months into the biennium, the Organisation would do well to speed up delivery in order to reach the goals set in the time available. When reporting back on the PWB 2014-2015, we would like to see a chapter on obstacles encountered and how these have been dealt with.

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique souscrit aux recommandations et conclusions de la Réunion conjointe et se félicite des progrès réalisés dans l'exécution du Plan à moyen terme 2014-2017.

Le Groupe Afrique invite la FAO à tenir compte des priorités régionales dégagées lors des Conférences régionales de 2014 ainsi que des 15 initiatives régionales qui contribuent à la réalisation des objectifs stratégiques – en particulier les trois initiatives régionales de l'Afrique – et souscrit également à la nécessité de mettre en œuvre un cadre de suivi et d'intégration de ces initiatives.

Le Groupe Afrique encourage la FAO à mobiliser des ressources dans la région, notamment dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud et de partenariats pour mettre en œuvre les initiatives régionales et les Cadres de programmation par pays.

Conformément aux recommandations dégagées lors de la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique tenue en Tunisie, le Groupe Afrique invite la FAO à renforcer l'intégration des questions liées à la parité hommes-femmes et la protection sociale, et l'invite à renforcer les capacités nationales

et régionales en matière de statistiques agricoles et de tenir compte des répercussions des crises nationales.

Nous souscrivons à l'importance du partage des expériences entre les régions, à la nécessité de poursuivre les efforts de la décentralisation et de tenir compte des recommandations découlant des évaluations des bureaux régionaux et sous-régionaux.

S'agissant du réseau des bureaux décentralisés, le Groupe Afrique continue à mettre l'accent sur la nécessité de renforcer les moyens des bureaux de pays pour mieux s'acquitter de leurs tâches et d'achever les CPP.

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

I will only speak on the progress of the Medium Term Plan 2014-2017 and I will only make two points.

Point one, we appreciate the Report of the Joint Session paragraph 4, subparagraphs (a) to (e); and also appreciate paragraph 4 of the Programme Committee report, (a) to (k), no more on that.

My second point is to appreciate the Information Note on FAO Result Chain and accountability for Delivery which has been prepared by the Secretariat, Mr Boyd Haight, at the request of the Programme Committee

Part one of the Information Note clearly indicates the link between outputs, outcomes and the Global Strategic Objective. FAO is responsible for producing the output. Member Countries and their partners generate the outcome by making use of FAO's output. The achievement of outcomes is expected to lead to the realization of the Global Strategic Objective.

Indicators are used for tracking progress. FAO will report the progress of outputs targets and indicators on an annual basis, with the Strategic Objective Coordinators taking full responsibility for such reporting. Reporting on the progress of targets and indicators related to outcomes is for the four-year period of the MTP and is based on corporate assessment against the baseline data. Strategic Objectives have no targets but their progress will be tracked through indicators showing global trend.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ecuador realiza esta intervención en representación del GRULAC. Acogemos el Informe de la Reunión Conjunta de los comités, así como el Informe y recomendación del Comité del Programa, y queremos expresar nuestra satisfacción por la incorporación de las prioridades regionales y de las 15 iniciativas regionales en el marco de resultados, que están alineadas con los cinco objetivos estratégicos, ya que a través de esas prioridades e iniciativas se logrará tener mayor impacto y mejores resultados en el terreno y en la consecución de los logros de los objetivos estratégicos.

Alentamos la revisión del marco de resultados con arreglo a las enseñanzas que se vayan adquiriendo durante su ejecución, así como la puesta en práctica de la metodología para la supervisión sistemática de los avances. Consideramos importante la presentación de informes en relación con la ejecución del Plan a plazo medio 2014-17.

Mr Richard OLIVER (Trinidad and Tobago)

My delegation would like to endorse the comments of Ecuador on behalf of the GRULAC group and acknowledge the significant work of the Programme and Finance Committees.

In addition to that, we endorse the findings and recommendations of the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees on the Programme Implementation Report 2012-15 and the Programmes under the Medium Term Plan 2014-17.

We also wish to emphasize the significance of the results based approach in implementing the FAO's Medium Term Plan, because this approach is participative and it is based on needs' assessment, Regional priorities and FAO's comparative advantage.

In this regard, we wish to congratulate the Joint Meeting on this Report of the 150th Session of the Programme Committee and of the 154th Session of the Finance Committee. Therefore, we support the

Joint Committee's findings and recommendations under the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13 and the progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

Japan would like to make one comment very briefly. The Joint Meeting Report is related to the Programme Implementation Report 2012-13 and to the progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17. Japan fully supports the corresponding endorsement.

Japan would like to congratulate its achievement, and we hope FAO will make the best use of the lessons learned as well as obstacles met during its implementation.

Japan believes that FAO has to move forward from its past by taking bolder and more decisive steps under the Director-General's leadership.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original Language Chinese)

First of all, I would like to thank the Secretariat for providing the Report of the Joint Meeting of the 115th Session of the Programme Committee and the 154th Session of the Finance Committee. As a Member of the Programme Committee, China took part in the Joint Meeting and we support all the conclusions and recommendations in the Report, however, there is a matter I would like to mention in line two of the programme.

The last point says encourage new form of financing as a basis of financing. I think this entails about the resources mobilization, therefore, I am not clear about this. Paragraph 403, table 18 of the Implementation Plan regarding the resource mobilization there is an order, especially from 2011-2014. I do not understand this order in the table because during this period, China also made contributions.

From 2009-2011, we donated USD 30 million however, it is not on this table. It does not appear here, therefore, I do not understand what is going on. Is it possible that the Secretariat give me an explanation? Of course, I am not taking the time out of everyone so we can solve this bilaterally.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank FAO for its efforts to produce the explanatory document on the links between objectives, outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets in its MTP Results Framework. We are aware that the document was drafted under time pressure and so understand its limited scope and specificity.

We continue to have questions however, particularly regarding the linkages between the indicators under each Strategic Objective and the outputs and outcomes, the methodology for determining the targets and the establishment of baselines. We would appreciate greater clarity and explanation from FAO on these items and we look forward to further discussing the MTP at the next appropriate Governing Body session.

Mr Mougui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I wish the Secretariat could give some answers to the issues, especially those raised by the United States of America and China before we can give our final comments, if you so allow.

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

First on the Medium-Term Plan, let me reassure you that we are moving ahead full steam on delivery as the Director-General mentioned when he addressed the Joint Meeting. He has convened, in the last two to three weeks, meetings with all of the groups of Senior Managers, that is the Strategic Objective Coordinators, who, by the way, in the Joint Meeting Mr Ayazi likened to conductors of orchestras in terms of their job to bring together the teams that they work with. He has also convened meetings with the Heads of the Regional Offices and the Heads of Departments to ensure that implementation is moving ahead, and that we can address any issues that come up and make adjustments as appropriate. In this regard, we are learning from our experience, and that enables us to quickly adjust and move ahead.

Secondly, the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees will have the opportunity to review the progress in March of next year when we present the Mid-term Review 2014, which is the foreseen annual review document as part of the programme planning process that is now in place, and is where you would see the review of the progress against the outputs which FAO is accountable for delivering, and also on the budgetary performance against the first year's budgetary expenditures.

In terms of the results chain, the relationship between the outputs, outcomes, indicators, and targets, I understand that the United States of America would like to see further elaboration in the next report and that opportunity will in fact be in the November Session when we come back again with the outcome of the Technical Committee meetings. That will be used in helping us to review the Medium-Term Plan and any further enhancements we have to the results frameworks. There is still work going on in some of the baselines and I think that is the opportunity we have to further explain.

I appreciate again the very clear exposition that Afghanistan gave to the information note. I think that is a very eloquent way of describing how the relationship between the three result levels, and the challenge for us is to make sure that all Members understand the substance and the content of that framework, not just its methodology.

And finally, if I could turn to the Programme Implementation Report and the comment of China, in fact we have been in bilateral dialog with the mission of China on table 18. China did contribute USD 30 million, I believe it was near the end of 2009, and it was actually recorded in the Programme Implementation Report for 2008-2009, which was seen by the Conference in 2011.

Tables 18 and 12 report expenditure, not contributions, and working under the agreement that we have with China for these resources, we spent about half of them so far and that is about USD 15 million. So that is the reason why it does not show up in the tables. However, of course we could expand the table for any given biennium so that you would see your level. We can continue to discuss about the presentation of those tables in the Programme Implementation Report. Thank you.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original Language Chinese)

Thank you, the Secretariat, for your explanation. However, I am not clear, but I do not want to prolong with discussion. I will talk to you later after the meeting because no matter what, this table shows USD 4 million, USD 1 million; all those sums are shown but not our contribution. Anyway, I will talk to you later after the meeting.

Mr Moungui MÉDI (Chairperson, Finance Committee)

I think China also mentioned the issue of what the Joint Meeting encouraged and then as we said, the Joint Meeting called the use of innovative funding modalities in order to broaden the base of mobilization.

And while we were examining this, we found that we should broaden the financing base of the Organization, especially in mobilizing extra budgetary resources. And we noted that for many countries, the strategic importance of TCP was outlined and this could be here, reused, the innovative funding modality could be used as an element to seek mobilization for the financing of TCPs. That is why I hope that may bring a bit of light on China's understanding of this issue.

The other thing that I would like to tackle is that many Members of the Council mentioned that we are already in the implementation and that we should speed up, I think we cannot agree more than that. We would just also, probably for your summary, try to emphasize on that, that it is important that the Secretariat goes on to speak on the implementation and the delivery of the programme as it is mentioned in the Medium-Term for 2014-17. And with that, I conclude this matter and thank everybody for the support that we received.

33 CHAIRPERSON

Let us conclude with item 5. My conclusions are as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the report of the Joint Meeting, and:
 - a) commended the progress on the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 following endorsement by the 148th Session of the Council of the adjustments to the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15;
 - b) stressed the need for continuity in the strategic direction of FAO in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework;
 - c) noted the inter-relation between programmatic consolidation and resource allocations during work planning and looked forward to more accurate budgetary chapter allocations in the next Programme of Work and Budget;
 - d) recognized the dynamic and evolutionary nature of the results framework, noted the need for solid baselines to enable development of measurable targets, and supported continued refinement of meaningful indicators used for monitoring and reporting;
 - e) encouraged the use of innovative funding modalities in order to broaden the base for mobilization of extrabudgetary resources, and emphasized the catalytic role of the Technical Cooperation Programme in resource mobilization; and
 - f) appreciated the preparation by the Secretariat of the Information Note on FAO Results Chain and Accountability for Delivery (document CL 149/LIM/6).

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I agree fully with your summary, but I did not hear the word “indicator”, I think that it should be inserted.

CHAIRPERSON

I will read again the paragraph containing the word “indicator”:

- d) recognized the dynamic and evolutionary nature of the results framework, noted the need for solid baselines to enable development of measurable targets, and supported continued refinement of meaningful indicators used for monitoring and reporting;

I thank you all for the useful and focused advice to the management.

Item 8. Report of the 98th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (17-19 March 2014)

Point 8. Rapport de la quatre-vingt-dix-huitième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (17-19 mars 2014)

Tema 8. Informe del 98.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (17-19 de marzo de 2014) (CL 149/2 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we move on to agenda item 8, *Report of the 98th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (17-19 March 2014)*. The document before Council is CL 149/2 Rev.1.

Ms Mónica Martínez Menduño, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, will introduce the Report.

Sra. Monica Martinez MENDUÑO (Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

La agenda del 98.º período de sesiones del CCLM constaba de dos puntos. El marco del primer punto de la agenda del 98.º período de sesiones examinó un documento titulado *Participación de organizaciones internacionales no gubernamentales y organizaciones de la sociedad civil en*

reuniones de la FAO: Revisión de las normas y los procedimientos». Al respecto, se llevó a cabo un examen detallado del proyecto de directrices para la participación de organizaciones de la sociedad civil y representantes del sector privado en reuniones de la FAO. La Secretaría había elaborado esas directrices como consecuencia de la necesidad, expresada por el Consejo en su 148.º período de sesiones de “iniciar un proceso encaminado a reformular las normas y los procedimientos relativos a la participación de las organizaciones no gubernamentales y las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en las reuniones de la FAO y en el que también se preste la debida atención a las dos estrategias de la FAO recientemente aprobadas para las asociaciones con las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y con el sector privado”.

El CCLM mantuvo extensas deliberaciones, las cuales dieron lugar a un documento revisado y concretamente a un anexo titulado *Normas y procedimientos actualizados para la participación de organizaciones de la sociedad civil y representantes del sector privado en reuniones de la FAO*. Este documento se encuentra adjunto al Informe del CCLM, CL 149/2, e incorpora los cambios propuestos por los miembros del CCLM. El objetivo general es facilitar la participación de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil en las actividades de la FAO con sujeción al principio de que, en consonancia con la naturaleza de la FAO, en cuanto a organización intergubernamental del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, la adopción de las decisiones es competencia exclusiva de los Miembros.

En cuanto al fondo, es decir, con respecto a las categorías, a los criterios de admisión y a las modalidades de participación de la OSC y del sector privado en las reuniones de la Organización, el nuevo proyecto de normas y procedimientos está en línea con los procedimientos de otras organizaciones del sistema de Naciones Unidas, donde la adopción de las decisiones corresponde a los Miembros. Y en esto quisiera resaltar que efectivamente hemos sido cuidadosos de mantener esa línea con las normas que ya existen dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas.

Ahora, en nuestras deliberaciones, el CCLM siempre estará dispuesto a reexaminar cualquier proyecto que los Estados Miembros, en este caso el Consejo de la FAO, decida darnos. Por lo cual, quiero reiterar nuestra disposición a reexaminar el proyecto de normas y procedimientos que habíamos trabajado durante el 98.º período de sesiones a la luz de la orientación que el Consejo nos quiera dar.

El CCLM señaló que las normas y procedimientos actualizados se someterían a la aprobación de la Conferencia en su próximo período de sesiones en el 2015, esto en el hipotético de que ustedes así lo decidan. Por lo tanto, se invita al Consejo a considerar el proyecto de normas y procedimientos para la participación de organizaciones de la sociedad civil y representantes del sector privado en reuniones de la FAO que figura en el apéndice del Informe del CCLM.

En cuanto al segundo punto, el Comité examinó el Informe anual del Comité de Ética correspondiente a 2013. En particular señaló que el Comité de Ética seguiría examinando algunos aspectos relacionados con la estrategia de la FAO para la colaboración con el sector privado e invitó al Comité de Ética a proporcionar información más detallada sobre el resultado de sus deliberaciones acerca de este asunto en informes futuros.

Por consiguiente, el Comité invitó a la Administración a tener en cuenta la cuestión de la justificación del Comité a largo plazo a la luz de la decisión del Consejo de abril de 2011. Con su venia, Señor Presidente, quisiera invitar al Consejo a tomar nota del Informe Anual del Comité de Ética correspondiente al 2013.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I thank the Members of the CCLM and its Chair for presenting this report to us. It contains a number of interesting issues for us to address today, and we would in particular like to speak to the proposed rules and procedures for the participation of Civil Society and Private Sector representatives.

First, I would like to stress that we very much welcome the work of the CCLM on this important issue. The sections of the Basic Texts addressing the question of observers have needed our attention as Member Nations for some time, in order to update their provisions and recognize the multiplicity of stakeholders who can make important contributions to our discussions and our key partners for FAO, particularly at the country level.

We encourage the CCLM to continue its work on this issue and on the proposed text and amendments to the Basic Texts as needed. The document provided as Appendix 1 is very useful in informing us of the state of these discussions, in particular with regard to the proposed criteria and process for being granted formal status with the Organization and therefore, attendance of FAO meetings in an observer capacity.

We do have a few concerns with the Draft Rules and Procedures contained in Annex 1 and a question. First, we would like to know whether we are correct in our understanding of the chart that is presented as part of this document, that the Basic Texts would be deleted and rules and procedures substituted. Therefore there would be very few references to this issue in the Basic Texts themselves but rather rules and procedures would be used.

Secondly, in part B, paragraphs 7(b) and (c) – which address the right of Civil Society Organizations with formal status to be present at essentially all of the types of Member Nations meetings foreseeable in our view – leaves it up to the Chairperson at that meeting to approve their ability to speak and I quote, “to participate in discussions.”

We are concerned this lays a potentially difficult decision on the chair who may not be experienced in these matters to decide on poorly defined criteria. We hope the CCLM will continue to try and better define this task for the aid of the Chairperson.

We also note that this participation in discussions should be “in accordance with such procedures as may be adopted.” We do agree that existing rules or procedures should be recognized but we also wonder where and when these procedures, if they don’t exist, will be laid out if not in fact in these rules and procedures themselves.

We also note that Section 3, paragraph 19 provides for “Private Sector Representatives, concerned with a particular area of FAO’s activities and having an interest in attending specific FAO meetings may be invited” to those meetings. However, Civil Society Organizations with formal status are permitted to attend sessions of the Conference, speak before commissions of the Conference, and even under certain conditions, speak before the Conference.

They are also allowed to attend this very broad number of meetings as observers as we previously mentioned. We do not believe this unequal treatment is the proper way to amend the Basic Texts to provide for rules or procedures and we urge the CCLM to revisit these provisions.

Third and lastly, we note that in Part 3, paragraph 23 there is provision for what we would paraphrase as a risk analysis or information being provided to the Member Nations on the activities of Private Sector Organizations. We also would be interested in having this type of information provided on Civil Society Organizations as in some cases they also need to be assessed against risk criteria with regard to the reputation of the Organization, and that is in fact provided for, I believe, in the strategies that we adopted.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia wishes to comment on Agenda Item 8, “Report of the 98th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters”.

On behalf of the Africa Group, Liberia commends the hardworking Chairperson and Secretariat of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters for a concise report that clearly outlines the rules and procedures for the participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in meetings of FAO, taking into account rules and practice on participation of CSOs in meetings of Governing and Statutory Bodies of FAO, as well as in other Organizations of the United Nations System.

The Africa Group notes that the Council at its 148th Session endorsed the report of the 97th CCLM Session stressing the need to initiate a process to review the rules and procedures for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in meetings of FAO, with due regard being paid to the two recently adopted FAO Strategies for Partnerships with Civil Society

Organizations and the Private Sector. In this regard, we commend the Director-General of FAO for his farsightedness in this matter.

FAO's practice regarding CSOs and Private Sector participation in FAO meetings had, in the past, gone beyond the framework established in the Basic Texts, and therefore, the Africa Group underlines the need for a simple, transparent, accountable and more coherent mechanism for the participation of CSOs and Private Sector representatives in FAO meetings. We thank the Committee for their review of the proposed guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings that will promote inclusiveness and joint engagement of state and non-state actors at national, local and international levels to foster accountability, transparency and strengthening evidence-based policy decision-making for food security and nutrition strategy.

The Africa Group is aware of the concerns raised by the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development that out of 209 INGOs holding formal status with FAO, 133 had not attended FAO meetings in the course of the past 5 years, and here we are talking of 63 percent.

In light of these concerns and the need to formalize the partnerships with these organizations, the Africa Group welcomes the CCLM proposal and recommendation that updated rules and procedures may be deferred to the next session of the Conference in 2015 for approval and replace Section M and N of Volume II of the Basic Texts to reflect these updated rules and procedures for the participation of CSOs and INGOs in FAO meetings.

Noting with appreciation that no single Organization can address today's complex food and nutrition security challenges, partnership is very important and the Group accepts the proposed text for adoption and endorsement. However, if there is a policy difference that individual states may like to further discuss, Africa Group will not oppose a consultative initiative through the office of the Independent Chair or the Secretariat if this will help to reach a consensus, although the Africa Group will regret the postponement by Council.

The Africa Group, once again, is very pleased with the CCLM Report and recommendations and, therefore, asks this Council to endorse the draft rules and procedures for the participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector representatives in meetings of FAO as set out in Appendix I of the CCLM Report and, as appropriate, forward them to the Conference for approval.

Regarding the Ethics Committee, the Africa Group takes note of the report prepared by the Legal Office due to the vacancy of the Ethics Officer who usually serves as Secretary of the Ethics Committees. The Africa Group appreciates the efforts of Management for the cost-effective and cost-savings measure considered but however would like management to keep the decision under review for its compatibility (ombudsman and ethics joined together).

And finally, the Africa Group supports the request made by the CCLM that the Ethics Committee provides detailed information relating to FAO's Strategy for Partnerships with the Private Sector as indicated in item III paragraph 15.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

Could you please give the floor to Greece as the Presidency of the European Union?

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

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

We welcome the results of the 98th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, support its recommendations and proposals to the Council, and take note of the information provided in the Report of the Session.

The European Union and its Member States appreciate the progress made by the CCLM in implementing the tasking formulated by the 148th Session of the FAO Council to initiate a process for the reformulation of rules and procedures for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in meetings of FAO. The need for an updated, simplified and coherent

mechanism for such participation is clearly underpinned by the relevant information provided by the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development.

We believe that the new rules and procedures will be instrumental for the effective implementation of the FAO Strategies for partnership with the Civil Society Organizations and with the Private Sector. The replacement of the former three categories of formal status of INGOs with a single status of observer will establish a pragmatic and result-oriented basis for involvement of CSO and Private Sector representatives in the work of the FAO. It is the correct approach to grant, as a general principle and subject to some specific requirements, the same rights to private sector representatives as those of CSOs participating in the same capacity.

Another key aspect is that the Draft Rules and Procedures proposed by the CCLM provide adequate safeguards for the Organization's intergovernmental nature, its independence and impartiality in decision-making. We support their endorsement by the Council with a view to the preparation, as appropriate, of the necessary amendments to the Basic Texts and the General Rules of the FAO for approval and adoption by the Conference.

We take note of the information regarding the Annual Report 2013 of the Ethics Committee, as well as the considerations of the Management about the combination of the functions of Ombudsman and Ethics Officer as a cost-effective and cost-savings measure. We agree that the situation regarding the compatibility of these two functions should be kept under review.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Cuba realiza esta intervención en representación del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe. Los países del GRULAC agradecen el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos en su 98.º período de sesiones que se expone en el documento CL 149/2.

Nos permitimos señalar que el 148.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, al tratar el informe del CCLM 97, el GRULAC apoyó la necesidad de iniciar un proceso encaminado a reformular las normas y los procedimientos relativos a la participación de las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales y las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil en las reuniones de la FAO.

Al considerar este tema en el documento CL 149/2, el GRULAC entiende que el tratamiento jurídico de esta temática debe adecuarse a un proceso amplio de reflexión, análisis y discusión política de los Estados Miembros.

Consideramos que siempre que se trate de una modificación a los Textos Fundamentales de la FAO, se debe llevar a cabo un análisis minucioso que permita conocer con claridad los efectos de tales decisiones para la Organización, así como para otros organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. De acuerdo a lo manifestado, el GRULAC valora la disposición expresada por el CCLM en el punto 10 de la sección 2 del documento CL 149/2, o sea, a reexaminar el proyecto de normas y procedimientos sobre el que había trabajado en el presente período de sesiones a la luz de la orientación que pudiera proporcionar el Consejo. En este sentido, el Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe se permite solicitar que el cuadro de decisiones del documento CL 149/2 Rev.1 señale lo siguiente: "El Consejo solicita al Presidente independiente del Consejo, llevar a cabo consultas sobre este documento con los grupos regionales, así como sobre la conveniencia de establecer un grupo de trabajo de composición abierta para el análisis del mismo".

El GRULAC reitera su apoyo a este proceso iniciado por el mandato del 148.º período de sesiones del Consejo de la FAO, y manifiesta su disposición para continuar trabajando constructivamente en el mismo.

Por último, con relación al Informe anual del Comité de Ética correspondiente a 2013, nuestro grupo toma nota del mismo.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

To start with, I would like to commend the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters that has presented the Report of its 98th Session held last March, in which it proposed a draft of updated rules and procedures for participation of civil society organizations and private sector representatives in FAO meetings.

We perceive that the role and presence of civil society organizations and private sector representatives to a certain extent in the UN process dramatically increased, especially in the last decades. Thousands of CSOs today participate in the major UN Conferences and sessions and participate in many other UN activities increasingly as active participants, not just observers. We acknowledge that FAO is one of the many UN agencies that recognizes the relevance and values of the contribution of CSOs in private sector and it is committed to facilitating the involvement in the FAO's work and activities.

The involvement of civil society, as perceived by many, persuaded governments to give more serious and high-level attention to issues and has provided serious monitoring of the national and global commitment made. However, at the same time, concerns by some Member Nations about the growing phenomenon have also emerged. This is seen by some governments as overwhelming the system, slowing the decision-making process and eroding the focus of intergovernmental negotiations. Some see private sector participants as predominantly pushing for a northern cultural view that is not fitting to a multi-cultural approach that emphasizes regional equity.

That said and in relation to the participation of CSOs and Private Sector Representatives in FAO meetings, Indonesia welcomes the draft of updated rules and procedures as proposed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. We share that FAO should provide inclusive process involving CSOs and the Private Sector for policy dialogue and for setting expertise and knowledge.

Nevertheless, taking into account the intergovernmental nature of the FAO and its accountability to its Member Nations, we underscore that facilitating the involvement of the CSOs and Private Sector Representatives should not jeopardize the implementation of UN key principles that decision making is entirely a matter for Member Nations. In this connection, Indonesia asserts that such rules and procedures should ensure that CSOs and Private Sector Representatives would not be allowed to block any consensus to which Member Nations have agreed upon, of any agenda or issues discussed in all of FAO's bodies and committees.

Mr Gregory GROTH (United States of America)

Thank you to the CCLM and particularly to its Chairperson and to the FAO Office of Legal Counsel for their work on this Report. Regarding the first item in the Report, the United States welcomes this initiative by the FAO to update its rules and procedures governing the participation of Civil Society and Private Sector representatives at FAO Governing Body meetings.

Considering that the Members approved FAO partnership strategies with Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector, these revisions will serve to allow valuable involvement by these non-Member stakeholders at FAO meetings.

Regarding the second item in the Report, the United States appreciates the 2013 FAO Ethics Committee Report and encourages the FAO Ethics Committee to continue its oversight of the FAO Ethics Office, especially as the FAO Ethics Officer takes on the additional duties of FAO Ombudsman, which we trust will make it easier for FAO personnel to step forward with concerns.

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

We join others in thanking the Chairperson of the CCLM for her briefing and we also appreciate the hard work of the Members of the Committee as well as the Secretariat in preparing the document before us.

Pakistan greatly values the input which CSOs working in the field of agriculture as well as Private Sector Organizations can offer to the work of FAO. We have seen evidence of that during the recent negotiations of the CFS RAI principles. However, as rightly noted in the document, CSOs and Private Sector Representatives should be excluded from decision making to safeguard the intergovernmental nature of the Organization.

We have carefully studied the document and have found it to be extremely useful. We would like to state the following: We understand that the proposed revision of the categorization of CSOs aims to streamline the process and makes it more predictable for them to apply for status in FAO. We

therefore think that merging the three categories in the existing rules, consultative status, specialized consultative status and liaison status into one category, formal status offers a good solution.

It is also important to retain the option for *ad hoc* participation for CSOs. We also support participation of Private Sector Representatives with formal status, as well as on *ad hoc* basis. However, when considering participation status of CSOs and Private Sector Representatives, there is also need to have a holistic view of what is happening in other parts of the Organization. I would like to draw the Council's attention to the ongoing process of review of participation status of CSOs in the Committee on World Food Security. The current Rules and Procedures of CFS concerning participation of CSOs and Private Sector Representatives, was developed as part of the CSF reform process. They allow CSOs to participate as part of the Civil Society Mechanism and in the individual capacity however, it is now being felt that there is need for further clarity particularly as regards to criteria for granting participation status to CSOs.

Therefore, we are of the view that lessons learned from the CFS experience can be shared. There may be a possibility of having similar structure for participation of CSOs and Private Sector Representatives in FAO and CFS. Lastly, as regards the mechanism for granting formal status to CSOs and Private Sector Representatives, we would like to seek clarification regarding what has been presented in the document. Under the existing rules, decisions regarding granting of participation status to CSOs are taken in accordance with the procedure given in Rules X to XVI in section M of the FAO Basic Text. The document before us, while proposing deletion of these rules to our understanding, does not provide an alternative mechanism. So, we would like to have clarification from the Secretariat regarding that and based on the response, we may ask for the floor again to offer a suggestion.

Mr Richard OLIVER (Trinidad and Tobago)

My delegation endorses the comments of Cuba on behalf of the GRULAC group. The government of Trinidad and Tobago considers the right of people participation as critical to the principles of good governance and that such an approach shows a greater level of accountability.

However, we also wish to emphasize that civil society needs to be responsible while exercising their rights and as such, Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the imperative for formalized Rules and Procedures. In this regard, we express support for updated Rules and Procedures for participation of Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector Representatives in FAO meetings.

Accordingly, we wish to endorse the recommendations of CCLM on the draft updated Rules and Procedures for participation of Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector Representatives in FAO meetings.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

We welcome the efforts made by CCLM in streamlining the process and procedure for engagement with CSOs and Private Sector Mechanism and acknowledge the hard work put in by their Committee Members, the Chairperson and the Legal Counsel.

We feel this is extremely important today in view of the valuable work being done by CSOs and Private Sector Mechanism in the field of agriculture, food and nutrition. We do have a few concerns though with the document. The first is in keeping in line with what Canada said about the role which is being assigned to the Chair and to the Committee in the various Bodies. I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 8 of Annex I which says that: notwithstanding the above, participation in sessions and meetings of the Organization by CSOs may be subject to such arrangement as maybe approved by the Body or meeting concerned and which may be necessary for the conduct of the proceedings.

This brings in an element of confusion in the mind of CSOs as whatever you have said before that in paragraph 705 stands subject to provisions of paragraph 8 and brings in an element of uncertainty in the minds of the CSOs participating. Also, if we assign this to the Chair or to the Committee, we may just see a change in procedures with every change of the Chair, which again would not be I think very conducive to the working of the Organization.

My second point relates to paragraph 11 regarding suspensions in the same annex. I find here a bit of a problem with the language used, the provisions made. I take you to line number five, third from the last: "formal status may also be suspended when a CSO has not shown any interest in or has not attended any meetings during a period of two years or more". This again brings in an element of subjectivity. Once he has been suspended maybe for not attending two years, one may not be suspended for not attending four years, so why not come with a specific year, two, three, four, whichever the Committee feels is proper as a suggestion for suspension of a CSO.

My third point is from the same paragraph which says that: the suspension may last longer if the reasons that motivated the same still exist. This has been taken as a ground for suspension but it is now when you come to termination the same ground has been put for termination. In paragraph 13(d) where it says that if having been suspended for a three year period, it has failed to rectify the circumstances which gave rise to the suspension. From my reading of these two paragraphs, it appears to me that the Organization may either increase the suspension or may decide to terminate for the same ground which exists. There is again a bit of confusion there, which I thought it would be better to clarify.

My last point relates to what is a pretty important issue which Pakistan has raised regarding engagement of CSOs in the CFS. I agree that CFS is on a different footing than the rest of the Governing Bodies but, being part of the same umbrella, it would be better if the policy is pretty coherent and harmonized across the Organization including CFS, so it would perhaps be better and it may be advisable to refer to the CFS Rules and Procedures in this regard and come out with a harmonized document for the Organization as a whole.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Queremos agradecer a la Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales por la presentación del Informe, así como a los miembros del Comité por el trabajo realizado.

Ante todo queremos sumarnos a la declaración que hizo Cuba en nombre del GRULAC, y al propio tiempo queremos hacer unos comentarios adicionales respecto al documento *Participación de Organizaciones internacionales No Gubernamentales y Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil en reuniones de la FAO*. Coincidimos en lo señalado de que amerita un debate y un acuerdo político previo al respecto. La discusión política debería darse en temas como por ejemplo: la conveniencia o no de la propuesta de ampliación para que las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado participen en las reuniones del Consejo con posibilidad de realizar intervenciones. Esto requiere un debate previo sobre la base de conocer las razones o motivos de esta propuesta, sobre todo al ser en Consejo un órgano de gobierno y no un comité técnico, comités donde sí se discuten y acuerdan recomendaciones de políticas (en materia agrícola, forestales, etc.), en los cuales las contribuciones de esas organizaciones son más evidentes, pero son menos evidentes cuando hablamos de un órgano de gobierno.

La ampliación del número de Miembros del Consejo, que es una medida contemplada en el PIA, no se ha dado todavía porque según el criterio de algunos países esto dificultaría los trabajos del Consejo. Sin embargo, ese criterio parece no haber sido considerado al presentarse la propuesta respecto a los órganos de la sociedad civil y del sector privado.

Se menciona en el párrafo 7 del Informe del CCLM que el 63 por ciento de las Organizaciones internacionales No Gubernamentales reconocidas en la FAO, no habían asistido a ninguna reunión de la FAO en los últimos cinco años. La pregunta que cabe hacerse es si se considera que ampliando a otros órganos la posibilidad de participación se mejorará la asistencia de esas organizaciones. Parecería más bien que las estrategias de la FAO para las asociaciones con las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado podrían ayudar a abordar esa baja participación. Por tanto, consideramos importante contar primero con un informe de la implementación de dichas estrategias, lo cual permitirá evaluar las necesidades futuras. Por esta razón respaldamos lo mencionado en el párrafo 2, literal (j), del Informe de la Reunión conjunta del Comité del Programa y del Comité de Finanzas, respecto a que se presente para la reunión de otoño de dichos comités información sobre la implementación de las estrategias.

Estos y otros temas que no menciono por cuestión de tiempo y porque han sido también mencionados por otros delegados, requieren una discusión política sobre la base de mayor información por parte de la Secretaría relativa a la motivación que sustente cada cambio propuesto.

En conclusión, si bien respaldamos la intención de facilitar la participación de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y valoramos los trabajos del CCLM, se requiere un mayor análisis y una discusión política sobre el documento propuesto para que posteriormente el CCLM lo vuelva a examinar desde el punto de vista jurídico, con miras a la consideración posterior del Consejo. De esta manera, considerando que el mandato del Consejo puede iniciar un proceso, respaldamos la propuesta que se ha mencionado en el sentido de que el Presidente Independiente del Consejo puede llevar adelante un diálogo, con los grupos regionales, por establecimiento de un grupo de trabajo que analice y debata este tema.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Nosotros nos sumamos a los agradecimientos que han realizado los distintos Miembros del Consejo a la Doctora Mónica Martínez, con la presentación del informe del 98.º período de sesiones del CCLM.

En primer término, queremos respaldar lo expresado por la Delegación de Cuba, a nombre del grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, que junto a otros Miembros del Consejo, han solicitado un proceso de reflexión más amplio sobre las modificaciones a los textos fundamentales que llegan a nuestra mesa de trabajo por vía del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. Brevemente, para no hacer una intervención ya con elementos que se han dicho con los oradores que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela apoya la propuesta realizada por Cuba a nombre del GRULAC en cuanto a las enmiendas al cuadro de decisión que se presenta para el Consejo en esta reunión. Deseamos que la misma cuente con el consenso de todos los Miembros para continuar este proceso de diálogo que inició el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

I have several questions and comments for clarification. First, on point number three regarding the review of the formal status of Civil Society Organizations, as contained in FAO's report, my questions are: specifically, which Governing Body would have the final responsibility for the suspension or termination of CSO and Private Sector participation? And what would be the procedure followed to decide on suspension or termination? I would like to see those safeguards before opening the door as my colleagues have stated.

Second, I would like to ask the Secretary, when is the due date for their participation? I recommend considering a temporary period before accepting their formal status.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

Japan basically supports the inclusion of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in the discussion process of the FAO meetings and actually, today I received from my capital confirmation of our Country's support to the Report of the CCLM.

However, inspired by the comment made by Indonesia or Canada or Pakistan, I would like to raise some fundamental questions to the current process. Most of the Civil Society and Private Sector Organizations are willing to cooperate with FAO to proceed to its ultimate goal to reduce hunger and malnutrition.

However, there might be some very few cases in which an NGO may be rejected by other international organizations due to its conduct to block the intergovernmental decision making process. In such a case, FAO also may need to establish some rules or criteria to be used to reject the participation of such an NGO.

If you look at the current state of the text, there seems to be no such provision which can be read or interpreted to exclude the participation of such NGOs. Therefore, we may need to establish some rules, practices or requirements to ensure that NGOs or Private Sector Representatives behave in a cooperative manner, and setting good practices of conduct.

In order to prepare for such situations, we may need one additional criteria in the Section A of Paragraph I or we may need additional sentences, regulations or a line of provision in Paragraph 9 stating the rules of procedure for the CSOs in case of improper behaviour.

The ultimate goal of these rules and procedures of participation of a Civil Society is not only to accelerate the participation, but also to create a good working environment both for intergovernmental processes and Civil Society Groups and Private Sectors Organizations.

There is, therefore, a need to establish, in time, additional rules of procedures to ensure a good work environment in case some Civil Society Organization or Private Sector people attempt to block the intergovernmental decision making process.

I can basically support the sentence, but I would like to request one more session to reflect upon this and please allow me to state one comment.

This is in line with the Canadian proposal. In Paragraph 7, Section C, it looks like the Civil Society Organization may have access to certain expert meetings. As you may know, experts are very sensitive when making comments. In the case of food safety standards, some experts feel strongly about having their names against the corresponding statements. So, should an NGO or some outsider take part in that same meeting, the experts could even refrain from expressing their scientific views. This could happen. We should be very cautious in this regard and analyze the situation on a case by case basis.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Yo también agradezco a la Presidenta del Comité y al Comité mismo los trabajos que han realizado, que nos parecen útiles porque nos han dado esta base para poder considerar el tema. También, por supuesto, apoyamos plenamente lo que fue expresado por Cuba, como presidencia del GRULAC, y creo que en la propuesta que está efectuando el GRULAC de realizar consultas sobre este proceso, tenemos un camino a seguir, y esto lo compruebo, dado que varios países de distintos grupos regionales han hecho una serie de consultas, pedidos de aclaraciones y sugerencias que son importantes, que deben ser atendidas, pero no creo que puedan ser satisfechas y resueltas en el marco de la presente sesión de este Consejo.

Yo quiero hacer una aclaración que es muy importante. No hay ninguna duda de que los Estados son los únicos que pueden tomar decisiones en el Organismo y en cualquiera de sus órganos rectores. Los representantes de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector privado - en la configuración que puedan tener en base a los presentes textos o en otras configuraciones - , colaboran con nosotros para brindar los elementos que contribuyan a las decisiones que toman los Estados. No hay en ese sentido posibilidad de bloqueo del proceso en el cual los Estados toman las decisiones. Reitero, más allá de las aclaraciones que podamos recibir por parte de la Secretaría a continuación de estas preguntas, que creemos necesario llevar adelante un proceso de consideración y de negociación política, cuya conclusión pueda luego ser remitida al Comité de Asuntos Legales y Constitucionales para su correspondiente tratamiento técnico.

Y en ese sentido, también quiero hacer presente un punto que me parece importante, dado que se ha mencionado la experiencia que tiene el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial en esta materia. Experiencia en la cual, todos, creo que coincidimos en que ha sido positiva. Sin embargo, el esquema y el funcionamiento que tiene la participación de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado en el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria surge de un proceso definido por la reforma de ese comité.

Sin duda que tenemos muchas lecciones aprendidas en ese tema y en el propio Comité estamos embarcados en un proceso de análisis y de cierta revisión de algunos mecanismos de participación. Pero, a la hora de considerar la participación de las Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil y del Sector Privado en los órganos rectores de la Organización, es cuando tenemos que tener presente la dinámica propia que a cada nivel le corresponde. Encontramos en esta razón un argumento más para insistir en la necesidad de que se abra un camino de consideración y de negociación política en los cuales los Estados tienen que tener el rol principal y cuyo resultado sea después canalizado hacia el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos. .

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

The discussion is becoming very interesting, just like at the beginning when the proposal of the welcome of the Civil Society and the Private Sector was initiated. There were different positive and negative interventions. In this regard, I wish to convey my country's view: we welcome the Strategy and we welcome the Private Sector and the Civil Society to participate.

Now, having said this, there may be a need for an independent review later on, to assess any efficiency gains brought about by their participation and contribution to the debates on the governance or on the contrary if they seem to be blocking or be the cause of lack of efficiency.

An independent review could therefore be planned after three or four years to review their role and participation, to monitor their presence, and whether they were effectively participating? I believe that an observation time of four or five years is necessary, as we could, in a year's time, come to object to it and decide that the Strategic Objective is not a welcome approach. We would therefore propose to observe and plan an independent review, after having had enough time to observe and study their role in the different technical bodies.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I think that the issue of partnership with Civil Society and Private Sector is very important as stated by other Delegates. I just want to support what just has been mentioned by our colleague from Eritrea. I think it is necessary to have an evaluation. I sometimes see Private Sector or Civil Society attending meetings here. I would like to know the criteria used to invite specific Civil Society or Private Sector Organizations?

This is another issue which we would like to raise which is the choice of Private Sector or Civil Society Organizations. Another important point we wish to raise is that the consultations need to involve all countries in a given Region.

Sra. Monica Martinez MENDUIÑO (Presidenta del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos)

En primer lugar, permítame agradecer muy sinceramente las palabras de aprecio al trabajo del Comité. Para nosotros es importante, es una voz de aliento y de apoyo por lo que hacemos.

Escuchando con cuidado cada una de las intervenciones, para mí es evidente que se requiere mayor información. Quienes mejor que los Miembros del CCLM sino de la Secretaría debe proveer esa información. Es la Secretaría la llamada a ser ellos los que, incluso, elaboraron el primer borrador del documento a explicar el documento como está; a explicar, incluso, la historia de cómo se llega a un resultado, a explicar cuáles han sido las prácticas en la Organización. O sea, a explicar un poco para quienes son nuevos cuál es lo que ha pasado antes, cuál ha sido la práctica, cómo llegamos a este punto.

Evidentemente, esa información, por razones de tiempo no creo que sea prudente hacerla hoy día. Aunque creo que si el Consejo lo considera pertinente, sería estupendo que le dieran a la Secretaría la instrucción de reunirse con los grupos regionales y que, en diálogo abierto, cada grupo regional pueda expresar sus preocupaciones, pueda expresar lo que piensan, cuáles son las expectativas que cada grupo tiene respecto a este tema tan importante.

Creo que ese puede ser un mecanismo a seguir. Como ya lo dije en mi informe, el Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos siempre estará a su disposición, siempre estará a las órdenes del Consejo y revisaremos cualquier documento que ustedes consideren pertinente que nosotros debamos revisar. Tal vez, como en este caso, no sé si Usted Señor Presidente quiere dar la palabra al Sr. Antonio Tavares para que se refiera a algunos aspectos así como a los detalles de las preguntas que fueron presentadas por los Miembros.

LEGAL COUNSEL

We had a very interesting debate as is often the case when we talk about Civil Society Organizations. I know it will not be possible to answer the whole range of questions that have been put forward but I wanted to start by saying that we have the intention to start a series of meetings with Representatives

and Regional Groups. They will be information meetings and consultations on the proposal that has been under discussion in the CCLM.

I would like to highlight a few ideas which we will have the occasion of developing in front of you. As regards NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, in FAO we have a framework that was developed in 1957 which established a number of criteria and transferred to the secretariat authority to associate NGOs in the work of FAO provided that a number of criteria were met.

This scheme worked for a number of years but then it started to exist only on paper, if I may say so. We have a number of categories of formal statuses and, in the mid-nineties, the Organization started developing a number of practices.

These practices were more or less in line with United Nations general practice but still, we have been working to a very large extent on a *de facto* basis at least for the past few years.

The idea of redefining the framework for NGO and non-state actor participation in FAO meetings has been on the table now for some eight years, since more or less the time of the Reform.

We had the idea of a simplified framework, in line with the practice of other organizations, without having various categories with different rights of participation. We think that this idea of a simplified framework is one that we should continue to follow.

We recognize that decision making in the context of an intergovernmental organization such as FAO is a matter for Members Nations, and this is also something that will be reflected in a revised framework.

A point that needs to be made very clearly is that we do not consider that the process that has been followed in the CFS should be the standard process for all FAO meetings. We might certainly look at some aspects of the CFS process and derive some conclusions, but the understanding when the negotiation of the CFS was carried out was that there was a special regime for the CFS. We are not sure whether Members would accept that the CFS regime should be applicable to FAO in general, and we have been working under this assumption.

We will continue discussions with Members and then we will assess the situation, possibly before the next session of the CCLM. We could have some information discussions and then we will see where to go from there.

Some of the provisions that you have seen in these rules are in fact followed in other organizations of the UN System. In FAO, we have some, let us say, particular features. But, by large, we are working conceptually under the same principles as in other organizations of the System.

I wanted to insist that the idea is to have one of the sections of our Basic Text reconsidered in due course, because we have currently a section which exists essentially on paper, which has been followed at least in theory for many years. We would like to have an updated framework to present to the Conference for approval.

We will need, in any case, and this is a matter that the CCLM can address at a certain point in time, presumably at the Autumn Session, to amend a number of rules of the General Rules of the Organization which currently refer to the framework which is being updated. Ideally, our intention is to submit to you a revised section of our Basic Texts on CSOs and Private Sector participation in meetings, as well as a set of amendments to the General Rules of the Organization.

You may keep in mind that we in FAO have also acquired some experience and we have had substantial practice in dealing with NGOs in the context, for instance, of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. FAO is an Organization with a rich practice and we are looking forward to discussing with the Regional Groups and the Representatives to see how we will take this forward.

We will start going through the proposals that the CCLM has made and see how we could accommodate the concerns expressed.

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

Fundamentally, our idea of looking at CFS is not aimed at trying to replicate what they have, but to draw some useful lessons that may be applicable while we are going through this revision exercise on the FAO side.

On the proposal that has been given by the GRULAC Group for establishing an Open-Ended Working Group, there is something that is said in New York about OEWGs that they are open and unending, so we would like to go with what you have suggested, that perhaps the Secretariat enters into some consultation with Regional Groups and based on that, the issue can be discussed in the next meeting of the CCLM and a fresh proposal can be presented to the next Council session.

My last point would relate to what I had mentioned in my earlier intervention concerning the procedures. This is something which has been raised by Iran as well. We believe that there is a need for involvement of Member Nations in coordination with the Secretariat while deciding on giving status to CSOs and private sector. One idea that can be looked into is the NGOs Committee in the ECOSOC. We may not try to create a totally new regime but perhaps the Council can be interested with this role in terms of considering the proposed status. So this is just an idea but I thank you for your explanation.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to thank all of you for this constructive debate and very useful information which has been put forward.

I want to thank the Chairperson and the team of the Committee and the Secretariat for the good work. They have faithfully done what they were entrusted to do by the 148th Session of the Council.

I attended CCLM and several questions were asked and in fact the document which has come to the Council with that matrix which shows what is happening to date and what is being proposed has been devoted to enable you, Members, to go through and to see what has been proposed and what needs to be changed.

And I note some we have been able to go through, for still need to consult and those who have gone through they have got very variable input which they see could go into making this document proposal to be useful

And whatever we propose and we endorse as Council to go to Conference has to be credible. That is going to be really accepted and endorsed without any questions. That makes our work to be continued, to be undertaken in a well fashioned manner and we will learn more from one to other. We will get to know more on what are the pertinent issues.

In this regard, I would like to conclude item 8 as follows:

1. The Council endorsed the Report of the 98th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.
2. The Council (i) noted broad support for a revised framework reflecting FAO's experience on participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO meetings;
(ii) expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in the preparation of draft rules and procedures for participation of CSOs and Private Sector Representatives in FAO meetings prepared by the CCLM;
(iii) noted that a number of provisions in the draft "Rules and Procedures for Participation of Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Representatives in FAO Meetings" needed additional clarification
(iv) requested the Secretariat to convene information meetings and hold consultations with Regional Groups for review of the draft Rules and Procedures so that the CCLM could finalize its work at its session of Autumn 2014.
3. The Council noted the deliberations of the CCLM on the Second Annual Report of the Ethics Committee.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

I am afraid that the entire discussion in the plenary suggested that, not only clarification, but also reconsideration or re-discussion, if necessary. Clarification is requested frequently, but as for clarification, I think some other countries also indirectly requested reconsideration if there is a necessity. So after clarification, I would like to propose a reconsideration if necessary.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

En general apoyamos su resumen, solamente un pequeño detalle. Me parece que era el párrafo 3 de su resumen, en referencia a que el Consejo tomó nota de que varias disposiciones en el documento presentado requerían ulteriores aclaraciones.

Me parece que lo que hubo aquí en el debate en el Consejo no era solamente de que mayor información, sino de la necesidad de un mayor análisis y un debate sobre este tema no solo más aclaraciones sobre el texto presentado. Si pudiera verse reflejado eso en el resumen.

CHAIRPERSON

I thought reference to debates, if there are any debates, is contained in the point 1(iii), that is: “requested the secretariat to convene information meetings and hold consultations with Regional Groups for review of the draft rules and procedures so that the CCLM could finalize its work at its session of Autumn 2014”.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Entendemos su punto de vista, es solamente que, justamente, para la base de la celebración de esas consultas posteriores, es de que no es solamente que hacen falta aclaraciones sobre el documento que se ha presentado sino se requiere un mayor análisis y un debate, y sobre esa base que vamos posteriormente a celebrar las consultas que se proponen.

Entonces, quisiéramos que se refleje de que no se requieren únicamente aclaraciones, sino mayor análisis y, como digo, un debate sobre el tema.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me go back to my point 2(iv): “requested the secretariat to convene information meetings and hold consultations with Regional Groups for review, analysis and debate of the draft rules and procedures so that the CCLM could finalize its work at its session of Autumn 2014”.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

That is the same place I tried to ask you to correct. Is not Ecuador’s point the same place I had requested to change?

CHAIRPERSON

No, it is different.

Sr. Oscar PIÑEYRO (Observador de Uruguay)

No había intervenido hasta el momento, dado que soy integrante también del CCLM, digamos en términos de delegación. Complementando un poco la intervención que han hecho anteriormente Japón y Ecuador, simplemente quería precisar con relación a la solicitud de debate que nos podemos encontrar con algunos puntos en los que no necesariamente haya acuerdo y tiene que haber decisión política.

En términos del tema que se está considerando, el procedimiento que se había diseñado inicialmente solo podía evidenciarlos, es decir, las consultas regionales que hiciera la Secretaría podía marcar de que hubieran Estados Miembros que evidenciaran que no hay consenso sobre determinados puntos y que se requiriera cierta decisión política sobre eso.

Más allá de esto, en el ámbito de GRULAC estamos considerando comentarios específicos que no hemos vertido en la sesión del día de hoy a los efectos de simplificar la sesión y presentarlos dentro del procedimiento que finalmente decida el Consejo de consulta con los Grupos Regionales.

CHAIRPERSON

I think that will be provided in what will happen during these consultations. I thank you for very fruitful discussion on this agenda item 8 and now we have come to the end of it.

Item 13. Assessment of the International Year of Quinoa (2013)**Point 13. Évaluation de l'Année internationale du quinoa (2013)****Tema 13. Evaluación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa (2013)**

(CL 149/10)

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, we will now move on to the next item on our agenda which is item 13, *Assessment of International Year of Quinoa 2013*. The document before Council is CL 149/10. I now invite Mr Mario Lubetkin, Director of the Office of Corporate Communication to introduce this item.

Sr. Mario LUBETKIN (Director de la Oficina de Comunicación Institucional)

La FAO fue encomendada por las Naciones Unidas como la secretaría técnica para la implementación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa, rol que fue delegado a la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe en Santiago de Chile con el respaldo de mi Oficina de Comunicación Institucional aquí en Roma. En nombre de ambas oficinas y de la FAO en su conjunto, tengo el honor de informar al Consejo de la FAO sobre los resultados logrados en el Año Internacional de la Quinoa.

Más allá de referirme a las diversas acciones que hemos implementado como FAO, quisiera compartir con ustedes el trabajo que los países desarrollaron y que nosotros hemos apoyado codo a codo como agencia de Naciones Unidas a su servicio. Gracias a la colaboración entre los Gobiernos, las organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas, las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales, las asociaciones de productores, las instituciones de investigación, así como el Sector Privado y académico, el Año Internacional de la Quinoa tuvo un gran éxito y alcanzó los objetivos y resultados esperados. El objetivo principal del Año Internacional fue centrar la atención mundial en el rol que desempeña la Quinoa en la seguridad alimentaria y en la erradicación de la pobreza.

Los acuerdos claves que permitieron la implementación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa fueron la elaboración y validación con los países de un Plan Maestro como herramienta para la implementación del Año Internacional, el establecimiento de un Comité Internacional de Coordinación conformado por Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Francia y Perú, bajo la presidencia de Bolivia, cuya función fue establecer directrices técnicas y de políticas para la implementación del Año Internacional, establecimiento de comités nacionales y setenta puntos focales en diferentes países del mundo que se convirtieron en actores estratégicos fundamentales para coordinar la visión del Año Internacional con las realidades locales.

El nombramiento como Embajadores Especiales del Año Internacional de la Quinoa a los Presidentes del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, Señor Evo Morales, y a la Primera Dama del Perú, Sra. Nadine Heredia, quienes estuvieron involucrados en varias iniciativas y trabajaron arduamente para promover el Año Internacional.

Como resultado de la acción conjunta de países y organismos de cooperación, se realizaron un sinnúmero de actividades de información y comunicación, como por ejemplo, el sitio web del Año Internacional de la Quinoa, disponible en los seis idiomas de las Naciones Unidas, que permite acceder a la información general y técnica generada en el Año Internacional.

La exposición itineraria De los Andes al Mundo, que estuvo de gira en tres continentes, siete países, desde China hasta Estados Unidos. Eventos gastronómicos en treinta y cuatro países, en el que destaco el Primer Festival de la Quinoa en Bruselas, Bélgica. Y por último, los recetarios que incorporaron a chefs de todo el mundo y a comunidades indígenas andinas como, por ejemplo, el Recetario internacional de la Quinoa, tradición y vanguardia, y el libro La Quinoa en la cocina, disponible en inglés, francés, español e italiano.

La investigación, la tecnología y el mercadeo también tuvieron lugar en el Año Internacional de la Quinua. En cifras generales, se realizaron actividades sobre estas temáticas en cincuenta países en los cinco continentes, se realizaron dieciséis seminarios internacionales sobre la Quinua y se desarrollaron siete publicaciones especializadas de carácter global involucrando a más de 160 científicos e investigadores. Cabe destacar las siguientes, por ejemplo: el desarrollo de la nueva variedad de Quinua, INIA 433, Santa Ana/Año Internacional de la Quinua/FAO, nombrada en honor del Año Internacional de la Quinua; por ejemplo el IV Congreso Mundial de la Quinua realizado en Ibarra, Ecuador, o el libro El estado de arte de la Quinua, que integra los avances científicos de 166 investigadores y expertos de Quinua en todo el mundo, coordinado por CIRAD y FAO.

En términos de movilización de recursos, todos los comités nacionales contaron con un punto focal, así como la FAO y la Secretaría Técnica del Año Internacional. Se realizaron campañas de movilización de fondos, donde se contactaron un número considerable de instituciones gubernamentales, no gubernamentales y privadas a nivel mundial, regional y nacional. La recaudación de fondos financieros fue limitada, en comparación con la cantidad de recursos en especie que facilitaron el desarrollo de eventos y promociones del Año Internacional.

El Año Internacional de la Quinua fue el primer paso de un proceso en curso y un catalizador para la gestión del conocimiento y la generación de programas de mediano y largo plazo que promuevan la producción sostenible y el consumo local de la Quinua, contribuyendo así a la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de los Países Miembros. En este sentido, con el apoyo de FAO se están desarrollando proyectos en varios países de África, Asia y el Cercano Oriente, donde se están estableciendo cultivos experimentales de Quinua, facilitando el intercambio de conocimientos con países productores a través de mecanismos de cooperación como la cooperación Sur-Sur.

Como se observa, se vislumbra un futuro positivo para la producción de Quinua basado en un mercado en expansión. Sin embargo, aún hay una serie de desafíos y oportunidades. El fortalecimiento del sector de la Quinua requerirá de un aumento en la productividad, en la rentabilidad, en la sostenibilidad de los sistemas agrícolas, en el desarrollo de tecnologías para la industria procesadora y la promoción del comercio justo, así como un compromiso renovado de la comunidad internacional para impulsar un desarrollo rural más sostenible.

El Año Internacional de la Quinua destacó a este grano de oro como un aliado en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, especialmente en el marco del Desafío Hambre Cero, resaltando su alto valor nutritivo, su adaptabilidad a diferentes zonas agroecológicas y su potencial gastronómico y comercial.

Durante el año 2013, la atención del mundo se centró en este y otros cultivos marginados que habían quedado olvidados durante muchos años. Una mayor visibilidad y un mayor conocimiento científico sobre la Quinua, junto con el aumento de la producción y el consumo no solo en la zona andina, sino también en otros países y continentes que sufren de inseguridad alimentaria es el legado del Año Internacional de la Quinua para el mundo.

Sra. Carla SEAIN (Argentina)

La Argentina desea destacar que la Resolución 66/221 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas que decidió declarar el año 2013 el Año Internacional de la Quinua, ha puesto de manifiesto el reconocimiento internacional de la Quinua y su importancia, ya no sólo para los pueblos indígenas andinos, sino también para el resto de los pueblos del mundo.

La Quinua es un cultivo milenario natural que cuenta con más de 3,000 variedades o ecotipos, tanto cultivadas como silvestres, capaz de crecer en las condiciones más duras. Como alimento se destaca por su elevado valor nutritivo, por lo que puede sustituir y constituir un gran aporte para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de la humanidad. Por ello, la Argentina ha apoyado desde un principio que se declare al año 2013 como el Año Internacional de la Quinua.

En tal sentido, queremos felicitar a todos aquellos Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas que han emprendido acciones concretas de promoción respecto del papel que juega la Quinua con su versatilidad agronómica, su gran biodiversidad y su elevado valor nutritivo para el logro de la

seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición y para la erradicación de la pobreza, lo cual contribuye a la consecución de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, y particularmente al objetivo número uno de erradicar la pobreza y el hambre. Las actividades desarrolladas en el contexto de esta celebración, han permitido no sólo difundir los beneficios de este cultivo, sino también brindar apoyo principalmente a los pequeños productores, con el objetivo de motivarlos a continuar o iniciar la producción, contribuyendo así al desarrollo de las poblaciones más vulnerables, así como a la recuperación de valores y prácticas tradicionales de los pueblos indígenas.

La Argentina, consciente de la gran relevancia de este cultivo, tanto en materia nutricional como para el desarrollo de vastas poblaciones rurales, ha participado activamente en el Comité Internacional para la Coordinación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa. Adicionalmente, siguiendo los lineamientos previstos en el Comité Internacional, Argentina conformó el Comité Nacional para el Año Internacional de la Quinoa, que tuvo un papel fundamental en diseñar e implementar las actividades nacionales relativas al Año Internacional, y que aún continúa cumpliendo un papel sumamente relevante en la promoción de la Quinoa en la Argentina.

Entre las acciones desarrolladas deseamos destacar la conformación del Comité Nacional para el Año Internacional de la Quinoa, la presentación en el marco del Mercado de Industrias Culturales, en conjunto con la Secretaría de Cultura de la Nación Argentina, también se organizó la Feria de la Papa y de Cultivos Andinos, con productores del Noroeste de la Argentina, en la cual se degustaron y vendieron productos de Quinoa, se organizó el Primer Encuentro Binacional sobre la Quinoa, organizado conjuntamente con Bolivia.

También se produjo el lanzamiento del Plan de Desarrollo de la Producción de Quinoa en el Noroeste argentino, contándose así con la participación de productores y técnicos de diferentes regiones. Se organizó también la jornada para productores «Quinoa, una alternativa rentable», en la cual tanto productores como técnicos y estudiantes abordaron temáticas tales como el manejo del cultivo, su ecofisiología, su comercialización y cuestiones vinculadas a la calidad.

Por último, quiero destacar que se realizó un Simposio Internacional de la Quinoa con el objetivo de incentivar la formación de una red de instituciones con interés en revalorizar la Quinoa, el intercambio de información entre investigadores, extensionistas y productores, como así también el desarrollo de nuevas alternativas de uso en alimentos, la producción de Quinoa en la región andina de Argentina y el consumo del grano en todo el país.

Todas estas acciones denotan el fuerte interés de nuestro país en la revalorización de este cultivo ancestral, de suma importancia para vastas poblaciones de nuestra región. Por ello reiteramos nuestro agradecimiento a la FAO por la celebración del Año Internacional, esperando que las lecciones aprendidas y las labores puestas en marcha resulten una base sólida para seguir dando pasos concretos en la lucha contra el flagelo del hambre y la erradicación de la pobreza.

Mme Pakponedong ALI-TILOH (Togo)

La Délégation de la République du Togo intervient au nom du Groupe Afrique sur le point 13 de l'ordre du jour du Conseil relatif à l'Évaluation de l'Année internationale du quinoa (2013) - document CL 149/10. En décembre 2011 l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies à l'initiative de l'État plurinational de la Bolivie a déclaré 2013 l'Année internationale du quinoa, tout en reconnaissant la valeur du travail accompli par les peuples indigènes des Andes, à travers leurs connaissances traditionnelles et les pratiques de bien vivre en harmonie avec la nature, qui ont protégé et préservé le quinoa comme nourriture pour les générations présentes et futures.

Le Groupe Afrique note que le quinoa a eu droit à tous les égards à partir du 20 février 2013, date officielle de sa célébration par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies. Ainsi, l'Année internationale du quinoa a été couronnée de succès puisque ses principaux objectifs et résultats escomptés ont été atteints, à savoir une plus grande visibilité du quinoa, l'approfondissement des connaissances scientifiques à son sujet, et l'augmentation de la production et de la consommation de quinoa dans la zone andine, sur d'autres continents et dans d'autres pays souffrant de l'insécurité alimentaire.

Ceci étant, le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement le rapport sur l'Évaluation de l'Année internationale du quinoa (2013), élaboré par le secrétariat technique de l'Année internationale du quinoa. A cet effet, nous félicitons la FAO pour le rôle de chef de file qu'elle a su jouer, notamment son appui en vue de faciliter le déroulement des activités liées à cet événement.

Monsieur le Président, les concepts de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition sont des questions de souveraineté pour l'Afrique. C'est dans cette optique qu'en janvier 2014, le Conseil exécutif de l'Union africaine a approuvé la déclaration visant à mettre un terme à la faim d'ici à 2025.

Le quinoa, de par son rôle potentiel de la biodiversité, en particulier dans la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition, vu sa capacité d'adaptation à différentes zones agro-écologiques, rentre totalement dans l'initiative Faim Zéro. C'est pour cette raison que le Groupe Afrique appelle tous les pays à continuer de concevoir des programmes, des projets et des activités pour promouvoir les systèmes alimentaires fondés sur le quinoa, en particulier dans les pays dont la population souffre de la faim.

Mr Achmad SURYANA (Indonesia)

First of all, please allow me to express our congratulations to FAO and all Member Nations, especially from the Andean zone for the successful works on International Year of Quinoa 2013. So with this event, we all recognize and are aware that quinoa, which comes from higher land in the Andean territory, is very important to food security, especially in higher land areas due to its adaptability, production, nutrition, as well as its contribution to improvement of livelihood.

International Year of Quinoa invoked many activities including awareness and information, strategic activities, marketing, and collaboration to support development and utilization of quinoa during 2013. Various activities were expected to foster positive contribution of quinoa development in the world as part of reducing food security and eradicating poverty.

With regard to this important event, Mr Chairman, Indonesia is wondering how the success of the International Year of Quinoa would be follow up? Are there any activities after this event that would be coordinated by FAO or other agencies that may strengthen further promotion of quinoa after this international year has finished?

Mr Luiz Maria PIO CORREA (Brazil)

Brazil would like to congratulate our brother nations from the Andean Region for the successful promotion along with the FAO of the International Year of Quinoa in 2013. Its success represents an example of how international years can serve the main objective of fighting hunger and malnutrition.

The Andean nations have preserved the genetic spectrum of a plant that has a nutritional value and commercial potential that can greatly improve the livelihoods of farmers and the health of consumers worldwide.

The International Year has helped disseminate knowledge of the benefits of quinoa and increase its trade. It has also promoted research of its different varieties, nutritional value, and adaptability to different agro ecological zones.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We would like to commend the Secretariat and others who may have contributed to this report for not only the wealth of information on activities that is contained there but in our view, possibly for the first time, actually addresses the impact of those activities, especially longer term and looks towards the future and identifies indeed even some challenges that remain towards carrying that work forward.

We very much welcome this as something we have asked for in reports for international years consistently for some time now. We also would simply like to endorse the proposed invitation for a conference to call on Member Countries to continue the generation of programmes, projects, and activities that promote quinoa.

Ms Ala MASHTA (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

The initiative made by the President of Bolivia and the objective of such an initiative was to achieve food security. At the outset, this event was aiming at promoting the production of quinoa in a number of African and Near Eastern African countries including Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Iran, Sudan, and Yemen in addition to Somalia.

We, as the Near East Group, would like to endorse the document at hand and we should like to disseminate the experience of Egypt and Iraq in the celebration of the International Year of Quinoa. Indeed, the Ministry of Agriculture in Iraq helped implement a project where quinoa was planted in two provinces.

The project of Iraq aimed at promoting the best practices of quinoa and we wanted to promote the best uses and consumption ways of quinoa in addition to the promotion of the capabilities at the local level which would bring about national strategies which would promote in the end, the production of quinoa in a sustainable way.

On 27 May this year, we organized a quinoa day and in this event, a number of farmers and relevant stakeholders took part, in order to promote the production of quinoa for the first time in Iraq. On the basis of the initial results of this pilot project, we concluded that quinoa is adapted to our environment and therefore we can go ahead with the production of quinoa.

Next year we shall also try to experience the production of quinoa in saline and hot environments in addition to poor soils. As for the experience of Egypt in the production of quinoa, the University of Ain Shams in Egypt did experience the production of quinoa as a food product and as a source of oil. Indeed, such an experience was disseminated.

The project was initiated back in 2011 and quinoa was introduced as a salinity resistant product, as a source of oil production, and as a product that can be used to produce pulp and paper. On the basis of the report that was prepared, conclusions were along the following lines.

Quinoa is adapted to the Egyptian soil. It can also be considered as an option in addition to rice. It can be produced in addition to rye and cereals. Such a report has also shown that quinoa can be used as a source of food and feed at the same time. Such an experience is promising for Egypt which needs this supply of food products for more than 80 million people. The surface of arable land has not increased whereas for population growth is important.

On the basis of the characteristics of quinoa, it can be considered as the best ways of making the best use of the arable land. Such a crop can be planted in lands which suffer from a large degree of salinity or other lands that are irrigated with waste water.

On the basis of this experience, quinoa can be a good source of food product for Syria. In conclusion, I should like to thank FAO for the technical support to the countries of our region and we look forward to further assistance to our region in order to achieve food security and in order to promote our own capabilities in this respect.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

You will not be surprised if I ask you to give the floor to Greece as the Presidency of the European Union.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

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

We welcome the assessment of the International Year of Quinoa 2013 and take note of the information provided in the document CL 149/10 and the suggestion to the Council. The European Union and its Member States appreciate the significant role played by FAO and specifically the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in enabling the International Year of Quinoa to reach its main objectives in highlighting the important role of quinoa, in eradicating hunger,

malnutrition and poverty, and also in supporting the achievement of the international agreed Development Goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

To inform discussions of future such international years, we would welcome information on the cost incurred by FAO to support the International Year of Quinoa. Mr Chair, we take note of the master plan drawn up for the successful implementation of the International Year of Quinoa along with complementary components such as information and communication on research technology, marketing events, and the mobilization of cooperation and funds.

We acknowledge the contribution of the International Year of Quinoa International Coordination Committee, the National Committees, the Producers Association, and the rural communities, the Governments, and the Private Sector, the research and development agencies, and the non-governmental organizations to raise awareness worldwide of the high nutritional value of quinoa, and the efforts of the indigenous people of the Andes to maintain, protect, and preserve this nutritional heritage for the present and the future generations.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

The United States would like to commend the work of the International Coordination Committee for the International Year of Quinoa that saw such strong regional support and participation, and global acceptance. This is a testament to the broad partnerships that are built and strengthened through their participation in and the promotion of international years.

Specifically regarding reports for these international years, we would encourage the Technical Secretariat to provide more quantitative analysis and detailed information regarding pilots, projects, or programmes including timelines for execution, costs, and expected outcomes as part of future reports.

We would also request that future assessments include a summary of the total actual costs for the programme, including a breakdown of what expenditures were assumed by FAO, including staff related costs.

It is important that we take into account the total cost when establishing the outcomes of these international years and share best practices that can maximize the impact of these programmes on global food security.

Sr. Luis Alberto ALVÁREZ FERMÍN (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación del Informe 149/10 sobre la evaluación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa, 2013, evento que ha resultado como un tremendo éxito. El Gobierno Bolivariano respaldó la propuesta boliviana de promover el abono del Año Internacional de la Quinoa y también esta propuesta y este apoyo fue llevado en otras instancias regionales e internacionales, como la Unasur, Mercosur, Cumbre ASPA, Cumbre Iberoamericana, el ALBA-TCP y la CELAC.

Dadas sus propiedades nutritivas y su relación con las prácticas agrícolas de las comunidades ancestrales, la Quinoa resulta de un valor inestimable para la erradicación del hambre en el mundo. Sin embargo, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela no puede dejar de manifestar su profunda preocupación por los efectos negativos causados a las comunidades indígenas andinas productoras de Quinoa, quienes por un lado han sido desplazadas de su región para dar paso a los inversionistas, que practican métodos de cultivo intensivos conjuntamente con el uso de agroquímicos, y por el otro, han sido sometidos a situaciones de pobreza extrema debido al incremento de este cereal producto del interés de comerciantes foráneos.

No obstante, lo señalaba anteriormente, Venezuela toma nota de la información proporcionada en el Informe sobre la evaluación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa, así como también a la invitación propuesta a la Conferencia de exhortar a todos los Estados Miembros a seguir generando programas, proyectos y actividades en los que se promuevan sistemas alimentarios a base de la Quinoa, especialmente en aquellos países que padecen hambre y malnutrición.

Finalmente, instamos a la FAO a llamar la atención para elaborar un programa de políticas preventivas conjuntamente con los gobiernos para resguardar la salud, integridad y propiedad sobre

los conocimientos y los recursos naturales que corresponden a los pobladores originarios que presenten problemas similares a los desplazamientos sufridos por las comunidades agrícolas ancestrales dedicadas al cultivo de la Quinoa en algunos países andinos.

Mr Yuichi NISHIDA (Japan)

Japan highly evaluated quinoa which has excellent quality and quantity of nutrition, and the ability to adapt to different ecological environments and climates, and potential to contribute to addressing global hunger which is a security and nutrition issue.

I am pleased to inform that in Japan, this plant has been brought to scientific interest of high school students. In support of the International Year of Quinoa, the Japanese government supported and participated in a symposium and seminars jointly held in Japan by the Bolivian and the Peruvian governments and FAO.

We welcome promotion and more consumption of quinoa in Japan and globally.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Queremos agradecer por la presentación del informe y felicitar por todas las actividades e iniciativas que se realizaron durante el Año Internacional de la Quinoa que ha servido para iniciar con éxito dicha celebración, la celebración de este año presente ha servido para centrar la atención mundial sobre las potencialidades nutritivas y la biodiversidad de la Quinoa y su contribución a la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza, igualmente ha servido para reconocer que los pueblos indígenas andinos mediante sus conocimientos y prácticas tradicionales expresadas en el concepto del buen vivir y en armonía con la naturaleza han mantenido controlado, protegido y preservado en su estado natural la Quinoa, incluida sus numerosas variedades cultivadas y locales como alimento para las generaciones actuales y venideras.

Mi Delegación quiere recordar la declaración de los Jefes de Estado de América Latina y el Caribe en la Segunda Cumbre de la Comunidad de estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños en el sentido de que apoyaron la creación e implementación en Bolivia de un Centro Internacional de la Quinoa y granos altos andinos con el objeto de fortalecer la investigación e innovación tecnológica del grano de oro de los Andes, lo que contribuirá a la seguridad alimentaria de los pueblos, igualmente apoyaron la iniciativa de implementar una red de centros de investigación y promoción de la Quinoa.

Finalmente, recordar, Presidente la decisión de los Jefes de Estado, igualmente de alentar a los países a que, más allá del año internacional de la Quinoa, continúen desarrollando iniciativas que aumenten la conciencia del público respecto a las propiedades nutritivas, económicas, ambientales y culturales de la Quinoa y su alta potencialidad para contribuir a la erradicación del hambre.

Mr Kestutis TARNAUSKAS (Observer for Lithuania)

I am honoured to speak as a Member of the European Union on behalf of the Republic of Lithuania. In line with the common statement delivered by Greece on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States, we would like to re-emphasize the assessment of the International Year of Quinoa 2013.

During more than 100 years quinoa has grown in Lithuania as a weed without any value for food and feed. However, within the International Year of Quinoa, we could learn about the new scope of adaptation and the potential of quinoa as a nutritious and safe food. This could be an effective tool in achieving one of the Millennium Development Goals: eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty.

Therefore, we have implemented a project on a voluntary basis aiming at the best practices on taking stock and harvesting methods. Our small-scale farmers, especially family farmers, have been enabled to find new areas to expand and safely integrate the cultivation of quinoa. This cultivation plan is to be carried out in a responsible manner in the food chain, thus contributing to the fight against hunger in the world.

Taking into account the challenges, but also the expectations of International Years, we suggest the results of this International Year of Quinoa be included in FAO regular work within the Strategic Objective 1, 2 and possibly 4.

Finally, recalling the views on the policy for International Years, we would appreciate if the preparation for extending any future International Years by FAO would be in line with agreed rules.

Sra. Stella CHIRINOS (Observador de Perú)

Para el Perú, el Año Internacional de la Quinua, tuvo una importancia fundamental. Como sabemos la Quinua es un alimento proveniente de las zonas andinas de Perú y Bolivia, que fue conservado por los pueblos indígenas a través de sus conocimientos y prácticas tradicionales por miles y miles de años y que hoy es considerado como una reserva nutricional para el mundo, de ahí el lema: “El futuro sembrado hace miles de años.”

El Perú felicita a la FAO por su compromiso en la discusión del año internacional de la Quinua y el logro obtenido para posicionar con éxito a nivel internacional a la Quinua como un alimento de gran valor nutricional que puede contribuir a la lucha contra el hambre y a la malnutrición en distintos puntos del planeta, dada su gran adaptabilidad a las diferentes zonas agroecológicas. La FAO no caminó sola en este esfuerzo de difusión, sino que contó con el apoyo de los Gobiernos, las organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil, las instituciones de investigación, el Sector Privado, la comunidad académica y las asociaciones vinculadas a la actividad gastronómica, juntos todos, lograron el objetivo de dar a conocer la Quinua y sus propiedades, generando un mayor consumo y un conocimiento científico sobre este grano andino, así como el interés de aplicar nuevas tecnologías e innovaciones a la producción de la Quinua.

En este marco, el Perú, como país de origen y productor, colaboró en la difusión nacional e internacional de la Quinua a través de diversas actividades en el Perú y de eventos internacionales.

En especial, aquellos realizados por el embajador especial de la FAO, Señora Nadine Heredia, cabe resaltar alguno de los eventos realizados, como la presentación de una nueva variedad de Quinua por el Instituto Nacional de Innovación Agraria, dicha variedad es más resistente a la sequía y al mildiú, que es la enfermedad que afecta con mayor frecuencia el cultivo, también podemos resaltar la realización del Congreso Internacional Científico sobre Quinua y Granos Andinos, la publicación del catálogo de variedades de Quinua en el Perú.

La publicación de varios recetarios de cocina sobre la Quinua y las degustaciones gastronómicas en diversos países para difundir su versatilidad culinaria, así como la inclusión de la Quinua en algunos programas nutricionales infantiles del estado. En nombre del Perú, deseamos agradecer al Director General de la FAO el nombramiento de la Señora Nadine Heredia, primera dama de la nación como Embajadora Especial de la FAO para el Año Internacional de la Quinua durante el 2013 y reiterar el agradecimiento por la invitación para continuar su rol como Embajadora Especial de la Quinua en el 2014 en el contexto del Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar y en reconocimiento a los lazos esenciales entre la agricultura familiar y la promoción de la Quinua.

Somos conscientes de la importancia de esta nueva asignación que responde al reconocimiento de la labor desempeñada por la Embajadora Especial para la promoción de este grano andino, así como el compromiso de mi país con los pequeños agricultores quienes ocupan un lugar central en las políticas de gobierno. En ese sentido, deseo transmitir el compromiso de mi gobierno en continuar trabajando estrechamente para difundir la Quinua y contribuir al desarrollo de los agricultores familiares. Finalmente, agradecemos a la FAO el informe que nos presenta hoy, que es un claro reflejo de los esfuerzos realizados y nos da luces sobre el camino a seguir.

Sr. Mario LUBETKIN (Director de la Oficina de Comunicación Institucional)

Básicamente hay dos aspectos a los cuales me quiero referir, En primer lugar, acerca del futuro de las actividades relacionadas con el Quinua, el primer punto a tomar en consideración es que el sitio web creado en el 2013 se mantiene actualizado por parte de mi oficina de comunicación corporativa y va a seguir siendo un mecanismo permanente de consulta, en relación al tema que nos ha concentrado en nuestra discusión y seguirá actualizado como parte de las actividades de mi oficina sin costos agregados porque es parte de las responsabilidades de nuestra estructura de cumplir con el mandato de los gobiernos y naturalmente de la FAO en relación a los años internacionales como estamos haciendo este año con el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

El segundo tema que se sigue tomando, se seguirá desarrollando este año es la distribución de los libros, de la serie de libros producidos durante el 2013 tratando de que sea uniforme, una distribución mucho más capilar y finalmente creo que los procesos de investigación iniciados antes del 2013 y desarrollados durante el 2013 van a continuar en el 2014 y más allá de ello. De cualquier manera, el trabajo de la FAO en estos aspectos y en otros continúa y continuará apoyando a los países ya que ese es el mandato y tratando de instrumentarlo con nuevos programas de cooperación técnica y colaboración en el marco de los acuerdos Sur-Sur y de las contribuciones voluntarias tradicionales, ese es el primer punto referido a los aspectos del trabajo que debería continuar en el 2014 y más allá de eso.

En relación a los costos, solo quiero señalar que a lo largo del 2013 se recibieron contribuciones en especie, se obtuvieron resultados directamente económicos a través de alianzas y acuerdos con otras instituciones. Naturalmente, pero, nosotros consultaremos y pediremos toda la información al Departamento de Cooperación Técnica, TC y a la Oficina de Planeamiento Estratégico, OSP, para profundizar la información sobre los costos económicos del año internacional, ya sea para informar sobre los resultados específicos en cada uno de los proyectos que se llevaron adelante y que naturalmente e inmediatamente va a ser enviado a los países y al consejo. Esos son los dos aspectos que quería señalar.

CHAIRPERSON

We have come now to the end of the debate on this agenda item 13.

I would like to make the conclusions as follows:

The Council (1) took note of the Report on the Assessment of the International Year of Quinoa and of the activities undertaken during 2013;

(2) Welcomed the achievements of the International Year in raising awareness and scientific knowledge of quinoa, as well as increased production and consumption especially in countries affected by food insecurity;

(3) Recommended that future reports on International Years include information on the costs incurred by FAO, including staff time; and

(4) Recommended that the Conference in 2015 call on Members to continue to support activities, coordinated by FAO, to promote quinoa food systems, especially in countries suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

I take it being accepted. I close agenda item 13. Thank you.

Item 16. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-15

Point 16. Calendrier 2014-2015 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales

Tema 16. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2014-15

(CL 149/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on our agenda is item 16, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other main sessions in 2014-15*. The relevant document is CL 149/LIM/1.

FAO produces this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP to avoid overlapping of meetings. To facilitate matters, the web-based "common calendar", is updated by all three Rome-based agencies and can be consulted by all Members online on the new Gateway for Members from the FAO Home Page.

The schedule of meetings for 2014 is before Council for information. Any changes made since the last Session, when the calendar was presented for approval, are indicated by an asterisk.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

En ce qui concerne le Calendrier 2014-2015 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et d'autres réunions principales, l'Angola qui se prononce au nom du Groupe Afrique approuve la proposition présentée et préparée conjointement par les secrétariats de la FAO, du PAM et du FIDA.

Toutefois, nous suggérons que les secrétariats examinent également le calendrier des réunions du Sous-Comité du commerce du poisson et du Sous-Comité de l'Aquaculture de la FAO, ainsi que les réunions du Comité d'évaluation et d'audit du FIDA, pour éviter le chevauchement de celles-ci.

Par exemple, la semaine dernière, il y a eu chevauchement des réunions du Comité des pêches de la FAO et de la Consultation pour la reconstitution des ressources du FIDA. Ces deux réunions, auxquelles ont participé plusieurs Ministres, ont été importantes. Par conséquent, le Secrétariat se doit d'améliorer le choix des dates.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

When I look at this document, I am a little bit surprised to find out that on 6 October there is going to be a Ministerial Meeting on Commodity Prices.

As far as I remember, I think that this type of Ministerial Meeting was held two years ago and also last year. So, it seems to me that this kind of meeting takes place on an annual basis. Therefore, I would like to seek a clear and detailed explanation as much as possible on the rationale behind this meeting and related meeting arrangements.

If Secretariat cannot prepare the reply immediately in this floor, I would like to receive it in writing after the end of this Council session.

Therefore, I would like to seek clarification of the meeting arrangements, the rationale, what kind of subject and who FAO is going to invite, if this is going to be a one-day meeting, if there are any communiqué or summary, or whichever the document is going to be prepared.

In this connection, I would like to point out one thing that holding two Ministerial-level Meetings in one season, from September to November, makes us quite busy. I mean a Ministerial Meeting on 6 October and the ICN2. The latter is also to be considered as a Ministerial Meeting, so the two Ministerial Meetings makes our Secretariat at the Governing level quite busy as far as the preparation is concerned.

Besides, my colleagues from Italy suggested to me there is a CFS as well and some countries send Ministerial officials to the CFS. Therefore, all these combinations of meetings make us very busy in terms of the preparation work. Sometime we cannot be prepared for these meetings. So first of all, I would like to request relevant clarification on the Ministerial Meeting.

Please also understand that we will be very busy in the preparation of all these meetings if the scheduled sessions are kept this way.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I would like to share the views expressed by Japan and on behalf of the Chairperson of CCP who is sitting in front of me. We had this discussion during the CCP meeting and we want to have an evaluation of the Ministerial Meeting especially on food prices. I think we have to be careful with this type of meetings and its efficiency.

CHAIRPERSON

I will ask the Secretariat to reply to the question raised by Angola. As regards the question by Japan seeking for clarification, I think they have given an option in getting the response in writing and tomorrow they will get it.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In answer to the comments made by Angola, I would like to recall that the calendar that we prepare and circulate regularly under this item lists the meetings of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main

Sessions of the Rome-based Organizations. But this is only a small number of the meetings that are convened by the three organizations on a regular basis.

The meetings of Statutory Bodies and other Committees are very often of technical nature and may not necessarily conflict with Governing Bodies which are more administrative of governance in nature.

The Secretariat uses more and more, and I believe with some degree of efficiency, what we call the “Common Calendar” which is available on the FAO Members Gateway.

We are regularly in contact with our counterparts at WFP and IFAD to avoid overlap of meetings. We often change the dates of meetings to make sure that there is no conflict, being aware that not all delegations here in Rome are composed of a large number of delegates.

This being said, your point is well taken. I know that at times it will be difficult, especially for small Delegations to be in two places at the same time, but I can assure you that this is a constant preoccupation. We start with governing bodies and other main sessions and, for the rest, we rely on the “Common Calendar” and regular consultations with our colleagues based in Rome.

CHAIRPERSON

I think with that explanation and the clarification that will be provided to Japan tomorrow, as they have requested, we have come to the end of the discussion on Agenda item 16.

I can conclude by saying that: the Council endorsed the dates for its dates for its 151st Session from 23 to 27 March 2015, and those for the 39th Session of the Conference from 6 to 13 June 2015.

Item 15. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2014-17

Point 15. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2014-2017

Tema 15. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2014-17

(CL 149/7)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is item 15, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work*. The document before Council is CL 149/7.

As agreed by the Conference, this useful planning tool is a standing item on the Council’s agenda.

Before opening the debate, I will pass the floor to the Secretary-General, Mr Gagnon.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I wanted to point out that the item addressed by Candidates for the post of Director-General has been added to the Agenda for the session of Council to be held in March 2015. The item was inadvertently omitted and has been added to the online version of CL 149/7.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Gagnon. The correction is noted.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

May I ask you to give the floor to Greece?

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

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

We welcome the revised Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Council (MYPOW) as contained in document CL 149/7 as a good planning tool for the work of the Council in the coming years. We underline the important role of the Multi-Year Programme of Work as a useful instrument for planning the complex work of the Council, ranging from guidance to the Conference on various

important matters including strategies, priorities and programmes, and budget, as well as constitutional, organizational, administrative, and financial matters to the Council's own oversight and monitoring function over the implementation of decisions taken on government issues.

Considering the adjustments of the MYPOW, we welcome the addition of the outstanding actions of the Immediate Plan of Actions for FAO reform, as well as the addition of the Independent Review of the Outcome of the Government's Reform to inform the final assessment by the 39th Session of the Conference in June 2015.

In this context, we recognize that concluding the reform process will contribute to the Organization's stability. Furthermore, in our view, a systematic assessment framework could lead to continuous improvement which is of importance for the fulfillment of its mandate.

We recognize that the MYPOW mechanism, which has already proven its usefulness, remains a relatively new mechanism. We therefore look forward to the results of the evaluation of the relevance and usefulness of MYPOW to date to be carried out by the Independent Review of Governance Reforms during this year.

We would like to stress the importance of securing the calendar of the biennium to ensure that planning sequence of the Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees, and Council.

We wish to reiterate on this occasion, our appreciation for the continued, balanced, and constructive dialog during the intersessional work. These informal meetings helped to maintain a good exchange of views among the Membership, as well as Regional Groups and the management in a constructive spirit.

Finally, we endorse the revised MYPOW for the period 2014-17 as contained in the document before us.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

The United States also wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for providing the opportunity to review the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Council for the period of 2014-17.

The United States encourages FAO to use the preparation of Council MYPOWs as an opportunity to examine its work plan in a structured manner in keeping with the results based management approach, as well as a chance to review working methods and practices at regular intervals.

The United States supports the endorsement of this document. However, we believe that in order to fully reap the benefits of such a management tool, the Council MYPOW can continue to be improved. For instance, in sections A through F, the indicators and targets are not as strong as they should be. The results and outputs are vague and the activities and methods of work lack detail.

In addition, we believe that sections A through F of this document should be modified and developed more fully in response to current FAO priorities in the context of changes in the status of the world food and agricultural situation.

M. Patrick MVONDO NNA (Cameroun)

Le Cameroun fait cette déclaration au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique remercie le Président indépendant du Conseil pour cette mise à jour du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil ainsi que son annexe et la Note sur les méthodes de travail du Conseil, qui couvre la période 2014-2017.

Cette version révisée du Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil, qui reste flexible et modulable pour inclure de nouveaux développements qui se feront jour, permettra au Conseil de remplir son mandat vis-à-vis de la Conférence, notamment les orientations précises et équilibrées sur les stratégies, les priorités, les programmes et le budget de l'Organisation, ainsi que sur les questions d'ordre constitutionnel, organisationnel, administratif et financier.

Nous restons convaincus que cet important outil de travail, mis en place par la Conférence, aidera le Conseil à jouer un rôle actif dans l'élaboration du Programme de travail et budget de l'Organisation ainsi que les fonctions de contrôle et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance, et à

assumer pleinement son rôle d'organe de décision et de revue des débats aux seins d'autres instances intéressant la FAO.

Nous notons en particulier le rôle que jouera cette année le Conseil dans l'examen indépendant des questions de gouvernance et de la préparation de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition.

Le Groupe Afrique entend donc apporter tout son appui au Conseil dans la mise en œuvre de la feuille de route indiquée et entend par ailleurs recevoir les mises à jour ultérieures.

CHAIRPERSON

For item 15, I can therefore conclude that: The Council reviewed and approved its Multi-year Programme of Work for 2014-17.

Item 19. Working Methods of the Council

Point 19. Méthodes de travail du Conseil

Tema 19. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo

(CL 149/INF/5)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is item 19, *Working Methods of the Council*. The document before Council is CL 149/INF/5.

I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of initiatives to improve our working methods.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

To further improve secretariat services provided to Members, the following initiatives have been undertaken:

A new Members Gateway, accessible from the FAO Home Page went on line last month to offer Members easy access to information which is important to carrying out their work. The Gateway also offers access to the restricted area containing Members' mail boxes and information not available on FAO's public web pages, such as the phone directory, the "Blue Book", containing contact details for each Permanent Representation, the ICC's page and a dedicated page for the ICN2 FAO/WHO Joint Working Group, which contains ICN2 documents and background material;

There are now over one hundred users of the mobile application of the Permanent Representatives Website "iFAOPermeps". The application enables users of iPhones, iPads and Android mobile devices to quickly access their messages from the restricted area of the Members Gateway and the common FAO, IFAD and WFP calendar.

The restricted area of the Members Gateway offers access to the complete list of Audit Reports for 2013 and those published so far for 2014.

The online calendar shared by the three Rome-based Agencies has been expanded to include meetings of Regional Groups and key non-governing body meetings such as Codex Alimentarius sessions.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

Just for a point of clarification, we are no longer on Agenda Item 15, correct? Council Multi-Year Programme of Work 2014-17?

CHAIRPERSON

We can now conclude on item 19: The Council welcomed the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to improve the methods of work of the Council, and encouraged further improvements.

Item 19 is now concluded.

This brings us to the end of this afternoon's meeting. We will resume our work tomorrow morning at 09.30 hours sharp with item 12, *Progress Report on the Preparation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*.

May I remind Members of the event to celebrate World Day to Combat Desertification, which will now take place here in the Red Room.

This will be followed, here in the Red Room, by the event hosted by the G-77 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the G-77, followed by a Reception in the Aventino Room on the 8th floor of building B.

I would also like to propose that at the end of our work tomorrow, a brief updates be provided to Council on the emergency situation in Central African Republic, Philippines and South Sudan.

Furthermore, following the request made by Pakistan and Afghanistan, TC Department will provide the updates requested on Pakistan and Yemen.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

With respect to the information Japan sought regarding the Ministerial Meeting which will be held in October, this is not a matter of the communication between FAO and Japan only. I think this is of interest to all Member Nations. In addition, I don't need such a rapid response from the Secretariat. The Secretariat may need some time to have an internal discussion before clear information is sent outside.

I would like to avoid the situation where that the immediate information comes out and then later it is changed drastically. I would like to avoid such a situation so after the Council is finished, please send us the information, not only to Japan but also to every Member Nation, as soon as it is cleared in FAO.

The meeting rose at 18.19 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 19

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.19

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-ninth Session Cent quarante-neuvième session 149.º período de sesiones
Rome, 16-20 June 2014 Rome, 16-20 juin 2014 Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
18 June 2014

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.37 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 37
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.37
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 12. Progress Report on the Preparation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

Point 12. Rapport sur l'état d'avancement des préparatifs de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN-2)

Tema 12. Informe sobre la marcha de los preparativos para la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN-2)

(CL 149/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, I call the Fifth Meeting of the 149th Session of the FAO Council to order.

As mentioned at the end of our meeting yesterday afternoon, at the end of our work this morning, the Council will be briefed on FAO's level-three emergency response in the Central African Republic, the Philippines and South Sudan. Furthermore, following requests made by Pakistan and Afghanistan yesterday, the Technical Cooperation Department and Trade and Markets Division will, respectively, provide input on Pakistan and Yemen.

The first item on the Agenda this morning is item 12: *Progress Report on the Preparation of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*. The document before Council is CL 149/9.

I would like to call on Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department to introduce this item.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I am pleased to report the good progress made collaboratively by FAO and World Health Organization in preparing for the Second International Conference on Nutrition. Such progress has been achieved thanks to the continued engagement of Joint Working Group (JWG) Members of FAO and WHO, as well as through close collaboration among ICN2 Joint Secretariat in making arrangements for Conference, both for main proceedings and for related events.

I am pleased to announce the developments on several fronts that have taken place since the preparation of the report before you including communication, dealing with non-state actors and closing funding gap. I want to express my appreciation on the progresses made since the opening session on Monday.

In this preparatory process, first of all we would like to recognize especially the productive dialogue among JWG Members and their significant efforts towards reaching consensus on Draft Rome Declaration on Nutrition for its timely completion, hopefully by end of this month. The Co-Chairpersons and Co-Vice-Chairpersons of JWG are providing strong leadership in steering deliberations towards successful outcome of the Conference.

Second, the constructive facilitation role played by Independent Chairperson of Council throughout ICN2 process, which we gratefully acknowledge, and very much count on his continued active support to the work of the JWG work in the lead-up to ICN2.

Third, the proactive support provided by Director-General over the course of ICN2 process. Importantly, among others, the DG addressed World Health Assembly in Geneva last month, stressing the need to complete Conference outcome documents in timely manner, and to engage meaningfully with non-state-actors to ensure different voices are heard and valued, with membership leading decision-making process.

Fourth, extensive comments made on the Draft Rome Declaration on Nutrition through two public web-based consultations involving wide range of stakeholders, including UN bodies and other International Organizations, academia, civil society and private sector organizations.

Further inputs likely to be made via similar online consultation on draft Framework for Action when this will be available for review in July. The Framework for Action document should be considered

by JWG in September, expected to be the other key document of ICN2, and to serve as technical guide for implementation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

Therefore timely conclusion of both documents, preferably by the end of September, will be crucial for a fruitful Conference.

As agreed by FAO Members, informal meeting with NSAs will take place after current session of Council from the afternoon of Friday 20 June from 15:00 hours. It will provide inclusive forum for NSAs to exchange views with Membership on ICN2. While Members recognize the need to consult NSAs, that informal meeting will be distinct from formal work being undertaken by JWG.

Finally, in connection with ICN2, it is encouraging to recall that a number of FAO Members have made outstanding progress in fight against hunger by meeting targets set in 1996 by the World Food Summit and in 2001 by Millennium Development Goal 1. These commendable achievements should inspire other nations in following suit, consistent with objectives set forth in the Draft Rome Declaration on Nutrition.

Ms Edith Veronica VRIES (South Africa)

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the Africa Group.

The Africa Group welcomes the progress report on the preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition. We have the pleasure to acknowledge the work of the ICN2 Joint Working Group (JWG) and the guidance of the Co-Chairs, Permanent Representatives of Austria and Egypt. The commitment of the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization as well as associated United Nations agencies, the private sector and civil society to address nutrition is appreciated. We thank the Member States that have and are willing to make available financial and other resources for the hosting of ICN2.

We recognize the magnitude and interrelationship of hunger, poverty and under development. This complexity notwithstanding, hunger and malnutrition constitute a violation of human dignity. We live in a world where empirical research has demonstrated that malnutrition and hunger can be reversed through accelerated agricultural production and gender equality. If women had access to the same resources as men, they could increase production and yields on their farms by 20 to 30 percent and take between 100 and 150 million persons out of malnutrition and hunger. As we are less than 600 days away from delivering the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, we share the collective experience and knowledge of the complexity and possibility of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger.

Aware of these possibilities, the Africa Group is committed to a world free of acute, chronic and hidden hunger. Thus our expectation of ICN2 is support by all for global action to end all forms of malnutrition in support of the African Union's vision of an Africa free of hunger by 2025.

Regrettably, we live in a world where wars of occupation, civil unrest, unequal and exploitative trading regimes, protracted crises and natural disasters continue to hinder nutritional wellbeing and sustainable access to safe and nutritious food. We believe that the way in which a country treats its children is one of sharpest reflections of its character. Thus as the Africa Group we support the right of children in and out of school to access feeding programmes to address their health and social needs for long term benefit and in this regard encourage dietary diversity, supplementation and food fortification as applicable.

We are ready to welcome a Political Outcome Document and a Framework of Action that will address food security and nutrition as essential dimensions of sustainable development. We recognize that, as governments, we have the primary responsibility to protect and promote food security and nutritional well-being of our citizens. We furthermore wish to stress that low-income countries could be assisted by an increase in official development assistance that could be achieved through the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 percent of the GDP of developed countries.

Excellencies, ICN2 should address nutrition as an outcome of multiple factors. We need comprehensive solutions, political and sectoral policy coherence, alignment, inter-institutional

coordination and co-operation among food, agriculture, health and other sectors if global nutrition is to be effectively addressed.

In conclusion, the Africa Group wishes to highlight the importance of resources to support nutrition programmes to improve nutritional outcomes. We look forward to participating in ICN2 and welcome the inclusion of Parliamentarians, CSOs/NGOs and the private sector in the proceedings.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

Could you please give the floor to Greece in their capacity as President of the European Union?

Mr Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Observer for Greece)

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

Nutrition is an increasing global priority. Governments and non-state actors have to face new challenges relating to all forms of malnutrition (such as under-nutrition, lack of micronutrients and over-nutrition). Any form of malnutrition has a terrible and costly individual, social and economic impact. We consider the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) as a unique, high-level opportunity to review the progress made towards improving nutrition since the first ICN in 1992. We believe that ICN2 should contribute to mainstreaming nutrition within regional, national and international policies and programmes. We look forward to working with others to ensure that the outcomes of the Conference will help better identify policy priorities and reforms throughout all sectors that can improve nutritional standards, and strengthen strategic balanced partnerships between the public and private sectors.

We welcome the ongoing efforts of the Joint Working Group (JWG) which has been mandated by members of FAO and WHO to prepare the draft outcome documents of the Conference. The European Union and its member States also welcome the increased coordination between FAO and WHO in this respect. Whilst calling for closer cooperation between the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat and other UN bodies, in particular IFAD and WFP, we now encourage the JWG to proceed swiftly towards the preparation of the draft technical framework for action.

In particular, we expect the Rome Declaration to adopt a rights-based approach in addressing food and nutrition security and to tackle all forms and consequences of malnutrition on a global scale, including the impact of food losses and waste on hunger and malnutrition. We believe that the document should produce clear recommendations applicable by all stakeholders. We commend the FAO/WHO Joint Secretariat for organizing the two public web-based consultations, in particular for non-State actors, on the draft political outcome document of ICN2. These consultations allowed the involvement of civil society, the research community, academia, the private sector and international organizations in the Conference preparation. We express satisfaction in view of the forthcoming 20 June meeting with non-state actors on ICN2 matters, a face-to-face consultation which had been strongly supported by the European Union and its member states from the outset. We also hope that the issue of non-state actors' participation in the Conference will be given due consideration.

We would welcome additional information concerning the organization and funding of the Conference.

We deem relevant that the 2014 International Conference on Nutrition should provide inputs into ongoing broader development processes in order to meet global expectations. In particular, the outcomes of ICN2, including on investment in nutrition sensitive agriculture, and the International year of family farming should be related. The outcomes of the Conference should also feed into the post-2015 discussions and place adequate nutrition among the priorities of the global agenda. The Conference outcomes should also be adequately linked with the various existing global frameworks and fora on nutrition and food security, in particular the Committee on World Food Security. The Milan Expo-2015 on "Feeding the Planet. Energy for Life", in which the UN System will participate with an innovative approach coordinated by FAO on behalf of the RBAs, will provide a very relevant opportunity to amplify and promote messages and outcomes from ICN2.

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

I am speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. The second International Conference on Nutrition to be held in November is a major opportunity and it is organized in cooperation between FAO and WHO. This Conference aims to establish clear objectives with regard to nutrition and rising challenges of malnutrition and its effects on health and sustainable development, so also ensuring a right to proper nutrition, within this framework, the Near East would like to reiterate the following points.

The Near East welcomes the efforts made by the Joint Working Group between FAO and WHO and also welcomes the progress that has been made. We reiterate the importance of achieving results and the protocol decisions with their major impacts which are applicable given what millions of people are suffering because of malnutrition. We must also ensure active participation of all stakeholders, governments, non-governmental organizations, parliamentarians and others; their participation is indeed significant in order to rise to the challenge malnutrition and hunger.

On 20 June, a meeting is to be held with stakeholders in particular from civil society. This Conference comes 22 years after the first International Conference on Nutrition. We must therefore consider this Conference very seriously.

It is true that progress has been made in combating hunger and malnutrition. However, this progress is not yet sufficient. There are still major inequalities between different regions in the world, between less developed countries and developed countries. The Near East Group believes that it is not possible to achieve a sustainable global development given the level of poverty and hunger recorded throughout the world. We are awaiting a declaration which reflects the post-2015 objectives with the aim on eradicating hunger.

Many countries throughout the world must meet challenges arising from inter-regional conflicts and people are suffering from this. The Conference must therefore take into account the food needs of refugees. These refugees are the most vulnerable groups to the negative consequences of malnutrition as well as of the psychological and physical affects.

We believe that child nutrition is also very important, and must be one of the priorities of this Conference. So decisions must be taken which are aligned with international conventions and decisions helping to reduce the suffering of those who are enduring the consequences of all these problems, in particular the consequences for their health.

We emphasize the principal of health and education. Initiatives have been taken with great success in developing countries, so we must take into account the needs of developing countries and ensure that necessary vaccines are made available, allowing children to have access to education, while also meeting their nutrition needs, contributing to improving livelihoods in order to overcome this vicious circle of poverty and malnutrition.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

First of all, I would like to mention the basic and fundamental role that FAO must play in addressing nutritional issues. Malnutrition is a serious issue which we must solve definitely. However, given that we still have a huge number of people suffering from hunger and we have limited resources available, FAO should try to solve this issue utilizing his accumulated knowledge and experiences addressing hunger and malnutrition.

FAO should address malnutrition by expanding its conventional tasks in the area of agricultural production and food industry rather than starting new initiatives. FAO can encourage diversification of production and consumption of food and agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat, fish and pulses. FAO can strengthen food varied chains as well, thus FAO can undertake all these activities as extended or strengthened versions of its conventional activities.

On the other hand, WHO should present evidence based options for nutritional improvement and assist Member Nations, promote their nutritional improvement programmes including enhancement

programme in line with the Maternal and Child Health Programme (MCH Programme). I think a close collaboration of these two organizations is required to solve the issue fundamentally and completely.

The next point is about the Conference outcome documents and the process to produce the documents. Paragraph 11 of CL 149/9 states that there are two types of conference documents: the political outcome document and the framework for action.

In this respect, these documents should be as clear and concise as possible and should focus on nutritional issues without extending their scope to many irrelevant fields in the limited time before the Conference.

Document CL 149/9 indicates that only in September we will have an open-ended group, but this meeting arrangement does not allow us to have enough chances to take part in the negotiation process. Therefore, it is recommended that the discussion process should start as soon as possible in such a way to provide as many opportunities for Member Nations to take part in the process of negotiation.

My last point is to seek clarification on the Preparatory Technical Meeting to be held from 13 to 15 November 2014. As mentioned in paragraph 4 of CL 149/9, I would like to ask what this Technical Meeting is going to discuss.

I have a record on writing of my Delegation who attended the first ICN Meeting and it says: "Two years is spent for the preparation of this ICN1 Meeting". I simply would like to point out that ICN1 produced a kind of declaration paper and also a document which looks like a plan of action, a similar formulation of the expected outcomes of the ICN2. And only four years later, FAO hosted another large meeting: the "World Food Summit" which produced a "Roma Declaration" and a plan of action.

I would be glad to hear of what has become of the first outcomes or impacts of these two documents made by ICN1, if someone knows.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

En esta oportunidad, la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, se dirige al Consejo en nombre del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe. El GRULAC agradece la preparación y presentación del documento CL 149/9 con las novedades en los preparativos de la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

Desde la Primera Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición celebrada en 1992, se han logrado avances importantes en la lucha contra el hambre y la malnutrición, pero este progreso ha sido insuficiente y desigual. El GRULAC considera que uno de los objetivos de la CIN-2 debería ser aportar recomendaciones sobre políticas que promuevan la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición mediante hábitos alimenticios más saludable.

Agradecemos el trabajo de las Co-presidentas, Co-Vice presidentes y la Secretaría Conjunta para disponer de un Borrador de Documento político, corto, preciso y enfocado en los temas substanciales de la CIN-2.

El proceso ha sido muy complejo dado los diferentes métodos de trabajo de ambas Organizaciones pero estamos seguros que concluiremos satisfactoriamente y a tiempo.

El GRULAC desea reiterar la importancia de que la CIN-2 adopte un Marco de Acción en el que se recojan las acciones y medidas a tomar derivadas de la Declaración Política que permitan a los Estados Miembros tomar acciones concretas contra la malnutrición, por lo que agradecemos la Nota Conceptual que ha sido distribuida en el Grupo de Trabajo conjunto FAO-OMS a mediados del mes de mayo.

Creemos que este Marco de Acción podría incluir entre otros, los siguientes elementos:

Aspectos vinculados al Comercio que afectan a la nutrición: no aplicar medidas no arancelarias incompatibles con las normas de la OMC; Lograr un sistema de comercio basado en normas, multilateral, universal, abierto, no discriminatorio y equitativo; adoptar estrategias que promuevan la participación de los pequeños productores en los mercados; considerar la agricultura como un sector

fundamental para países en vías de desarrollo y establecer políticas que defiendan la seguridad alimentaria y el desarrollo rural; mejorar el acceso a la información de los pequeños productores.

Los fondos, programas y organizaciones especializadas de Naciones Unidas deberán tomar en cuenta en todas sus actividades el concepto de desarrollo sostenible, promoviendo la erradicación de la pobreza.

Alentar la promoción de huertos escolares y comunitarios.

Incorporar indicadores que permitan hacer seguimiento de los progresos realizados en el tratamiento del tema de nutrición, a todos los niveles en cada sesión.

Promover la implementación de políticas contra la desnutrición aguda especialmente entre niños, mujeres y adultos mayores, así como carencias de micronutrientes, enfermedades transmisibles relacionadas con la alimentación: fomentar la lactancia materna así como saneamiento y alcantarillado.

El GRULAC reitera que los Estados Miembros necesitan tiempo para hacer las consultas con sus respectivas capitales. Por lo tanto, alentamos a la Secretaria a proveer las nuevas versiones del Proyecto de la Declaración Política junto al Marco de Acción en todos los idiomas de trabajo con suficiente antelación.

De esta forma haremos las consultas y los aportes sustantivos en la Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta, previsto en el párrafo 9 del mandato del Grupo de Trabajo de conjunto y que se menciona en el párrafo 12 del documento CL 149/9. A este respecto, deseamos conocer mayores detalles sobre las fechas que maneja la Secretaria Conjunta para celebrar esta reunión presencial.

Reiteramos la importancia de que se realice, con antelación suficiente a la CIN-2, al menos una reunión presencial conjunta con la participación de los Estados Miembros de ambas Organizaciones. Alentamos a la Secretaria a garantizar los recursos para una participación activa de los Estados.

En cuanto a las disposiciones relativas a la Conferencia indicadas en el párrafo 15 del documento CL 149/9, indican que se tiene previsto celebrar tres mesas redondas en paralelo a la sesión plenaria. Este método de trabajo en principio nos preocupa, ya que dificulta el desempeño de las delegaciones pequeñas que no pueden participar en todas las reuniones y eventos paralelos, más aun considerando que las conclusiones de estas mesas redondas serán presentadas ante la plenaria el tercer día de la Conferencia.

Apoyamos los esfuerzos para dar mayor visibilidad a la CIN-2. Hemos conocido informalmente que la Secretaria habría decidido invitar algunos Jefes de Estado, esperamos que puedan participar. Sin embargo, los Estados Miembros deseamos obtener información al respecto así como sobre los criterios utilizados para cursar estas invitaciones.

Para concluir tal y como fue endosado por nuestra Conferencia Regional, reafirmamos el interés en participar activamente para el éxito de este proceso contribuyendo al documento final desde la perspectiva de América Latina y el Caribe.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Canada is fully committed to ensuring nutrition receives the attention it deserves from the global community. Nutrition featured prominently throughout the deliberations of the Summit on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health convened by our Prime Minister at the end of May in Toronto, Canada. ICN2 represents an important opportunity to consolidate the momentum and further elevate the importance of nutrition as a foundation for healthy lives.

We thank Assistant Director-General Sundaram for his presentation on developments so far with regard to ICN2. Unfortunately, Canada is considerably less optimistic with regard to the state of preparations for ICN2 and its ability to deliver on the goal of high-level, sustained and coordinated attention to nutrition globally.

Canada wishes to see a short, crisp and inspirational political statement for ICN2. While we welcome the progress that the joint working Group has made to date on the draft outcome document,

regrettably we do not see this type of statement emerging. A clear vision and strong leadership for ICN2 are necessary in order to achieve meaningful outcomes that contribute to global nutritional goals.

With this in mind, Canada strongly recommends the appointment of a high-level and credible Chairperson as soon as possible in order to finalize the preparations for and convening of ICN2.

Canada also fully supports the engagement of all relevant stakeholders in the process, including the private sector and civil society. We strongly believe that mobilizing these stakeholders will help to ensure that ICN2 leads to a sustainable outcome by bringing together a wide range of actors committed to action on nutrition.

While we welcome the two consultations, the two e-consultations, that have taken place to date, and the 20 June meeting with non-state actors, we also expect that FAO and WHO and their Member Nations will do their utmost to ensure that civil society and the private sector are able to participate actively and meaningfully in the Conference itself.

Finally, we expect that ICN2 will support the development and implementation of the post-2015 sustainable Development Agenda, so as not to put the cart before the horse, we would like to propose that ICN2 framework for action be developed after we have clarity on the sustainable development goals, their indicators and targets. In this way, we will ensure that the nutrition efforts and actions of FAO and WHO are perfectly in line and consistent with the emerging post-2015 global consensus.

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

We would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared the report leading up to this Conference and we welcome and appreciate the joint efforts of the secretariats of FAO and WHO in preparing this ICN2. We also support the comprehensive effort involved in preparing this International Conference with linkage between food and the agricultural sectors, and between health and social protection services.

We believe that the main stress in the outcome document should be on the leading technical aspects, having to do with ensuring a proper nutrition and food assistance to the way in which we can ensure this.

We would especially like to stress the role of the educational and training programmes in nutrition and in the formation development of good dietary habits, as well as social protection. We believe that this topic is a very important one in the context of how to properly address the problems of social development and this must be properly taken into due consideration in determining the UN agenda with regard to post-15 global development.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

I want to thank the Secretariat for their hard work, thank the members of the Joint Working Group for their inputs and leadership and also thank Member Nations for their continued commitment to elevating the importance of nutrition.

We are quickly approaching the date for the conference and things are coming together. We have a number of high-level individuals participating, the presence of the Pope, and we are making important progress in resource mobilization. But we, the Members, have yet to deliver our contribution.

The document we have today is shaping into a good statement by member governments on the importance of nutrition, the challenges we face to combat the multiple burdens of malnutrition and the commitments our governments are willing to make.

Still, this Political Accord is not yet complete and we still have an opportunity to continue shaping it into an impactful, long-lasting decree by members on how we will fight and defeat malnutrition in all its forms.

To do this there are two issues we would like to raise.

First, regarding non-state actors, we, in Rome, have been vocal and forward thinking in this regard. We encouraged the most recent online consultation on the Zero+1 Draft, and we are the catalysts for

the event taking place on Friday. No one can question our drive to make this an inclusive process. But we need to consider how we are incorporating their useful input. If we cannot demonstrate that we are listening, then our efforts may come across as just paying lip service to these stakeholders, something just as damaging as not including them in the first place.

Second, we need to shorten this document otherwise it risks collapsing under its own weight. We cannot expect ICN2 to leave a lasting impression as a turning point in the battle against malnutrition if its message is diluted, with references to other UN Resolutions and to issues that would be better suited in the Framework for Action.

Mr Tazwin HANIF (Indonesia)

Indonesia welcomes the report of the preparation of the ICN2 as prepared by the joint Secretariats.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by Iran speaking on behalf of G-77 and China, addressing extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and the main factors that contribute to their reduction should be one of the main priorities that we, the global community, have to deal with, both in the context of achieving the MDG targets and the development framework beyond 2015.

The purpose of agreeing to sustainable development goals after 2015 is to extend and accomplish the agenda, setting specific outcomes to significantly reduce extreme poverty, hunger and malnutrition and their contributing factors and manifestations such as the lack of agricultural productivity or higher stunted growths, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable populations.

Against this backdrop, Indonesia strongly supports the initiative of FAO, in collaboration with WHO, to organize the ICN2 next November. As in the first ICN, we expect the ICN2 to produce outcome documents in which governments reaffirm their commitments to eliminate or reduce substantially starvation, hunger, under-nutrition, malnutrition, micronutrient deficiency and so forth.

Given the magnitude of the Conference, we are of the view that, ensuring such substantive preparations for the Conference, that provide wide opportunity for all Member Nations and relevant stakeholders through an open, transparent, inclusive and member-driven process, is of critical importance.

We are so far supportive of the process which is underway right now in the Joint Working Group of FAO and WHO, during which participation of the Member Nations in the deliberations, through video-conferences between Rome and Geneva, is ensured by our respective Regional Group representatives.

Nevertheless, we do believe that this mode of negotiation is inadequate to reveal the deliberation reflects the open, transparent and inclusive inter-governmental process of the ICN2. Not all Member Nations are able to directly voice their concerns over the text being negotiated in the Geneva meetings at which the discussion was set up as a kind of drafting session. One of the reasons for this is that not all the regional groups in FAO, and probably in WHO, have set up effective mechanisms among members of the group to coordinate and agree upon a common position on each and every detail of the paragraphs during the negotiations of the meeting and in between the meetings.

Having said that, Indonesia goes along with statements made by Japan and Venezuela, and strongly urges that the FAO Council provide recommendations to the FAO Secretariat to suggest making an attempt to secure financial resources in order to convene an Open-Ended Working Group here in Rome. The possibility of convening the OEWG has been laid out in the mandate of the Joint Working Group adopted in March.

The Open-Ended Working Group is of paramount importance as it will provide wide opportunity for all Member Nations of FAO to be given speaking rights over which their own concerns and interests can be directly articulated in the negotiations. We are of the view that having an Open-Ended Working Group will help Member Nations to fully engage and support the process and, in turn, it will bring ownership of all Members over the outcome documents to be adopted at the ICN2 Conference.

Mr John C. E. SANDY (Trinidad and Tobago)

My delegation joins previous speakers in welcoming the well-presented progress report on the preparation for the second International Conference on Nutrition and concurs with the sentiments expressed by the distinguished delegate of Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is in the process of drafting a National Food and Nutrition Policy and, together with our Caribbean community, remains entrusted in the policy priority and reforms expected from ICN2.

We note with keen interest as well that ICN2 will address issues related to all forms of malnutrition, and will help identify policy priorities and reforms from all sectors that can improve nutritional outcomes.

Accordingly, my delegation supports the preparatory activities being undertaken for ICN2.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran takes the floor in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the G-77 and China on behalf of the Group. First of all, I would like to thank and commend the work of the Secretariat, especially Mr Jomo Sundaram.

The G-77 and China recognizes the progress achieved by the work of the two UN Organizations involved in this ICN2 Joint Working Group, FAO and WHO, as well as the collaboration of associated United Nations agencies and the leadership of the Co-Chairs, the Permanent Representatives of Austria and Egypt. The support of the public and private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations is also remarkable. We wish to express our deep appreciation to all for their efforts and results.

Most of the people that suffer malnutrition and hunger live in our countries. Serious situations such as climate change and poverty aggravate the situation. Therefore, the importance of discussing the multiple threats of nutrition and how to address food security to sustainable development is key for all our peoples.

Accordingly, our political commitment on malnutrition is strong, constant and no matter of doubt. The G-77 and China defends that food should be sustainable and we strongly reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, adequate and nutritious food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

At the same time, we recognize that the causes of malnutrition are complex and multi-dimensional. In this regard, eliminating malnutrition requires global action and ethical, political and social commitment. For all the above, we look forward to receiving the plan of action and the political outcome document. The G-77 and China believes that it is fundamental that the documents recognize that food security and nutrition are part of sustainable development.

We also expect programmes that enable us to implement concrete actions against hunger and malnutrition. Due to the urgency of this issue, it is also imperative for us to receive the documents in all the official languages in due time. With this, we will be ready to participate with strong commitment in ICN2.

In conclusion, we strongly believe that ICN2 as an intergovernmental conference of multi-stakeholders is the right platform for acting on the enormous challenge of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and thus we welcome it with a high level of commitment.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to join other delegations in expressing appreciation for the Secretariat in preparing the update on the preparation for ICN2, and to ADG Jomo Sundaram for its presentation. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of G-77 and China and wish to build on these remarks.

We note the considerable progress in the lead up to the conference, since the full support extended by the 38th Session of the Conference on this event, and the specific steps mandated by the 148th Session of this Council.

We are grateful for the leadership and efforts being made by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, by Mr Sundaram, by the Joint Working Group and the Joint Secretariat in the preparatory process.

We welcome the initiatives to gather and consider the views not only of Members, but also of non-state actors, including civil society and the private sector. We are likewise pleased to learn of the developments in the communication strategy since the preparation of the report.

We note the point underscored by Indonesia in ensuring an effective, transparent and intergovernmental process, for instance, by convening an Open-Ended Working Group in Rome, as likewise alluded to by Japan and GRULAC.

As pointed out by the European Union, we would appreciate being provided with more information on the organization of the conference itself, in particular, as mentioned by GRULAC, on the roundtables to be conducted.

We also, like the European Union, look forward to seeing a linkage of the ICN2 outcome to family farming, specifically on its important role in providing food security and nutrition, considering that the event is taking place in the International Year of Family Farming.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

Republic of Korea fully supports the progress report on the preparation of the Second Conference on Nutrition as one of the Joint Working Group member of ICN2. The Joint Working Group is working hard to make progress on the Zero Draft of the political outcome document under the leadership of the Co-Chairs and with full support by the Joint Secretariat.

However, the progress is behind the time schedule set on the road map. Another challenge is the budget for ICN2. Korea requests FAO and WHO to find a way to raise fund and operate Joint Working Group meetings more efficiently.

Also, partnership with private sector, civil society organizations and other development organizations is one of the core indices for success of ICN2. Moreover, involvement of other UN Agencies and international finance institutes is very important to enforce various stakeholders to engage in ICN2 consequences fully. Korea, on behalf of Asia Group, requests FAO and WHO to recognize all these challenges and cooperate to make further concrete progress.

Considering the importance of food security and nutrition, the Framework for action plan should be more tangible and realistic on the basis of timely and financially acceptable manner.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

First of all, please let me withdraw my previous inquiry regarding the preparatory technical meeting, it was not 2014 but 2013. I am sorry.

The second point I would like to make is that, in order to avoid misunderstandings, I must clearly state that Japan has never taken part in the process of a policy document making process due to the formulation of the current working group. Each Region takes part in the process. I have never sent any comment to the policy document.

Inspired by the Philippines and Indonesia, Japan would also like to ask the organization of an Open-Ended Working Group to discuss the policy document as soon as possible, so that all Member Nations have an opportunity to express their own opinions to be reflected in the policy document.

M. Carlos Alberto AMARAL (Angola)

L'Angola souscrit entièrement à la déclaration de l'Afrique du Sud faite au nom du Groupe Afrique. Nous voulons simplement formuler une demande de clarification au sujet du paragraphe 15 – je cite – «La Conférence s'ouvrira par une cérémonie inaugurale, suivie par l'ouverture officielle des travaux.

Après l'adoption du document politique final, les deux premiers jours de réunion seront consacrés à un débat général...». Ma demande de clarification est la suivante, quel sera le thème du débat général s'il intervient après l'approbation de la déclaration finale?

Ms Nina MOSSEBY (Observer for Norway)

Norway attaches great importance to nutrition and hence to the ICN2. The Conference should contribute to bringing all forms of malnutrition to the top of the political agenda, at national and international level. The ultimate objective of the Conference should be to enhance food and nutrition security for everyone. The Plan of Action therefore has to be as concrete as possible, and support and strengthen existing initiatives on nutrition.

From the Norwegian side, we would like to see a short and pointed political declaration. Both the declaration and the plan of action must be rights-based.

It is important that non-state actors are engaged and can provide their input to the conference. We therefore appreciate the consultation with non-state actors scheduled for Friday this week. It is important that these actors have a possibility to contribute to the plan of action. We therefore hope that the meeting plan for September to discuss the Action Plan also provides room for non-state actors.

Finally, let me emphasize that both FAO and WHO should allocate enough resources for the conference and its preparation process.

M. Hubert POFFET (Observateur de la Suisse)

Dans l'ensemble la Suisse est satisfaite de l'avancement des préparatifs de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition. J'aimerais rappeler ici l'importance que nous accordons à l'intégration et la participation active de tous les acteurs non étatiques dans la réflexion. Nous nous félicitons à cet égard de la consultation qui aura lieu cette semaine.

Nous souhaiterions également que le document politique puisse être finalisé comme prévu lors de la séance du Groupe de travail mixte du 27 juin prochain. D'autre part, nous estimons nécessaire de débiter rapidement l'élaboration du cadre d'action à caractère technique afin de s'assurer de son achèvement avant la Conférence. Finalement, nous sommes convaincus que cette Conférence représentera une contribution importante à l'Agenda pour le développement pour l'après 2015 et la formulation d'un objectif de développement durable pour l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

My comment is more about post-conference rather than about the conference. My feeling is that the ICN2 Conference is not going to bring nutrition back on the centre stage but maybe throw more light on those aspects of nutrition which I think would further burden, if I may use this word, the Nutrition Division within FAO.

What I wanted to know from Mr Sundaram is: do you feel that the Division has adequate resources in term of staff and finances to take on the additional responsibilities which will come your way after ICN2?

Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)

Just to underscore what India said about the resources of the Nutrition Division. I would like to draw your attention to the evaluation of nutrition undertaken a year ago which also pointed out a lack of resources.

Ms Natalie FEISTRITZER (Co-Chairperson, Joint Working Group on ICN2)

I am speaking in my capacity as Co-Chair and not as Austria. I would like to thank you for all the comments; and having noted the number of comments, I have seen that the interest in the Conference and in deliberation of the two documents is quite important.

I was just wondering whether I have heard that the document should be focused, concise, short, straight to the point therefore, I would like to urge all the Members that you keep this in mind when

we have our next meetings, because up to now, we always had additions and nobody requested anything to be deleted. I think all comments which were made are very valid, and I really do urge you as well to get in contact with your colleagues in Geneva in order that we have coordinated participation in our next Joint Working Group. Thank you very much for your support.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I hope I can do justice to the very rich variety of interventions that were made, given the very limited time we have, and please excuse me if I omit anything which I will address subsequently.

We have not had a chance to organize all the comments effectively; allow me first to deal with the crucial issue of the funding situation. As of Monday when the Director-General made his opening speech he referred to a funding gap. At that time the funding gap was in the region of about USD 2.2 million. We hope that funding gap has been significantly reduced but I think it is appropriate for the contributor, the partner concerned, to make the announcement.

We will still face a funding gap of slightly under USD 1 million but I think this is a very, very important development and we are very appreciative to the Italian government and the new contributor for helping to close this funding gap. Please remember, however, that we still face a funding gap of almost USD 1 million.

It should also be emphasized that there are additional expenses which are being incurred and which are not part of the ICN2 budget. The initiative, for example, to meet with non-state actors which will be held on Friday afternoon and evening is an initiative which will be funded by FAO alone. There are also regular budget contributions to the Conference. These are not being counted as part of the funding gap. I would like to emphasize that FAO is making a very significant contribution to the success of the Conference, but this is not included in the calculation of the funding gap.

It is not my position to speak regarding Member State processes and I particularly want to acknowledge once again, the crucial role which Council mandated the Independent Chair last December and the very proactive role of the Co-Chairs, the Permanent Representative of Austria and the Permanent Representative of Egypt. This has been crucial towards moving the process forward, as I mentioned earlier.

The question may well be asked "why do we have a Member State driven process? Most of us here did not participate in the 1992 Conference". But for the few who may remember the 1992 Conference, my understanding is that it was largely Secretariat driven.

This I think is crucial to understanding why we have made uneven progress, as has been noted by many interventions. The uneven process is precisely because the sense of ownership of nutrition generally, and a need to make progress on nutrition was lacking precisely because we do not have a Member State driven process. And it is precisely for that reason that we have the Joint Working Group.

This is a very unusual conference in that it is co-organized by two of the leading institutions working on nutrition issues, FAO and WHO. But as you all know, it is not unusual to entrust the preparation of outcome documents to a drafting committee. In this case, the particular modality decided upon was that of a Joint Working Group involving two spokespersons from each region; from FAO there are seven regions and there are six regions in WHO. Moreover, there are two additional members, namely the co-Chair and the co-Vice Chair from FAO and WHO respectively. That is the way in which the Joint Working Group has been working.

The number of meetings originally envisaged was probably far too modest and we have had an additional number of meetings, including intersessional ones, as well as an additional number of formal meetings, which have contributed to some of the cost increases, but have also been very important in ensuring participation. The intention, of course, is that by having regional spokespersons, the regional spokespersons would consult with their regions before each meeting and it is very unfortunate that very often documents have been made available sometimes rather late; this has hindered consultation. The idea is for regional groups to be consulted and it is unfortunate that

information that has been made available on the Permanent Representatives websites as well as through the Joint Working Group has not necessarily flowed to capitals. If there is anything which we can do to ensure that there is a better information flow to capitals, it will certainly help to expedite the process.

The question regarding the process has also been raised, i.e. what will be discussed if we agree on the outcome before the Conference. Having prior agreement is crucial to the success of the conference. As some of you who have been here in Rome or have served in other places with international organization are fully aware, very often if there is the distraction of continuing to negotiate an outcome document parallel to the convening of the conference, the level of commitment and participation suffers. So the intention is to try to ensure the conclusion of the outcome and to have the declaration accepted by dignitaries who will be here, especially on the first day. Many of them have very busy schedules and may leave Rome after the first day. But after they accept the document, we will have the opportunity to discuss some of the nutrition challenges which we all face in greater detail, in the round tables. Further information on the preparation and the conduct of the round tables will be presented by the joint secretariat in the coming weeks as we move forward in developing the concept notes for the round tables and have a clearer idea of the amount of time we will have available due to scheduling issues.

In the final plenary meeting on Friday 21 November it is envisaged that the outcomes of the round tables and the discussions and the contributions which have been made by the ministers and other delegates will be made in the final session, which will be very important especially in ensuring a strong and deep sense of commitment. The question has been alluded to “why have a second international conference on nutrition” and mention was made of the two years of preparation for ICN1. In the case of ICN2 the preparation began four years ago, but momentum did not pick up until the appointment of the current Director-General; my own involvement has actually been relatively recent as I have only been involved since the beginning of last year. Sometimes we have to catch up on progress which could have begun much earlier, so there have been some failings on our part, which are inevitable in such a process, but I would also remind you of the special challenges of having a Conference organized by two institutions.

We also have a Steering Committee which involves UN institutions as well as IFPRI, i.e. the main institutions in the world concerned with nutrition challenges, and they have had various opportunities to make very significant contributions in the process. In fact, as I speak, we have recently received a great number of contributions from these institutions to the preparation of the framework for action document.

It is also important to emphasize the contributions of non-State actors. As you know, within the UN system there is a great variety of involvement of non-State actors. FAO, particularly with the reform of the CFS a few years ago, is probably the only UN institution which has formally institutionalized the participation of non-State actors in its processes. In other institutions there are various other arrangements.

Nonetheless, Member State supremacy in final decision-making is something which is common to all UN institutions and something which we have tried to work with. For those of you who were not at the Preparatory Technical Meeting last November, there was a special challenge which we faced, because our partners, in this case WHO, their participation meant that we had to cancel the last session, which was a policy discussion. This could not be held precisely because they have a policy on non-State actors which limits their participation. This is why the initiative on Friday afternoon and evening is something which we have done unilaterally, in response to the request of FAO Member States.

I would also like to mention that the Joint Working Group has clearly acknowledged that there will be an Open Ended Working Group in September and the intention is to hold it with the available resources. This means that up to the present, resources are actually quite constrained, particularly to enable a face to face meeting.

Our rough estimate is that the total expense of a face-to-face meeting, including travel and related expenses, is in the region of over USD 300,000. I understand that the two co-Chairs have agreed that the Open Ended Working Group meetings will combine both virtual as well as physical meetings. In other words, for those who can afford and would like to travel from Geneva to Rome or vice versa, they are most welcome to do so, but for others it would be possible to do so through videoconferencing facilities. And we have been working mainly through videoconferencing facilities thus far.

I will move to some of the other issues which have been raised.

For those who would like a quick synopsis of what has been achieved at ICN1 and the progress so far, there is a slide show which has been made available, prepared principally by our colleagues in Geneva. It might be of interest that the author of that is Madame Nishida Chisuru and it summarizes the high level of participation. About 150 countries participated in ICN1, including the European Union. Also, I think it is very important to emphasize that more than 70 countries completed their nutrition plans as committed in that meeting. So, considerable progress has been made.

You may therefore ask, if those commitments were made 22 years ago, why then ICN2? There are many reasons, but let me emphasize three elements which may be worth your consideration.

One is that we know much more, particularly about micronutrient deficiencies and diet-related non-communicable diseases. These are two elements of the larger malnutrition problem which also includes the lack of dietary energy, undernutrition, on which FAO has been reporting for several decades. And as emphasized by a number of interventions, progress since 1992 has been uneven. There has been a reduction in the number of people who are hungry, in the sense of not getting enough dietary energy, and our estimate is over 800 million people in the world who are chronically hungry in the sense of not getting enough dietary energy. However, when it comes to what is called hidden hunger, the lack of micronutrients, the lack of vitamins, minerals and trace elements, which are essential for physical as well as cognitive development; this remains a very large problem. And in fact the numbers have been growing and this is a major challenge.

The third challenge for malnutrition is the problem of diet related non-communicable diseases, sometimes associated with terms like obesity and over-nutrition. This problem is getting far more attention. WHO has successfully brought it to the UN's attention. The General Assembly has adopted resolutions on this. But the focus of FAO will be on undernutrition; both undernourishment in terms of dietary energy, as well as inadequate micronutrients. I think this is something which is of concern to all of us. We want to ensure that present and future generations do not suffer from both hunger as well as hidden hunger.

The question of the participation of civil society and the private sector in the conference has been a challenging one because of the constraints which I mentioned earlier. And we have done a number of things. Firstly, we have ensured two web consultations. The Joint Working Group agreed to two web consultations on the political outcome document. When there was a redrafting of the political outcome document, there was a second web consultation, and the second web consultation attracted almost 70 contributions, many of which were very appreciative of the redrafting, but nonetheless continued to make contributions. This has been made available to all Member States and they are free to draw lessons from the web consultations in order to make interventions. I already mentioned this in the meeting on Friday.

The third element is a number of pre-events. There will be a self-organized event involving civil society in the days immediately preceding the Conference in November and civil society, as well as private sector participant representatives, will be able to participate as observers in the event itself and designate spokespersons who will report on the pre-events. But this is only possible from a WHO point of view if we have prior settlement of the outcome documents, which is why sequencing is extremely important to ensure civil society and private sector participation.

As far as the relationship to the post-2015 development agenda is concerned, as permanent representatives know, we have been engaged in 14 areas on which we work and on which FAO provides leadership. In these 14 areas we elaborated on 14 topics and we have also provided some

suggested targets and indicators, which we have communicated to permanent representatives accredited to FAO, we have communicated them to your permanent representatives in New York and we have also sent the documents to capitals, because it is up to Member States to decide the shape of the post-2015 development agenda.

Specifically on the question of nutrition, we have a brief on nutrition; but the brief on food security is also very important because it captures the question of undernourishment, particularly in terms of the inadequacy of dietary energy. The two should be read jointly.

I think it is very important to recognize that the High Level Panel, co-chaired by Prime Minister Cameron, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, among the 15 goals they recommended, one was on food security and nutrition. Through various efforts, Member States have now prioritized this in the latest Zero Draft of the post-2015 document as the second sentence identifies poverty and hunger. For the first time, hunger has been given equal priority with poverty. This is understandable because one of the big problems has been the question of what the poverty line actually refers to; what does poverty tell us. The original definition of the poverty line identified what was required not to be hungry. But we now see a discrepancy where poverty numbers have gone down very rapidly, but hunger does not seem to have gone down as rapidly, and we need to reconcile this. So the significance of hunger has been elevated in the SDG Zero Draft, as it has been called by the Open Ended Working Group, and we also find that the second of the proposed goals that the Open Ended Working Group is discussing, is food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. This has come about thanks to your efforts and your communications with your foreign Ministries and communications with your representatives in New York. Without your efforts I don't think we would have had this heightened attention to hunger.

But we also know that nutrition is more than just hunger; it also involves hidden hunger and it also involves diet-related non-communicable diseases. And it is for this reason that this Conference will pay attention to all challenges.

We also now know that the crucial years, depending on who you listen to, are either the first thousand days, which means from the moment of a baby's conception until the age of two, or the first two thousand days, up to the age of five. So there continues to be debate among nutritionists on some of these issues. We also know that feeding programmes have been very successful in addressing not only undernourishment, but also in addressing under-nutrition, particularly in terms of micronutrient deficiencies.

I think it is important to acknowledge that we have a significant new understanding of issues, but I would like to conclude by emphasizing one element, which is perhaps the most significant for FAO. In the past, there has been a tendency to look at problems of micronutrient deficiencies principally in terms of providing nutritional supplements. What has developed over the last two or three years, for example, following the London Olympics, when Prime Minister Cameron organized an event on nutrition, followed up in 2013 and setting up a global panel and a number of other initiatives, the State of Food and Agriculture published last year, the importance of food systems in influencing nutrition outcomes, including the other elements of malnutrition which I referred to earlier, all this is highlighted in this document. So there is a much greater consciousness about the importance of food systems. And the last element which I think is very significant and novel is the great progress in reducing both micronutrient deficiencies as well as diet-related non-communicable diseases. We have recognized that many countries have significantly reduced hunger. But on the other two elements of malnutrition, the greatest progress has been achieved where the Chief Executive of the nation, the president or prime minister has taken on the responsibility for a unified multi-sectorial approach to nutrition. This is what has made a huge difference. We have seen in Latin America and Africa in particular, national as well as regional commitments to make huge progress and even in Asia and the Pacific region there have been sub-regional commitments which have been extremely important in this regard. These commitments have come at the highest level from heads of state and heads of government. And this is crucial if we are to make sustained progress on nutrition.

I hope I have been able to address some of the concerns which have been raised; some are not within my jurisdiction to address and I will leave it to others to address. However, if there is anything I have left out I would be happy to address it either here or subsequently in private.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

Thank you, Mr Sundaram for your clarifications and explanations. We certainly have made progress but it is very important now to keep up the momentum; and from the discussion that we had before, I have the feeling that there might be some misunderstandings also on the procedure we have agreed from the very beginning, that is on the participation of all Members in preparing the documents and the issue of an Open Ended Working Group.

We have decided at the beginning that we will have an Open Ended Working Group but it will be a single meeting, it is in the Terms of Reference and it was not changed by the Executive Board decision of WHO in spring, so we will have this meeting in September to finalize the text. But we also have agreed, given the financial restrictions that we have to work upon, that we cannot have the whole process be discussed within an Open Ended Working Group.

To accelerate the process of discussions, we have agreed to work with speakers, spokespersons of the Regional Groups, and everybody/every Member has to feed in what the Member wants to say into the work of the spokespersons of the Regional Groups and we will continue this in order to be ready, and to more or less finalize the text in time, to then be able to decide upon the two documents in September in a meeting of an Open Ended Working Group.

But what we cannot do is to reopen what we have agreed upon before and have a new Open Ended Working Group coming in, and discuss everything again there, because we would never be able to achieve a result in the very end. So we should stick to the process that we have agreed upon in order to be able to finish the process by September, early October, and then have a text ready when the Conference begins in mid-November.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

En primer lugar, el GRULAC desea agradecer al Dr. Sundaram las aclaraciones que ha señalado con respecto sobre todo al proceso y a las tareas por hacer la Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

Solamente queríamos remarcar las preguntas puntuales que hicimos en nuestra intervención. Quizás por lo largo del texto que leímos más temprano no se pudo tomar nota correcta de las preguntas que hicimos. Queríamos clarificar si la reunión presencial del Grupo de Trabajo de Composición Abierta sería en el mes de noviembre. He tomado nota que sería en el mes de noviembre, pero deseo obtener una aclaración por parte del Dr. Sundaram.

Hicimos también una pregunta sobre el método de trabajo, con mesas redondas paralelas a la sesión plenaria de la Conferencia de Nutrición, que nos preocupa, porque tenemos en nuestro grupo muchas delegaciones que no cuentan con muchos funcionarios para poder estar al mismo tiempo, atender todos los foros, dado que estas mesas redondas eventualmente generarían conclusiones que luego serían adoptadas por la plenaria de la CIN-2.

También preguntamos sobre las invitaciones para los altos funcionarios, para personalidades de alto nivel, que nos hemos enterado de manera informal que la Secretaría ha realizado algunas invitaciones a Jefes de Estado que esperamos que ellos puedan participar en noviembre, pero deseamos saber un poco más, profundizar cuáles han sido los criterios usados para que la Secretaría tenga estos invitados especiales ya listos para que puedan venir a Roma y estar con nosotros en noviembre. Quisiera saber si el Dr. Sundaram pudiera entonces centrarse en estos tres puntos para aclarar la intervención que señaló el GRULAC más temprano.

Mr Mohammed S.SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia fully supports the intervention made on behalf of Africa by South Africa. We want to thank the Assistant Director-General for his detailed explanations but there is a question that is coming up.

Having listened to all of the interventions from the floor, we have supported the strong participation of the CSO, Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector. Unfortunately, on the other side, we have WHO that does not seem to really be in favor of that direct participation.

So my question is, how can the inputs of non-state actors be incorporated in the political declaration of the ICN2, because we encourage the participation of the Civil Society Organizations as well as Private Sector, so can you please clarify? Maybe you are making all of the efforts to have WHO to understand the need of why they should be included. You know, we are talking about inclusiveness.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Simplemente para respaldar lo dicho por la Delegación de Venezuela a nombre del GRULAC, compartimos la posición que ellos han detallado.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

First of all, I would like to thank Dr Sundaram for his very detailed presentation, notably on the substance of the forthcoming Conference. And of course I do align with the statement delivered by his Excellency the Greek Ambassador on behalf of the European Union.

As the focal point of the European Union for ICN2, I would also like to recall the request contained in the European Union statement about more information on the organizational aspects of the Conference and that includes, further to the requests made by Venezuela on behalf of GRULAC which we believe are very pertinent; also other issues, such as who is expected to Chair the Conference and what are the procedures for Chair's and Vice Chair's designation? What will be the themes of the panels and what will be the criteria for selecting the panelists? What is the status of the parliamentary forum, which we see as one of the possible self-organized events prior to the Conference, and what will then be, if appropriate, the involvement of parliamentarians during the Conference?

On all of these issues, I would strongly recommend the holding of an interactive briefing for Member Nations, which could take place shortly after this Council week and which would help us clarify a number of issues which are fundamental for the success of ICN2.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

I would like to praise the efforts made by Mr Sundaram for somehow taking the lead in this very difficult meeting. With respect to some other Members' comments regarding the working arrangement, I frankly say that I have never been informed of the detailed arrangement on how to work, how to arrange the Working Group.

Regarding the two spokespersons from each region and the Open Ended Working Group which would discuss the policy document in June, we were not well informed. As far as FAO is concerned, what we have decided so far is the decision made at the 148th Council held in December of last year.

We did not decide, in such detail, of the arrangement and including the arrangement of the Working Group. That is why Japan has never taken part in the discussion of the policy document and I think the situation can be shared with my colleague from Indonesia and the Philippines and other countries which did not speak so far.

I think that with respect to the FAO, all of the decisions in the governing body of the Council is everything, so we are not well informed how the policy document is going to be discussed in which forum and which formulation and which arrangement.

Under such a situation, I am afraid if we do not take part in the policy document, we cannot send a Minister to the Conference and we cannot ask our Ministers to sign the policy document. In order to avoid such a situation, we need some opportunity for us to take part fully in the discussions of the policy outcome document of the Organization, somewhere between now until the meeting is held. September may be okay but there may be another meeting that must be held between now and September. I don't know. It is up to the Secretariat to look at resources available.

But anyway, we need some opportunities to take part in the policy document discussion. That is our greatest concern. Thank you very much.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ante todo, nos sumamos a lo expresado por Venezuela en representación del GRULAC. Solamente queremos resaltar un punto, que es el relativo a la necesidad de que se realice lo antes posible esta Reunión Abierta a todos los Estados y presencial, ya que en esta, verdaderamente todos los países podremos participar en el proceso.

Valoramos, por supuesto, las reuniones que se han realizado en el Grupo de Trabajo a través de los voceros de los grupos regionales, sin embargo, los voceros obviamente han expresado los criterios en los que se ha llegado a consensos, pero en muchos temas no han sido reflejados la posición de los países, con lo cual consideramos, y así como el GRULAC lo ha manifestado en algunas declaraciones en el Grupo de Trabajo, de salvaguardar el derecho de que los países puedan presentar sus comentarios durante la reunión abierta y presencial, con lo cual solamente queremos resaltar el hecho de que no consideraríamos que lo que trabaje el Grupo de Trabajo se considere cerrado, o no pueda ser reabierto posteriormente cuando los Estados verdaderamente estamos participando.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

The German Ambassador has elaborated on the process of participation and quite correctly emphasizes that we should proceed as we have agreed at the end of last year and early this year.

We have a process which is moving on and there will be a major opportunity when the Open Ended Working Group meets in September. If I said November I made a mistake, and I am sorry for that. We should meet in September. We are trying to find a suitable time in order to have interval between the discussions on the framework for action to enable the Open Ended Working Group has to comment on a completed draft. This is the intention.

It is very challenging because many of our delegates and Permanent Representatives here have multiple obligations with other organizations in the city of Rome, and finding a mutually acceptable time is very difficult, but we are trying our best to make this possible.

The question of the Open Ended Working Group ensuring the opportunity for participation of all members of both FAO and WHO has never been in doubt.

I would just like to emphasize that this is a process which is perhaps unusual because it involves two organizations with two different cultures.

The worst case scenario is that we do not agree in September and it would be very difficult to save the Conference at that point.

I don't have a very good experience. I used to work in New York for five years for the UN Secretariat and unfortunately most of the conferences I was involved in were difficult conferences and conferences where the continued negotiations undermined the success of the conference.

Regarding the question of the round tables, the idea is that the first day will provide an opportunity for interventions from the ministers and others participants. The round tables are scheduled for the second day. This is what is currently envisaged. So the question of overlap and the stretching of delegations is not an issue.

Another question raised concerns the Heads of States and other dignitaries invited. They have been invited as special guests and were identified by the two Directors-Generals on the basis of their international leadership nutrition issues.

As I mentioned earlier, for example CELAC in Latin America and the Caribbean and the African Union have had very strong regional commitments at the highest level on nutrition issues, but there are also others in other parts of the world who have provided outstanding leadership and for this reason they are on the list of dignitaries invited as special guests.

A question was raised also on how non-State actors will contribute to ICN2. As you know, over 100 non-State actors, both civil society and the private sector, contributed comments on the first draft. These were reorganized and made available to members and also summarized. There was a long consolidated document as well as a short summary document.

Members, on the basis of such contributions were able to provide their contributions and interventions. This is part of the reason, I suspect, why there was a unanimous call in Rome for a second draft.

And I would say this process has worked quite well even if it is a very unusual process. In all my years in New York this never happened but this happened here, and it is really because of your commitment to including non-State actors' participation and to ensure a venue.

We hope to be able to issue the framework for action draft documents next month and to initiate a third web consultation on the framework for action document. As soon as those results are available, we will post them on the Permanent Representatives Website and you can share them with capitals.

This is how we have tried to work within the constraints faced to ensure the participation of non-State actors.

On Friday afternoon you will have the opportunity to listen to non-State actors and decide on how we might be able to further improve the way we are working.

But this is certainly a very significant achievement made thanks to this Conference.

Italy has asked for an informal briefing on organizational aspects and we will try to organize this as soon as possible.

The question of who will chair the Conference. It is tradition for the host country to chair conferences and in this case Italy will chair the Conference. I believe that the then Italian Foreign Minister in November 2012 actually announced that Italy would be chairing the Conference so I don't think there has been any doubt raised about that.

The round tables are being organized by the joint Secretariat with the advice of the two Directors-Generals.

Regarding the parliamentary forums, I did not mention this earlier as it has not been confirmed yet. But I understand that a suitable site has been found and the parliamentarians' forum.

There will be three pre-events self-organized: one for civil society, one for the private sector, and one for parliamentarians.

Japan raised the question regarding the participation in the Open Ended Working Group. I do not need to reiterate the point I made earlier that the Open Ended Working Group will be by definition open to all.

The regional groups should consolidate the views to be conveyed through the regional spokespersons.

It is hoped that the regional consensus will be able to establish the basis for a universal consensus.

On the rights to participate raised by Ecuador; the rights to participate are not limited for government delegates. The rights to participate will be limited for observers as this is the normal practice.

I hope that I have responded accordingly to all the questions that have been raised.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

Thank you Mr Sundaram for the explanation; however, the point I was making is not open or limited number of people's participation. Discussion should be made with respect to policy documents as well as in an Open Ended Working Group, which must include in its agenda the policy document because Japan has never taken part in such an agreement of the current form of working group style: two spokespersons from each region or something. If I was involved in the decision making process, I would have been definitely opposed to that because regional consensus is very important and in the

Asia Region there are very diverse opinions and sometimes each country opinion is not reflected by the regional opinions.

So the stress I am going to make is not open or a limited Membership participation but the policy document must be definitely discussed jointly together with the Action Plan Framework in September Open Ended Working Group because Japan has never taken part in the process. I have never sent any comment to the policy document so far. There is no Japanese opinion. We have never interpreted the policy documents analyzed policy documents so far. I cannot persuade our ministers to sign or even take part in this Conference if we cannot take part in the policy document negotiation process. So in a short once again, I will ask to have an Open Ended Working Group to discuss policy document. That is the point I am making.

Ms Eun Jeong LEE (Republic of Korea)

As the spokesperson of the Asia Group, there is some misunderstanding to the opinions of the delegations. It is needed to be consulted in an Asia Group meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

There will be a consultation open to the Members to discuss the documents before they are put to the Conference.

Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)

Just a little point of clarification on the Chair issue: I take due note of what has been said by Dr Sundaram in terms of hosting and being the host country, however, I would like to clarify that, first of all, to my understanding it is a Conference at ministerial level jointly organized by FAO and WHO. As you well know, the two Organizations have their seats respectively in Rome and Geneva.

Secondly, in the only precedent which exists, that is ICN1, the Conference was chaired to my knowledge by Madam Simone Veil of France. This is without prejudice to further discussions and decisions but just for the sake of clarity.

CHAIRPERSON

I want to thank you for this very fruitful discussion on this very important agenda item regarding the preparations for ICN2. We hope to have practical results from that Conference. So I think the agenda item deserves a discussion and I thank you Mr Sundaram for giving very elaborate responses to the questions raised.

Let me say that in my conclusions I will not touch issues on the organizational aspects because we have agreed here that we are going to have a briefing on issues regarding the organization and the records of this meeting will be shared with Geneva to see what guidance the Council has given.

Our agreement to have a briefing session is something we shall do here in Rome for Representatives to FAO. I urge the Secretariat to prepare for this briefing. I think you have taken note of the questions which have been asked and I urge Italy to send that list which he read to the management.

Whoever has questions which he or she feels that need clarification regarding the organizational aspects, please refer to the Secretariat so that during the briefing there is a fruitful discussion. Otherwise, if questions arise in the briefing then there shall be a waste of time.

Now I want to make conclusions on this agenda item 12 as follows:

1. The Council welcomed the progress made collaboratively by FAO and the World Health Organization in preparing for the Second International Conference on Nutrition, through both the ICN2 Joint Working Group as well as the ICN2 Joint Secretariat. In particular, the Council appreciated:

- i) the efforts made by the Joint Working Group towards reaching consensus on the draft Rome Declaration on Nutrition and looked forward to its timely completion, preferably by the end of June 2014, in the form of a short and concise document;

- ii) the support provided by the Director-General and the Joint Secretariat to the Joint Working Group and the arrangements made for the Conference;
- iii) the valuable inputs made with regard to the draft Rome Declaration on Nutrition through two public web-based consultations involving a wide range of stakeholders, including UN bodies and other international organizations, academia, civil society and private sector organizations, and urged a similar online consultation be held on the draft Framework for Action.

2. The Council encouraged the ICN2 Joint Secretariat to prepare, by July 2014, a draft Framework for Action to serve as a technical guide for the implementation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, for its subsequent consideration by the Joint Working Group in September 2014. As a result, the Council noted the expectation that the two ICN2 outcome documents would be completed by the end of September 2014.

3. The Council commended the productive dialogue among Joint Working Group Members and expressed appreciation to the Co-Chairpersons and Co-Vice-Chairpersons for their leadership in steering the deliberations towards a successful outcome of the Conference.

4. The Council looked forward to a meeting of an open ended working group to be convened, providing speaking rights to the Membership of FAO and WHO, subject to availability of resources.

5. The Council noted with appreciation the initiatives to involve and consult with Non-State Actors in ICN2, and encouraged FAO to ensure that their inputs are given due consideration in the finalization of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I have some difficulty with the conclusions as you read them out because they do not in fact reflect the level of questioning that was obvious in Member Nations interventions.

We agreed that there would be a process and we deferred some questions to a later briefing. Nevertheless, if the conclusions are to be shared with our colleagues in Geneva, it does not reflect the degree of uneasiness, if I could use that word, among the Membership here with regard to the process so far.

I cannot propose to you a language at this moment but I think some word along that line must be included in the conclusions.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you propose what sort of words should be included in order to allow the drafting committee to do a good work? What do you see is not contained in what I have read point by point?

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

In the second paragraph you mentioned somewhere the tasks to be taken, which should be discussed in the Open Ended Working Group in September. I think the current formulation only reflects the Agenda Item which should be on the Framework for Action. Please include the policy outcome document as well in the second paragraph.

This is not only the request from Japan. Philippines and Indonesia have just confirmed their intention of not having an Open-Ended Working Group, but their real point is to give the opportunity to also discuss the policy document.

I did not say that Japan did not take part in the process. Please let us give one more opportunity to discuss the policy document.

I have the impression that it may lead to misunderstand my statement and I am very sorry to say that. Yet, please put the mentioned Agenda Item in the September Open-Ended Working Group and include the policy outcome document as well.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

I would propose an additional bullet point in your summary to read: The Council conveyed to the Secretariat a number of concerns regarding the process, outcome documents, and other aspects of the preparation of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Those will be corrections or additions made to the document. We come away from here with my conclusions which we have all agreed with, so I don't expect a debate on these agenda items in the drafting committee. I think it is very useful.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

I fully agree with what you said. Just to clarify the concern of Japan is that the September Working Group is an Open Ended Working Group. There are now two Members from Algeria. Everybody is involved. In this open-ended for all, two documents will be discussed; the political document and the Action Plan.

CHAIRPERSON

I cannot explain more than that what you have done. I think this is also what the delegate of Japan is requesting. So we have come to the end of this agenda item. I want to thank you for your good participation regarding the preparations for ICN2.

Item 14. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 148th Session of the Council
Point 14. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent quarante-huitième session
Tema 14. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 148.º período de sesiones

(CL 149/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now turn our attention to item 14 *Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 148th Session of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 149/LIM/3.

As foreseen in the Multi-year Programme of Work, the Council is invited to note the information on the implementation of decisions taken at its last session in December 2013.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

We would have a few brief remarks on the final item in the document provided regarding the Technical Consultation on Low Levels of Genetically Modified Crops in International Food and Feed Trade. We commend FAO for convening the Technical Consultation which was held in March this year in Rome.

Canada considers that the Technical Consultation successfully met its objective of providing a forum for international discussion on Low Level Presence, also known as LLP. Its success and the participation of over 200 delegates representing 90 FAO Members is a ringing endorsement in our view of the FAO as a credible, unbiased, and appropriate forum for the discussion of science-based technologies.

The Technical Consultation held last March showed us that there is a wide range among Members in the level of understanding about LLP. Canada and others are continuing work on practical solutions for dealing with LLP trade-related issues. We are supportive of FAO's work with respect to LLP and we look forward to discussing ways the FAO could continue to support Members in addressing this issue.

M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)

La délégation de la République du Congo est ravie de prendre la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe remercie le Secrétariat pour les efforts consentis dans la mise en œuvre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa dernière session.

Nous accueillons favorablement ce rapport qui fait un état de la Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa 148^{ème} session. À la lumière du rapport sur l'état d'avancement de la mise en œuvre des mesures non achevées découlant de la 148^{ème} session, le tableau indique: deux décisions ont été exécutées et 15 sont en cours d'exécution. Le Groupe Afrique se félicite de la suite donnée à ces décisions adoptées. Nous encourageons le Secrétariat à tout mettre en œuvre pour achever la mise en œuvre des 15 décisions encore en cours de réalisation. Le Groupe Afrique prend note des différentes informations contenues dans ce rapport et attend avec intérêt l'achèvement de la mise en œuvre des décisions non encore achevées.

Mr GUO Handi (China) (Original Language Chinese)

First of all, we would like to thank the Secretariat for this report and we in principle agree with this report, but I would like to point out that in paragraph 4 of this document it states that the Global Cultural Heritage System as an indicator for Strategic Objective 2. We appreciate this and I would like to inform the Council that from 28 to 29 April a Committee was held here at Headquarters.

During the meeting, Republic of Korea, Iran, and China all had a few projects listed in the project ideas. At the center, the Steering Committee worked out also the plan for the work concerning this. We support and appreciate the work done by the FAO in this regard.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Nosotros nos sumamos a lo dicho por los oradores precedentes en cuanto a que tomamos nota y recibimos con mucho aprecio este Informe sobre las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo desde su 148.º período de sesiones. En especial, queremos dejar constancia que apreciamos el trabajo en curso sobre los ajustes al presupuesto 2014-2015, el trabajo en curso que se encuentra para lograr los ahorros.

También apoyamos el restablecimiento del SIPAM como indicador en el Marco del Objetivo Estratégico 2, así como vemos con satisfacción la potenciación de la competencia especializada de la FAO en materia de protección social. También hemos tratado ese tema previamente por lo tanto tomamos nota y apreciamos los trabajos preparatorios para la Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

En cuanto a la consulta sobre Organismos Vivos Modificados a que se hace referencia al final del Informe, mi Delegación desea reiterar los criterios expresados en el 148.º período de sesiones en el sentido de que hemos expresado nuestra preocupación con la aplicación de los Organismos Vivos Modificados (OVM) en la agricultura, ya que existen estudios que dan cuenta de la contaminación causada por estos sistemas de cultivo.

Asimismo, reiteramos lo que hemos expresado en cuanto a que este tema sería más apropiado tratarlo en el seno de la Organización Mundial de Comercio.

Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)

First of all, the Government of Japan would like to express our deep appreciation to the Secretariat for having prepared the document. In particular, each Council decision listed is very clear and reader friendly.

Being included in this table, needless to note, Japan would like to state our continuous support for the ongoing effort. Here in the document we find 15 actions, starting with the first line which reads "efficiency savings USD 2.7 million would be clarified".

Also, needless to repeat, Japan would like to express our expectation for these actions to be kindly taken without affecting the implementation of programme and regular budgets, and also to be aligned with the discussion on the Programme Committee as well as the Finance Committee.

Finally, however, considering the need to state and to echo the Distinguished Delegate from China, Japan would like to express our sincere gratitude for the completion of the fourth point, inclusion of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System as an indicator for Strategic Objective 2 in light of its importance underscored by the last Council.

Japan is confident that all actions on the table may achieve its goal in a timely fashion.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

The Islamic Republic of Iran takes the floor on behalf of the G-77 and China. There are several factors that put tremendous pressure on global strategic resources, particularly water, food and energy. In addition to the considerations related to climate change and its negative effects, the increasing population growth is the most important source of pressure on the global strategic resources. The world population has exceeded 7 billion in 2014, and it is expected to reach 8.4 billion by 2025 and 9.6 billion in 2050.

Due to the high rates of poverty and malnutrition despite efforts to combat them, the future developments require a real improvement in the work of FAO to the extent that can help Member Nations, especially developing ones, to meet the challenges and pressures imposed on the strategic resources of water and food, taking into account the efforts to reach the post-2015 development agenda goals.

The proposal is for developing the work of FAO, and to enhance its ability to provide technical assistance and advisory services to developing countries on several grounds, including the following:

First: The need to strengthen cooperation with scientific research centers working in areas related to water, food and other fields of food production, in order to provide Member Nations with the latest information related to the following areas:

One, increasing the productivity of major crops like wheat, corn, rice and soybeans.

Two, technologies developed for the modern irrigation systems and methods of wastewater treatment, taking into account the new trend to produce a greater amount of crops at the lowest amount of water (more crops with fewer drops).

Three, the latest styles on the development of livestock and fishery as main sources of protein, including dairy, through the establishment of fisheries, prevention of disease, and to provide the necessary vaccines.

Four, reducing the side effects of the use of pesticides on human health and how to minimize the side effects on environment, and the possibility of expansion in the use of radioactive nuclides in the fight against pests.

Five, technologies related to the recycling of agricultural wastes, especially rice.

Six, expanding the use of solar energy in the agricultural field, especially running irrigation equipment, wastewater treatment, and waste recycling.

Seven, dealing with the root causes of hunger and malnutrition.

Eight, dealing with the problems of food loss.

Our second point regards success stories achieved by some Member Nations in the areas mentioned above, including some examples of successful small and medium enterprises which aim to eradicate poverty, and to promote opportunities for women's empowerment.

Third: It is important to strengthen cooperation with private sector companies producing equipment and technologies for agricultural activities, which helps Member States to gain from the recent technologies in the agricultural sector, in the framework of technical assistance and advisory services provided by FAO.

Fourth: The need to develop cooperation with civil society organizations working in areas related to food and environment, considering the essential and growing role of Non State Actors on the international level.

The G-77 and China commends the efforts and support continuously provided by FAO, especially in our countries. However, our Group appeals to the Organization for ensuring that our request is taken into consideration and that a follow-up is given to our countries during the next session of the Council in December 2014.

Mr Amr HELMY MOSTAFA KAMAL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to express my gratitude and thanks to the Distinguished Delegate from Iran. He has taken the floor and explained the initiative submitted by the Group of 77 and China in order to boost the activities of FAO.

It is well known that the Egyptian Delegation in this Organization was behind this very initiative. We drafted a great deal on that initiative. Indeed, the issue at hand should not be limited to the submission of statements or declarations. It should go beyond that stage. We should implement those statements. We should convey and translate these ideas into practical achievements.

If there is a Governance Committee tackling the issues related to the role of FAO, these issues should be dealt with within the context of the challenges we are facing and also bearing in mind the various pressures we are facing due to the growing number of population, climate change, global warming, and other political circumstances in which a number of countries are living.

Thus, we would expect that strategic assets such as energy and water resources are in high demand. Therefore we suggest that we set up a *Wise Men Group*, in order to focus on the role of FAO to tackle the ways and means of devising the relevant policies that should be made in order to face up to the present day challenges and threats, and those we are doomed to face in the future.

We believe that there is a similar action being undertaken in a number of Organizations, those Organizations that are focusing on the ways and means of promoting the role of the United Nations at large. So as Members within the FAO, we should think about the setting up of a *Wise Men And Women Group* which would be entrusted with the task of focusing on the role and function of this Organization.

We believe that this Organization should be gradually transformed into a center of excellence for the whole world. It should be a clearing house for knowledge, technology and expertise to the benefit of the whole world. It should be the Specialized Agency dealing with water resources, food, and nutrition.

We believe that the Council should at least, in principle, come up with a decision whereby we establish such a group in such a way as we open the door wide open for further interaction, for further consultation in order to give this important issue its rightful place in our discussions because the world is witnessing very nefarious circumstances when this Organization should tackle the issue of food security, poverty, and even political instability.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I just wanted to acknowledge and thank the positive comments made by Members regarding document CL 149/LIM/3 "Status of Implementation of Decisions taken at the 148th Session of the Council".

I must say that indeed, the format of this document was improved over the years thanks to a large extent to the suggestions made by Japan and we will certainly take note of the comments made this afternoon to further improve the document, aiming at finalizing the decisions made by Council as effectively as possible.

CHAIRPERSON

I really appreciate what was tabled by Iran and Egypt. Several recommendations were made to FAO after the external evaluation. We are now dealing with their implementation.

Everything has been quite streamlined since the beginning of the Reform. We are still going on with the transformational changes currently FAO is undergoing an Independent Review of the Governance Reform.

Your concerns regarding governance reform can be subject to discussion at a later stage and the questions raised by the Independent Review are related to the issues that you have raised.

Therefore, I thank you for these inputs and I would like to conclude this Agenda Item 14 as follows: The Council took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 148th Session (2 to 6 December 2013) and requested that those not yet completed be implemented effectively and rapidly.

Mr Amr HELMY MOSTAFA KAMAL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

As a comment on what you have said, there are a number of Committees tackling the issue of Governance or the restructuring of the Organization.

The initiative submitted by the Group of 77 and China which was explained at length by the Distinguished Delegate from Iran, this initiative refers to another issue. It wants to turn this Organization into a more efficient Organization in giving its technical support to Member Nations whereby it can help these countries to face up to the challenges it is facing and also to help it prepare itself for future challenges.

If you scrutinize this initiative, you would see that the gist of it is to try to tap on the expertise and cooperation between this Organization and research institutes tackling the issue of water resources and food production. These issues have not been tackled in the past within the Committees that exist within FAO. Even if such an Organization has undergone a number of reforms, we believe that these are the basic pillars of food security: soya, cereal, and maize are the basic food crops that would secure food security.

So we want to know what the state of our technology is in order to promote the productivity of these crops. What are the best ways of using irrigation and water management? Less drops with more crops? What is the best way of using water resources in an adequate manner without affecting nefariously the food production? What are the best technologies to deal with waste water? What are the best technologies and most up to date technology which can help Member Nations to reduce the side effects of pesticides? How to recycle the agricultural waste, particularly rice waste? And after crops, what is the best way of using fertilizers in agriculture? What is the result of cooperation between FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency in using radio isotopes in fighting pests and diseases? How could we tackle the genetically modified crops? Are there positive or negative effects?

These issues have not been tackled in a most adequate way within the Committees of FAO and that is why the Group of 77 and China has seen that it is suitable to look into these issues. These issues should not be left in reports. They should be discussed and we have to focus on the challenges facing us. The number of the world population will go beyond eight billion by the year 2025 and it will even reach 9.8 billion people by the year 2050. So, we cannot allow ourselves the luxury of not tackling these threats and challenges.

We believe that the specialized agencies within the UN and in particular FAO are called upon to tap their resources and to make the best of their knowledge in order to face up to these challenges and that is why as the Group of 77 and China, we do not want to limit ourselves to what is existent but we want to take part in devising practical measures, new policies to be devised by this wise men's group as it were in order to tackle these crucial issues.

CHAIRPERSON

The issue that the Ambassador of Egypt has raised is not a simple subject and what I have suggested to you and to G-77 is that we discuss it in the informal consultative meetings I call for the Chairs and the Vice-Chairs in Regional Groups. I think it cannot be concluded in this Council meeting.

Ms Tehmina JANJUA (Pakistan)

I understand that we need to wrap up as soon as possible, but I take this opportunity to strongly support what the Ambassador of Egypt has said. The Ambassador of Egypt is no layperson who is talking about lay issues. He has done enough research on it and has written a very comprehensive document on globalization, etc. He would be too humble to make any reference to it but we know of his expertise in many areas that are discussed in FAO.

Chairperson, I completely agree with him while also underscoring the fact that decisions taken by the Council should not remain decisions on paper only, but should have a direct impact on the work of FAO in the field. It is what FAO does in the field which is most important for developing countries because these discussions that take place here may be completely irrelevant sometimes, unless they have a direct connection with the impact it has on field on small farmers, on food security, on issues as the Ambassador said, on issues of water scarcity, etc.

So these are issues that we need to take into account and I completely agree with the listing that is provided. There are a number of areas where FAO has to come forward. FAO is not an ordinary organization. Why has it existed for so long and why does it have the complete support of the G-77 as well as the larger Membership of the international community? The fact is that it is a knowledge based organization, able to go forward and provide expertise in areas where they may be lacking.

There has been some discussion on the sidelines on South-South Cooperation, but it is fundamental that FAO continues to provide the possibility of developing networks where experts from developing countries can find places for providing expertise in developing countries as well.

So South-South Cooperation may be critical but there has to be direction provided by FAO. You may have an expert in Egypt that we need in Pakistan and it is only FAO that can tap that. So number one, we have to start looking more aggressively for expertise and sharing expertise within the countries of the south.

This will also help us devise policies at the country level and also assist us at the Council to become more relevant, more productive, and more helpful in the fact. The point that has been raised by the Ambassador that the population of the world is fast increasing: tomorrow we may not have the luxury of continuing to talk in these forums unless we do some planning in advance. And it is organizations like FAO that have to take an important frontline role in this regard.

So we encourage the Director-General, we encourage the management to step forward and look at the possibility of how the issues that have been raised by the Ambassador of Egypt can be brought into discussions, not just on paper, but where there is a practical linkage between them and the field and what happens in the field.

So we look forward to seeing the possibilities. You have outlined some but I think we need to have a more structured discussion on how these inputs can be made into the work of the Council.

Ms Ala MASHTA (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I do support what has been said by Iran on behalf of the G-77 and the statement made by Egypt regarding the proposals in the request we are studying now. I do accept what has been said in the statement but I think it is possible to discuss this matter in other fora, in other committees that are specialized in technical matters; at the same time I do not think it is correct that the Council ignores the statement made by the G-77.

So what I propose is that we find the solution that Council will take into account the statement made by this Group, which it should be attached to the Report, and our recommendation would be made to the relevant committees to find a solution by discussing this matter in order to achieve what has been requested by the group G-77.

Mr Bandar Abdulmuhsin bin SHALHOOB (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I do agree with what has been said by the previous speakers and specifically what has been said by the Ambassador of Egypt and the Ambassador of Pakistan. This is an extremely important matter for the developing countries that would benefit from transfer of technology.

This matter has been raised during the Council meeting when we discussed this item, the idea we put forward is how to benefit from the new technologies and I hope these matters will be discussed in future meetings. We may be able to find a solution that will be useful for all human beings.

Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVIMOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)

I just want to support what was just mentioned by our colleagues from Iraq and Saudi Arabia, that this statement should be recorded and noted.

Mr Thomas WRIESSNIG (Germany)

In my view this item 14 is just a stock-taking of what we did and we are discussing now substantial issues, things that normally would be discussed when we discuss the PWB and the work of the Organization. It is difficult to follow this discussion which would normally have to be followed during the normal procedures when we discuss the PWB.

Ms Debra PRICE (Canada)

Some of my colleagues here may remember that I earlier commented that the Council is not known for spontaneity but I may have to take that comment back because we find this a bit of a spontaneous intervention. Along with our German colleague, it has taken us by surprise. All the issues raised are extremely significant. We would like time to study the statement and therefore would have no objection to it being appended to the record of the Council to allow us to do that, but any further action would be difficult for us to consider at this time since it is a very complex statement and we would need to look at it more carefully.

We certainly look forward to engaging on any number of those issues with both the Secretariat and the Member Nations. There is a lot of work going on in the areas that were enumerated as we captured them by the FAO already. We were a bit surprised to find and hear in the statement that this seemed to be going unrecognized, so we would appreciate further information from the Organization itself as well in response to the statement before the Council is in a position to take any further decision.

Mme Ségolène HALLEY DES FONTAINES (France)

Dans la mesure où effectivement ce point est inscrit à l'ordre du jour et que le Conseil est invité à prendre note des informations communiquées, ces sujets sont très importants et je voulais soutenir ce qu'a indiqué mon collègue de l'Allemagne précédemment.

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)

I listened carefully and the list of items that was mentioned goes back from 1960 up to present, some of them have been done whether it was research, whether it was study of irrigation frequency of different crops, some of them were done and most of them have been developed and abandoned.

To go back again without knowing what has been done and look into what has been done as if the Organization has ignored these, it is not worth talking. We have to know what the Organization has done before and why it abandoned it. There were different committees and those committees do not exist anymore because of certain reasons, so we cannot propose one or two items to be included and as it has been said, it cannot simply include it in things without taking into account the budgetary implications and others so it goes to the Programme and Finance Committees on what it requires.

But to put all of these shopping lists is not a welcome approach. We can put one and if the most two which interest you or to your particular region but not to the whole Organization. Is it reform or in what category can we call it? Or is it a blame to the Organization that it is not functioning? No. So I do not see whether this is to blame the Organization or all the different departments, otherwise it touches all of them so I do not see it, even I cannot put it as a concept note or concept statement. It does not have a status. If it is, it should be distributed to the Members or discuss it and if as the Independent Chairman suggested, if you want to put one by one to the independent Chairman and discuss and give a concept to note and discuss if you think it can be included then it can take, otherwise all that shopping list, personally, I do not put any value in it.

Mr Amr HELMY MOSTAFA KAMAL (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

For the reactions we have listened to by some Member Nations, it might be enough for me in this session to take into account what has been stated by the Representative of Iran who spoke on behalf of the group of G-77. But this matter will be put on the agenda of the next session of the Council and the

group of G-77 will present a detailed document about this initiative and would be discussed under the item of increasing the instruction in the order of FAO to combat the challenges on how to prepare for preparing the future challenges.

At this session, it will be enough for us to accept what has been said by the representative and the spokesman of the group of G-77 and in our report we say that the Council has taken account in principle this statement and this matter will be put on the agenda of the next session of the Council. During this period, the group of G-77 will provide all the details regarding this matter so that Council can study this statement before it is being discussed in the next session of the Council.

Mr Luis COELHO-SILVA (Portugal)

We would like to support the interventions made by our colleagues from Germany and France. We need time to carefully examine the important statements that are being done about the Organization's work, so we look forward to have some more information from the Secretariat and try to understand what is the proper forum for discussing the important matters that are being raised.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

If I am not mistaken, this issue must be first brought to the Committee of Agriculture due to its technical nature and we will seek any advice from the Committee of Agriculture to further step to any other relevant committees.

My suggestion is also relevant to Iraq's comments that Council needs to ask the COAG to consider this issue and G-77 can support the information in the next session of COAG for more detail.

CHAIRPERSON

I have listened very carefully to what has been debated on the statement made by Iran and I really appreciate that. I made the suggestion that for such complicated matter it is better to start in our informal discussion consultations, and this was supported by Pakistan. I think it will be more appropriate.

What has been stated by Iran will be on record.

Members have the right to suggest any item on the agenda of the Council after having consulted and so forth, but I would also go along the suggestion made by Japan.

I think we can come to the end of this item as I had concluded it. So I close this agenda item.

There is an announcement which has to be made by the Secretariat before I move on to agenda number 18.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We would like to propose to the Members that we finish this morning's session before the lunch break and postpone the side event to 1:30. By doing so, we will conclude the agenda this morning and we will not reconvene the meeting this afternoon, allowing the Drafting Committee to start its work as planned at around 3:00 pm.

Item 18. Provisional Agenda for the 150th Session of the Council (December 2014)

Point 18. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 150^{ème} session du Conseil (décembre 2014)

Tema 18. Programa provisional del 150.º período de sesiones del Consejo (diciembre de 2014)
(CL 149/INF/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to Item 18 *Provisional Agenda for the 150th Session of the Council (December 2014)*. The relevant document is CL 149/INF/2.

The Council is requested to consider the draft agenda for its next session and propose, if necessary, matters for inclusion.

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

Mme Karima BOUBEKEUR (Algérie)

L'Algérie intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Nous remercions la Direction pour l'établissement de l'ordre du jour de la 150^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO qui se tiendra en décembre 2014, et nous souscrivons à tous les points qui y sont inscrits. C'est un agenda complet puisqu'il examinera toutes les activités qui vont se dérouler au cours du deuxième semestre de l'année en cours.

Par ailleurs, nous souhaitons savoir s'il ne serait pas opportun d'ajouter un point à titre d'information à savoir les principales conclusions de la 37^{ème} session du Codex Alimentarius qui se tiendra à Genève le mois de juillet prochain.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

With reference to the intervention made by Algeria, we will include a presentation on the Report of the 37th Session of the Codex Alimentarius during the next session of the Council, either as a separate agenda item or otherwise.

CHAIRPERSON

For item 18, I can therefore conclude that: The Council endorsed the Provisional Agenda of its 150th Session for December 2014.

Item 11. Dates for Submission of Nominations for the Office of Director-General**Point 11. Date de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général****Tema 11. Plazo para la presentación de candidaturas al cargo de Director General**

(CL 149/8)

CHAIRPERSON

The next item on the agenda is item 11, *Dates for Submission of Nominations for the Office of Director-General*. The document before Council is CL 149/8.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Document CL 149/8 informs Members that the nomination period, as stipulated in Rule XXXVII, Paragraph 1(b) of the General Rules of the Organization, shall have a duration of three months and end at least 30 days prior to the beginning of the session of the Council which is scheduled to take place not less than 60 days before the session of the Conference at which the election will take place.

The dates proposed for the 151st session of the Council are from 23 to 27 March 2015 and those proposed for the 39th session of the Conference are from 6 to 13 June 2015.

Based on these dates, it is proposed to set 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2015 as the period during which nominations may be submitted for the post of Director-General to be elected at the 39th Session of the Conference.

M. Monsieur MONJA (Madagascar)

La délégation de Madagascar intervient sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique. Ayant examiné le document CL 149/8 relatif à la Date de présentation des candidatures au poste de Directeur général de la FAO, le Groupe Afrique souscrit à la date proposée par le Secrétariat, à savoir du premier novembre au 31 janvier 2015, période au cours de laquelle les propositions des candidatures au poste de Directeur général sont recevables.

Cette période est conforme aux dispositions du Règlement général de la FAO, notamment dans son article 37 paragraphe (i). À cet égard, étant donné que la période de présentation des candidatures dépend des dates de la tenue de la 151^{ème} session du Conseil de l'Organisation et de la 39^{ème} session de la Conférence, respectivement du 23 au 27 mars 2015 et du 6 au 13 juin 2015, conformément au Règlement général de la FAO, le Groupe Afrique souscrit à ces propositions de dates et invite les autres Membres à en faire autant.

CHAIRPERSON

I take it that this item is accepted as it presented and I want to conclude on this agenda item 11 that: the Council set the dates of 1 November 2014 to 31 January 2015 as the period during which Member Nations could submit nominations for the office of the Director-General.

Item 20. Any Other Matters

Point 20. Autres questions

Tema 20. Asuntos varios

Item 20.1 Appointment of Alternate Chairpersons of the Appeals Committee

Point 20.1 Nomination des présidents suppléants du Comité de recours

Tema 20.1 Nombramiento de los presidentes suplentes del Comité de Apelaciones

(CL 149/LIM/5)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now move on to the last item on the Agenda, *Any Other Matters*. Sub-item 20.1 concerns the *Appointment of two Alternate Chairpersons of the Appeals Committee*. Relevant information can be found in document CL 149/LIM/5.

I will now give the floor to Mr Antonio Tavares, Legal Counsel, who will make some brief introductory remarks.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Constitution of FAO requires the Conference to make provision for the settlement by the administrative tribunal of labor disputes related to the conditions in terms of employment of staff Members. The Conference decided in 1953 that FAO should accept the jurisdiction, the competence of the administrative tribunal of the ILO, which was the old tribunal of the League of Nations.

The staff regulations provide for an internal Appeals Committee, which advises the Director-General in case of appeals by individual staff members regarding grievances arising out of disciplinary action or of an administrative decision which staff Members allege be in conflict with their terms of appointment or with any staff regulations, staff rules, or administrative directive.

The Committee consists of two Members and five alternate Members appointed by Director-General and two Members and five alternate Members elected by the staff as a whole and a Chairperson appointed by the Council. The Council is also required to appoint two alternate Chairpersons to serve when the Chairperson is not available.

In relation to appeals made by staff members, the Appeals Committee exercises an advisory role to the Director-General since it is the Director-General who takes the final decision which the staff members may, if they so decide, take before the administrative tribunal of the International Labor Organization.

The current Chairperson of the Committee appointed by the Council in 2011 is Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino. In early 2012, Mr Denis Cangy ceased his functions as Alternate Permanent Representative of Mauritius to FAO and resigned. Ambassador Rénovat Ndayirukiye of Burundi also ceased his assignment to Rome and resigned from his duties early last year.

The Council is invited to approve the appointments of His Excellency Don Mario Arvelo, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic and Permanent Representative to FAO as first Alternate Chairperson of the Appeals Committee, and his Excellency Lubomir Ivanov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria and Permanent Representative to FAO as second Alternate Chairperson.

The proposals have been made taking into account the legal background of the nominees, their experience and knowledge of FAO or workings of international organizations. The appointments will take effect now for a period of three years or until they cease to exercise functions as representatives if this were to occur before.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the role and contribution of the Chairs, including the Alternate Chairs of the Appeals Committee, functions that are traditionally held by Representatives. The Office of Chair is currently held by Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino.

CHAIRPERSON

Is the Council willing to proceed by general consent to appoint? Thank you

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

On behalf of the Africa Group, we would like to endorse the recommendation by the Director-General to have the two Distinguished Ambassadors, considering their legal background and experience of these two fine gentlemen in the work of FAO. Indeed, we have known the two gentlemen as renowned persons, who we believe that this Council can trust. Therefore, we, on behalf of the Africa Group, confirm the two nominees and we know that Ambassador Mario Arvelo and Ambassador Ivanov will definitely deliver the expectation of this Council.

Ambassador Arvelo, we know that now you will listen more and you will talk less. We congratulate you and we know that this Council will support you.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We thank the Legal Counsel for providing us with the background of the process. As we understand from this presentation, the Appeals Committee process is an important part of the internal justice system of the Organization.

In view of the experience and legal background of the two Ambassadors, Ambassador Mario Arvelo and Ambassador Ivanov, we believe they will add value to the process and therefore we support their candidatures.

CHAIRPERSON

Is the Council willing to proceed by general consent to appoint His Excellency Ambassador Arvelo and His Excellency Ambassador Ivanov as first and second Alternate Chairperson respectively of the Appeals Committee for a term of three years, to take effective immediately?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

The applause means endorsement. Thank you and may I congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Arvelo and His Excellency Ambassador Ivanov. This concludes item 20.1.

Item 20.2 Statement by a Representative of FAO Staff Bodies

Point 20.2 Déclaration d'un représentant des associations du personnel de la FAO

Tema 20.2 Declaración de un representante de los órganos representativos del personal de la FAO

CHAIRPERSON

Now we proceed to Item 20.2.

At the request of the Staff Representative Bodies and with the approval of the Director-General, a statement will now be made by a Staff Representative, as announced at our opening meeting on Monday morning.

Mr Rainer Krell, you have the floor.

FAO Staff Representative

Thank you for granting us this opportunity to speak to you today. These few words are a joint statement by the Association of Professionals-in-FAO and the Union of General Service Staff, delivered on behalf of everyone around the world working for FAO.

The commitment, dedication and talent of the men and women who work for FAO are beyond question. We are very proud to work for FAO, and for its noble goals. We seek to have the working conditions which enable us to bring out our best to the benefit of our Organization. These include time and financial means to carry out our tasks as well as a respectful and enabling environment.

FAO is undergoing a series of dramatic changes. In this speech, we can mention only some of them.

But first, we wish to say that staff and human resources are of utmost importance for this Organization, and that we are concerned about new procedures to improve the recruitment, selection, promotion, performance and discipline of staff set into motion by Management.

Decentralization has progressed significantly and brought FAO closer to the people we serve. It benefits from and may contribute to staff mobility. The implementation of the new Mobility Policy began only recently, and staff is already concerned about the way it is being rolled out, as well as its impact on the technical, financial and human resources of the Organization. While Decentralization may be important for improved delivery, mobility should not come at the expense of the critical mass of technical expertise at Headquarters.

Concerning technical expertise, we need to hire and retain the most highly qualified technical staff we can find. While we agreed that the staff selection process should be faster and more competence-oriented, questions remain about the loss of transparency inherent in the new staff selection scheme, as well as the burden on staff that must serve on the 14 Selection Committees under the new procedure or go unrepresented.

We are also witnessing a lack of synergy particularly in administrative processes such as the Generic Job Profiles, the Competencies Based Framework, as well as the Performance Appraisal System which cannot be implemented in isolation. The welcomed new Policy on Harassment is to be implemented without the involvement of Staff Representative Bodies, which could be perceived as a lack of trust and transparency. In our view, the inclusion of peers in this process is essential and we do not believe that leaving the entire matter under the OIG's authority will produce a transparent and equitable system.

Comprehensive organizational change cannot be achieved without costs, and some uncertainty for staff. A temporary drop in morale is normal and perhaps inevitable. But some of the recent significant decrease in morale at FAO could have been avoided.

Process is important and affects impact and success.

While we are aware that more changes are to come, we strongly feel that transparency, openness, participation, consultation, negotiation, respect, realistic timeframes and goodwill from both sides are essential elements for constructive collaboration, as are open channels of communication. In this connection to communication, the Staff Representative Bodies continue to request the same use of in-house communication tools afforded to Management. Allowing the Staff Representative Bodies to communicate openly with all staff will help to encourage frank dialogue and to diffuse the sense of fear, a feeling that many staff are experiencing at different levels.

Although we think FAO has not yet scored enough goals in the already mentioned areas, we nevertheless are confident they can be achieved. When staff is involved, ownership is higher, outcomes are better and change is quicker.

We have already achieved more with less. But this reduction in resources cannot go on for much longer without affecting quality and productivity. Nor can we continue the trend of down-grading posts or replacing experienced staff with consultants or temporary staff without losing essential institutional memory, experience and career development opportunities. As a matter of fact, the 2012 report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the "Review of Individual Consultancies in the United Nations System" reflects some of the concerns of the Staff Representative Bodies.

High-quality and full delivery of the new Strategic Framework of FAO is only possible with careful attention to the process and distribution of regular programme and extra-budgetary resources to technical and service areas.

Staff and their representatives are highly qualified professionals who can and want to contribute to finding solutions to the challenges the Organization is facing. And we sincerely wish that the collaboration will result in the enabling conditions we described earlier, based on goodwill and established principles and rights within the UN-wide Common System.

We would like to see a new start with improved collaboration between Senior Management and staff through the Staff Representative Bodies. We believe this is the key to the success of the Organization.

In summary, our three main points are:

One, while FAO will continue to change, the productivity and technical expertise of the Organization should not be compromised.

Two, the more staff is consulted, involved and informed, the smoother the implementation of the new strategy and the better the results.

Three, FAO must have sufficient resources, i.e. qualified staff, organizational capacities and economic sustainability to effectively implement its programme of work.

Thank you for your kind attention.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 20, including sub items 20.1 and 20.2.

Presentation on FAO's response to level three emergencies (Central African Republic, the Philippines and South Sudan)

Présentation sur les mesures engagées par la FAO pour parer à trois situations d'urgence (République centrafricaine, Philippines et Soudan du Sud)

Presentación de la respuesta de la FAO a las emergencias de nivel tres (República Centroafricana, Filipinas y Sudán del Sur)

Presentation on Pakistan and Yemen

Présentation sur le Pakistan et le Yémen

Presentación sobre el Pakistán y el Yemen

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Dominique Burgeon, Director of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Division to brief the Council on FAO's level-three emergency response in the Central African Republic, the Philippines and South Sudan.

Mr Dominique BURGEON (Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division)

In recent months the world has been faced with three emergencies of such scale and impact that both the Humanitarian System as a whole and FAO activated what is known as a Level 3 emergency response. I am of course referring to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and the crises in the Central African Republic and the Republic of South Sudan.

On 8 November, Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines, causing unprecedented damage. Over 14 million people were affected, 4.1 million people were displaced, and 1.1 million tonnes of crops were lost. Entire farming and fishing communities were devastated. Striking between two planting seasons, the typhoon destroyed ready-to-harvest, harvested and newly planted crops. The Government of the Philippines, together with FAO and other partners, only had a few weeks to ensure farmers were able to clear and replant their fields.

Upon the Government's request for support, and in view of the scale and extent of damages, the Director-General activated FAO's first Level 3 Emergency Response. The declaration allowed FAO to immediately mobilize internal resources from its Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation activities and its emergency Technical Cooperation Programme. It also enabled the Organization to activate corporate Fast Track Procedures and immediately strengthen its capacities in country by deploying an emergency response team on the ground within 72 hours.

Thanks to generous contributions from our resource partners, we, together with the Government of the Philippines and our partners have been able to jointly provide 44 000 farming households with much needed rice seeds and other inputs in time for the planting season. At the same time, we have begun working to restore the fisheries and coconut sectors, both badly affected. Advocacy efforts, including those of the Director-General during his visit in March, have led to the mobilization of resources to reinforce the resilience of affected communities. As an example of our efforts to build back better from day one, FAO is working with our government counterparts to strengthen seed processing and storage facilities to ensure that farmers can better withstand future shocks.

Just one month after Typhoon Haiyan struck in the Philippines, the crisis in the Central African Republic dramatically intensified. Increasing inter-community violence resulted in a rapid and alarming deterioration in the humanitarian situation. Nearly half of the country's population of 4.6 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance, and almost half a million had been displaced. According to the December update of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (the IPC) approximately 1.3 million people were severely food insecure (crisis or emergency phases). Displacement and looting had devastating effects on agriculture: some 78 percent of surveyed farmers indicated that while they planned to cultivate, almost all of them did not have enough seeds to plant.

The impact on food security and agriculture was clear, and FAO recognized that it had to act quickly. The Director-General therefore declared a Level 3 emergency response for FAO on 12 December.

Operating in the Central African Republic is challenging, but FAO, in close collaboration with the World Food Programme and other Food Security Cluster Partners, has so far provided much needed maize, groundnut and rice seeds, as well as other inputs to 60,000 affected households in 14 of the country's 16 provinces.

Addressing immediate needs while enhancing resilience from day one is now Standard practice in FAO's Level 3 response. As we continue to distribute agricultural inputs, we are simultaneously working with rural families to strengthen their resilience capacities through a comprehensive approach, including for example the construction of small storage facilities, the development of revolving funds for women's groups, contractual seed production to inject cash in rural communities, and most importantly, strengthening capacities of young professionals and government counterparts.

Thanks to the timely support from many of your Governments, our teams on the ground and their partners, more than 110 000 farming families will be planting this season. There is still much to be done however, and FAO is urgently seeking an additional 14 million dollars to provide continued support and strengthen the resilience of affected Central Africans.

The Central African Republic was not even a forgotten crisis in late 2013; it was a crisis that was simply ignored by many. Challenges are still enormous and the risk of a dramatic deterioration in the situation of 1.7 million severely food insecure people remains. Please be their advocate with your Government, to avoid that we once again see the crisis slip from our focus.

On December 15, just days after the declaration of a Level 3 emergency response in the Central African Republic, violence erupted in Juba, and quickly spread throughout the Eastern part of South Sudan. While the initial priorities for the collective humanitarian response focused on immediate life-saving activities, with over 78 percent of South Sudan's population relying on agriculture as their source of livelihood, it was clear that FAO and its partners would have an important role to play. The first action by the FAO team on the ground was to "stay and deliver". In the first instance, what FAO delivered was information, analysis, coordination and leadership for food security, providing the foundation for the understanding of the implications and consequences of the crisis to the entire humanitarian community and the Government.

By early February, almost 1 million people were displaced, and according to the IPC analysis, more than 3.2 million people were at immediate risk of food insecurity. The agricultural season was rapidly approaching, and the rainy season would soon cut off access to a large part of the country. In order to draw upon the support of the entire Organization to scale up operations, the Director-General activated a Level 3 emergency response on 12 February.

Thanks to the integration of emergency and development activities under the leadership of a highly qualified Representative, FAO was able to adapt many of its development initiatives, expand its resilience work and innovate emergency assistance with a central focus on nutrition. As of today, FAO-South Sudan has provided livelihood kits to over 900 000 people, a figure that will soon rise to 1.3 million people. FAO, UNICEF and the World Food Programme are partnering to deliver multi-sector assistance in some of the most remote parts of the country that have been cut off due to rains and insecurity on the roads.

Today, 3.5 million people are severely food insecure and require urgent assistance. FAO is promoting a twin-track approach, providing on one hand emergency livelihood assistance to the worst-hit areas, and on the other hand, boosting food production in less affected areas. Donors have been generous to date, and FAO has mobilized 52 million dollars of an appeal of 108 million. Some 56 million dollars are urgently needed to continue supporting the South Sudanese affected by the crisis, and guard against further threats to development.

From an organizational perspective, the system-wide transformational changes have allowed FAO to better deliver upon its commitments to affected populations, Member nations and humanitarian partners. The integration of emergency and development under the leadership of the FAO Representative and the decentralization of emergency operations, have dramatically improved the way the Organization responds to these large-scale emergencies. We are now able to better respond as one FAO, in a swifter, more efficient and coordinated manner.

While the humanitarian pillar of Strategic Objective 5 is indeed important, the resilience agenda encompasses much more. For example, we are constantly working to closely monitor a variety of threats to food and nutrition security, such as plant pest and diseases, animal diseases, food safety issues and of course, natural hazards such as droughts and floods. This constitutes the second pillar of our resilience agenda whose aim is to ensure an appropriate response is promptly triggered.

El Niño is one of those climatic phenomena monitored by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System- or GIEWS. As a follow-up to the question raised by the Distinguished Delegate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on Monday, we have asked Mr Shukri Ahmed, Senior Economist of the Trade and Markets Division and member of the Core Team of Strategic Objective 5 to update you on the possible impact of the latest El Niño episode.

Mr Shukri AHMED (Senior Economist, Trade and Markets Division)

This is just to give you an update of the situation in June. The talk of El Niño has been around for the last several months and has been gaining momentum. One of FAO's tasks, through its Global Information and Early Warning System together with the Climate Unit in the Natural Resource Department, is to look into the occurrence of any hazards, specifically weather-related hazards, and in this case El Niño.

What is El Niño? Just to recap our understanding of El Niño, it is a recurrent phenomenon which usually happens between 2 to 7 years throughout the years and it takes between 12 and 18 months in every occurrence. It is defined by a persistent warmer than average sea surface temperature in reference to Central Equatorial Pacific region. It kind of changes the overall climatic conditions that affect the world and its impact depends on when it starts to occur and when it peaks. Depending on the seasons, in different parts of the world it will have varying impacts.

In the last several years, there were several attempts to have a deterministic relationship between the occurrence of El Niño and its impact, but the occurrence of El Niño, as it is determined also by so many other factors, is not easy to predict exactly. However, we have a pattern that we have seen developing in the world, so depending on the peak season, which part of the world is affected, which agricultural season is affected and what type of effect (whether it is drier than normal, wetter than normal, or higher temperatures).

We have started to have some kind of trend. So depending on the situation now, I will give you some of the things that we are now looking forward to. From 1950 to 2013 there were 22 occurrences of El Niño. Out of the 22, six were what we call very strong El Niño, 8 were weak and 8 were moderate.

The 1997-98 one, as you can see here in the map, is the strongest El Niño occurrence from 1950 to date. For your understanding, the upper parts are the El Niño occurrences and the peaks in the red and the upper part shows you the years in which El Niño occurred, while the lower part is the other side of El Niño which is called also La Niña, usually associated with the cold temperatures on the sea surface and it also has some kind of impact in the agricultural season depending on when it occurs.

Let us focus on El Niño. The next table will give you which years were weak, which years were moderate and which years were strong. As you can see, the strong seasons were 1957-58 and the last strong one was 1997-98. This year was the strongest El Niño we had in the last several years. It created havoc in the world and affected a lot of agricultural seasons: in some parts there were floods and heavy rains, in others it was drought.

The next slide leads to our current situation. Where we are now and what will happen in the next few months. What are we looking at? This is done by the international climatologists who are following-up the seasonal changes in the surface temperatures and from this you can see from May to June the probability of an El Niño event occurring was only 61 percent. So if you follow the probabilities, you can see that between October to December or November to January, meaning the end of this year and the beginning of next year, if the trend continues, we expect El Niño to peak at that time and then the probabilities will start going down again.

The probability is already 70 percent at this moment in time, and the trend is telling us that it will reach a peak 80-82 percent between October to December. So if this then turns out to be a full strength El Niño, what would it mean for the global agriculture? Yesterday we just issued an update of what would happen in different parts of the world if previous trends are followed, so that we give our Member Nations, as well as the international community, the opportunity to take measures that may actually mitigate the damages if El Niño becomes full strength.

The next slide will show you what the probable impacts will be. As you can see, in the northern hemisphere summer - from April to September, in South Asia, that is India, Pakistan and others, we expect a drier than normal situation, while somewhere in the Pacific it will be above average rains, while in South America and Central America we are expecting a drier than average situation.

But if the peak then continues and lingers on into the winter of northern hemisphere – that is October to March, what we would be expecting is in equatorial East Africa above average rains – which in 1997-98 actually created havoc with too many floods and heavy rains, but in southern Africa we will see drier than normal conditions. It actually was one of the worst droughts that we have seen during El Niño 1997-98 and earlier 1990-93 as well, even when it was not a full strength phenomenon. Then of course in the Asia Pacific and the Indian Ocean areas like Indonesia, Philippines we see drier than normal, and of course in Latin America and Northern America will see wetter conditions.

The map actually shows the areas where we would be expecting fluctuations depending on the agricultural season. Details of what would happen in different parts of the world can be found on the Global Information and Early Warning System website, where the possible impacts are broken down by region.

Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)

Yemen is currently experiencing currently a complex and protracted crisis that is heavily affecting its political and socioeconomic stability and economic performance. Years of conflict compounded by the degradation of natural resources, limited food production, climate change and viability, population growth and widespread unemployment have made much of Yemen's population extremely vulnerable.

Hunger affects 10.5 million people, nearly half the population of the country including 4.5 million who are severely food insecure. An overlapping 55 percent of the population live in poverty, 35 percent are unemployed and rural populations are disproportionately vulnerable accounting for 85 percent of the country's poor. Yemen once was self-sufficient in cereals, today it depends on all revenue to import nearly all of the country's food. Around 95 percent of cereals consumed and 85 percent of all rural food stuffs were imported in 2013.

The agriculture sector employs over half of the labour force and provides livelihood to two out of three people. Despite severe resource constraints, agriculture remains one of the most promising sectors in terms of employment creation, economic growth, and trade development.

To unleash the potential of the agriculture sector in Yemen, the country needs the help of the international community. FAO together with the two main concerned Yemeni ministries, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Water, has formulated a Plan of Action for Yemen covering the period 2014-2018.

The Plan of Action is based on the Revised Country Programming Framework and is in line with the outcome of the Yemen national dialog which represents the major political reference for the country. The Plan of Action is although firmly encoded in the FAO Residency Framework and is aligned with the Regional Initiative on Water Scarcity in the Near East Region.

The main objectives of the Yemen Plan of Action are to improve the food security and nutrition situation in Yemen, to contribute to alleviate rural poverty, and to enhance national capacities to manage and respond to risks and threats to the agriculture sector.

The cost of the Plan of Action is USD 145 million. The Plan of Action foresees actions for the short-term, the medium-term, and the long-term. The brochure that summarizes the plan and the plan itself has been posted on the FAO Members Gateway.

So far, the portfolio intervention funded through FAO is very limited. We have only received USD 13 million. FAO is establishing a multi-donor trust fund to support the programme. There is tremendous need, scope, and potential to strengthen agriculture in Yemen. Agriculture and food security hold the keys of peace, security, and sustainable development in the country. Please join us in our support to the efforts of the government.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I wanted to thank the three presenters for your immediate response to the request which was made by the Members and I think that your presentation will be made available to the Members at the Permanent Representative website.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

I just wanted to thank the Secretariat for this informative presentation but I had one question and that concerned the area of the presentation concerning the El Niño phenomenon.

We wanted to have some information as to what type of assistance FAO can provide to countries so as to mitigate or address the risks which are involved. Could we have some information in that respect?

Mr Shukri AHMED (Senior Economist, Trade and Markets Division)

We will be continuously monitoring. For example, now in India we are finding that there is a delay in the monsoon season by about four or five days up to a week in certain parts; while in Pakistan, the expectation now is that there may be some delay but still the monsoon season is starting.

So we are continuously monitoring the situation and the probability of it occurring is a drought condition and it will be actually in the summer season which means that mainly rice would be affected.

The latest information on Pakistan that we have just issued, actually tells us a near record crop of wheat has just been gathered and the overall food security situation including markets, including how well supplied and the expectation is that that will take us through the summer. So the continuation is what may happen to the rice season.

So on the technicality we will be following that and see the impacts.

Mr Dominique BURGEON (Director, Emergency Operations and Rehabilitation Division)

Just to complement what Shukri has been saying. Actually this is at the very core of Strategic Objective 5 on resilience. You know we have four pillars. Typically the first pillar is on governance: how can we work with the concerned government authorities to make sure the aligned Ministries

mainstream the risk in their sectorial development plan the early warning for the action plan that was described by Shukri; the third pillar is on prevention and mitigation which is typically what we are doing in a number of areas such as in Sindh (Pakistan) where we are promoting the use of shorter cycle varieties, where due to drought we are rehabilitating varieties of cereals through irrigation canals, etc.

Finally, while we are overwhelmed by the magnitude of the crisis, if the hazard turns into a disaster, we would need to provide different types of responses, for example, through the provision of agricultural inputs or supporting the coordination of the actors that are involved. These are a broad range of activities on which we would be willing to brief you further.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of this morning's plenary meeting. Please note there will be no plenary meeting this afternoon, but the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene at 15.30 hours in the Lebanon Room. The second meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene at 09.30 tomorrow morning.

May I remind you of the Side Event on the *Regional Rice Initiative* taking place immediately in the Iran Room.

Furthermore, the Side Event on the *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* will take place tomorrow, Thursday 19 June, from 13.00 to 14.30 in the Iran Room.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we shall meet again on Friday morning at 09.30 sharp for agenda item 18, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*, which is presented to the Council for information. This will be followed by a debriefing on the Field Visit by Permanent Representatives to the South West Pacific region.

The meeting stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 13:52 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 52

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.52

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

Hundred and Forty-ninth Session Cent quarante-neuvième session 149.º período de sesiones
Rome, 16-20 June 2014 Rome, 16-20 juin 2014 Roma, 16-20 de junio de 2014
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
20 June 2014

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.40 hours
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 40
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 9.40
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Item 17. Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO**Point 17. Évolution des débats au sein d'autres instances intéressant la FAO****Tema 17. Novedades en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la FAO***(CL 149/INF/4)***CHAIRPERSON**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I call the sixth meeting of the 149th Session of the FAO Council to order.

We will now turn to item 17, *Developments in Fora of Importance for the mandate of FAO*, which is presented to Council for information only. The relevant document is CL 149/INF/4.

The Council will be provided through the following presentations with information on important debates taking place in other international fora which are of importance to FAO's mandate:

- Collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies: Joint Project on Food Losses;
- Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;
- UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit;
- Common Oceans Programme;
- Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth;
- Review of the International Arrangement on Forests;
- Fourteenth World Forestry Congress;
- International Year of Family Farming 2014.

I would like to inform Members that queries should be raised upon completion of all the presentations.

I will now ask Mr Wang Ren, Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, to introduce the first presentation under this item: *Collaboration among the Rome-based agencies: Joint Project on Food Losses*.

Mr Wang REN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Studies commissioned by FAO estimated yearly global quantitative food loss and waste at roughly 30 percent of cereals, 40 to 50 percent of root crops, fruits and vegetables, 20 percent of oilseeds, meat and dairy products, and 35 percent of fish. Food loss and waste are heavily dependent on the specific conditions and local situation in a given country or culture. In low-income countries they result from wide-ranging managerial and technical limitations in harvesting techniques, storage, transportation, processing, infrastructure, packaging and marketing systems.

The impacts of food losses and waste are multifaceted. Food losses and waste take a significant toll on the environment, representing investment in precious water and land resources to produce food that is eventually not consumed while contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. In the subsistence farming systems of poor smallholder producers, physical losses and food waste result directly in less food being available and therefore contribute to food insecurity.

The Rome-based Agencies, the RBAs, complement each other very well, and through their long-standing experience in the policy, strategy and technical dimensions of food loss reduction.

Since mid-2013 the RBAs have been collaborating in the Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, the Save Food Initiative, which has four main pillars: one, coordination of world-wide initiatives on food loss and waste reduction; two, raising awareness on the impact of and solutions to food losses and waste; three, policy, strategy and programme development; and four, support to investment programmes and projects which are implemented by governments and the private sector.

As part of the Save Food Initiative, the three RBAs are actively involved in and are spearheading the network of UN Agencies and other international organizations who have agreed to coordinate their food loss and waste reduction activities within the framework of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

In this regard, the RBAs co-organized the first meeting of the network in Rome in September 2013, where the participating organizations agreed to constitute the Sub-group of the High-Level Task Force supporting the food loss and waste element of the Zero Hunger Challenge. The Sub-group is currently mobilizing a global network of stakeholders and promoting and facilitating their food loss and waste reduction activities.

The RBAs are also collaborating to develop the food loss and waste aspects of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. An inter-agency working group identified food loss and waste as one of the indicators for the Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition focus area. The working group has formulated the indicator, defined how it would be measured and identified the data sources for its computation, including the RBAs' field projects, databases and existing programmatic monitoring indexes.

In December 2013, the RBAs signed their first agreement for a joint project « Mainstreaming Food Loss Reduction Initiatives for Small-holders in Food Deficit Areas ». The three-year USD 2.7 million project is being funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and will focus on reducing losses of grains and pulses, which are staple foods for many developing countries.

A global Community of Practice is being set up by the project to facilitate information sharing on the most effective ways to reduce post-harvest losses, and help countries introduce policies and regulations to cut down on losses at national and regional levels.

The joint project will also identify critical points for post-harvest losses in grain supply chains in three African pilot countries – Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda – and identify and test potential solutions. It is envisaged that these solutions will be up-scaled and mainstreamed through the RBAs programmes and country frameworks.

By mobilizing the individual strengths of the three RBAs, the joint project is expected to have significant impact and influence in stimulating Member Nations to take action to reduce food losses. Being the first of its kind, it is envisaged that this could serve as a model for future collaboration and up-scaling of RBAs collaboration.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now give the floor to the next speaker, Mr Dan Leskien, Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, who will deliver the presentation on the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*.

Mr Dan LESKIEN (Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

As on previous occasions, we would like to provide a brief update of recent developments in the Intergovernmental Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Many of you will recall that IPBES – like the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) after which in fact it was modelled – aims to provide the science policy interface, a platform with the aim to provide a forum for dialogue, but also to improve and strengthen policy and decision making by providing the necessary scientific information.

IPBES will respond to suggestions, proposals by governments and multilateral environmental agreements: its work is policy relevant not policy prescriptive. Regular and timely assessments initiated and carried out by IPBES should be scientifically independent and their credibility and legitimacy should be ensured through period use and the transparency of decision making processes. IPBES will thus support policy information and implementation but IPBES itself will not develop policies nor implement policies.

IPBES is aware of the need for capacity building to improve the science policy interface and it aims to build capacity together with its partners, whose work IPBES does not wish to duplicate. Now in its last session held in December of last year, the IPBES plenary dealt with a number of issues including its working methods, its rule and procedures and its future work. The plenary also adopted a

collaborative partnership arrangement, which aims to establish an institutional link between IPBES and four UN organizations: UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP.

Although the initial proposal of a co-hosting arrangement in which the four UN organizations would have co-hosted IPBES did not materialize, IPBES governments - currently 118 - have always emphasized the need for close collaboration between IPBES and those four UN organizations. It was always clear that the expertise and the experience of UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and UNDP in the various work areas of IPBES were essential to the successful delivery of IPBES on its work programmes.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the Director-General of FAO has in the meanwhile approved the collaborative partnership arrangement and FAO looks forward to a successful collaboration with our partners on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Now some may say “here is another body” and “does FAO really have to be part of this”? Well true, it is another body. But IPBES is highly relevant to FAO as an abstract from the work programme of IPBES 2014-2018 shows. FAO is leading the International Pollinator Initiative. FAO is a key provider of global assessments of the State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources. The State of the World’s Forest Genetic Resources was just launched in the beginning of this month, so as the Conference and Council have repeatedly stated, FAO has to be part of IPBES.

The fact that FAO and the other UN organizations will be partners of IPBES and will support IPBES does not mean that IPBES will automatically be a success. To make IPBES a truly multidisciplinary forum, a forum with credibility in multiple arenas, a forum in which relevant stakeholders have their say, in which the voices of the different relevant sectors – environment, agriculture, science and development – are taken seriously, more is required than the participation of the four UN organizations.

Currently the vast majority of IPBES Delegates represent Environment Ministries or authorities, however the value, the credibility and uniqueness of IPBES assessments will depend on whether all the different sectors, in particular agriculture, will be adequately represented in the work of IPBES. And here the whole FAO constituency can obviously play a pivotal role.

CHAIRPERSON

I now call upon Ms Maria-Helena Semedo, Deputy Director-General Natural Resources, who will speak on the *UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit*.

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

It is a great pleasure for me to present to you information on the preparations for the United Nations Secretary-General’s Climate Summit to be held on 23 September 2014, in New York.

You might remember that during the Secretary-General’s visit to FAO Headquarters, he referred to the Climate Summit saying that : it will serve as a public platform for leaders at the highest level to raise political will for a global legal agreement in 2015 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He also said that it will catalyse ambitious action on the ground to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience.

The Summit is intended to be a solutions-focused Summit that is separate but complementary to the UNFCCC negotiating process, it is not replacing negotiations.

It aims to provide evidence that leaders across sectors and at all levels are taking action, thus expanding the reach of what is possible today, in 2015, and beyond.

The UN Secretary-General is inviting Heads of State and Government along with business, finance, civil society and local leaders.

In preparation of the Climate Summit on 23 September, the Abu Dhabi Ascent took place on 4 and 5 May 2014. The Abu Dhabi meeting endorsed the following areas to be presented during the Summit : (i) energy including efficiency; (ii) short-lived climate pollutants; (iii) forest; (iv) agriculture; (v) cities and transportation; (vi) adaptation and disaster risk reduction; (vii) climate finance and (viii) economic drivers that cut across these and other climate-related sectors.

Each area will be implementing through international multi-stakeholders initiatives and a total of 33 initiatives are expected to be launched at the Summit. Each initiative has a focal point. FAO is closely involved in two major areas: agriculture and forests.

Agriculture will be implemented through the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture and the focal point is the Secretary-General Representative for Food Security and Nutrition.

The Alliance vision is to enable all nine billion people in 2050 to be food secure in the face of climate change by sustainably increasing agriculture productivity, enhancing the resilience of food systems and reducing agriculture's impact on climate change.

The Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture has an *interim* Secretariat hosted by the Netherlands and so far supported by 40 countries, governments and other stakeholders, which include FAO, IFAD, WFP, NEPAD, World Economic Forum, World Bank among others.

As regards forests, the Forest Action Area has two main thrusts: reducing deforestation and increasing forest restoration. These can make a key contribution to achievement of the goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees. The focal point for this initiative is UNDP.

The vision is world leaders, civil society and business converge to combat deforestation and forest degradation. The Action Area promotes effective land-use policies implemented by countries, strong financial incentives and partnerships to achieve the Bonn Challenge of restoring 150 million hectares of degraded forest landscapes by 2020.

The Summit's outcome will be the announcements made by the leaders of government, business, finance and civil society on new national actions for climate change, in addition to unveiling Action Platforms where multi-stakeholders will come together with solutions for addressing the challenges of climate change. All of these Actions will be captured in a summary by the Secretary-General at the conclusion of the Summit.

This Summit provides a unique opportunity at this critical juncture in the climate change negotiations to foster political commitment and enable urgently needed actions required to ignite change.

CHAIRPERSON

I now ask Mr Árni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, to make a presentation on the *Common Oceans Programme*.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Programme – often referred to as the ABNJ Programme or the Common Oceans – aims to promote efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in ABNJ to achieve the global targets agreed in international fora. The GEF funded programme will be led by FAO working in close collaboration with two other GEF agencies, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Bank, as well as WWF and several other partners.

The five-year Programme, whose implementation started in 2014, is an innovative, unique and comprehensive initiative working with a wide range of partners. It is made up of four Projects which bring together governments, regional management bodies, civil society, the private sector, academia and industry to work towards ensuring the sustainable use and conservation of ABNJ biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Programme was approved by the GEF Council in November 2011.

The Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction make up 40 percent of the surface of our planet, comprising 65 percent of the surface of the oceans and nearly 95 percent of its volume.

These complex ecosystems exist in those areas of ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for management. Instead, most of those areas fall under the management responsibility of Regional Fishery Management Organizations, that gather countries with a real interest in the fisheries and ecosystems covered.

There are many actors, fishers (artisanal and industrial), conservationists, RFMOs, maritime shipping, seabed mining, and all these having different interests, priorities and agendas.

Despite some progress we are still failing on internationally agreed targets, such as Rio, WSSD, CBD, Aichi targets.

These complex ecosystems are subject to a variety of challenges and threats from human activities in many sectors – from shipping to marine pollution, deep-sea and tuna fishing and sea bed mining – and this list is not exhaustive.

The seriousness of these threats for the health of the oceans' resources and biodiversity is compounded by the weak implementation of regulatory frameworks and management options. By and large, these regulatory frameworks exist, but what are missing may be coordinated, cohesive and integrated interventions.

You can note that only the four highlighted threats are addressed by the Common Oceans Programme. And we should not forget that despite these threats, there has been substantial progress over the last five years on improving fisheries management and conservation of marine biodiversity through (i) reduction of IUU fishing (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing), including the development of new international instruments; (ii) expanded conservation measures for fisheries in ABNJ on bycatch and spatial management measures to protect sensitive ecosystems; (iii) the coming into force of new RFMOs so that the majority of major fisheries in the ABNJ will soon be covered ; (iv) increased consumer and retailer interest in sustainability; (v) industry harvesting and processing sectors emerging as leading partners in the work towards fisheries sustainability; (vi) the development of guidance for biodiversity-related protection and assessments in ABNJ through the CBD.

This Programme seeks specifically to build on these successes to enhance progress in the management of these fisheries, and the protection of associated biodiversity.

As I mentioned, the structure of the Programme comprises four projects. FAO is the coordinating agency for the overall Global ABNJ programme. FAO is the GEF Agency for Projects 1 and 4 (with Global Oceans Forum) and FAO is the GEF co-implementing agency with UNEP for Project 2. The World Bank is the GEF Agency for Project 3 (with Conservation International).

In total the GEF grant is 50 million and the co-financing is approximately 320 million.

You can see the main partners at the programme level, and we have many more at the project level.

To conclude, the transformational changes that the Programme plans to achieve are to: move away from the race to fish; increase capacity to protect fragile ecosystems; reduce or remove barriers to international and cross-sectoral sharing of knowledge and experiences; and move towards an ecosystem approach.

If we do not achieve these changes, we can anticipate a future in which major fisheries in ABNJ face serious declines, with resulting negative impacts on national economies and the fishing industry; negative impacts on livelihoods of fishing populations in many countries, rich and poor; threats to global food security; and unacceptable consequences for global biodiversity priorities – species and habitats – that depend on good ABNJ management.

ABNJ fisheries are critically important for a host of biodiversity and public welfare outcomes which extend far beyond the limits of ABNJs. We cannot achieve sustainability of global fisheries and their ecosystems without addressing ABNJ management.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mr Mathiesen, we can proceed with the presentation on the *Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth*.

Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The Global Oceans Action Summit for Food Security and Blue Growth in The Hague from 22 to 25 April 2014 brought together a diverse range of ocean stakeholders to identify solutions and success

stories that reconcile competing interests and show how governance, partnerships and financing can help scale up activities that result in shared prosperity today and for future generations.

The Summit was initiated by the Host, the Government of the Netherlands, and co-organized by Indonesia, Norway and the United States of America, together with FAO and World Bank, with a major input from Grenada.

The Summit was attended by more than 600 participants, from governments, private sector, academia and NGOs. It also included a high-level segment, where more than 80 Ministers, Chief Executives, and other Senior Officials shared forward-looking ideas, initiatives and actions. This group included 35 Ministers and Vice-Ministers and two Heads of State.

The high-level segment proposed a number of “pitches for action”. Many proposals made reflect the priorities and work of FAO. Of particular interest, proposals included:

- Embed oceans in the post-2015 development framework to align human well-being and ocean health, preferably in a stand-alone Sustainable Development Goal for Oceans;
- Address Climate Change to restore ocean health because climate change is increasingly the biggest threat to ocean health;
- Incorporate oceans in the climate change agenda leading to the UNFCCC Conference in Paris in 2015, including through international processes and events such as the Third International Conference on SIDS 2014 and the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in September 2014;
- Strengthen the mandate, effectiveness, and financing of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations in order to bridge governance gaps and enhance fisheries management, particularly in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction to eliminate IUU-fishing.

Participants called for championing new, concrete and innovative actions and partnerships specifically in the field of Blue Growth and Food Security. An inclusive voluntary Global Alliance/Network for Action on Blue Growth and Food Security could bring forward and accelerate concrete actions and partnerships identified by the Summit. There was a call to continue this dialogue for action, and as a driver launch an effective advocacy and public awareness campaign for Food Security and Blue Growth, with special attention to young people.

The outcomes of the Summit contribute to and link with a variety of national, regional and international processes, including the Post-2015 Development Framework, the climate change agenda and the Committee on Fisheries, such as the “World Coral Reef Conference” in Manado, Indonesia, on 16 May 2014; the United States Government “Our Ocean Conference” in Washington on 16 and 17 June 2014; the “Third International Conference on SIDS” in Apia, Samoa, 4-9 September 2014; the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014; the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, Peru, December 2014; the Blue Grenada meeting in January 2015; the High-Level Policy Forum in the margins of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, Philippines, November 2015.

Next steps for FAO is that Food and Agriculture Organization will support countries to implement Blue Growth Initiatives, including strengthening the RFMO’s and implementing the small-scale fisheries guidelines, as well as through ecosystem approaches, to ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; and that, in partnership with UNEP and IMO, will work towards reducing sea based marine litter within the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, which aims to contribute to the sustainable use of ocean resources.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Ms Eva Muller, Director of the Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division, Forestry Department, to make a presentation on the *Review of the International Arrangement on Forests*.

Ms Eva MULLER (Director, Forest Economics, Policy and Products Division)

The International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) was established by the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2000 with the main objective of promoting the management, conservation and

sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long term political commitment to this end. The IAF includes the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), a functional Commission of ECOSOC, and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) that consists of 14 international organizations and instruments with a strong global mandate on forests; CPF's mandate is to support the work of the Forum and to enhance international coordination and collaboration on forests, and FAO is the Chair of the CPF.

UNFF has achieved some important milestones in the past decade, namely the agreement on four global goals on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, also called the Forest Instrument.

CPF has provided substantial support to the work of UNFF. It has developed a number of knowledge products and recently contributed to the SDG process by proposing targets and indicators on forests. Individual CPF members have also carried out activities in support of the UNFF process. For example, FAO has supported 15 developing countries in systematically implementing the Forest Instrument.

The review of the IAF in 2015 was decided by an ECOSOC Resolution in 2006. The review should include the performance of the Forum; the Forest Instrument; the Forum secretariat; both the CPF and its contribution to the work of the Forum and the related activities of individual CPF members; means of implementation within the context of the UN sustainable development framework.

The review will be based, among others, on the results of an open-ended intergovernmental *Ad-Hoc* Expert Group (AHEG).

The AHEG held its first meeting on 24–28 February 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. FAO made a presentation on strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement for CPF from FAO's perspective. The meeting resulted in a wealth of observations but of particular relevance for the Committee are those relating to the CPF as they concern FAO as a member and Chair of the Partnership.

Experts noted CPF's achievements in providing consolidated expert views on key issues, its work on forest financing, its joint programmes, the generation of reliable forest information and harmonization of reporting, and the support to country-led initiatives. The complementarity of mandates, the ability to support country implementation and the informal, voluntary and flexible nature of the Partnership were recognized as major strengths.

Experts noted that CPF's weaknesses include a lack of effective working modalities and common programming; members' different agendas, mandates, priorities and governing bodies; an uneven engagement by members; a lack of dedicated funds; and no mechanism to assess the extent to which CPF responds to UNFF calls and invitations.

Recommendations for improvement included strengthening the relationship between UNFF and CPF members' governing bodies; clarifying the role and mandate of CPF; grouping members around thematic clusters based on areas of expertise; incorporating the Forest Instrument more explicitly into the members' programme of work; reconsidering CPF membership; and establishing a CPF trust fund.

FAO will continue to play an active role both in the review of the IAF and in the CPF as its Chair, and to work with Members to strengthen the Partnership further to better meet the expectations of Member Nations, in line with the recommendations of the Strategic Evaluation of FAO's role and work in Forestry. As per request from FAO's Regional Forestry Commissions, the IAF review has been included in the agenda of COFO. The CPF will meet during COFO and discuss its inputs into the IAF review.

FAO will submit the questionnaire on the performance of the current IAF and its components to UNFF as requested by Member Nations. FAO will provide technical support to the country-led initiative hosted by China in October 2014 to enable further discussions by Member Nations on the future IAF. And finally, FAO will actively participate in the second meeting of the AHEG in January 2015 and in UNFF11 in May 2015.

CHAIRPERSON

We will now move to the next speaker and I welcome Ms Hester Obisi, Secretary-General of the 14th World Forestry Congress who will provide an overview of preparations for the Congress.

Ms Hester OBISI (Secretary-General, XIV World Forestry Congress)

I am going to present an update on the World Forestry Congress that is planned in Durban for next year. The XIV World Forestry Congress event will be held in South Africa from 7 to 11 September 2015. As you may know, the Congress is held every six years and we are very proud to announce that it will be held for the first time in South Africa and on African soil.

The South African Government is obviously the host and we are responsible for the organizing and financing the event. You might know that we have signed a cooperation agreement with FAO to host this event. FAO is providing technical and administrative support and is in charge of the technical programme.

Our visit here this week was just to meet with our partners, our counterparts here, and to have an opportunity to meet with the task force that is responsible for the technical programme here in FAO.

Obviously, we have several expectations and two or three of those expectations are that we want to strengthen the role of forestry in sustainable development, we want to look at the latest technologies and share them widely in a very innovative way. In our meeting yesterday with the task force were some of the words that we hear in FAO and even in South Africa; words like innovation, fresh thinking, new thinking, and things like that, and increased visibility and impact of the FAO work on forestry, especially in its Member Nations as well as other partnerships.

I have to announce to you that even this Congress is giving us South Africans an opportunity to review our own policies and work in the forestry sector.

Regarding the World Forestry Congress, it is an opportunity to world forestries – foresters, decision makers, and other stakeholders – too to boast a vision for the future. Obviously there is a feeling and a thinking, as it will be the first time that the leadership of this Congress will be women, that we should come up with something totally different and one of the reasons is maybe we have the responsibility to come up with – if I am over optimistic, forgive me for that – the new vision which will encompass something like a new revolution in the forestry sector.

Building a vision for the future, sharing information and experiences on the scientific and technical policy matters, exchange ideas and common solutions, maintain and create contact. Because normally we do not want to see this event as just as an event where we are going to talk but after 2015, what is going to happen? 2015 has to feed into the next six years. It is very important for us.

The outcome? There should be key messages and recommendations and it should go to the attention of not only the FAO Conference, but also to respective countries. Participation is open but requires, obviously, registration.

The theme of the Conference, is forest and people investing in the sustainable future and I have to announce to you that, in formulating this theme, we thought that it was only us that had this thought. But I can see that this is about a sustainable future. It is about investing in the forestry sector because as I do a lot of marketing work around the world, I begin to realize that Russians will host a Conference in September and the theme of the Conference is forests and investing in the future.

When I had discussions with the Forestry Council which also has their General Assembly meeting in September, it also related almost to the same topic, investing in the future. So obviously you can see that with our own theme that we are on the right track.

On the inputs from all Regional Offices, we obviously have input from all the six Regional Offices. It affects people-centric policies, social economic issues, needs, and opportunities for investment and the role of the forest in national economic development. It is timely in terms of the UN Post-2015 Agenda and the upcoming new Sustainable Development Goals.

Obviously, we are going to have a meeting of the Advisory Committee next week and some of the emerging themes have been put forward by the FAO Task Force. The first one is the key role of the forest for socioeconomic development and food security; secondly, building a resilience in the context of global change; thirdly, integrated approaches to land use, increased landscape approaches, increased investment and finance in the forestry sector, new challenges of forestry for our governance, forest monitoring and assessment, new data and methodologies.

In terms of the preparations, we already have what we call a National Organizing Committee in South Africa. It is establishing its first meeting this Tuesday. We have what we call the Provincial Support Committee that handles logistics in Durban and that Committee has had, already, its fourth meeting for this year and terms for the logistics in Durban are already in place.

We are in the process of finalizing the website and we will be launching it shortly but in the meantime, we will use the FAO website. The branding and publication materials are underway. We will also finalize what we call our branding manual and it will be on the website of FAO shortly.

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee will be during the week of COFO. Shortly we will call for voluntary papers, posters, and videos as well as a proposal for side events that will start in September and we will support the participants from developing countries. At this point, I just wanted to pause a little bit and talk about the joint venture arrangement that we already have with different countries like for example with France.

We are asking the French government to bring some participants from Africa that they are supporting, especially in the forestry sector. We have talked to the Spanish, we have talked to the Americans, we have talked to the Russians, and there are already various initiatives underway and it is quite open as we are here for the next week and today. We are encouraging other countries to come forward to explore the possibility of joint participation that we can have during this event.

And definitely ladies and gentlemen, we are all looking forward to seeing you in Durban and we are promising that it will be a wonderful event and it will be something that will linger in your mind for years to come.

CHAIRPERSON

Our last speaker is Ms Marcella Villarréal, Director of the Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development, who will make a presentation on the *International Year of Family Farming 2014*.

Ms Marcella VILLARRÉAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

It is indeed a pleasure to be with you today, as we are more or less mid-way through the International Year of Family Farming. Today I would just like to very briefly look a little bit at the recap of what has been the work that was done before the year, the work that is being done throughout the year, and also a little bit of the way forward.

I also would like to make a point on how the work on family farming has a very concrete anchor in the work of FAO now and also in the future. There have been a number of multi-stakeholder consultations we started before the start of the International Year of Family Farming with a number of regional dialogs done with every single region of FAO.

Here we had the views of all of the stakeholders from their own regional perspectives. As we have concluded the cycle of FAO Regional Conferences this issue was addressed in each one of them including on how it is going to be reflected very specifically in FAO's work in the future.

Now what has come out and I will just refer briefly to some of the issues that have come out quite clearly throughout the talks with the different stakeholders. These are worries, these are concerns, and these are issues that need to be addressed through policy and through our joint work.

On the one hand, what has been recognized from the very beginning is that family farming is extremely diverse. There is no one type of family farming and actually there is a lot of variation of family farming throughout the regions, and sometimes even within the countries.

So one definition, one size fits all, is not an option. Therefore we need to have better definitions that reflect the regional needs, the regional context, so that they can be better addressed through policy and through programmes.

It also came out very clearly that there is a very clear need for enabling policy environments for family farming to be able to flourish and that also deals with legal frameworks, with laws and regulations and very clear policies.

It is also very clear that whatever will be done for family farming has to involve family farmers themselves so they should be very clearly involved in every policy making process. Very clearly also is the need that we have to address very specific gender concerns, women's needs, very important to empower women to ensure that they have equal rights, entitlements, and opportunities.

Even as we speak about family farming, families themselves have different members and they have different needs within the family. So women are of course a very important group that we have to address and also youth. Youth needs to have an agriculture, be it family farming or other kinds of agriculture, that is attractive to them, agriculture that will allow them to have the means of not only subsistence but the means of having a good decent, attractive livelihood that they will not be dreaming about leaving the agricultural sector at the first opportunity and for that, family farming needs to be able to give that kind of response to youth.

Many stakeholders called for the need of sustainable technologies so that productivity can be improved and this is a major area, major issue, that needs to be addressed in policies, improving productivity of family farms and also reducing drudgery and very specifically reducing the drudgery that is associated with women's work in agriculture.

Financial services is also an area that needs to be much improved throughout the world so that family farmers can have sustainable access to financial services. Secure access to land and other natural resources, access to markets, broader shares in value chains, strong collective actions were also issues that came out very prominently throughout all of these debates.

As you know, as we come out of all of the Regional Conferences and all of the regional initiatives were identified and approved by you, there are three regional initiatives that refer directly to family farming. In Rio, we have empowering smallholders and family farmers, farms for improved rural livelihoods and poverty reduction. In Latin America and the Caribbean, we have family farming in rural territorial development and in the Near East we have sustainable small-scale agriculture for inclusive development. These are three very specific regional initiatives that address family farming but actually reference to family farming in its diversity is made throughout all of the regional initiatives.

Now there have been a number of very important, very significant events at the global level, at the national level, at the regional level and I would just like to refer to two of them. One was the Global Forum and Expo on Family Farming, which was held in Budapest, where basically the participants called for custom tailored solutions for family farming within their own diversity and to make a very clear emphasis on their access to natural resources and, very specifically, to land.

Very recently, just a couple of weeks ago, there was another global event on family farming, this time on family farming and research. One of the recommendations from this forum, which again involved multiple stakeholders, was to recognize family farmers as innovators, also as researchers, and to understand that science is not only generated in high tech laboratories but there is also an element of knowledge that comes directly from family farmers which is very important for research and also that family farmers should be involved in developing research agendas which would be more formal in nature.

We have just launched a forum on FSN discussion, Food Security and Nutrition Global Forum specifically on aspects of women and youth. The first round of this discussion, we have directly contacted the members of this forum who are women and youth leaders so that we can get their own specific perspectives and later on, we will incorporate the whole of the forum to see their perspectives on what the women and the youth farmers have told them.

Of course, all of this is going to feed into the global dialog. We will have the global dialog which will be not concluding but which will be an opportunity to bring together what all of the different events from the International Year of Family Farming into one big global dialog which is going to happen here in Rome on 30 and 31 October. At that point, we will take stock of what has been happening through the year. We will see where we are in terms of knowledge, in terms of knowledge needs, where we are in terms of policies, and also have a very good discussion on how we are going to take these issues into the future.

One of the initiatives that we are launching in order to ensure that the family farming agenda is very high up on the national agenda is a working group which is going to work on common international criteria to facilitate definitions and typologies of family farming at country and regional level.

As I said before, because of the huge diversity around family farming, there is no one definition that will be good for everybody. However, we want to develop together at the regional level, criteria that will help that specific region to develop policies that will be able to benefit their own family farmers and also criteria that are going to be good for monitoring and evaluating the efficacy of those specific policies.

We are also launching a web based knowledge platform on family farming. This is not going to be just a website. This is basically going to be one place where you will find, we hope, everything that you would want to know around family farming, very specifically looking at national policies, laws, regulations, enabling environments, data, statistics, knowledge, experience, what has worked, what has not worked, who can share experience with somebody else on very specific issues on family farming, what kind of South-South Cooperation we can be putting up. Everything that is going to be useful for those who want to continue working on family farming, we hope we can consolidate in this web based platform. And as a platform, we want to use it also to continue the dialog. The dialog needs to continue beyond the actual year of family farming.

Mr Bernd CHRISTIANSEN (Germany)

Germany welcomes the presentations which provided a good picture of FAO's active involvement and engagement in various *fora* and major events on matters falling within its mandate.

We are pleased to note the progress made in the work of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services in which FAO is engaged in with UNEP, UNESCO and UNDP.

In the same vein we take note of FAO's role in connection with the upcoming UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit taking place in New York in September 2014 in the area of climate-smart agriculture and FAO's further collaboration with other partners in the area of land use and forests.

Germany appreciates FAO's contributions for the post-2015 Agenda and we would be interested to hear more about its concepts for ensuring in this process the key role of sustainable agriculture as key element in the fight against hunger.

The responsibilities entrusted upon FAO for facilitating the implementation of the International Year of Family Farming is a further example for the important role FAO is playing as a competent actor in substantive technical areas. We see such role as fully within its mandate. However, in order to be able to exercise this role, the Organization will have to ensure that its technical competence can be maintained or strengthened where it might be required.

In concluding, I would like to underline the importance of FAO's engagement with other partners in relevant *fora* in areas falling within its mandate, and to take on the lead where this role should be entrusted to FAO as UN's specialized Agency for Food and Agriculture. In view of the importance of the information being provided under this item we would like to suggest that issues concerning FAO's activities in other *fora* should be discussed in connection with relevant specific items on the agenda, where this is possible.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

Japan also associates itself with the statement made just now by Germany that these items and activities should preferably be discussed, or at least information should be shared, within the FAO technical committees or in Council.

When I go back to my capital, it is certain that the relevant officers in my ministry will ask me for further information, so I would like to ask FAO to provide us with the contact points, email and the name of the persons responsible for each item so that we can ask further information as soon as possible.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all I would like to say that we appreciate all the presentations and find them very useful.

My intervention only related with the IPBS as it is very important for developing countries. I would like to make two questions. One, is there a memorandum of understanding signed between FAO and IPBS? Two, in which of the teams covered in the work programme of IPBS for 2014-2018 will FAO take the lead? Would it be land degradation or some other thing?

Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)

The United Kingdom is grateful for the paper and presentations on Developments in other *fora* of importance for FAO.

We welcome the update on the Secretary-General's Climate Summit to be held in New York in September. The impacts of climate change on agriculture, farmers – particularly smallholders - and food systems underline the need to strengthen climate resilience.

The United Kingdom recognises FAO's important technical work on climate-smart agriculture. We encourage FAO to play its leadership role in areas related to climate-smart agriculture and deforestation, working closely with partners.

We welcome the plans outlined by Deputy Director-General Semedo for a new Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture that is open to all stakeholders and adds value. It should bring partners together to deliver concrete actions on climate-smart agriculture that support agricultural growth, and build farmers' resilience to current and future climate risks. Joint action will be needed and we encourage FAO to work particularly closely with others in this critical area.

We look forward to the Summit building support for the post-2015 goals and targets on food security and agriculture, as well as for an ambitious climate change deal in Paris, through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 2015.

Finally, if I may briefly touch on another issue relevant to FAO from another forum, I would like to encourage colleagues to attend the side event at 13:00 hours on FAO's Role in the Global Health Security Agenda.

I gather that this will include some information on FAO's work in the area of anti-microbial resistance, an issue of growing international concern with risks to livestock, fisheries and livelihoods. The World Health Assembly in Geneva recently adopted a decision, co-sponsored by over 60 Member Nations, urging greater collaboration between WHO, FAO and OIE, the International Organization on Animal Health. We agree that this is a very important issue for the international community and for FAO.

Mr Lupino J. LAZARO (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to thank the presenters this morning on the *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*. In general, we believe that the incisive and useful reports reflect the varied and considerable progress being achieved in carrying out the mandate of this institution. We wish to focus our intervention on the update on the International Year of Family Farming, which was enthusiastically presented by Director Villarréal. We very much appreciate the commitment and efforts of FAO in fulfilling the responsibility tasked by the UN Resolution 66/222 to facilitate the implementation of the IYFF.

As mentioned by Director Villarréal, we are midway in the celebration this year and we have already seen significant accomplishments in terms of the number and quality of activities that FAO facilitated in collaboration with other Rome-based UN Agencies, particularly IFAD and WFP and in partnership with Members, the civil society, the private sector and concerned stakeholders.

More initiatives and activities are lined up, including a World Food Day celebration, the CSF special event on the same day, and a global dialogue in Rome this October. We also look forward to hosting the closing ceremonies come November. Meantime, we invite those who have not yet done so, to visit and support the products currently exhibited at the FAO atrium which started last week and will run for three weeks to cover the COFI, Council and COFO meetings. Those who have already visited us, we are very much thankful and wish to remind you that there is no harm in visiting us again.

The Philippines is grateful for the cooperation of FAO and concerned stakeholders, especially those in the International Steering Committee and look forward to strengthening such coordination not only for the rest of the year but even beyond 2014 since we treat IYFF as an opportunity to continue a process to promote the interests and realized concrete benefits for family farmers and small holders.

Ms Maria LAUSUND (Observer for Norway)

Allow me to make a brief comment to the information document and more specifically to paragraphs 10 and 11 concerning the Review of the International Arrangement on Forests.

Norway will follow the review process with interest. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests has an important role to play in the structure of the International Agreement on Forests. We would like to encourage FAO, as Chair of the CPF, to allocate the resources needed for actively contributing in the review process.

Ms Gerda VERBURG (Observer for Netherlands)

Thank you for the excellent presentations this morning. I have a few remarks and I have one or two questions. My first remark is on family farmers. Being a member of a farm family myself, my brother took over the farm but when I look at all the presentations on the International Year of Family Farmers it is sometimes difficult for me to recognize himself and his position in the presentations. My request to FAO and other partners in the International Year of Family Farming is to focus more on technology, innovation and innovative approaches and not only on small holders. A focus on small holders is of immense importance, but there are more family farms than small holder farms.

My second point on this is the question of how the partners in the International Year of Family Farming are thinking ahead to integrate the investments in family farming and sustainable agriculture in the post-2015 sustainable development goals. We all know that it is on the agenda right now but we also remember that in the Millennium Development Goals, we were talking about food security but we forgot to make investments in agriculture and we also remember what happened with the price spikes in 2008.

My last suggestion is to have more focus on farmer-led research. I think that Marcela Villarréal mentioned it already as one of the outcomes of the Montpellier meeting, but farmer-led research is of immense importance because then you can combine the latest know-how with farmers' experience and wisdom.

Finally, I have a question to the Representative of the IPBES. I learned a lot, Sir, thanks to your presentation, because to be honest I did not know that this platform was available and functioning. My concrete question is how can a country like the Netherlands, take advantage of all the work of IPBES? Can you give us some examples so that we can also learn how to use the know-how and experience of such a high-level platform?

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We thank the presenters for their concise and useful presentations. We also commend the participation of FAO in the various *fora* within its mandate. All the presentations are useful and indeed we would like to have the information available on the website. We especially would like to get further information on the International Year of Family Farming 2014.

Sra. Carla SEAIN (Argentina)

La Argentina desea agradecer a la FAO la realización de este documento relativo a las novedades acaecidas en los foros de importancia para el mandato de la Organización. Al respecto, deseamos realizar algunas observaciones específicamente respecto a la Alianza Mundial para una Agricultura Climáticamente Inteligente, cuyo lanzamiento ha sido previsto en ocasión de la Cumbre del Clima convocada por el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas.

Tal como hemos dicho en numerosos foros, la Argentina reconoce la fuerte interacción entre la agricultura, la seguridad alimentaria y el cambio climático, por lo que consideramos que la forma en que estos tres elementos se articulan resulta no sólo de extrema importancia y complejidad sino que también reviste de gran sensibilidad. Más aun considerando que el sector agrícola es el más vulnerable frente a la variabilidad climática así como particularmente importante para el logro de la Seguridad Alimentaria.

Por eso, ciertos aspectos de esta nueva Alianza, especialmente el pilar referido a la reducción de emisiones en el sector agrícola, resulta preocupante ya que consideramos que este objetivo pone en peligro el logro de la Seguridad Alimentaria. Esto especialmente en un contexto que, ante una población mundial creciente, nos llama a unir nuestros esfuerzos en sentido contrario, aumentando cada vez más la cantidad de alimentos disponibles.

La FAO ha reconocido en su último Informe del Estado de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en el mundo, que un total de 842 millones de personas son incapaces de satisfacer sus necesidades alimentarias, lo que representa el 12 por ciento de la población mundial. Por ello, deseamos expresar en esta reunion, que no podemos desatender este gran desafío que tenemos ante nosotros y debemos tener presente que el sector agropecuario es fundamental para atender al grave problema del hambre, a la vez que no es la principal causa del cambio climático.

Deseamos recordar que el concepto de “agricultura climáticamente inteligente” no goza de consenso multilateral, por lo que se debe ser sumamente cuidadoso en su utilización.

Asimismo destacamos la importancia de que estas nuevas iniciativas no dupliquen esfuerzos ni prejuzguen las negociaciones en curso en el foro competente en materia de cambio climático, es decir, en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático.

Desde el punto de vista de la investigación y la cooperación en materia de cambio climático en la agricultura, resaltamos que ya existe la Alianza Global de Investigación sobre los Gases de Efecto Invernadero en la Agricultura, la cual ha demostrado ser efectiva para aumentar la cooperación y la inversión en investigación para reducir la intensidad de las emisiones de gases de efecto invernadero, como así también en materia de adaptación, mientras se alcanzan los objetivos de la seguridad alimentaria.

Entendemos que la alianza global de investigación sobre los gases de efecto invernadero en la agricultura ya en acción, constituye una iniciativa sólida y efectiva que ha logrado combinar las sinergias entre el cambio climático, la agricultura y el desafío de la Seguridad Alimentaria.

Mr Gianni GHISI (Italy)

First of all let me thank all the speakers for their very good quality reports and useful information. In this regard, I have two remarks. One is concerning the collaboration among the Rome-based Agencies on food losses and waste. It is indeed something that has a momentum because shortly, at the beginning of July, we will have the High-level Panel of Expert report to CFS on the same issue – food losses and waste. Italy does hope that from these reflections and actions, some input will be provided to the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

As you are aware, in the political Declaration there will be very probably a commitment in this regard and then it will be important that this commitment is supported by some concrete proposals to implement and we expect the Joint Secretariat, where of course FAO has the leadership in this regard, will put forth some useful proposals. Let me also add that we have been very much impressed by the quality of the targets and indicators that the three Rome-based Agencies have produced, and one of

them is indeed on food losses, but the component of food waste has not yet been considered. We do hope you can continue your work and maybe in time for the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition you will have something to propose.

The second comment is on this very important event, the Climate Summit. As other colleagues, I would like to stress the leadership we recognize to FAO both in regard to climate-smart agriculture and forestry. Italy encourages therefore FAO to participate proactively in the preparation of this event and to convey also the experience that we have here in Rome with IFAD and WFP. At the same time, it would be highly appreciated if FAO could keep the Membership informed on their participation in the preparations.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

Nos sumamos al agradecimiento que ya han hecho distintas Delegaciones a las presentaciones que nos han hecho el día de hoy. Siempre es bueno saber cómo están las cosas en otras reuniones para mantenernos en el Consejo informados.

Queremos hacer especiales comentarios sobre la presentación realizada en lo que tiene que ver con la Cumbre Climática, que tiene previsto realizarse en Nueva York. A tal respecto compartimos plenamente los comentarios que ya hizo la Delegación de Argentina sobre este tema en cuanto a los foros competentes y el cuidado que se debe tener desde la FAO para tratar estas cuestiones.

También queríamos informar que la República Bolivariana de Venezuela acogerá en el mes de noviembre próximo una Reunión ministerial preparatoria de la XX Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio de Cambio Climático. Como ustedes saben, esta Conferencia de las Partes tendrá lugar en Lima también en el próximo mes de diciembre. Esta reunión ministerial ha sido denominada Pre COP Social, ya que será la primera vez que actores sociales tendrán una participación activa y directa en el proceso de cumbres ministeriales preparatorias de la Conferencia de las Partes, así que también queríamos traer al Consejo esta novedad de esta reunión que va a ocurrir posterior a la de Nueva York.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

Liberia would also like to associate herself with previous speakers and we want to thank the presenters for the rich information shared with this Council. We specifically would like that the information be shared on the FAO web page.

We are pleased to note the progress made by many actors in different agencies to address the many challenges we face in sustainable development in agriculture to eradicate hunger and secure food security and nutrition. Therefore, we would like to add our voice to previous speakers to thank and encourage FAO to continue to take the lead in this endeavor so that we can all fight together to end hunger.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

I would like to make two questions and one suggestion.

With respect to a global alliance of climate smart agriculture, is FAO going to behave as a Secretariat to manage and promote this alliance?

I got a small piece of information that in September FAO is going to host Agro-Ecology meeting and I am not so much well informed about this but it would be very appreciated if there is some information you could provide us with.

On addressing the food losses and waste, Japan proposes to establish well-functioning and efficient food value chains in developing nations as well as in developed nations. Of course it must entail technical development, capacity enhancement and every other necessary input. But if we establish a well-functioning and efficient food value chain, we could improve the situation of food waste and losses.

Sr. Luiz Maria PIO CORREA (Brazil)

Brasil apoya la posición de principio que ha defendido la Delegación de Argentina respecto al debate en torno al tema de la climate-smart agriculture. Brasil piensa que tenemos que tener mucho cuidado antes de adoptar ciertos conceptos y respetar los foros competentes para tratarlos

Mr Wang REN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

First of all, I would like to respond to Germany's comment on FAO's role in sustainability in the context of the Post-2015 Global Agenda. Under the High-Level Task Force, there are five Working Groups as you know. These are sort of inter-UN Agency Working Groups tackling the various topics on food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, rural poverty, and on minimizing food waste and loss.

FAO Co-Chairs three of these five Working Groups. For food security, Kostas Stamoulis is the Co-Chair and for minimizing food waste and loss, the coordinator for Strategic Objective 4, Ms Eugenia Serova, is FAO's Co-Chair. For sustainable agriculture, Henning Steinfeld has been recommended to work with the new focal point of the World Bank. I used to be the Co-Chair but now it is Henning Steinfeld.

So we are actively involved in that activity. In addition to that, FAO is taking the lead among the UN Agencies, in cooperation with others. For instance, under the leadership of Ms Semedo and the coordinator of our Strategic Objective 2, Mr Clayton Campanhola, and a team of staff members we have been developing a common vision on sustainability and also a series of products and services and the SO2, linking with other Strategic Objectives, aiming at mainstreaming the principles of the common vision or the sustainability through our Country Programming Frameworks and regional initiatives, so in other words, trying to accelerate the implementation of this common vision on sustainability so as to take the lead among UN Agencies in agriculture.

I would like to briefly respond to the Ambassador from the United Kingdom on the comment regarding anti-microbial resistance which is extremely important. The FAO Director-General, Mr Graziano Da Silva, participated in the global launching of the Global Health Security Agenda which was initiated by the United States and now supported by 35 countries. In that launch, Graziano made a high impact video statement to say that the issue of anti-microbial resistance is particularly high on FAO's Agenda and our initiative of world health. So we are working with WHO and the World Animal Health Organization to tackle this issue and we are actively involved in the preparation and organization of a series of events. Once again, I would urge you and welcome you to the side event today at 13:00 hours.

Coming to the comments by Argentina and also Brazil with regard to climate-smart agriculture, we appreciate the attention and the emphasis on the importance of agriculture and climate change. I think that on that ground, FAO is very much in agreement with Argentina, Brazil, and many other countries.

With regard to some specific points that I would like to clarify as I am now appointed by the Director-General to coordinate FAO's climate-smart agriculture related activities with the support of our NRC division and under the leadership of our Deputy Director-General, Ms Semedo. The concept of climate-smart agriculture as many of you know was initiated in 2010 by FAO and later on, the concept has been widely adopted and has received a high level of interest around the international community, not only from governments but a large number of NGOs and Civil Society Organizations and the research community. For instance, the CGIAR research programme on climate change and agriculture has embraced this concept and is working closely with FAO on that.

There are three pillars of this concept. The first is sustainable increase of agriculture productivity, the second is to enhance the resilience of agriculture systems and food systems to climate change and the third is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions wherever possible.

The emphasis of this concept is actually on adaptation, enhancing resilience, and sustainably increased productivity. In the meantime, we emphasize that there is a need to achieve synergies among these three pillars and also not to ignore the importance of agriculture in climate change.

In other words, we emphasize that we need to make agriculture part of the solution to climate change, not only to reduce emissions wherever possible but also putting emphasis on helping smallholder farmers to become more productive and resilient.

The emphasis and the alliance are not at all intended to replace other existing *fora* for multilateral climate change negotiations as already clearly pointed out by Ms Semedo, and not to jeopardize the multilateral negotiation process at all.

With regard to the name, FAO noted these reflections and feedback from the various stakeholders and countries and we feel that the name has been widely used, for instance, by the Secretary-General and by the President of the World Bank and by many other countries. However, we would suggest bringing this to a consultative process and the best place is a global conference on the lines of climate-smart agriculture to be held in the Hague from 9 to 11 July of this year. So when there will be a global gathering of supporters and interested people to discuss, perhaps we could bring this issue for a consultation and discussion to see whether we should consider alternative options or names.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to express our appreciation to countries and their governments, particularly Italy and Switzerland for the strong support on FAO's activities on food waste and loss, along with other RBAs. By the way, we are actually working actively with the industries and NGOs in tackling not only food losses but also food waste in advocating and also raising awareness.

Mr Dan LESKIEN (Senior Liaison Officer, Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

I would like to respond to the two questions by Afghanistan related to a Memorandum of Understanding and to the area in which FAO will take the lead in IPBES and to a third question by the Netherlands with regard to the advantages to governments of being part of IPBES.

To reply to the first question, I would like to indicate that there is no Memorandum of Understanding but there is a collaborative partnership arrangement which was adopted by the Second Session of the IPBES plenary meeting, during which FAO and other UN organizations were invited to approve this partnership arrangement as a basis of future collaboration, and this is exactly what happened. The Director-General of FAO has approved this collaborative partnership arrangement as a basis of future collaboration.

Regarding the second question by Afghanistan, FAO will not take the lead in any of the work areas of IPBES because the lead is with the Governments. IPBES is an intergovernmental instrument and the governments are supposed to lead every process taking place under IPBES; they are expected to nominate experts who will then provide expert opinions on the different items which have been chosen by the IPBES Plenary for assessment.

FAO will, however, contribute and support these processes for example, through the nomination of FAO staff experts who will then join the assessment process, similarly to other previous global assessments, and FAO has also been invited to provide its regional structures once the IPBES Plenary decides that assessments should also be carried out at regional and possibly even sub-regional levels. The fact that FAO has regional structures is, of course, one of the advantages of FAO whereas other UN programmes do not have them.

FAO will therefore not take the lead in any of the initiatives of IPBES but it will support and contribute to the work that is actually being carried out.

I will now address the question by the Netherlands regarding what benefits would the work of IPBES bring to countries. The goal of IPBES is to carry out assessments on a number of issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as discussing on the causes of the reduction of pollinators or of soil degradation? And as you may be well aware, the different constituencies affected by these phenomena have slightly different opinions and these opinions have been published in various reports.

The added value of IPBES is that, for the first time, the different sectors, agriculture, environment, development, science, will come together and will attempt to provide assessments carrying the

participating experts' credibility and being approved by those experts belonging to these different sectors.

Sectorial views of environment, agriculture and the different phenomena IPBES will be working are not foreseen, but it is hoped that the different sectors will provide one assessment giving one common view which will then be published by IPBES. And this, hopefully, will improve the science base for future decision making by policy makers.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

We appreciate the question brought forward by Norway. In the review of the International Arrangement of Forests as Ms Villarréal has presented, the Global Partnership for Forests is a key element. Concerning the contributions of FAO, there are two kinds of them.

One is the core work of the CPF and the other pertains to the corresponding activities that may come out of the CPF process and requests from the UNFF. In that respect, for their co-part, FAO contributes with staff included in the Strategic Objective 2, but on the so-called 'ring-fencing arrangement'. Therefore, that contribution is secured and additionally, with an extra budgetary provision that was seconded by the UNFF Secretariat in New York.

On the one hand, in the CPF the role of Secretariat is in the UNFF in New York and we have been discussing with ESA the need to establish as well some 'ring-fencing resources' for the work of the CPF, as they do not exist at the moment and it would be important to have them. Also on their side because of course the main accountability coming from the institutions that has a Secretariat responsibility.

On the other hand, we have to consider the activities which are, of course, of a different nature. I would give an example about a request for a better reporting on the socioeconomic part of Forestry, which is the issue of the next COFO. So I can only invite you to come back to FAO on Monday after the Rolling Stones weekend to participate in the discussions during COFO.

The activities that came out of UNFF and the CPF themselves are of course much more dynamic. In the light of that, we duly take into account all kinds of proposals, streamlined reporting, forest degradation, and we will bring them to the attention of COFO so that they may come into our planning cycle. This could be done as far as FAO has to conduct any of the correspondent activities, being one of the 14 members.

What has been more challenging is related to the events like the one we did two years ago just before COFO. As an Organization-lead initiative, these kinds of arrangements can more or less be planned. In that regard, we will count on the support of Member Nations for taking over and supporting us in the organization of events that may be difficult to plan ahead with sufficient time.

Ms Marcella VILLARRÉAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

By thanking the Philippines who is the Chair of the International Steering Committee on Family Farming and who has had a really leading role in the whole Year of Family Farming. I would like to thank you for complementing with key information including the topic of the World Food Day which is of course Family Farming and this will give an opportunity for World Food Day celebrations which take place in around 150 countries to address even in more detail, the issues around family farming.

Regarding the question from the Netherlands, we fully agree with you. We have to address the issues of family farming in all of their diversity. We do know, and these are data that are coming out right now, around 84 percent of all landholdings in the world are less than two hectares. We are talking about smallholder farming as a predominant form of agriculture.

However, if we look at the land that is covered by family farming, it is 70 percent. So we know that the large family farmers have also a very, very big weight in the whole of the equation. On the one hand we have small and extremely small farmers and in the other hand we have big family farmers. All together, they produce 80 percent of the food.

While we recognize this diversity, we are also very clear that we have to have policies and supports that are tailored to the different needs because the needs are indeed very, very different. If you look at what we have been working on, yes indeed, and I do take the comment. We may have larger emphasis on smallholder farming than on the larger one or the more advanced, technological innovative farms, and this is because we believe that the smallholder farms are the ones that need more support. But we do need also to ensure that the large ones or the ones that have different needs of support also are getting that support and are also recognized with their contribution through their family farms.

Now I would like to announce, probably most of you already know it, but the SOFA, the State of Food and Agriculture, this year is going to be about family farming and innovation, very specifically the point that the Ambassador from the Netherlands was referring to.

So basically specific about innovation, so what it is that we would need to do including investment and your point is very important, increasing investment in agriculture to increase productivity and again, ensuring that we are recognizing the outcomes of farmer led research. This is, we hope, going to be very well worked through the SOFA which is going to come up for, as you know very well Ambassador, for CFS, for that moment.

And finally, thank you Ethiopia for your query. We will make sure that you receive all of the information and do it in a constant and frequent way.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes item 17 of the agenda. The list of presentations will be included in the Council Report.

In addition, the power point presentations we have just seen will be posted on the Members' Gateway at the end of this meeting.

Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)

I am afraid the two questions I have raised have been not yet covered by any Secretariat's responses. If they are already covered, my apologies for that.

Question number one: is FAO trying to take over the responsibility of the Secretariat of this Climate Change Alliance or is it going to be decided in the Hague meetings or who is going to take over the responsibility of this Secretariat?

Question number two: it would be very appreciated if the Secretariat could give information as to the agro-ecology meeting which I heard is going to take place here in Rome in September this year.

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

We are really sorry we escaped your requests. As I said, now we have an interim Secretariat as Netherlands is assuming this position and we hope that during the Summit in September, a Secretariat will be elected or designated but it will be the decision coming from the Member States under the participants to the alliance.

Now FAO is supporting the interim Secretariat but if so decided during the Climate Summit in case the alliance will be launched, we will be very honored in assuming this additional responsibility to our Organization.

And regarding the agro-ecology, I ask Wang Ren to reply to your question.

Mr Wang REN (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)

Last year France initiated this idea of working with FAO to organize a scientific conference on agro-ecology and our Director-General supported this idea and agreed. So my department, the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, now is taking a lead within the FAO, supported by an Organizing Committee at the moment that involves various divisions and departments of the Organization in preparing this Conference.

There will be an agro-ecology conference taking place in September this year. It will be a two day event and is going to be a scientific or technological sort of a conference like the ones that FAO has always organized as a knowledge-based institution.

The idea really is to have a discussion, an exchange on the current trends in ecology or agro-ecology, the science, and also to exchange practices in practicing agro-ecology and also the social development dimensions of applying agro-ecology to use as sort of applied ecological concept as an underpinning principle for activities for the knowledge-based organizations. That is what we have so far and we could provide more details online.

Ms Marcella VILLARRÉAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make an announcement. It is just a reminder that this afternoon at the request of the Members we have organized an informal consultation with non-state actors, Civil Society, Private Sector, farmers' organizations regarding ICN2. You requested us to organize this as an informal consultation back in May and this afternoon we will have that opportunity.

The session will be at 15:00 hours in the Green Room and be opened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council and the Director-General and we do hope to see you there.

Debriefing on 2013 Field Visits by Senior Officials of Rome-based Permanent Representations
Compte rendu des visites de terrain effectuées en 2013 par des hauts fonctionnaires des représentations permanentes à Rome
Reunión informativa acerca de las visitas sobre el terreno realizadas en 2013 por altos funcionarios de las Representaciones Permanentes en Roma

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, a Field Visit for Permanent Representatives was undertaken in the Southwest Pacific in October 2013.

I now have the pleasure to welcome to the podium Mr Matthew Worrell, Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to FAO, who will debrief the Council on this field visit to the region.

Thank you for this thorough debriefing.

Mr Matthew WORRELL (Australia)

I am very honoured to have this opportunity to make this presentation to Council on behalf of the delegation of Permanent Representatives who visited the Southwest Pacific region from 18 to 30 September last year. The group was fortunate enough to visit three Pacific Island countries on the trip: Fiji, Samoa and the Solomon Islands.

It seems timely to give this informal briefing at this Council meeting given that the formal discussion during the week has included a number of references to the significant challenges facing the Pacific Island states in securing their food and nutrition security and to the need for FAO to give greater attention and assistance to these countries.

As well as honoured to be speaking this morning, I am also conscious that I do not have an enviable speaking slot. My presentation is all that stands between the Council adopting the meeting report. I hope that at the end of my presentation you believe it was time well spent learning a little about the countries we visited and FAO's important work in the Pacific.

The delegation who participated in the field visit consisted of representatives of five FAO regional groups, and included: Dr Mohammed Mazifur Rahman from Bangladesh representing Asia; Mr Bah Konipo from Mali representing Africa; Mr Junior Escobar Fonseca from Nicaragua representing Latin America and the Caribbean; Mr Alessandro Villa from the European Union representing the European Regional Group; and myself, representing the Southwest Pacific.

We left Rome on the evening of 18 October and returned on 30 October. According to Dr Rahman who fastidiously tallied up the hours of travel, the team spent 62.1 hours in flight and 31.25 hours in transit. Just to get to the location of our first meeting entailed 36 hours of continuous travel and five flights. However, we felt that this was a minor inconvenience given the opportunity we received to

participate in the field visit and also gave us an insight into some of the challenges facing these countries.

For those who don't know much about the Pacific, the region includes a heterogeneous group of countries and territories with diverse resource endowments, economies and political situations. Agricultural conditions also vary both among and within countries. The countries do, however, share a number of characteristics. In general, FAO Members in the Pacific face significant development challenges and rely on the support from development partners to help address these. With few exceptions, such as Fiji and Papua New Guinea, the island nations have small economies and limited natural resources. Agriculture, fisheries and tourism are extremely important to the economies of many of the countries. Each of these sectors has fundamental reliance on natural resources which dictates that economic development is inextricably linked to sustainable management of these natural resources.

The agriculture sector is fundamental for most countries in providing subsistence security and livelihood options. The high degree of dependence on agriculture, fisheries and tourism makes the relatively weak island economies vulnerable to externally induced economic shocks, natural disasters, environmental problems, and the impacts of climate change. Their geographical isolation, poor access to commercial and capital markets, poorly developed infrastructure and limited institutional capacity hinder economic development. Across the region, these problems are compounded by weak policy and regulatory frameworks.

While going to three countries during our visit gave delegates an insight into some of the diversity in the region, we were really only just touching the iceberg, in terms of the agro-ecological, economic and cultural differences present in the region.

The first country we visited - Fiji - consists of over 300 islands. It is generally considered the regional hub in the Pacific with a considerable number of international flights, particularly focused on servicing the substantial tourism industry. In terms of agriculture, subsistence farming and sugar cane production still dominate. Pawpaw, pineapple and banana are considered the major fruits in Fiji. Fiji has a large and diverse fishery encompassing many different resources with significant on-shore processing and value-adding. The loss of forest cover and forest degradation is prevalent in Fiji. Most of the deforestation in hilly areas has been caused by sugar cane and taro farmers clearing the land for farming. Fiji was seriously affected by cyclones and flooding in 2009 and 2012.

Next we went to Samoa which is a small island country. Seventy percent of the population is dependent on agriculture. The main agricultural crops are taro, banana, cassava, breadfruit and coconut. Marine fishing is one of the most important sources of the economic earnings of the population. The main foods eaten are taro, cassava and a small amount of rice.

And last but not least we visited the Solomon Islands, which is the third largest archipelago in the South Pacific consisting of six large and 986 small islands. Agriculture consists of coconut, cocoa and food crop gardens. Coconut is generally processed to copra and coconut oil and cocoa to dry bean. The national economy is dependent on logs, fishing, copra, cocoa, palm oil and kernel. Rice is a major food, all imported, and fish is also a major protein source.

As most would be aware, these field visits provide Permanent Representatives the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of FAO in the region, enabling them to get a first-hand impression of the challenges FAO is facing to support countries, as well as understand the options and issues for improving the functioning of FAO's activities.

Field visits help to identify where the FAO can improve its relationship and engagement within the region, and provide opportunities for awareness raising, information sharing and common understanding of FAO's work in the field.

To help structure our trip, the programme was developed based on looking at four general areas. These were: the challenges faced by the Pacific island countries in achieving agricultural and economic development and how they are addressing these; the impact of climate change on food and

nutrition security in the islands; how countries are managing their natural resources; the regional and global dimensions of oceanic fish resources in the Pacific.

I have to say that we did not consciously focus on these issues specifically in our meetings, but we did get some insight into these issues during the course of our visit.

In each of the countries visited, the group had extensive meetings with the national governments, regional institutions with mandates relevant to FAO, UN Agencies, missions of foreign countries, local NGOs, Telefood grant recipients and other stakeholders.

I should also say something at this point about the structure of FAO's operations. Of the three countries visited, FAO only has a permanent presence in Samoa. This is where the Sub-Regional Office is located. In fact, at the time of our field visit, FAO did not have a permanent presence in any other FAO Member Nations in the Pacific.

The SAP is headed up by a Sub-regional Representative who is the FAO Representative in Samoa and is accredited to the other FAO members. FAO activities are supported by a multi-disciplinary team of seven technical experts based in Samoa, and a network of National Correspondents.

FAO is looking to expand its operations for more effective coverage of the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea, including a Programme Development Officer in Papua New Guinea, National Assistant FAOR posts in four of the Pacific Island countries (including Fiji and the Solomon Islands); and a Marine Resources Management post in the SAP. These additional resources were agreed to by Council in June 2012, but are still a work in progress.

In April 2013, at a meeting of the South West Pacific Agriculture Ministers, countries approved their respective Country Programming Frameworks. These cover the period from 2013 to 2017. Under the overall aim to improve food security and income earning opportunities the FAO-Governments partnership in the Pacific focuses on the priority areas of policy and planning; food safety, quality and nutrition; aquaculture and fisheries development; agriculture, livestock and forestry production and productivity; agribusiness, marketing and trade; and sustainable management of terrestrial, freshwater and marine resources. FAO assistance in the Pacific is provided through programmes and projects, technical support and capacity building.

During this trip, the group made the following observations:

- The Pacific Island countries are really struggling to address some of the challenges they face in achieving agricultural and economic development. National governments have relatively limited resources and capacity.
- National governments of all three countries said that they appreciated FAO's efforts, but at the same time they felt the relationship could be strengthened.
- FAO has a very limited presence and footprint in the region. Combined with the logistical challenges of travelling in the region, this must be having an impact on its effectiveness and ability to assist all FAO Members under its current approach. The national government of each of the countries visited was convinced that a permanent presence was required for FAO to be fully effective, and in the case of Samoa, the government felt that the SAP should be strengthened.
- FAO's operations are largely based around a large number of very small projects located throughout the region. As a consequence, it was hard for the group to get a sense that FAO is making a big or meaningful contribution in any one area. This combined with the limited resources would seem to indicate that FAO may have to sharpen its focus if it is really going to generate outcomes and have the desired impact. To do this it needs to better define its value-add.
- Most of the meetings the group had were with related stakeholders (such as regional organisations) and were valuable, but the delegation did not have the opportunity to visit any current FAO projects in the field. This was partly an issue related to logistical challenges, but perhaps also reflective of the relatively limited depth of FAO's activities in the region.
- There is a relatively large number of staff from other UN Agencies operating in the countries visited, particularly Fiji, and in the region more generally. Although on the surface there is some

collaboration between FAO and other relevant UN Agencies, the group was not convinced that this was substantial or particularly effective.

- Very noticeable for the group was the strong presence of a number of regional institutions with mandates which are complimentary and/or intersect with FAO's work. Of particular note are the CROP (or Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific) agencies, including the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Secretariat of the Pacific community, the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. These organisations have substantially more resources, with a bigger footprint and more local knowledge than FAO.
- Although the group was provided some examples of collaboration between FAO and these regional institutions and other UN Agencies, there would appear to be substantial opportunity for this to be increased in order to exploit synergies and ensure greater effectiveness with the resources available. FAO needs to refocus and strengthen the relationships with these institutions.
- The growth in non-communicable diseases is a massive problem in the Pacific. The group heard of the situation where in some island countries, 30 percent of the population has diabetes. This issue is linked to changing diets, challenges facing local food production, and the large annual increase in low nutrition food imports. Greater focus by FAO on addressing the agriculture and food production aspects of this problem, in close collaboration with WHO, would seem to be needed.
- Some sort of permanent FAO presence is required in Fiji to ensure that FAO is properly linked in with other regional and international organisations who have their main local offices located there.
- There appears to be relatively limited engagement of RAP officers and management with activities in the SWP. The group also heard comments about it taking too long for TCP projects to be approved by RAP and Rome.
- A number of the SAP staff have been in their current roles for a substantial period of time. There also appeared to be limited interaction between these staff with colleagues in RAP and Rome, as well as limited professional training opportunities. There is a need to encourage staff mobility as well as facilitate targeted professional development.
- Based on discussions with various government departments in the three countries and SAP officers, there was very limited knowledge and understanding of FAO's global information and knowledge products, Technical Committee reports and CFS outputs such as the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure. There is a need to strengthen coordination and support mechanisms between Rome, RAP, SAP and National Correspondents.
- There would appear to be opportunity to make better use of the Country Programming Frameworks developed for each country in the region when interacting with stakeholders, particularly on resource mobilisation and efforts to increase collaboration.

The field trip was very rewarding for the group. It helped us gain a better understanding of the issues faced by the island countries of the Southwest Pacific in agricultural and economic development, and the challenges that FAO faces in working with these countries. I would highly encourage the Organization to continue with the practice and for Permanent Representatives to grab the chance to go on a future trip.

In our report on the visit, which will be placed on the Permanent Representatives website, you will find that the group has made a number of recommendations for improving future field visits. I will not outline these this morning, as to a large degree they have been picked up in recent discussions between the regions, the Office of Support for Decentralisation and the Independent Chair of the Council.

Before finishing, the group wishes to express our gratitude to all those who gave their time to meet with us and those who assisted with the preparations and logistics for the trip. We received a very warm welcome and excellent hospitality from the respective national governments.

The FAO Sub-Regional office in Apia, Samoa provided excellent support. A special thank goes to three officers from the SAP, Mr Tim Martyn, Ms Fiasili Lam and Ms Ramona Sulifoa. These officers accompanied us throughout the visit and prepared and made available to us background information, as well as administrative and logistical expertise we needed to carry out this mission. They spent a lot of time answering our questions and inquiries. We know that this was not always easy due to their many responsibilities. Gavin Wall, the Sub-Regional Representative who heads up SAP also deserves special thanks - he had a big hand in getting this field visit organised.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity to give this brief presentation on behalf of the group of Permanent Representatives who participated on this field visit. I hope that it has given you some sense of our experiences.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We thank the Group and the presenter for the very comprehensive presentation and also for the hard work that they did going through the various countries, given the difficulties they experienced when they traveled long distances.

However, the situation of the Island Countries is of great concern to us. It is really worrying and we do not know how much FAO on its own could help. Despite that, we expect that FAO will do its best to alleviate the situation that the Island states are facing. We would like to ask the Deputy Director-General what step FAO Management has taken in relation to what has been presented to alleviate the situation.

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

Firstly, on behalf of FAO I would like to congratulate Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia on this comprehensive presentation and to thank all of the Members of the Delegation for your visit and for your feedback. For us the feedback provided from this situation and mission is very important. We have ahead organized a debriefing with the Office of Support to Decentralization with the Regional Office. We took note of the comments and FAO is already taking action regarding some of the comments and the way on how we can improve.

Anyway, some of the comments coming from the field visit are questions FAO has to deal with and to discuss with the Member Nations. One of them is the country coverage. It has been mentioned that we have a network of National Coordinators in those countries not having FAO Representatives.

Is the old question of what should be the appropriate coverage Where should we have FAO Representatives or not and how should be the best relationship at the Global, Regional and National level? I believe those questions had come already from the Evaluation, from all Regional Offices and we will be taking actions regarding the comments and the observations coming from Member Nations and from FAO Governing Bodies.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, I thank Australia for a very comprehensive briefing. It was extremely useful. I would also like to raise that some of the issues that he mentioned, which have already been raised by the Evaluation of the Region and Sub-Region for Asia and the Pacific. One of the recommendations of the Evaluation was to strengthen FAO's work in the Pacific Island Countries.

Now we are looking for a synthesis, which we discussed the other day covering all the Regional Offices being reviewed and evaluated. We hope the synthesis will bring out some of the features especially with respect to areas that are neglected like the Pacific Islands. I can also add from a fragile state and other things. On the Pacific Islands, it seemed there are very little work of WFP and of IFAD, so there is considerable room for a joint work by the three Rome-based Agencies.

M. Serge TOMASI (France)

Puisque je prends la parole pour la première fois au sein de ce Conseil d'administration, permettez-moi d'abord de saluer l'ensemble des Délégations présentes et des collègues.

Je suis donc Serge Tomasi, le nouveau Représentant permanent de la France ici à Rome et je voulais dire que je viens ici pour travailler de façon constructive avec l'ensemble des collègues et bien sûr le Secrétariat. Je crois que si je suis ici c'est parce que je partage deux convictions, j'espère avec chacun d'entre vous. La première c'est la question de la sécurité alimentaire, c'est une question absolument fondamentale, un des challenges les plus importants que nous avons à relever; et la deuxième c'est que nous le relèverons tous ensemble parce que même si nous sommes chacun attachés à la sécurité nationale, nous sommes aujourd'hui dans un monde interdépendant où les questions touchant au changement climatique, à l'évolution des marchés internationaux impactent profondément la situation nationale. Et je pense que les trois organisations romaines ont un rôle majeur à jouer dans cet effort.

Je voulais intervenir sur ce point parce qu'il me semble qu'à la lumière de cette visite de terrain cela illustre un des débats qui a été abordé à plusieurs reprises au sein de ce Conseil, qui est la question de l'articulation entre les fonctions du Siège et l'organisation des bureaux de pays du niveau régional et de la décentralisation. Je voudrais dire que mon pays est très attaché comme d'autres à la question des fonctions normatives du Siège, à sa taille critique pour qu'elle soit en mesure d'assumer ses fonctions normatives d'établissement des standards de pollution recommandés et des transferts des connaissances.

Mais tout cela n'a un sens que si à un moment cela se traduit sur le terrain et dans les politiques nationales. Donc la question de la décentralisation et des bureaux de pays pour moi ne doit pas être opposée aux fonctions du Siège, mais il faut réfléchir à l'articulation entre les deux et à la cohésion et l'efficacité de l'ensemble du système. Et il y a un point qui me semble aussi parfaitement illustré par cette visite de terrain c'est que chacune des régions a sa spécificité, et l'une des spécificités de cette région du Pacifique c'est qu'elle est très vaste, très fragmentée; les moyens, les facilités de transport ne sont pas aisés parce qu'on fait tout de suite des très grands déplacements, donc cela appelle peut être de la part de notre Organisation des modalités de réponse différentes que dans d'autres régions du monde où les moyens de déplacement sont beaucoup plus aisés. Donc il ne faut peut être pas aborder les questions de décentralisation, de couverture des pays d'une façon homogène, mais prendre en compte les spécificités de terrain.

CHAIRPERSON

May I remind Members that the Note on Field Visits, containing lessons learned and recommendations for future field visits, is available on the Members' Gateway.

ADOPTION OF REPORT ADOPTION DU RAPPORT APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME

CHAIRPERSON

I am very happy to see the Red Room full. This indicates interest in our work.

We will now proceed with the Adoption of the Report. Please ensure that you have the relevant document before you: CL 149/REP.

I now invite Mr Marc Mankoussou, Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, to present the report.

M. Marc Mankoussou (Président du Comité de rédaction)

Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Madame la représentante du Directeur général de la FAO, Mesdames et Messieurs membres du Conseil, Mesdames et Messieurs, je voudrais vous remercier de la confiance que vous m'avez témoignée en m'élisant Président du Comité de rédaction de la 149^{ème} session du Conseil de la FAO. Mes remerciements vont également aux membres du Comité qui ont travaillé de manière efficace et rapide dans un esprit collégial et de coopération.

Malgré quelques difficultés de points de vue nous avons trouvé des formules adéquates grâce à la précision des conclusions du Président indépendant du Conseil sur chaque point de l'ordre du jour examiné en plénière – je voudrais préciser, examiné en plénière. Enfin, le Comité de rédaction a adopté le rapport, à ma grande satisfaction, par une chaleureuse acclamation. Ainsi, j'espère que le

rapport, consolidé grâce à l'esprit de consensus de tous, qui vous est présenté maintenant pourra être adopté maintenant en bloc.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. I would like to extend my appreciation to you and to the members of the Drafting Committee for the good work done.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

We would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. However, we have a few points on the Draft Report and we would like your guidance as to whether we should proceed item by item so that we can put forward our points.

CHAIRPERSON

Can you read out the items for the points you want to make?

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

First of all, I have a general point and that was quite a few delegations, including Pakistan, referred to when information was provided to one delegation as a result of their questions, quite a few delegations stated that this information or such information should not only be provided to the delegation which asked the question, but should be distributed to all delegations.

Your ruling in that connection was, Mr Chairman, that a statement will be included in the draft. There is no such statement in the draft report.

Secondly, on item 3, *Programme Implementation Report 2012-13*, when talking about savings, everybody welcomed the significant savings to which the Organization had achieved and referred to the fact that future savings or further savings would not be possible without containing staff costs, but they put a qualification, not only the delegations but the Director-General himself in his introductory statement said that further savings would not be possible without containing staff costs and impacting the capacity of the Organization to deliver. So there should be this qualifier in the Report when it comes to staff costs, etc.

On item 4, when talking about Regional Initiatives, the Report is too vague. The Regional Initiatives are key to the achievement of the five Strategic Objectives. Hence we should identify a specific Council session where the progress report should come to us. At the moment, it says at a future session. That sounds like infinitum. We should put a specific date when we will receive this progress report.

Then I have a comment on Item 17. Paragraph 2, which says: "the Council appreciated the presentations provided by the Secretariat on emergencies in the Central African Republic, the Philippines, and South Sudan" and when it speaks of El Niño, it just speaks about an update.

The Organization had replied giving us information on the work they are doing to monitor the effects of El Niño and I think to be fair to the Organization there should be a reference to that as well.

CHAIRPERSON

Will Pakistan please provide wording for those items you have identified?

Mr Andon MINAEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

In the course of our discussion on Item 3 on 16 June, with reference to the statement made in the report on the PWB implemented by FAO for 2012 and 2013, this was the conclusion of the 29th Session of the European Regional Conference. FAO emphasized how indispensable it is to the issue of giving special attention to expending FAO products in Russian.

According to Secretariat data, Russian is significantly lagging behind from the other languages of the FAO as per all indicators. Both the quantity of electronic material, terminologies, and what is of greatest concern, published products. We see and certainly welcome the serious efforts made by the Secretariat to remedy this situation, for example the expansion of the Russian section in the terminology portal of the FAO.

For example, this morning we got a selection of data on how results can be enhanced and we would like to thank the Secretariat straight away for that submission to us. But nonetheless, we do count on significant improvement of the other indicators as well.

Similar concerns have also been voiced by other participants in this session of the Council. Indeed, it is a great pity that the need to strengthening the care taken with Russian as the youngest language of FAO has not really been properly reflected in the report of the 149th Session of the Council. We certainly count on having the Secretariat as well as the Members of the Council to take our concern on board.

Indeed, it is absolutely necessary to have Russian be given appropriate attention and for this to be reported on properly with the report on the linguistic balance of FAO for the next session of the Council.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much. I think your submission will appear in the Verbatim records.

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Cuba realiza esta intervención en representación del Grupo de Latinoamérica y el Caribe.

En primer lugar, nuestro Grupo desea agradecer el trabajo realizado por el Comité de Redacción y estábamos en disposición de aprobar el Informe en bloque. No obstante, deseamos expresar nuestra preocupación con respecto a que en el párrafo 1 del tema 4 referido a las conferencias regionales se le da el mismo tratamiento a las decisiones tomadas en las Conferencias Regionales y la Conferencia Informal.

Teniendo en cuenta que en el Informe del 144.º período de sesiones del Consejo de junio de 2012 no era así (y es una redacción que hubiera sido preferible para el Grupo), es decir, como había sido en el Informe del Consejo anterior donde se trató el tema de las Conferencias Regionales. Por todo esto, el GRULAC solicita que se realicen las debidas aclaraciones sobre este tema para futuros informes del Consejo, así como que el PIC le dé seguimiento al MIC.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Cuba, for raising your concern and I thank you for being ready to adopt the report as it is. You would like clarification on that issue which you have raised and that is in the record.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Vous savez que notre groupe vous apporte tout le soutien pour que l'adoption de ce rapport se fasse dans les meilleures conditions possibles. Et c'est dans ce contexte que je voudrais d'entrée de jeu féliciter le Président du Comité de rédaction.

En tant que membre du Comité de rédaction, nous avons travaillé pour arriver au rapport que nous avons devant nous, et je pense pouvoir savoir que le Président du Comité de rédaction a plaidé pour que l'adoption de ce rapport se fasse en bloc. Nous faisons notre ce plaidoyer du Président du Comité de rédaction en souhaitant que note soit dûment prise par le Secrétariat des interventions de la Russie et de Cuba, mais que, Monsieur le Président, vous proposiez l'adoption en bloc de ce rapport tel qu'il est. Voilà le désir du Comité de rédaction, et notre désir en tant que Délégation.

Mr Dr. Md, Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to thank you personally because you have finished this Council very effectively and efficiently and you have saved a lot of time. And also, all of the Members have contributed. Everybody deserves thanks because of their efficient participation in this Council.

I would like to draw your kind attention to one point under Item 12, *Preparation on the International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)*. Perhaps the Council could have thanked all of the Joint Secretariat plus the members of the Joint Working Group because they are working hard including you. Personally, you have taken a lot of initiatives to make this event efficient and to take it as a successful one.

My special proposal, I must say that under Item 12.5, there was a decision that the Open-Ended Working Group to discuss this document. I would like to say that this could be held in Geneva because the actual ICN2 will be in Rome. From that perspective, we would like to request to have this Open-Ended Working Group in Geneva.

CHAIRPERSON

I note your submission but I think you are not insisting that you want what you have said to be inserted into the report. Otherwise I thank you for recognizing my participation in the work of ICN2.

I think on the issues of where to organize another meeting we will be getting a briefing later as we have agreed.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

En primer lugar, nos sumamos a los agradecimientos a su labor y a su liderazgo que ha ejercido durante todo el período de sesiones para que concluyamos con éxito. Queremos expresar nuestro pleno respaldo a lo señalado ya por la Delegación de Cuba a nombre del GRULAC.

Creemos que, si se van a tomar en cuenta los cambios propuestos por otras Delegaciones, como han solicitado Pakistán y la Federación de Rusia, nosotros queremos expresarle nuestro interés de que se retome el lenguaje que está ya establecido, o sea el lenguaje precedente al 144.º período de sesiones del Consejo. Concretamente me refiero al párrafo 35 del período de sesiones de 2012, donde el Consejo revisó y refrendó las conclusiones de las cinco Conferencias Regionales y tomó debida consideración de la Conferencia Regional oficioso.

En ese sentido, nos parece que este es el lenguaje apropiado. Por lo tanto, pedimos que se incluya en este Informe, hasta tanto no se hagan las aclaraciones institucionales y legales, lo que ha pedido la Delegación de Cuba a nombre del GRULAC.

Mr Khaled EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

We join others in congratulating you for a very efficient management of the Council meetings. We are also ready to adopt the Council Report. However, there was a statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the G-77. We understand that there was some support from some countries to this statement including Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Pakistan. We also noted that some other countries like Germany, France, Canada and Japan, have expressed that they are not ready to discuss this statement yet and we understand their point of view.

We believe that just to do justice to the statement delivered by the G-77, there should be a reference to this statement, even to reflect the fact that there was a statement delivered by the G-77 and that this statement will be discussed later on Technical Committees or in another way.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Nuestro reconocimiento al Presidente del Comité de Redacción y nuestro agradecimiento también para todos los compañeros con los cuales estuvimos trabajando durante las jornadas previas a la de hoy.

Tenemos una duda y casi es una moción de orden. Quisiéramos tener en claro si el Informe ha sido aprobado o no en bloque, dado que hubo una consulta de parte del Presidente del Comité de Redacción y nos dio la impresión de que el informe estaba aprobado.

En base a esa consideración, luego haríamos otras observaciones pero queremos consultar a la Secretaría en particular y a la sala en general. Si lo hemos adoptado en bloque, fue el resultado de un trabajo muy intenso en el cual se llegó a un consenso que entendemos sólido y también reflejado en el

aplauzo que escuchamos luego de la consulta del Presidente. Agregó solamente que, por supuesto, respaldamos plenamente lo que dijo la Presidencia del Grupo Pro Tempore del GRULAC, Cuba.

CHAIRPERSON

I wanted to respond to the comment by Argentina. The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee in his presentation proposed that the report be endorsed *en bloc*, indicating that all members of the Drafting Committee applauded at the end of their works. I believe this was in appreciation and recognition of the hard work of all the members and to the consensus reached at the Drafting Committee. Every Regional Group was represented and they were getting feedback from their Members.

I can see now that we don't come from the back door. We have come through the front door in the Council. Discussions have taken place, I made my conclusions to which you listened very carefully, you made some comments, and I cleared everything. You may remember that a certain point I requested you to please listen carefully to my conclusions.

I would therefore prefer not to reopen the motion. If there are some typographical errors, those can be dealt with by the Secretariat. Should there be serious real issues in this report, then we should ask the Council to discuss them.

However, I would like to ask those who have requested amendments, and in fact the request comes from one Delegation only, and knowing the Delegation, I think they will be happy to join the others in adopting the report *en bloc*.

Mr Luis COELHO-SILVA (Portugal)

As Portugal, we thank you for your excellent leadership during this Council session, and we also extend our gratitude to the President of the Drafting Committee. We would also ask you to kindly pass the floor to Greece, currently holding the Presidency of the European Union and on behalf of its 28 Member States.

Ms Nike-Ekaterini KOUTRAKOU (Observer for Greece)

I wish to confirm that the European Union and its 28 Member States endorse and adopt the Report of the Council *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for that and that is what I need to hear as we have discussed the issues in a very interactive and understanding manner, reaching consensus. In fact, all these are implied in those paragraphs.

Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)

I speak on behalf of the Africa Group. As we stated earlier at the beginning of this Council, Mr Chairperson, expressing your superb and exemplary leadership, we want to thank you for proving us right. We congratulate you and thank you for leading this Council. We join Cameroon in requesting the adoption of this Report *en bloc*. The European Union has also joined that appeal and we want to commend those delegations that have asked for the Report to be adopted *en bloc*.

We all showed approval of this Report through our overwhelming clapping at the very end of the presentation by our hard working Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. Those handshakes and that clapping that took place indeed were done in good faith. So again, we appeal to all delegates to accept your request for this Report to be adopted *en bloc*.

Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for the Chairmanship of the Drafting Committee who was patient with us while sometimes we went through difficult times. As for the issue raised by the Russian Federation and by Cuba, that was discussed in the Drafting Committee. We came to a consensus and that consensus is reflected in the Report.

In addition, we paid full attention to your summaries of each item. I assure you, this was our main concern. I think we followed it very carefully, so please I would like to fully support Cameroon, Argentina, the European Union and Liberia, to adopt this Report *en bloc*.

CHAIRPERSON

I see there is cooperation on that. I had requested Pakistan to make any changes on the agenda items he mentioned, but after listening carefully you will note that your issue would re-open the draft for discussion. I think you have noted that so I plead to you that you go for a consensus with the others.

Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)

Thank you, Mr Chairman. We have heard you and we have heard our colleagues as well. The points we made were really to add clarity to the Report and I am sure the Secretariat has taken note of our comments and we believe our country can go along with that.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Sra. Milagros Carina SOTO AGUERO (Cuba)

Usted, Presidente, lo había expresado después de que Cuba intervino a nombre del GRULAC, pero, por algunas intervenciones que hemos escuchado, quiero reiterar que nuestro Grupo Regional desde el principio comentó que estaba de acuerdo en aprobar en bloque el Informe del Consejo.

Solo manifestamos una preocupación para que sea tenida en cuenta en el futuro. Por eso reitero que el GRULAC también desde el inicio se suma al consenso alcanzado para aprobar el Informe en bloque.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Mr Andon MINAEV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

We also once more would like to say that we support the adoption of the Report on block and our statement on the Russian language pertains to the reflection of our concern and, perhaps, that was not fully understood. Maybe there was a misunderstanding which suggests that even more attention should be given to the Russian language.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for the trust you have among yourselves. Thank you for the trust you have with the Drafting Committee where you have all been represented and it appears to me now that the Report of this session may be approved *en bloc*.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Any linguistic observations should be communicated in writing to the Secretariat in order to be included in the Final Report.

Thank you. The Report of the 149th Session of the FAO Council is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite the Director-General to address the Council.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Your Excellency Wilfred Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the Council, Your Excellencies Ministers, Members of the Council, Permanent Representatives, Non-state actors, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me begin by noting that this Council was attended by 14 Ministers and 6 Vice-Ministers and undersecretaries, and a total of nearly 400 delegates have worked hard during this week.

This high-level participation demonstrates the importance you attribute to FAO and to this forum.

I would like to congratulate and thank all of you for the work and for your continued support to the strategic direction FAO is on encourages us as we deliver the agreed on Programme of Work.

As you have noted, we are progressing well on implementation. I am confident that all of us will be pleased with the concrete results we will achieve, especially through the regional initiatives. The guidance you have given this week will be of great value. And I would like to thank you for your agreement for the need to review the FAO country coverage.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity to remind you that the Second International Conference on Nutrition will take place in exactly five months.

This is the time to discuss and finalize the political declaration and Framework for Action to be endorsed in November.

I want to thank your increased engagement to ICN2. As I have said, nutrition is a public issue. We need your commitment to make ICN2 a success and to ensure that food security and nutrition is a reality for all.

I also share your opinion on the importance of the participation of non-state actors in the dialogue on nutrition. In fact, at your request, we are organizing an informal meeting between non-state actors and FAO Members on ICN2, today, at 15:00 hours. I will be there with the Independent Chairperson of the Council. I urge you attend this meeting and continue the dialogue with non-state actors.

Let me express only one concern related to ICN2: in recent weeks we have received requests from Members on more and more details on the organization of the event. I would like to remind you of the distinct and complementary roles of Members and the Secretariat: Members give guidance, the Secretariat manages. I ask you not to overstep this red line.

The organization of ICN2 is progressing well and we will continue to inform you of the process.

I also have to say that financial support to ICN2 is improving. We have received confirmation of a contribution of one million euro from the European Union this week and we are waiting for the contribution of other members.

So I can assure you that everything is getting in place and will be ready in time. Managers are working hard in this, so do not worry.

I see a lot of anxiety for more information, but please do not let it deviate your attention from the political declaration and the framework for action. We all need Member Nations to focus on the most important aspect: finalizing the draft political declaration and the framework for action, the substantive political documents that will be the outcomes of ICN2.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me end thanking you once again for your support to FAO and your participation in this Council. Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

Before bringing down the gavel on the 149th Session of Council, please allow me to make a few closing remarks.

I would like to thank the Director-General for his words of welcome at the start of this session, and in particular for having expressed his appreciation of the renewed trust between Members and FAO and for having informed the Council about what is unfolding as a result of the transformational changes.

I am also grateful to the Director-General for the progress being made in the implementation of the 2014-2015 Programme of Work and Budget. I believe we are all encouraged to see that you are in full implementation mode, to use your words, and we are all looking forward to the good results to come. Rest assured that the Council will continue to cooperate with you in this endeavour.

I would like to thank Council Members for the constructive discussions we had on all of the items on the agenda of this session. The in block adoption of the report testifies the consensus-based working spirit and trust that reigns among Members. I believe that we need to enhance this trust by constantly working together in an open and transparent manner, resolving challenges jointly as they arise, and addressing issues firmly.

My sincere thanks also go to Mr Marc Mankoussou of Congo for efficiently piloting the draft report on Wednesday afternoon and yesterday morning. Mr Mankoussou's leadership enabled the collective good will of the Drafting Committee Members to prevail. We are grateful to you and, indeed, all the Members of the Committee for taking into account the summing up of each item.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for their assistance this week, and also in the run up to this session by preparing the required documents and providing background material.

I would like to recognize the effort made by those behind the scenes who ensured that this session of Council ran smoothly, such as the: interpreters, translators, facilities staff, security personnel, room messengers, protocol, the printing group, the verbatim hub and the reports office. I am grateful to them all for their long hours of work and dedication to getting the job done.

Before closing, please allow me to say a few words to thank Pauline Farrugia for her support work for the Council and many other Governing Body sessions over more than 30 years.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

This is Pauline's last session of Council before retiring from the Organization in September this year.

Over 71 sessions of Council and 17 of Conference, Pauline has generously assisted delegates not only with registration, but also with a range of other matters.

Over the years, I think we have come to appreciate Pauline as somebody who knows how to "make a difference" as she helps newcomers settle in, and long-serving representatives with practical matters. Pauline does all this professionally, with a charming smile and a warm-hearted manner.

I know we will all miss Pauline's reassuring presence and would like to invite you to join me in expressing our appreciation for her loyal work and wish her all the best for her future endeavours.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

Mr Yohannes TENSUE (Eritrea)²

I am speaking on behalf of the Africa Group to express our overall appreciation of Ms Pauline Farrugia's excellent and efficient services that she has been providing all along to the Africa Group. I believe the other Regional Groups will agree with me.

Pauline's future absence during meetings of the Governing Bodies and during the preparations for them will surely leave a big gap. Whoever will be assigned to replace her will not fill her shoes. I believe her services will always be needed even after retirement. She has become indispensable to this Organization.

Ms Farrugia, the Africa Group will truly miss you and all your contributions made to improve and simplify our job.

We wish you the best of luck for your future life.

CHAIRPERSON

To those of you who will be travelling home to your capitals, I wish a safe journey, and thank you all once again for your contribution to this 149th Session of the FAO Council. I would like to remind you that the next Session of Council will take place from 1 to 5 December 2014. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, with this I close the 149th Session of the FAO Council.

The meeting rose at 12:48 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 48

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.48

² Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.