



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

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

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

T

COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

**Hundred and Sixty-Third Session
Cent soixante-troisième session
163.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 2-6 December 2019
Rome, 2-6 décembre 2019
Roma, 2-6 de diciembre de 2019**

**FIFTH PLENARY SESSION
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

4 December 2019

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours
Mr Khalid Mehboob,
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Khalid Mehboob,
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.45
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Khalid Mehboob,
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Please submit all corrections to: Verbatim-Team@fao.org (Room A132est)
Pour toutes corrections s'adresser au courriel: Verbatim-Team@fao.org (Bureau A132est)
Para todas las correcciones dirigirse a: Verbatim-Team@fao.org (Oficina A132est)

Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

	Page
Item 13. World Food Programme	
Point 13. Programme alimentaire mondial	
Tema 13. Programa Mundial de Alimentos.....	1
<i>Item 13.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board</i>	
<i>Point 13.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM</i>	
<i>Tema 13.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>(CL 163/7; CL 163/LIM/4)</i>	
<i>Item 13.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018</i>	
<i>Point 13.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses</i>	
<i>activités en 2018</i>	
<i>Tema 13.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus</i>	
<i>actividades en 2018.....1</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>(CL 163/8)</i>	
Item 7. Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters	
Point 7. Rapport de la cent-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et	
juridiques (21-23 octobre 2019)	
Tema 7. Informe del 109.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos	
(21-23 de octubre de 2019)	9
<i>(CL 163/2)</i>	
Item 8. Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14-18 October 2019)	
Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire	
mondiale (14-18 octobre 2019)	
Tema 8. Informe del 46.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria	
Mundial (14-18 de octubre de 2019).....	16
<i>(C 2021/19)</i>	

Item 13. World Food Programme**Point 13. Programme alimentaire mondial****Tema 13. Programa Mundial de Alimentos**

Item 13.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board

Point 13.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM

Tema 13.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA

(CL 163/7; CL 163/LIM/4)

Item 13.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018

Point 13.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2018

Tema 13.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2018

(CL 163/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We start this morning session with *Item 13* which concerns World Food Programme (WFP) matters.

Under Sub-Item 13.1 the Council is requested to elect Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are *CL 163/7 Rev.1* and *CL 163/LIM/4*.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat Members: Ms Harriet Spanos, Secretary to the WFP Executive Board and Director, Executive Board Secretariat; and Ms Natasha Nadazdin, Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Liaison Unit, Performance Management and Reporting Division.

I will now give an update on the candidates listed in document *CL 163/LIM/4*.

For List A there are two candidates for two seats: Angola and Somalia

For List B, there is one candidate for one seat: Saudi Arabia

For List C, there are two candidates for one seat: Argentina and Dominican Republic

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

With regards to List C, where there are two candidates for one seat, I wish to inform Members that the Secretariat has received notification of an agreement reached within the List. The agreement would be as follows:

Argentina will serve on the WFP Executive Board from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020. Dominican Republic will then replace Argentina for the remainder of the mandate from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2022. Can I take it that the Council approves this arrangement?

It is so decided.

I should like to draw your attention to correspondence from the Coordinator for List A regarding an agreement that has been reached in the list A on the sharing of terms of office. As a result of the agreement mentioned in document *CL 163/LIM/4*, Angola and South Africa will share a seat for the period 2020-2022. Angola will occupy the seat from 1 January 2020 to the end of 2021 and South Africa will occupy the seat for the year 2022.

I should also like to draw your attention to correspondence from List D Coordinator regarding agreements that have been reached in that list on the sharing of terms of office. As a result of the agreement mentioned in *Appendix B* of document *CL 163/7 Rev.1*, the Council is requested to take note that Belgium will step down on 31 December 2019 from List D seat due to expire 31 December 2020 in favour of Denmark.

The Council is also requested to take note that Ireland will step down on 31 December 2019 from the List D seat due to expire 31 December 2020 in favour of Norway.

Can I take it that the Council agrees with these arrangements?

Applause.

Applaudissements

Aplausos

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

We now move on to Item 13.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018*. The document before you is *CL 163/8*. Please ensure that you have this document before you.

I will now pass the floor to Natasha Nadazdin from WFP, to introduce this item.

Ms Natasha NADAZDIN (Chief, Monitoring and Evaluation Liaison Unit, Performance Management and Reporting Division, WFP)

First of all, allow me to thank you for keeping the World Food Programme (WFP) Agenda Item this morning as per the original timetable because I understand that the discussions have been a little bit behind the schedule.

I am pleased to present to you WFP's 2018 Annual Performance Report. The document is a result of extensive consultations with key stakeholders including the Executive Board Membership, which helped us to refine and structure the Report and give every piece of evidence on our performance in 2018.

Please allow me to start by saying 2018 marked a year during which WFP was able to make a significant contribution to changing peoples lives despite an extremely complex humanitarian landscape.

To better understand the context in which we operated, I would like to take you through some of our key financial figures. We increased our contribution revenue by 20 percent from USD 6 billion in 2017 to a record USD 7.2 billion in 2018. However, the funding gap continued to stand at USD 2.8 billion. This inevitably led us to suspend or reduce the breadth or scope of our operations.

While the growth in contribution revenue was critical for meeting increasing needs, there was a disproportionate concentration in both the source and the allocation of funding. In 2018, the top ten donors accounted for almost 85 percent of contribution revenue, highlighting WFP's increasing reliance on its key donors. In fact, more than half of WFP's funding was allocated to Level 3 emergency responses in Yemen, South Sudan and the Syria+5 region. In addition, while the absolute amount of flexible funding represented a 9 percent increase from 2017, flexible funding remained at 6 percent of total funding, continuing a trend that has seen the share of flexible contributions decrease.

Looking at our programme highlights, 2018 is the first year in which all WFP operations were fully aligned to the Corporate Results Framework, the duration of which is 2017 - 2021. This supported us to build an evidence base for performance at the corporate level.

In the Annual Performance Report, programme results from the annual country reports are aggregated up to the corporate level. Consolidated WFP-wide performance is then presented in terms of its contribution to the five Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objective 1, "End hunger by protecting access to food", lies at the core of WFP's work as it represents the majority of WFP's engagement in emergency response and safety nets. At the corporate level, the seven indicators on maintained enhanced individual and household access to adequate food showed that WFP interventions had a positive impact in individual and household security. All indicators, except the food consumption score, showed that WFP achieved its target or was on track to achieve the target in 2018. Overall, WFP made moderate progress in achievements on food consumption score. In many cases, progress was hindered by ongoing conflict and access issues.

WFP made moderate progress on Strategic Objective 2, "Improve nutrition", and Strategic Objective 3, "Achieve food security". However, nutrition indicators measured under Strategic Objective 1, which complement other interventions, showed strong progress in 2018.

Some important work was done related to Strategic Objectives 4 and 5, including the expansion on South-South and Triangular Cooperation work. Specifically, 94 percent of Country Strategic Plans

approved in 2018 include South–South and Triangular Cooperation as a means for strengthening host government capacities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets. However, conclusions on performance related to these objectives cannot be drawn due to insufficient data, caused mainly by the limited number of countries implementing activities under Strategic Objectives 4 and 5 in 2018.

Now, I would like to take you through some of our Management highlights. We monitor our Management performance at various levels as you see in the Annual Performance Report. However, what I would like to focus on today is how we measure the overall achievement of Management performance standards. This reflects how WFP offices manage their available human, physical and financial resources to facilitate implementation of Country Strategic Plans and their activities.

The Key Performance Indicators cover ten standard functional areas that work with each other, providing internal and external services that facilitate direct implementation. One or two critical indicators, those considered as the most representative for each functional area, have been selected as standards, covering the majority of the processes carried out by the respective units. In 2018, most functional areas were in the medium to high performance range. However, there is still space for improvement. The functional areas that performed best were: security, where we assess the minimum common measures that all offices need to comply with; Information Technology (IT) and finance where we look into the percentage of transactions that involve financial risks for WFP; and, supply chain where we look at losses and the efficiency of our transport arrangements.

The lower performances include some of the functional areas that have been impacted by the Integrated Road Map rollout. For example, human resources which includes the only indicator that is below expectations (i.e. 49 percent of mandatory training completed). Similarly, budget and programming, and programme, show lower performance attributable to changes in internal processes. 84 percent completion of evaluation recommendations, for instance, to which most of WFP staff are still adapting as we complete the Integrated Road Map transition.

To conclude, I would like to underscore some lessons learned in 2018 and our priorities moving forward.

A series of evaluations and lessons learned in 2018 informed key ongoing initiatives such as the transition to the Integrated Road Map. An evaluation concluded that country offices' adoption of the Country Strategic Plan framework led to positive results, enabling WFP to align its operations more closely with national priorities and facilitating WFP's shift to an enabler role.

The evaluation of the Syria+5 response found that WFP made significant achievements in delivering assistance, despite the scale of the operation.

Going forward, WFP's transformation into a digital leader in the humanitarian sphere remains one of the organization's priorities. WFP strives to be ambitious in the continuous alignment of its workforce to the needs and priorities of its operations.

I would like to thank you very much for your attention and welcome any questions you may have.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now open the floor to Members for any comments or questions. The floor is open. I see no request for the floor. So, that makes my summary really easy.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

I did not want to be the only one to ask for the floor but here goes.

Continúa en Español

Desemos resaltar el papel fundamental que desempeña el Programa Mundial de Alimentos (PMA) sobre el terreno con sus operaciones puntuales de asistencia humanitaria y programas de desarrollo. El PMA salva vidas y cambia vidas. Su enfoque en las situaciones más vulnerables tiene lugar en paralelo a la realidad de que en países de renta media y media alta persisten bolsones de pobreza. Es esa pobreza estructural la que obliga a muchos países de renta media y alta a solicitar apoyo a la comunidad internacional y al PMA, en particular, en casos como sucede en mi país y en otros de la

cuenca del Mar Caribe a consecuencia de huracanes y otros desastres naturales.

Pedimos a la Secretaria Spanos y a la Directora de Monitoreo y Evaluación que transmitan al Director Ejecutivo Beasley que reiteramos nuestro apoyo a los programas de alimentación escolar, nutrición, promoción del empoderamiento de niñas y mujeres, creación de capacidades, alerta temprana, fomento de la resiliencia, movilización de recursos, transferencias monetarias, compras locales y otros avances en términos de financiación y realizaciones. Aplaudimos la innovación y todos los demás programas que el PMA desarrolla no solo en los países más vulnerables afectados por el cambio climático, los conflictos y las migraciones que estos producen, si no también en los países, como ya he dicho, de renta media y alta.

Por último, deseamos reiterar nuestro apoyo a la labor de campo que el PMA desarrolla en nuestra hermana República de Haití, para lo cual ha contado, cuenta y siempre contará con todo el apoyo y toda la colaboración de República Dominicana.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

As Egypt is now the President of the Executive Board of WFP, we take the floor to thank the representative of WFP, Ms Harriet Spanos and also the Chief of Monitoring and Evaluation Liaison Unit, and we would like to express our appreciation for the excellent work of the WFP under the leadership of Mr Beasley and for the increase in revenues from USD 6 billion in 2017 to around USD 7.3 billion in 2018.

This is really a big increase and it is timely, needed support to the most vulnerable people in the world. I have one observation on the Report. Out of this amount of money, USD 7.2 billion, is only unearmarked contributions. I would like to urge and encourage all the donor countries to increase unearmarked funding and to give more flexible funding to WFP in order to enable the WFP Management to address crisis response, and also to allow them to quickly address emergencies in the world as the number of hungry people has been increasing, unfortunately, over the last three years.

Mr Yaya Adisa Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

Thank you for the presentation, and thank you WFP for the strategic role you are playing in the world with respect to making life a lot more comfortable for people that are handicapped. Undoubtedly, the Integrated Road Map and the Strategic Objectives of WFP has been well worked out and the Board is working extensively with WFP's Management, His Excellency David Beasley, and his very able team. More importantly, the management of a huge number of people in different parts of the world actually brings one to understand that WFP is unique and very efficient.

A digital approach, the determination to put it into use and with the determination to become the best, is the right way to go in thinking about innovation and ways of applying it. Nigeria wants to appreciate WFP publicly for the wonderful role they played in the Northeastern part of Nigeria. Part of what happened was that WFP was new in Nigeria with no experience working in Nigeria. They were able to go from zero distribution of food to 1 million and I think that is noteworthy and commendable.

Finally, I believe that all needs to be done, to keep encouraging and to get less and less armed conflict so that countries can do what they need to do in terms of encouraging WFP. I just do not remember, or I missed it, whether it stated that Cote d'Ivoire will replace Nigeria. If it is not, I think that was the agreement between Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire.

M. Carlos AMARAL (Angola)

Je serai bref et voudrais remercier le Groupe Afrique et le Conseil pour avoir renouvelé leur confiance en l'Angola en lui permettant de siéger au Conseil d'administration du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour deux ans de plus. J'aimerais aussi remercier la Direction du PAM et son staff, ainsi que M. David Beasley, pour leur travail et surtout pour la capacité de mobilisation de fonds, qui a permis d'aider les personnes dans le besoin.

Je fais référence à la question soulevée par l'Égypte et à la concentration des financements, car il y a seulement 10 donateurs, beaucoup de sociétés et une certaine concentration des moyens du PAM en faveur d'un petit nombre de pays, qui malheureusement sont des pays en conflits. Pour cette raison, j'encourage les pays donateurs et tous ceux qui en ont la possibilité à fournir au PAM des moyens afin

qu'il puisse accomplir son devoir.

Mr Mohammed AL GHAMDI (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I would first like to express my heartfelt thanks to the countries who have supported the nomination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for a three-year mandate in the Board and I would like to reassert that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will remain, as it has been before, a main supporter of humanitarian work across the world by working through the King Salman Centre for Relief and Assistance.

We will be working inside the Executive Board of WFP with the Management and with our colleagues and together we will achieve the vision that we have elaborated together. We will achieve a world where no humanitarian need will be needed anymore. We will collaborate with WFP as much as possible. We would like to thank WFP for its ongoing efforts. You are able to reach areas where no one else goes. You go into conflict areas and thanks are due to you and to Mr Beasley for this. My thanks also go to the staff working in the field because they do their best to support those who are in need.

Ms Qamer HAMEED (Canada)

Thank you for the overview. In the context where humanitarian needs outplays available resources and where protracted crises are the new norm, we emphasize the importance for the WFP to focus on saving lives while collaborating with other partners such as the FAO to build the resilience of effective communities to recurring and more intense and frequent shocks.

We encourage the Rome-based Agencies to continue to deepen their collaboration and better align their tools and processes in order to increase their impact on the ground. Canada highlights the importance of quality age and six disaggregated data and good gender-responsive programming and its importance in programme recording, including in high level reports.

Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh)

First of all, Bangladesh would like to thank the WFP for presenting their Annual Report 2018. It clearly shows the activities that were taken in 2018 have contributed to change lives and also to save lives in different parts of the world. We appreciate this and also we would like to appreciate the effort made by the Executive Director of WFP, Mr David Beasley for increasing the revenue base of the WFP.

At the same time, we also would like to highlight that the funding gap is also increasing over the period. This has also been mentioned in the last Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) Report and there was a discussion in the last WFP Executive Board. We would also like to highlight that the 94 percent of the contributions are earmarked by the donors. It has very little flexibility for the Management to work for the countries who need it most. In this respect we would like to support the statement made by Egypt and also would like to request the donor Members to increase the unearmarked funding to do more flexible work for the people, importantly those who need it most.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

We want to thank WFP for the enormous amount of work that they have done, especially in South Africa when they sourced food from smallholder producers. It not only really affected the lives of those who are supported in the neighbouring countries but it affected and uplifted the lives of the small producers in South Africa.

We continue to applaud that type of work and applaud the test of an Organization when it begins to report on what it does and we can see by ourselves the improvement in the lives of the smallholder producers from which you sourced food that was going to assist the poor in our neighbouring countries.

We thank the good work that you continue to do with our smallholder producers, where very much their lives alone change in the rural areas of South Africa. We really applaud that type of work.

Sr. Gustavo PALACIO (Ecuador)

Quisiéramos agradecer por la presentación del Informe del PMA, por la labor importante que realiza tanto en nuestro país como en la región, en América Latina. Hemos observado que en el informe se refiere a las crisis emergentes en América Latina; en particular, al tema de los refugiados. Quisiéramos expresar nuestro agradecimiento por los esfuerzos que se realizan en este tema que no solo se refieren, como en el informe señala y, corríjame si me equivoco, a la crisis en la frontera Venezuela con Colombia. Es un tema que nos afecta a todos los países de la región. En este sentido, El Ecuador hace esfuerzos para también aportar de manera muy importante. Quisiéramos saber cómo visualizan esta emergencia que ha surgido en la región a futuro.

CHAIRPERSON

I see no other requests for the floor and before I pass the floor to WFP, I just want to clarify the point mentioned by Nigeria. The agreement between Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire is referred to in footnote 9 in document *CL 163/7 Rev.1*. The only reason it is not in the document is because it was in the 2018 document. Therefore, it is there and the present document has it reflected in footnote 9 in the document.

M. Fidèle SAMBASSI KHAKESSA (République démocratique du Congo)

Nous prenons la parole pour remercier le PAM pour son action multiple et très engagée en faveur de la République démocratique du Congo, surtout en matière de lutte contre la faim, et pour sa participation effective dans la lutte contre la maladie Ebola.

Le PAM soutient aussi fortement la République démocratique du Congo dans ses actions pour venir en aide aux personnes déplacées par la guerre. Nous voudrions aussi, outre les remerciements, pouvoir formuler la demande suivante.

La République démocratique du Congo est un grand pays et très étendu, mais nous remarquons qu'en matière d'intervention dans l'espace RD Congo, l'action est plutôt orientée vers les provinces de l'Est, en proie aux rébellions et où se trouve concentré presque l'ensemble du pays. Je demande, au-delà des urgences, de revoir la manière d'intervenir dans l'espace du territoire, car la faim sévit dans presque toutes les provinces.

Je ne veux pas dire que le PAM n'intervient pas dans les autres provinces, mais on observe que les rapports de forces et l'intensité de l'action se concentrent surtout sur les provinces de l'Est. Sans nier ce soutien à la partie Est, nous demandons que dans la manière de programmer les actions on tienne aussi compte des provinces où il n'y a pas de guerre, mais qui luttent contre la faim,

CHAIRPERSON

Any other request for the floor? I see none, so I pass the floor to Harriet Spanos.

Ms Harriet SPANOS (Secretary, WFP Executive Board)

I would like to first congratulate all the newly-elected Members.

Secondly, I would like to also say that I will convey to the Executive Director and to the staff as well all the words of praise and commendation that we heard from Members of the Council and we will continue to work where we are needed to fight hunger around the world.

I want to particularly mention the comment from the representative of South Africa and the smallholder farmers and to advise that we will be holding an event in the next couple of weeks as well at WFP relating to country capacity strengthening smallholder farmers. The invitations should go out today, so we will continue in that vein.

I also wanted to say that we, the podium Members on this table right now, are very much appreciative as well for taking this Item at the top of the Agenda for today and thank you, again, for all your words of commendation.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now summarize our discussions. So, Item 13.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2018.

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2018. In particular, the Council:
 - a) acknowledged WFP's programme performance results in meeting its Strategic Objectives supported by achievements by Management Results Dimensions;
 - b) recognized the commitment of WFP staff in the field that are working in challenging circumstances in addressing an unprecedented number of both Level 2 and Level 3 emergencies, including protracted crises;
 - c) welcomed the ongoing implementation of the Integrated Road Map, including the Strategic Plan for 2017-2021, the country strategic planning as well as the Financial Framework Review and the revised Corporate Results Framework which fully align WFP strategy to the Agenda 2030 and its principles; and
 - d) welcomed WFP's involvement and partnership and coordination efforts, including its engagement with partners towards Zero Hunger and the SDGs.

The floor is open now for any reactions and comments.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

On paragraph (d) I think we would want to reverse the order of "Zero Hunger and the SDGs."

It would be better to write "towards the realization of the SDGs, specifically SDG 1 and 2". I think that makes sense because Zero Hunger is part of the SDGs. Unless you want to put it as "towards Zero Hunger and the other SDGs" So, it comes to be the same. It is up to us to decide.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Thank you to Cameroon because their contribution to (d) makes it better, I would say. I was thinking about (d) also because we would like for the Report to include mentioning of the middle- and high-middle income countries because you see, there is this thinking and not just people out there, even some amongst us, that think erroneously, that WFP is only concerned with those that are fleeing from an exploding volcano or something to that effect.

However, WFP in fact does enormously good work with countries that are not facing immediate humanitarian dire straits and that means that the Council should, in fact, recognize that and support that. Therefore, I do not know if maybe within (d) or in a separate paragraph we could mention that the Council, in fact, welcomes WFP's work in development, in middle- and high-middle income countries.

Mr Ulrich SEIDENBERGER (Germany)

Coming back to what my dear colleague from the Dominican Republic just said, I think we are risking getting a little bit sidetracked. I would like to repeat what my Canadian colleague said about the mandate of WFP and I think that was very carefully drafted and very well said. She said, "focus on saving lives while collaborating with other Agencies to build resilience and engage in developmental work".

This is really a crucial remark because we do not have another Agency that is able to save lives as WFP does. We must be very clear that this is the focus of the work and the focus of the mandate of WFP, in particular in view of the fact that we have an increase in humanitarian needs of 20 percent. Therefore, the needs are increasing, the Level 3 emergencies are increasing, and we must be very, very careful not to get lost here.

It is not disputed that WFP's work in resilience and development is valuable, but it should be, in particular, complementary and not trying to reinvent the wheel. Therefore, to make it short, let us focus

on the humanitarian core mandate of WFP. That is why I think paragraph (e) is trying to, basically, put it in a different direction. We would not agree to that.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact, I would agree because this concept has led to acrimonious debates in the past in various fora.

Ms Chiara SEGRADO (United Kingdom)

This has been debated frequently. Just to say that we support the position that Germany just raised and possibly suggested deleting the last point.

Mr Marcus JOHNSON (United States of America)

This is also to second the comments that were just made by the United Kingdom and endorsement of Germany's position. We furthermore believe that paragraph (e) should be eliminated.

Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)

Creo que si esta cuestión sobre si el PMA se dedica a emergencias principalmente o desarrollo, es una cuestión que no vamos a resolver aquí. Habiendo dicho esto, el PMA no se dedica solo a emergencias, se dedica también a desarrollo y la administración nos ha dicho que en años anteriores el 80 por ciento de las actividades de PMA era para desarrollo.

Esta cuestión no la vamos a resolver aquí, por eso comparto la posición de mejor borrar el párrafo que acaba de mencionar el colega de República Dominicana. Dejemos esta discusión para otra ocasión, pero quiero dejar en claro que el PMA también tiene el mandato de hacer actividades de desarrollo.

CHAIRPERSON

I see no other requests for the floor but based on the interventions we have just heard, we would delete paragraph (e). Therefore, I take it the Council is in agreement with that.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

We asked for a different paragraph to reignite that old discussion. We do recall Director Beasley, when he tells us that 50 cents invested in development on the ground saves EUR 50, relocating people and taking care of them elsewhere and so on and so forth.

I will not repeat here all the times that he has pounded on this fact. I would seek from you guidance because the very last intervention from Mexico I believe was extremely useful.

I understand what Germany said, and others, and this is an old discussion and I have been a part of it time and again. However, there should be some kind of mention here that WFP has not dedicated exclusively 100 percent of its monetary resources and its human resources to just emergencies and humanitarian aid for those that need it right here, right now, but also in creating an environment.

Let me just put it very bluntly. When a hurricane hits the Dominican Republic and Haiti, WFP needs to be there and the international community needs to be there because we drown in mud. When a typhoon of that same strength hits Japan, WFP is nowhere to be seen because the Japanese have the resources, human and financial and so on, and the infrastructure, and they take care of themselves. We are not at the level of development of Japan. We would like to be.

WFP is helping the Dominican Republic and Haiti and others get there and that is part of its mandate and it should be reflected somewhere.

Ms Chiara SEGRADO (United Kingdom)

Honestly, we think that this is implicit because we are mentioning the Strategic Plan for 2017-2021. That clarifies WFP's mandate. We agree with Mexico, it is probably not the right opportunity to have this discussion here. We will have a review of the Strategic Plan at the beginning of 2020. Therefore, we will probably have more opportunities with WFP to have this discussion.

CHAIRPERSON

Dominican Republic, I also agree with the comment just made by the United Kingdom and the

comments made by Mexico, because nobody disputes what you are saying but this is a debate which some of us, and you as well, have heard and it results in hours and hours of acrimonious discussions. Therefore, like Mexico said, we will not be able to sort it out just by adding a sentence or deleting a sentence.

Could we leave it to what the United Kingdom has just pointed out, that these discussions will take place when these other Strategic Plans, etc., are discussed?

May I request your cooperation in agreeing that we do not mention this here and take it up when the particular items are discussed in WFP?

Thank you, Dominican Republic, and with this I think we can adopt the text and I wish to thank my colleagues from WFP, Harriet Spanos and colleagues.

Item 7. Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters

Point 7. Rapport de la cent-neuvième session du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques (21-23 octobre 2019)

Tema 7. Informe del 109.º período de sesiones del Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos (21-23 de octubre de 2019)

(CL 163/2)

CHAIRPERSON

We can now take up Item 7: Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, which took place on 21 and 22 October 2019.

You have before you document CL 163/2.

I now invite Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) to present the Report.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

It is my pleasure to present the Report of the 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), which was held from 21 to 22 October 2019.

The Committee elected Her Excellency Mónica Robelo Raffone as Vice-Chairperson, who I would like to thank for her precious support.

The CCLM examined the document entitled “Voting procedures under Rule XII, paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization”. The Committee noted that it had been mandated by the Council and the Conference to review the Organization’s voting procedures.

The Committee agreed that the subject was of a broader nature and therefore it requested the Secretariat to prepare a thorough comparative study on the rules and best practices of other UN Common System Agencies, as well as other relevant best practices.

It further noted that this matter was not only a matter for the CCLM, and, therefore, it recommended that, in parallel, such review be brought to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the Council for consultations with Regional Groups and, if deemed appropriate, to develop a Code of Conduct. The CCLM recommended that the Secretariat’s analysis assist both, the CCLM and the Independent Chairperson of the Council, in addressing this matter.

The second Item on the Agenda of the CCLM concerned a “*Proposal for use of unspent balance of biennial appropriations*”. The Committee reviewed the proposal set out in the document *CCLM 109/3*.

The document was submitted to the CCLM and to the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees at the request of the Conference at its 41st Session in June 2019 that a procedure for the systematic use of unspent balances be developed. This followed a previous request by the Council that was made at its Session in December 2017. Thus, the CCLM was seized of this matter as a result of two requests.

The Committee reaffirmed the importance of Financial Regulation 4.2 whereby “appropriations shall be available for obligations during the financial period to which they relate and unobligated

appropriations at the close of the financial period shall be cancelled”.

The CCLM recommended a proposal for consideration and adjustment by the Joint Meeting and the Council. However, as you know, this matter raised some discussions at the Joint Meeting one month ago and yesterday discussions took place on this item at the Council.

Therefore Council, while noting the outcomes of the CCLM and of the Joint Meeting considered that the matter required further review and discussions. The Council therefore requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper, in order to have an in-depth discussion by the Council and its committees, taking into account the need for consistency with Financial Regulation 4.2. and other applicable Financial Regulations and Rules of the Organization, as well as related practices within the United Nations System and other relevant entities.

The last item on the agenda of the Committee concerned the activities of the Development Law Branch of the Legal Office (LEGN). The CCLM reviewed an Information Note reporting, *inter alia*, on collaborative initiatives with other partners, on the development of legal guides and tools, as well as making legal information available through FAOLEX, webinars and other platforms.

The Committee requested the LEGN to expand collaboration with the Rome-based Agencies, and other partners, among others International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT).

The Committee recommended that the LEGN present the information provided to the Members of the Committee to other *fora* and to all Regional Groups, noting the important services and legal assistance it can provide to all Members of the Organization.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of CCLM for their cooperation and their engagement and also to thank the Legal Office and the staff of the Legal Office for the continuous support they have given to our Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

The floor is open for Members for their interventions.

M. MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroun)

Merci à Madame la Présidente Danielle Rotondaro, nous sommes contents du travail qui a été fait. Je voudrais très simplement demander de passer la parole à la République gabonaise qui devrait intervenir sur ce point au nom du Groupe Afrique.

M. Charles ESSONGHE (Gabon) (Observer)

L'honneur m'échoit de m'exprimer au nom du Groupe régional Afrique au titre du point 7 des travaux du Conseil.

Cela dit, je voudrais avant tout saluer les efforts sans cesse consentis par le Directeur général, depuis son élection à la tête de la FAO, en vue de rendre plus efficaces les actions de notre Organisation.

Le Groupe régional Afrique, tout en se félicitant de la qualité du rapport du Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques en approuve le contenu dans son ensemble. En effet, au regard de la complexité des questions relatives aux procédures de vote, et au-delà de l'utilisation d'appareils électroniques, le Comité a cru devoir, à juste titre, demander la réalisation d'une étude comparative approfondie des règles, des procédures et des pratiques optimales suivies par les autres organisations du système des Nations Unies, ainsi que d'autres pratiques optimales pertinentes.

Nous trouvons judicieux que l'examen de cette question soit élargi au Président indépendant du Conseil et aux groupes régionaux. Cette démarche participe sans nul doute de la recherche du consensus et de l'efficacité dans l'élaboration des règles qui régissent notre Organisation.

Concernant la proposition relative à l'emploi des soldes inutilisés des ouvertures de crédit des futurs exercices biennaux, le Groupe régional Afrique salue la prudence qui a prévalu au sein du Comité lors de l'examen de cette question sensible.

Tout en réaffirmant l'importance de l'article 4.2 du Règlement financier, le Comité a jugé, en effet,

opportun de recommander à la Conférence de se saisir, à raison, des observations stratégiques préalablement formulées conjointement par le Comité du Programme et le Comité financier quant au report et l'utilisation des fonds non dépensés.

La formule recommandée par le Comité à cet effet devrait, à l'évidence, renforcer l'article 4.2 dans son application.

Enfin, le Groupe régional Afrique se réjouit des importants services que la Sous-Division droit et développement du Bureau juridique est en mesure de fournir aux membres en mettant à leur disposition des guides et des outils juridiques ainsi que des informations à caractère juridique par l'intermédiaire de la base de données FAOLEX, ainsi que d'autres plateformes et de webinaires.

CHAIRPERSON

Gabon, as you mentioned, the question of the unspent balance was discussed by the Council under the Agenda Item for the Joint Meeting of Programme and Finance Committees and the Council has concluded on it. Therefore, my suggestion would be to not spend time discussing the unspent balance issue, because that has already been concluded upon.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

The Philippines would like to request that Bangladesh take the floor for to deliver the Asia Regional Group statement and the Philippines likewise would deliver its statement after.

Mr Manash MITRA (Bangladesh) (Observer)

Bangladesh has the honour to deliver this joint statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

The Asia Group thanks the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) Chairperson, Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro of San Marino, for her excellent presentation. Thank you as well to the CCLM Members, the Legal Council and the Secretariat for their hard work.

On the discussions on the voting procedures, the Asia Group welcomes the recommendation of the CCLM to request the FAO Secretariat for a thorough comparative review of the voting procedures in the United Nations System. A decision to develop a Code of Conduct for elections must be informed with the best international practices in order for the Member States and the Secretariat to have a benchmark.

Chairperson, we would like to make a comment on the unspent balance giving the perspective of the CCLM. Given that the practice of the Organization to carry over unspent balances has extended for over a decade, the issue must go through a multifaceted review.

The Asia Group notes the CCLM's important role in such discussions, given that the FAO Basic Texts Rule XXXIV.7(a) assigns the Committee to consider the application or interpretation of Financial Regulations or amendments thereto.

The Asia Group appreciates the recommendation of the CCLM that the FAO Development Law Branch expands collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies and international organizations such as International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) located in Rome. This partnership would no doubt contribute to more ideas for policy development and bring more benefits to Member States.

With the comments above, the Asia Regional Group endorses the Council's approval of the Report of 109th Session of the CCLM.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

The Philippines is a new Member of the CCLM and would like to thank our Chairperson, Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro, for her leadership during the 109th CCLM Session. We likewise thank our fellow CCLM Members for the collegial atmosphere during the session and the FAO Legal Office and the CCLM Secretariat led by our Legal Counsel Mr Tavares for their Report, research and work.

My country aligns with the Asia Group statement and forgive me for also adding two more points on the unspent balance from a legal perspective. It should be highlighted that FAO's Financial

Regulations already provide exemptions to Financial Regulation 4.2 that is found in Financial Regulation 4.3 and Financial Regulation 4.5B. As such to recall the term used by the Legal Office in document *CCLM 109/3*, “The Conference authorization to carry over is a derogation decision as it goes beyond the provided exemptions.”

The Philippines holds with the utmost value the need for financial discipline in the Programme of Work and Budget, but it also recognizes that there may be critical and vital situations, not merely important, in the future that would need flexibility. As such, the fundamental discussions on this matter may also include the review of FAO’s Legal and Regulatory frameworks that could explore providing the Organization’s flexibility for the most critical issues without having the FAO Conference to make derogation decisions.

With these comments, the Philippines endorses the CCLM Report.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. We would like to thank the Chair and the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). With regards to FAO’s voting procedures, we welcome the request of the CCLM to the Secretariat to prepare a comparative study on the rules and best practices of other Organizations. We look forward to the approval of this request by the Council. The outcome of the study which will be evaluated by the Membership should be brought to the attention of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC) to allow consultations with the Regional Groups.

As you pointed out, the Council already had discussions on the unspent balances of biennial appropriations. At this point we would like to recall the importance of Article 4.2 of the Financial Regulations.

Finally, we would like to comment on the Legal Development Branch (LEGN) and its accomplishments in areas such as climate change and agriculture, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and capacity development for parliamentarians focusing on food security and nutrition.

Stronger collaboration is needed in this area with the Rome Based Agencies (RBAs) and with other partners, including International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) will be welcome.

We look forward to receiving further information on the work of the Legal Development Branch. With these comments, we endorse the report.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Felicitemos a la Embajadora Rotondaro, quien es la Decana del cuerpo diplomático acreditado ante la FAO. Felicitemos también a la Embajadora Robelo de Nicaragua por su elección como Vice-Presidente del Comité. La Decana Rotondaro también preside el Comité de Apelaciones de la FAO y el PMA. Por cierto es el secreto mejor guardado de las Agencias con sede en Roma. Muchos de nuestros colegas me han confesado que habiendo estado entre nosotros por años no conocían la existencia del Comité de Apelaciones ni el importante e complejo trabajo que realiza a puerta cerrada.

Sobre el tema que nos reúne aquí nos parece muy interesante la recomendación sobre procedimientos de votación, de manera que podamos considerar la posibilidad de revisar las reglas y procedimientos para adoptar las mejores prácticas observadas en el sistema de Naciones Unidas, incluyendo la adopción de nuevas tecnologías.

Para este tema se podría considerar la convocatoria de consultas, de manera que podamos acordar métodos de aplicación general.

En cuanto al Informe de la Subdivisión del Derecho para el Desarrollo, valoramos el apoyo técnico que se provee a los Miembros, en especial por su enfoque en seguridad alimentaria, cambio climático y recursos naturales, entre otros temas de la mayor importancia.

Como advirtió la Presidenta del Comité, es fundamental que la labor de esta subdivisión sea mejor conocida, de modo que su potencial pueda ser aprovechado por todos los Miembros.

Y por último, sobre los saldos no utilizados, ya tuvimos un debate sobre esto el lunes. Mi delegación

se limita a remitirse a las explicaciones provistas por el Consultor jurídico sobre la perfecta legalidad de todas las decisiones que los Miembros hemos tomado en la Conferencia de la FAO de acuerdo a las reglas financieras, artículos 4.2 y siguientes.

Mr Abdul Malik Melvin CASTELINO ANTHONY (Malaysia)

First and foremost, allow me to congratulate Ambassador Daniela Rotondaro and the Members of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) for their always excellent work and the Report. Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Bangladesh on behalf of the Asia Regional Group.

We would like to add following points on the voting procedures under Rule XII, Paragraph 10, of the General Rules of the Organization.

Malaysia emphasizes the importance of promoting and enforcing compliance to FAO's rules and procedures. As such, we support the Committee's request for a thorough comparative review of the rules, procedures and best practices, both from within and outside the UN common systems, to find the best mechanisms to improve adherence to the rules and procedures. In addition to this, the review should also aim to facilitate a smooth and transparent voting process.

In conclusion, we also echo the CCLM's recommendation for consultation with Regional Groups on this review, including the possible formulation of the proposed Code of Conduct to be applied to the Candidates, Members and the Management.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Ambassador Rotondaro for any comments she may wish to make.

Ms Daniela ROTONDARO (Chairperson, Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters)

Thank you everybody for your precious comments and also for this, for your statements.

As far as it concerns the voting procedures we understand that there is a consensus on the deliberation by the Committee that the subject was of a broader nature, and, that the request to the Secretariat to have a comparative analysis on best practices of other United Nations systems found the consensus of everybody. Therefore, this analysis will assist both the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and the Independent Chairperson, who will relay with the Regional Groups and if needed, a Code of Conduct will be developed.

The second point, which is on the unspent balance. As I said, this was already discussed during the Council the other day, during the Report of the Joint Meeting of the Finance and Programme Committee. I noticed that the Council endorsed the Report of the Joint Committee and noted first of all the outcomes of the CCLM Report, the Report of the Joint Meeting on the systematic use of unspent balance, and requested the Secretariat to submit in order to have an in-depth discussion by the Council and its Committee, a paper that will take into account the need for consistency with the rules established in Financial Regulation 4.2 and other applicable Financial Rules and Regulations as well as related practices at the United Nations and other relevant entities.

Members have endorsed the CCLM Report as far as it concerns the activities of Legal Development Branch (LEGN). As the CCLM requested, we requested LEGN to make a presentation about their activities, first of all to relay with other *fora* and to present their activities to the Council and to the Regional Groups.

CHAIRPERSON

I can now summarise this Item. So, Item 7, Report of 109th Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters.

1. The Council endorsed the Report of 10^{9th} Session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, in particular, its recommendations with regard to voting procedures under Rule XII, Paragraph 10 of the General Rules of the Organization, and looked forward in this regard to a comparative study on the rules and best practices of the United Nations and other relevant entities

and the outcome of consultation of the Independent Chairperson of the Council with the Regional Groups.

2. The Council commended the work and activities of the Development Law branch including collaborative initiatives with other partners.

The floor is open for any reactions.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

Based on the discussions we would wish to have a third paragraph on the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) stating it acknowledged or noted the decision in the Joint Meeting on the unspent balance, because an absence of the mention of the unspent balance here will be very glaring because we really did talk about it, but we noted that the decision is in the Joint Meeting, therefore, we at least have to acknowledge that.

Mr Mario ARVELO (Dominican Republic)

Could we insert some language in paragraph two, as to what we heard from others? The need for the dissemination of what the Development Law Branch does and how it should engage, or Member States should be engaged in it, and perhaps the Decentralised Offices.

I do not have something in writing, but I believe that the Secretariat can come up with appropriate text, because we all had that discussion just a moment ago.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland)

Our point is on paragraph one about the comparative study, actually. We wanted to express the issue regarding how it will be discussed, because we actually interpreted that it will also be discussed by the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM) and not only by the Independent Chairperson of the Council (ICC), so that it will be evaluated by the Membership on a more general level.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

In paragraph three, I would like to request the deletion of “systematic”, because based on my understanding, the Council has not really agreed on using it systematically. Therefore, with regards to the use of the unspent balance and also, a related phrase relating to the importance of the role of the CCLM in discussions, because the Asia Regional Group did mention that the CCLM does have a role in the discussions on the unspent balance.

CHAIRPERSON

Is the text with these amendments acceptable?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I would like to refer to Paragraph one and request that if the decision to allow the Independent Chairperson to carry out consultations with the Regional Groups is already taken, please can we refer to when that decision was taken by the Council?

I think it might be useful because the outcome of the consultation of the Independent Chairperson, if that was agreed upon, then we can refer to the Report, or the Paragraph from the Report where that decision was taken.

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

I take the floor because the language here in paragraph one is really very hard for me to understand. I need also your clarification and guidance here.

The Council could consider this issue of voting procedures, but the CCLM is a Technical Committee and it could recommend, but it cannot consider. The consideration here or the resolution should be only by the Council. I am not happy with the CCLM also considering, with the Council here.

Can we delete “CCLM” from “looked forward to consider”, and we can keep this “consultation noting that this will be discussed by CCLM”. I am not happy to connect “CCLM” to “consider”. It could be “discussed”, it could be “under recommendation”, something like that.

I would like to delete “review of CCLM” and also to delete there, because this is a kind of redundancy here, noting that this would be considered by CCLM again and the Council. We already put it at the beginning of the paragraph.

CHAIRPERSON

Could you comment on the revision on paragraph two, because now consideration is only by the Council based on a prior review by the CCLM. So, the word “consideration” has been separated from “CCLM.”

Mr Haitham ABDELHADY ELSAYED ELSHAHAT (Egypt)

Yes, I would accept that but I want to delete after “noting this would be considered by CCLM and the Council”, this is a kind of redundancy. Already, “looked forward to the consideration by the Council based on prior review by CCLM” in this regard to... etc.

I would like to note that this is a kind of a redundancy here.

CHAIRPERSON

In fact this point was raised by both Finland and the Philippines.

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

I perfectly understand what Egypt is saying and I think he has a case there. I would propose or suggest that we put a period after “Council”, because it is the Council that would take the decision on the way forward. That is the way I look at it. So, once the Council has reviewed it, it would say this should go to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM), the Finance Committee, the Programme Committee, because we never know what the review will bring up.

So, that is probably what I will propose; “looked forward to consideration of the review”, as agreed, and we will see what that may give later if the Council will take the decision on what will be the way forward.

CHAIRPERSON

Cameroon, you were referring to paragraph (a)?

Mr MOUNGUI MÉDI (Cameroon)

Yes, looked forward for, I do not know, for this consideration at a given time, what and when? I do not know. So, I would put a period there. “Looked forward to considering a comparative study on the rules of best practice” and so on, and then we put a period. I think Egypt has a point there. We delete, “based on prior review by the CCLM”, because we foresee that we do not know what the study will bring up, so there may be some proposals bearing programmatic issues of financial matters and so on.

So, it is now the Council to see into that, okay, this part of the review will concern the Programme Committee, this part will concern the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). Because we have witnessed some of these cases in the past where an issue is examined by the CCLM and the CCLM requests to refer the matter to the other Committees, the priorities on decision. So, that is my suggestion if that can go.

Mr Theodore Andrei BAUZON (Philippines)

Just a comment on the Development Law Branch paragraph. I would like to add “collaborative initiatives with other international organizations and partners”. This is because we did mention IDLO and UNIDROIT, and if it is just partners, it might not convey that message if we do not have “international organizations” there.

Ms Emily KATKAR (United States)

I just wanted to return to Item 1 again in this discussion about consideration of Council. I think the challenge here is that we have consideration of the Council on both (a) and (b).

My suggestion would be to take those out of (b) and put a new sub-paragraph (c) and just note, “look forward to discussion of these issues by the Council through the CCLM”, which is the language that

we have used in the past on Finance Committee, or Joint Meeting, or Programme Committee.

As a Member of CCLM I think there is agreement within CCLM that some of these issues are likely to involve discussion of rules and some of the legal and Governing Body texts of the Organization.

It is clear too to CCLM that some of these discussions were quite political in nature which is why there was a need for them to go through the Independent Chairperson of the Council. However, taking note of the number of interventions earlier today that there is still a need for further discussion in the CCLM is something I think as a Member of CCLM we would concur with. In addition, perhaps that phrasing allows us to have only one mention of the need for further discussion of these issues by the Council and CCLM while keeping those components both there.

Sra. Tamara VILLANUEVA (Chile)

Me parece que, justamente, mi intervención tenía que ver con el proceso, cuál es la claridad sobre cómo eran los pasos del proceso. Primero íbamos a tener estudio comparativo, después van a estar las consultas con el Presidente Independiente del Consejo y los grupos regionales y, luego, el resultado de esas consultas sería lo que se llevaría al Comité de Asuntos Constitucionales y Jurídicos junto con el estudio comparativo, supongo. Eso quería, esa claridad.

CHAIRPERSON

Who will clarify that? Antonio.

Mr Antonio TAVARES (Legal Counsel)

Well this would be more a matter for the Members, but we were thinking of two parallel processes. We were thinking of preparing the study that would be reviewed by the Committee for Constitutional and Legal Matters (CCLM). This study would be made available to the Independent Chairperson for consultations with the regional groups and then we will see where we are.

It would not be the first time where we would be confronted with these types of situations and it may be difficult to establish a clear calendar now.

I think this text is fine in my opinion, but it is a matter for the Members and also for our Chairpersons. I think this wording is flexible to allow for the process to be initiated and then we will see. After all, we are the same Members. Sometimes we forget this, but the same Members that are here are the Members of the CCLM, are Members of the Regional Groups. Therefore, I do not see a problem with this, but I do not know.

I would be prepared to live with this text, as far as we in the Secretariat are concerned, keeping that in mind that this is not really a matter for us.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Antonio. So, with these amendments, could we adopt the text? I think silence means yes, the text is adopted.

Item 8. Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14-18 October 2019)

Point 8. Rapport de la quarante-sixième session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (14-18 octobre 2019)

Tema 8. Informe del 46.º período de sesiones del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial (14-18 de octubre de 2019)

(C 2021/19)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 8 Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (14-18 October 2019).

The document before the Council is C 2021/19.

I invite Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security to present the Report.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I am very delighted to present you the Report of the 46th Session of the Committee on World Food Security as one of my first official addresses since being elected on 18th October as the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) for the next two years.

The CFS 46 took place from 14 -18 October 2019 in Rome with the presence of the three Principals of the Rome-based Agencies (RBAs); the Director-General of FAO, the President of IFAD and also the Executive Director of WFP at the opening session.

Let me highlight some of the key outcomes of the CFS 46 to all of you. The Session celebrated the 45 year anniversary of the Committee on World Food Security and also the tenth anniversary since the CFS Reform in 2009. The session was attended by delegates from 126 countries and by representatives from UN Agencies, civil society and also the private sector, international finance and research organizations, philanthropic foundations and observers, reaching a record of 1669 participants with significant high level attendance. Also, we had 54 side-events, two launch events, and also substantive outreach events were organized during those times. We also recorded participation of 172 civil society organizations and 115 Private sector associations; the majority of them through two established mechanisms, the Civil Society Mechanism (CSM) and the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM).

Clearly, the convening power of the CFS remains evident, which continues being the foremost, inclusive, intergovernmental platform for global coordination and policy convergence on food security and nutrition.

The theme of the Session was "*Accelerating Progress on SDG 2 to achieve all the SDGs*", highlighting the interconnectedness of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, the centrality of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and interlinkages among all the SDGs.

The Committee reiterated its deep concern over the immense challenge posed by achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, with 820 million people, about one in every nine people in the world, still suffering from hunger today, as all of you have heard.

In line with the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, the Committee reaffirmed its commitment at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind by taking more tangible steps to support people in vulnerable situations and the most vulnerable countries, and to reach the furthest behind first.

At its 46th Session, the Committee endorsed the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) for 2020-2023. This was the first time that the Committee adopted a four-year Programme of Work, a major achievement, as it was the result of a year-round process of inclusive consultations to select proposals regarded as the most relevant to achieving the mandate of CFS.

The four-year MYPoW includes policy convergence processes on: food systems and nutrition; Agroecological and other innovative approaches; gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of food security and nutrition; promoting youth engagement and employment in agriculture and food systems; data collection and analysis tools; and reducing inequalities for food security and nutrition. It reflects a longer-term vision of the Committee and signals renewed ambition for this Committee.

The strategic MYPoW provides a comprehensive framework for accelerating progress towards meeting SDG 2 targets by 2030. However, its successful completion will be determined by our collective ownership, our shared commitment to its implementation, and the financial support that we provide or help generate to achieve them.

In this regard, I invite the Members of the Council to engage in CFS activities and be our champions of the newly adopted CFS *Programme of Work* within their Regional Groups, within the Governing Bodies of FAO, IFAD and WFP, together with fellow Members of the CFS Bureau.

The Bureau – also elected at the CFS 46 for two years to include the following 12 countries: Afghanistan, Brazil, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, France, Indonesia, India, Mali, Mauritania, New Zealand, Russian Federation, and the United States of America. And they alternates

are: Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Iran, Oman, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland,

CFS 46 featured panel discussions on nutrition and food systems, which Members believe will be a key area of work for the Committee on World Security. The view the *Voluntary Guidelines*, to be adopted at CFS 47, as a key building block for the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo next year, and any Food Systems Summits in 2021.

The Committee started a new policy convergence process on Agroecological and other innovative approaches, informed by the CFS High Level Panel of Experts Report. This will also be an important work stream, expected to result in Policy Recommendations at CFS 47 next year.

The Committee celebrated the kick-start of the UN Decade of Family Farming by assessing the impact on small family farmers of some of its most recent policy recommendations for food security and improved nutrition, and celebrated the International Day of Rural Women with a keynote address by an African woman farmer.

Lastly, the Plenary agreed to amend paragraph 1, Rule IV of the CFS Rules of Procedure (RoP), to allow the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to participate as *ex-officio* members of the CFS Advisory Group. This move highlights the key role of the RBAs, and opens the door for a review of how to strengthen the Advisory Group, including the possibility of welcoming new members.

Supported by the Secretariat, we will be working to strengthen the CFS communication function; increase awareness about CFS products; and build partnerships to further implement our work, for the purpose of achieving SDG 2.

Yesterday, the Director of Land and Water Division (CB) reported to us the Decision 26 of COP 14 on land tenure. It requests and invites the relevant partners to collaborate and invest more with FAO and the CFS to produce technical guidance on how to target the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of tenure of land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into implementation of the Convention on Land Decantation Neutrality (LDN).

I wish to take the opportunity to encourage the Members and FAO to emphasize and invest more on monitoring the impact of global policies and recommendations made by the CFS and to create a greater impact at the national level. I do hope that FAO, IFAD and WFP will also inform and disseminate the CFS products to the technical staff at the country level for further consideration for the implementation at ground level as well.

Last but not least I would like to express my greatest gratitude to my predecessor, the CFS Chair, Ambassador Mario Avelo from Dominican Republic, the CFS Secretariat and all Members of the UN Agencies and other stakeholders for your contribution and support to the CFS.

Let me conclude by thanking you for the opportunity to present the progress made by the CFS and I look forward to your comments and questions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, Mister Tiensin. I now open the floor to Members for their comments or interventions.

Mr Shri Bommakanti RAJENDER (India)

India has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Asia Regional Group. The Asia Regional Group appreciates the presentations by the Chairperson at the CFS and the Report document prepared by the CFS Secretariat. We would like to express warm congratulations to the newly elected CFS Chair from Asia, Mr. Thanawat Tiensin and wish him all the success going forward in his important role. We also expressed sincere gratitude to the previous Chair, Ambassador Mario Arvelo of from the Dominican Republic, for his great leadership.

With regard to the Report, the Asia Group would to highlight the following points. Firstly, we are deeply concerned with some of the revelations in the Report. The number of people who suffer from hunger in the world continues to increase, and has now reached 820 million in 2018. What is also

disconcerting is that out of the largest number of undernourished people, 60 percent or more than 500 million out of the 820 million live in Asia. It is clear that no region is exempt from the overwhelming crises. We wish to call on FAO and concerned institutions to boost their assistance to countries in pursuing policies and programs to sustain economic growth and health, improve resilience in the face of conflict, as well as economic and climate-related shocks.

In particular, we need to provide adequate and targeted support to people in vulnerable situations, such as small-scale and family farmers, fisher work and pastoralists, including the provisions of technical and financial assistance, access to and transfer of technology, capacity building, and also intensification of research and innovation in food and agriculture, which are accessible, affordable and effective. We would like to stress that a multi-stake holder approach involving state and non-state actors, including the private sector in civil societies, is essential in addressing the underlying causes of hunger, poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition. Furthermore, the Asia Group is also concerned with the Report from the High-Level Political Forum held in July 2019, which found that progress towards the goals of Agenda 2030 is too slow and the world is facing setbacks, even regressing in some areas; in particular, hunger and malnutrition, which are the top priorities of FAO and the CFS.

We wish to underline that the CFS has an essential role in advancing the achievement of not only SDG 2 but also other SDGs by promoting a comprehensive and transformative approach. In this regard, the Food Systems Summit in 2021 would serve as an excellent platform to raise the importance of the RBAs and also see CFS work and initiatives in achieving Agenda 2030. In particular, ending hunger and reducing poverty. We would like to emphasize the value of inclusive preparation of the Summit taking into account the role of CFS as, foremost, an inclusive intragovernmental and international political platform in addressing global challenges of food security and nutrition.

The Asia Group wishes to highlight the catalyzing role of the UN Decade on Family Farming in advocating the respect to objectives of improving food security and nutrition and promoting smallholders and family farmers' role in achieving the SDGs. In particular, to improve their livelihoods and to stimulate wider use of sustainable practices, such as Agroecology and other innovative approaches. The Asia Group would like to welcome the adoption of work streams and activities of the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2020-2023, which we believe provides a comprehensive framework for accelerated progress towards meeting the SDG 2 targets by 2030. We also reaffirm our commitment to keep engaging in this critically important CFS process. With this, the Asia Group endorses the Report of CFS 46.

Ms Aulikki HULMI (Finland) (European Union)

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

We welcome the comprehensive discussions at the 46th Committee on World Food Security (CFS) plenary session last October, and we take this opportunity to reiterate our support and commitment to the CFS as a unique multi-stakeholder platform to discuss food security and nutrition issues.

We are satisfied with the endorsement of the new *Multi-Year Programme of Work* (MYPOW) based on four essential pillars. We welcome this quite ambitious work plan that is justified by the urgency of the food security situation worldwide. It will be important to find the right balance in terms of workload, human resources and financial resources.

We would like to underline the importance of ensuring that the CFS remains an inclusive platform. This implies that, in CFS Plenary sessions, the right balance is struck between panel discussions and the possibility for CFS Members to express their views and provide strategic guidance. It is also important to ensure that the procedures and working methods are fully clarified prior to the start of the Plenary Session. Finally, when it comes to reporting on the CFS plenary discussions, we recommend that the CFS takes inspiration from the FAO Council's working methods and aims to agree - in a transparent and inclusive way - on concise chair's summaries, whilst avoiding lengthy drafting sessions in the Plenary.

With regard to the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meetings and the negotiation sessions on the work streams, we reiterate the importance of interpretation in all languages, in order to ensure the effective participation of all.

Lastly, we welcome the election of Mr Thanawat Tiensin, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand, as the new Chair of the CFS, and of the new Bureau Members and their alternates. We look forward to actively engaging with them and all CFS Members in the coming year.

With these comments, we endorse the CFS 46 Report.

Sr. Luis Fernando CECILIANO PIEDRA (Costa Rica)

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por la formulación del documento de antecedentes y al señor Tiensin por la detallada presentación del Informe del 46.º período de sesiones del CSA. Sobre este, la delegación de Costa Rica desearía subrayar dos asuntos, más allá de los desafortunados hallazgos del El estado de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición en el mundo (SOFI) 2019 y sobre los cuales ya nos hemos referido en otros espacios.

El primero tiene que ver con la aprobación de un nuevo plan de trabajo plurianual que, por primera vez incluye un horizonte de cuatro años que permitirá mejorar la eficiencia en las labores del Comité y en la utilidad de los productos que se generen. Somos conscientes que la implementación y diseminación de estos corresponde primordialmente a los Miembros del Comité pero también se requiere del acompañamiento de las redes de oficinas de las tres agencias de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma para que exista un verdadero impacto en el terreno.

Nos satisface ser parte del grupo de patrocinadores de la línea de trabajo sobre la promoción de la participación y el empleo de los jóvenes en los sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios que arrancará en 2021. El exitoso evento especial que se llevó a cabo el último día de la plenaria fue el resultado del esfuerzo conjunto entre jóvenes del sector privado y de la sociedad civil con la colaboración de la Secretaría del Comité. Además de ser uno de los puntos más altos de las sesiones, innegablemente constituye el mejor augurio de lo que nos deparará esta nueva esfera de labores. Estamos muy orgullosos de haber contribuido sustancialmente a la elaboración de la propuesta de igualdad de género y empoderamiento de la mujer en el contexto de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición.

Las mujeres en todos los continentes, sin excepción, sufren de una mayor prevalencia de inseguridad alimentaria con respecto de los hombres. De manera que, abrigamos la esperanza que el proceso de las directrices voluntarias a partir de la segunda mitad del próximo año pueda contribuir a cerrar esa brecha y, en general, a mejorar la situación de vulnerabilidad en que se encuentran.

La segunda cuestión se refiere al informe final de Comité. Costa Rica entiende, como bien se apuntó en su oportunidad, que muchos participantes hicieron uso de la palabra durante las sesiones por lo que fue muy difícil llegar a un acuerdo sobre cómo se continuaría con la cuestión de los resúmenes del Presidente. En tal sentido, el uso del verbatim constituye una salida adecuada que permitió seguir adelante con la agenda y con las deliberaciones. Sin embargo, para futuros períodos de sesiones desearíamos que, paralelo al uso de las transcripciones literales, se pueda retomar la práctica de contar con conclusiones y resúmenes. Esto, evidentemente, dependerá también de la voluntad y el consenso de los participantes.

Con esos comentarios aprobamos el documento C2021/19.

Mme Delphine BABIN PELLIARD (France)

La délégation française s'aligne sur la déclaration de l'Union européenne et de ses États membres.

Tout d'abord je voudrais féliciter à nouveau M. Tiensin, Représentant permanent de la Thaïlande pour sa nomination comme Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), et remercier également chaleureusement Mario Arvelo, Ambassadeur de la République dominicaine pour son implication durant ces deux dernières années. Nous réitérons aussi notre engagement et notre soutien au Comité, principale plateforme internationale ouverte à tous et qui permet à l'ensemble des parties prenantes de travailler ensemble pour assurer à chacun la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Concernant la dernière session plénière du CSA, la France est satisfaite des avancées obtenues, s'agissant des décisions prises et, tout particulièrement, de l'adoption de l'ambitieux programme de travail 2020-2023 sur quatre ans afin que le CSA dispose d'une vision stratégique sur des thématiques très prioritaires; satisfaite également de l'avancée des travaux en cours pour proposer des lignes directrices sur les systèmes alimentaires et la nutrition à adopter au cours du CSA d'octobre 2020; et

enfin de l'adoption d'un processus d'élaboration de recommandations politiques sur «l'agro-écologie et autres approches innovantes», confirmé pour 2019-2020, et basé sur le rapport du Groupe d'experts de haut niveau sur la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition (HLPE) sur les «Approches agro-écologiques et autres innovations», et la France participera tant financièrement que politiquement à ce processus.

Ces deux processus devront être menés conjointement et être le plus inclusifs possible. Comme l'a dit l'Union européenne, pour cela l'interprétation de toutes les discussions dans les groupes de travail qui mèneront aux documents finaux, est cruciale. Nous rappelons ici notre attachement une fois de plus au multilinguisme sans lequel il est illusoire d'assurer un multilatéralisme efficace.

En outre, ces deux documents seront essentiels pour nourrir le Sommet sur les systèmes alimentaires de 2021, qui devrait être lancé par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies dans les prochains jours. À ce titre, il nous semble essentiel que le CSA participe à la préparation de ce Sommet dès le départ et en soit un acteur majeur aux côtés des trois organismes romains. Nous souhaitons que la prochaine session du CSA en 2020 soit une étape majeure dans la préparation de ce Sommet.

La délégation française estime en revanche que des améliorations sont nécessaires dans les méthodes de travail du CSA, notamment pour l'élaboration du rapport des délibérations, et afin que ce Comité joue pleinement son rôle dans la gouvernance de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La France contribuera activement aux travaux que le bureau du CSA doit engager sur l'organisation de la prochaine session plénière et sur la révision des procédures de travail pour que celles-ci soient précisées dès que possible, en amont de la session, et que des décisions soient effectivement prises en octobre 2020 sur les deux axes de travail en cours.

Sr. Mario ARVELO (República Dominicana)

Mi delegación felicita al presidente del CSA, el Señor Thanawat Tiensin de Tailandia. Así como al Vicepresidente Don Syme, de Nueva Zelanda y a todos nuestros colegas en la mesa del Comité. Es oportuno resaltar la labor que despliega el Secretariado del Comité, encabezado por el Señor Chris Hegadorn, aportando memoria institucional y gestión administrativa. Mi delegación extiende felicitaciones a todos los miembros del Secretariado a través del Presidente Tiensin y el Secretario Hegadorn.

Como ha dicho el Presidente del CSA, la aprobación del Programa plurianual de trabajo fue el punto culminante de un largo y complejo proceso de negociación. Los temas que ocuparan la atención del Comité en los próximos cuatro años son fundamentales para el logro del Objetivo de Desarrollo Sostenible 2, Hambre Cero. El extraordinario valor del trabajo que realiza este Comité, que es de la FAO, donde se hospeda, y también del FIDA y del PMA, es el resultado de su carácter inclusivo.

El CSA es el único órgano del Sistema de Naciones Unidas donde los Estados Miembros conversan y negocian en condiciones de igualdad con representantes de la sociedad civil, el sector privado, otras agencias del sistema internacional, centros de investigación, mundo académico, entidades filantrópicas, instituciones financieras y otras partes interesadas. Este carácter inclusivo, que es el primer principio rector de la reforma CSA, brinda sabiduría de conjunto a los debates y legitimidad democrática a los resultados.

Dichos resultados toman la forma de directrices voluntarias y recomendaciones de políticas. En este orden mi delegación desea solicitar que el Presidente del CSA amplíe la intervención que realizó desde el asiento de Tailandia, bajo el Tema 11, el pasado lunes, para ilustrar al Consejo sobre la importancia de que la FAO, junto al FIDA y el PMA pueda utilizar todos los mecanismos institucionales que estén a su alcance, incluyendo las áreas técnicas y la red descentralizada para diseminar los productos del Comité y estimular su incorporación a los diálogos de políticas y a los programas nacionales, regionales y globales contra el hambre y la malnutrición.

(Continues in English)

On the discussion we have had so far, I would like to add two quick points. One is that, I cannot fathom why everyone does not know this, but the Bureau Members present Regional Groups and are supposed to inform everyone and also Bureau Meetings are open to all Member States that can attend as silent Observers. The Bureau had agreed on the procedures for the CFS 46th Plenary Session for a full year of meetings, and this was in the Agenda of every single Bureau and the Joined Meeting with

the Advisory Group as well, during 12 months. The preceding CFS 46 on the working methods of the Committee, specifically for the Annual Session.

Specifically, we also agreed on the Chair Summaries. Then at this session, we had a problem with how to conduct the Chair Summaries and so on, and we had that hour-long discussion that forced an evening session and at an extraordinary cost and the solution of adding or referring to the Verbatim of the sessions. It was, like Costa Rica said, a last-minute solution that resolved that matter and not everybody is happy about it, but we are engaging in from the Bureau perspective and I would like if maybe the Chair tell us something about this and/or the Secretary. Therefore we will now conduct again renewed discussions on how to proceed for CFS 47, so that we have no surprises and that everybody is, in the end, happy with those results. Secondly, on having language support in all of the official languages of the United Nations (UN). We will listen from the Chair and the Secretary-General in response to questions posed.

I know for a fact, that Bureau Meetings and Joined Meetings with the Advisory Group are only in English and I know that the matter is that of financial resources. Maybe the Chair and/or the Secretary-General can give us more information on that. We would like to have all six languages for all those meetings but, again, my delegation knows that it is a question of money and so many other things are.

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

We positively evaluated the results of the discussions of the past session of the Committee on Food Security (CFS) on issues of sustainable development in agriculture and how economic recessions, climate shocks in conflicts may affect food security and nutrition. We support the Committee's launch of the negotiation process on agreeing recommendations on agroecology and other innovative approaches in agriculture. We feel it is very important to ensure the involvement of as many stakeholders as possible in this work, including Member States who are playing a leadership role in making final decisions and who also bear the main responsibility for implementing these recommendations.

We would like to welcome the results of the activities of the CFS Working Group on nutrition which is already formulated in Zero Draft of the Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. We are confident that thematic areas that have already been fixed and then a Zero Draft should not have to undergo any significant review. This, in particular, has to do with such thematic areas such as food safety. One of the main decisions of the 46th Session of CFS was confirming the *Program of Work* for the Committee for 2020-2023.

We have some questions on some of the elements of this document, which we asked during the Committee Session and which are put into a separate document for the Committee, in a separate *Annex* of the Committee's document. We do not support the excessive displacement of accents and particular financial ones to non-core themes for the Committee; and, especially, gender. We are concerned by the fact that, when we prepared the *Program of Work*, the Committee has moved away from the principle of necessarily achieving consensus. This practice undermines the credibility of CFS and is fraught with negative consequences in its reception at the international level which could then lead to Member States not fully using its recommendations.

A new CFS Bureau has been formed. In the near future, we will be choosing new Members to the Advisory Group. In this issue, we advocate rigorously following the rules and procedures of CFS. We are also confident that the new CFS Chair, the Permanent Representative of Thailand, Mr Tiensin, will maintain his energy in working together with the Committee's Bureau on the substance of scope of the Agenda and the procedural issues in preparing the next session of CFS in October 2020. We call on him to take into account the experiences of our last session. We are confident that Members of the Committee will follow with care the distribution of Agenda items. They should think through each of those where the Committee will have to develop decisions and recommendations for inclusion in the final report and, as well as, those that are informational in nature, or those that lead to discussions among a limited circle of invited experts.

Mr Michael Mzamo MLENGANA (South Africa)

In our statement, delivered on behalf of the Africa Regional Group during CFS 46, we emphasised that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, calls for a global shift in our approach to development and provides a framework for all countries, both developed and developing, to implement their commitment to leaving no one behind, including eradicating hunger and malnutrition.

As we are all aware, and as emphasised in the 2019 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report, despite the best intentions, for the third year in a row, the world is seeing an increase in hunger. We are also all aware that, should this trend continue, there is a real threat that we will not achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, as envisaged. We therefore need to drastically upscale all our efforts to try and achieve this goal.

Global food insecurity is actually a more alarming problem than we all thought. Two billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity because they do not have regular access to nutritious and sufficient food throughout the year.

The 2030 Agenda explicitly recognizes the important role and inclusive nature of CFS to advance food security and nutrition. The work streams for the CFS the Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for 2020 – 2023, which were endorsed at CFS 46, are all relevant to Africa and, if supported by all of us on the Continent, could contribute to reducing many of the chronic challenges we face at present.

In Africa, we need to further invest in the resilience of smallholder farmers and family farmers. If we prioritise target three of SDG2, namely “By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment” we will be able to double the agriculture productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers. Smallholder farms already produce over 50 percent of the total of food calories on 30 percent of the agricultural land on the planet and we can only, therefore, imagine the impact on food security if we are able to double this productivity and this level of production.

African nations share the greatest burden of child malnutrition and hunger especially. As we were reminded during CFS 46, 30 percent of all undernourished people in the world live in Africa. The situation is most alarming in Africa as hunger is on the rise in almost all sub-regions, making Africa the region with the highest prevalence of undernourishment in the world at almost 20 percent. Together Africa and Asia bear the greatest share of all forms of child malnutrition by accounting for more than nine out of ten of all stunted children and nine out of ten of all the world’s children are nearly three-quarters of all overweight children worldwide. Therefore, all the multiple forms of malnutrition are present in this continent.

Africa is a continent where, in many countries, women play a crucial role as far as agricultural production is concerned. We must, therefore, do more to empower the women on the Continent to enable them to better meet the challenges they face on a daily basis. We must also do what we can to make agriculture attractive to the youth, which, if we are successful, could contribute to reducing the large percentage of unemployed youth in many of our countries.

Economic resilience must be strengthened to safeguard food security and nutrition against economic adversity. We must also strengthen our respective social and public works programmes to protect and capacitate the most vulnerable in our countries. It is also important that we build capacity to empower those persons to be able to withstand shocks.

Mr Keigo NAKAMURA (Japan)

Japan aligns itself with the Asia Group statements and would like to add the following point.

Next year, Japan will host Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2020, which provides a good opportunity for Member Nations to express their commitments on food security and nutrition issues. In this regard, Japan encourages FAO and other International Organizations and Member Countries to consider high-level’s participations in this event.

M. Bienvenu NTSOUANVA (Congo)

Nous tenons à saluer le Président du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), ainsi que les membres du groupe qui ont travaillé. Ma délégation s'aligne sur la déclaration faite par l'Afrique du Sud au nom du Groupe Afrique. Les statistiques de la sécurité alimentaire au niveau mondial sont certes inquiétantes, mais elles sont révélatrices de l'ampleur des efforts que nous devons accomplir pour réaliser le Programme de développement 2030m, notamment l'objectif de développement durable (ODD) deux. C'est pourquoi nous souhaitons que le CSA fédère les initiatives qui voient le jour dans les pays en développement, notamment en Amérique latine et récemment en Afrique, initiatives qui sont relatives aux alliances parlementaires pour la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

Le Congo vient d'abriter au mois de novembre, une réunion des pays de l'Afrique centrale consacrée à cette question. Les parlementaires des pays de l'Afrique centrale ont donc pris des résolutions à cet effet. Nous souhaitons impliquer ces élus des peuples sur les questions sensibles du bien-être de leurs mandants. Prendre des résolutions est une chose, mais il faut aussi mobiliser les ressources, et pour ce faire, au niveau des États, les parlementaires sont les mieux placés puisqu'ils votent les budgets. C'est pourquoi nous invitons le Président du CSA à fédérer ces initiatives pour instituer un panel plus étendu de nos défenseurs, de ceux qui s'engageront dans la lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle.

M. Zinedine YAHIAOUI (Algérie)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de féliciter le Président pour son excellente présentation du rapport de la 46e session du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA). J'interviens sur ce rapport, qui a suscité toute notre attention du fait des conclusions et des inquiétudes du Comité face aux défis relatifs à l'élimination de la faim d'ici 2030. Ainsi, l'accumulation des risques qui pèsent sur les systèmes alimentaires est importante et multiple, à savoir la démographie galopante dans certains pays, les changements de régime alimentaire conduisant à gérer le fardeau de la malnutrition, la création d'emplois, en particulier en milieu rural, dans les pays à faible revenu et qui est un enjeu majeur pour la sécurité alimentaire, la dégradation de l'environnement qui s'accélère et touche tous les pays, ainsi que la volatilité des prix des matières premières au niveau des marchés internationaux et également les catastrophes naturelles.

Face à tous ces défis, il y a lieu de rappeler que l'Algérie est pleinement engagée dans la réalisation de l'objectif de développement durable, l'ODD 2, pour l'élimination de la faim. Dans ce but, elle s'est dotée à travers un processus participatif d'une politique stratégique, qui se propose de veiller à préserver les acquis ayant permis l'éradication de la sous-alimentation, de renforcer la sécurité alimentaire, de soutenir une politique de développement de l'agriculture, des pêches, de l'aquaculture productive et durable, de préserver et gérer de manière durable le capital naturel sol, eau, flore, faune en vue d'en assurer la pérennité, une valorisation pour le bénéfice des populations. Aussi est-il important de rappeler que toute la communauté internationale est engagée par le Programme de développement durable 2030 à ne laisser aucune frange de la population, ni aucun territoire, en marge du développement économique et social, en particulier les catégories de populations les plus vulnérables et les régions défavorisées. Dans ce contexte, et afin d'atteindre ces objectifs, il est nécessaire de veiller à procéder à des évaluations des résultats et à l'implication active des parties prenantes, notamment des gouvernements, de la société civile, des entreprises publiques et privées, sans aucune distinction, en milieu rural et urbain, afin d'atteindre la «Faim zéro» et assurer la sécurité alimentaire et un système alimentaire durable. Ainsi, concernant le nouveau processus du Programme de travail pluriannuel du CSA, il y a lieu de noter que l'exécution du programme de travail nécessite la mobilisation de ressources humaines et financières suffisantes, avec une collaboration active entre les différentes organisations onusiennes et autres organisations internationales, à travers une plateforme plus élargie.

Enfin, avec ces observations, nous reconnaissons le travail important accompli par le CSA et nous nous félicitons du rapport du Comité, que nous approuvons.

Ms Qamer HAMEED (Canada)

Canada thanks Ambassador Arvelo as outgoing Chair of the CFS, whose term came at a critical juncture with the process to respond the evaluation of the Committee towards more strategic planning.

We also welcome the new Chair, Mr Tiensin. We look forward to working together. Canada believes that CFS should focus on promoting evidence-based work that can form policymaking through productive debates, taking into account workload and resources.

We welcome the new and ambitious Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) ,which covers topical and complex policy issues on food security and nutrition.

We look forward to engaging in the policy convergence process on food systems and nutrition following the various regional consultations, including in North America, having recently adopted our first food policy through an extensive consultation process where more than 45,000 people share their thoughts on our food system. We understand the importance and complexity of such discussions. Our policy is a road map for a healthier and more sustainable food system for Canada.

We also look forward to upcoming discussions based on agroecological and other innovative approaches, practices and technologies. This process should remain inclusive of all approaches, not unduly polarize the debate, and lead to practical recommendations.

We also strongly support other upcoming work streams, such as youth, gender and data. We are pleased with the increased youth engagement at CFS during the last two plenaries, making them more dynamic. Canada was happy to support the participation of youth delegates at the 46th CFS.

We believe that the voluntary guidelines on gender equality and women's empowerment will greatly contribute to enhance policy convergence in this area for improved food security and nutrition.

In addition to this dedicated workstream, it is important to mainstream gender through all activities and work of the CFS as specified in the Multi-Year Programme of Work.

Ms Jennifer HARHIGH (United States of America)

The United States of America would like to extend our thanks to Ambassador Mario Arvelo on his successful term of office at CFS and would like to welcome Mr. Thanawat Tiensin and we look forward to working with him.

The United States of America does remain concerned about the workload and we note that the 4-year Multi-Year Programme of Work successful implementation, it should be contingent on sufficient financial and human resources.

We further note that recommendations from the CFS policy convergence process should be strictly voluntary and create no new rights or obligations.

Finally, we echo some of the comments raised by our colleagues previously on working methods, must specifically the balance on the panels and permitting adequate time for Members to provide guidance.

Mr Fei HUANG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I thank the CFS Chair for his presentation. China supports the statements made by Indonesia on behalf of the Asia Group. We welcome this report.

We also noted that the CFS reaffirms the concerns for the huge challenges that we are facing to reach Zero Hunger by 2030, because today we still have 820 million people suffering from hunger.

Over the last 40 years, since the reform and opening up, China lifted 700 million people out of poverty. The poverty incidence dropped from 97 percent in 1978 to 1.7 percent in 2018. By 2020, China will be eliminating absolute poverty. Then, China will be completing 10 years ahead of time the poverty elimination objectives set in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. China will adopt an open attitude to carry out and welcome cooperation with all countries. Eliminating poverty is our common challenge. We will share our experiences with all countries to achieve this SDG 2, and to make contributions to the achievement of others SDGs. We endorse this report.

CHAIRPERSON

We finished the list of Members. Now I give the floor to New Zealand.

Mr Don SYME (New Zealand) (Observer)

Thank you Chair for the presentation of the CFS Report.

Thank you to our outgoing Chair Mario Arvelo, and congratulations to the new Chair Mr Thanawat Tiensin for taking up this important role.

I would like to focus on the *Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW)* for the next four years.

The CFS has run a comprehensive and inclusive consultation process to target the highest priority issues for the next four years, considering the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE)'s advice on critical and emerging issues, and in the context of the CFS's mandate and expertise.

From extensive Advisory group and bureau discussions, and from the evidence in the latest The State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) report, it is clear that areas of empowerment of youth, gender equality, data collection and analysis tools, and reducing inequalities in the proposed MYPOW, are fully justified. The current discussions on food systems, and agroecological and other innovative approaches, come at a very useful time – leading to the anticipated Food Systems Summit in 2021.

As reflected in CFS discussions and from comments today, Members acknowledged that the work Programme is full and ambitious in light of the time constraints of Members, and the resourcing constraints of the CFS. We will clearly need to focus on resource mobilization and an ongoing review of the delivery of the MYPOW.

Finally, we fully support the work programme on data collection and analysis tools – supporting countries to strengthen their capacity to collect, analyze and use quality data to improve decision making around food security and nutrition policies. We think these policy recommendations will be cross cutting, and will provide the supporting foundation for a number of work programmes of the FAO at the country level.

CHAIRPERSON

I now give the floor to Mr Tiensin, to respond to some of the comments made.

Mr Thanawat TIENSIN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

I would like to express my appreciation to all Members of the Council for your kind advice and guidance that you provide to CFS. We are really taking care of all the issues that have been raised by the Members.

Several of you have mentioned about CFS as a unique and inclusive platform; that we have all Member States, civil society, private sector, research institutions, finance institutions and others philanthropic foundations, work together in order to achieve policy convergence and make recommendations. However we know that we need to have these policies translated into action. When we are talking about ending hunger by 2030, we know that some people say that it is like a dream. It is like a mission impossible. If we want to make it possible, if we want to make our dream come true, we need your support at the country level to make sure that all policy guidelines, recommendations, are really turned into action.

Therefore the policies that we made together, which are approved by all of you at the Society Mechanism (CMS) Plenary, really turn into action and are implemented at the country level, with all other stakeholders that are from the government itself, to parliamentarians, and also other stakeholders at the country level

We know that once hunger is eliminated at the county level, for sure we will have achieved our Goal for Agenda 2030. I just would like to respond to some particular issues raised by the Members here.

We know that the work of CFS from 46 CFS is always in need for improvement; to make sure that we really take into account all the advice that you provided to us in order to improve reporting and improve the CFS Report. In that way all the Members can utilize the Report or the recommendations of CFS at the country level. In terms of the working method, we will ensure you that during the whole process, before the CFS' 47th in October 2020, we will keep you updated on where we are going and what we are doing. We will also inform the Bureau Members from your regions and also update you

about process to make sure that the working methods are really transparent and that we keep you informed of what we are doing. We also have to make sure that during the next Plenary CFS 47 goes smoothly.

We assure that we try our best to avoid lengthy discussions. But we need your support, as well, to make sure that the discussion is really to the point. That's why immediately after we finish the CFS' 46 we convened the First Bureau Meeting the week after, and just last week we also had the Joint Meeting between Bureau Members along with Advisory Group.

During last week, as well, we had a Joint Meeting between a high-level panel of experts together with Bureau Members and also Members of the Advisory Group.

We addressed the issues that we needed to improve the work of CFS and I think we took note of all the advice that you gave, all the guidance that you gave, and we will make it happen. We will improve CFS better and better for all the Members and the other stakeholders.

Regarding the interpretations issues, as some of the colleagues have already mentioned, there are some implications for finance and resources. However we are well aware of the issues that is also why we discussed with the Secretariat and also other Members, to ensure that we have enough resource mobilization to support this process. When we have the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for Voluntary Guidelines for food system and nutrition and also when we have negotiations on ecological and other innovative approaches.

We try our best to make sure that we really facilitate, because we understand that language is one of the issues, it is one of the barriers. Sometimes we misunderstood because of the language, because of translation, because of interpretation. This is why we will try our best to facilitate this process.

Regarding the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW), I think we already discussed several times during the CFS 46. We have a strong ambition. We have five work streams during the next four years.

During our work for the next year and next two years, we will also revisit and review the MYPOW, how much we achieved, how much we can manage. But as we discuss among the Bureau Members and also as some of you already addressed, we want to make sure we have a high ambition, but we want to make it happen. That's why we really need your support and your contribution during this process and we have improve CFS to work effectively and also efficiently.

We need a champion. Because all the work stream, we need you as Members to be our champions, and also during the whole process of our negotiation and our work during next year and the next two years, we need a champion in each region, that you will communicate with your Members to make sure that they really understand what we are discussing and also that all issues have been informed thoroughly during the whole process.

Some of you already mentioned how CFS will get involved in the preparation of the Food System Summit, which I think was mentioned during the meetings of the Bureau Members and Advisory Group. We also discussed the issue to make sure that CFS can provide its service, can provide its expertise. As you know, in the next years we will continue working on the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition and also on an agroecological and other innovative approach. With these two work streams we will also make a great contribution to the preparations of the Food System Summit in 2021. We will also be able to discuss more with our Advisory Group, WFP, IFAD and FAO, how CFS can make contributions and be involved in these preparations.

Regarding the point raised by Japan about next year's Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo, I think the outcome of the process of the Voluntary Guidelines on Food System and Nutrition will also contribute to the Nutrition for Growth Summit in Tokyo as well.

I think that more or less I really tried respond to you, and I really pay respect to all the Members and also, I would like to ensure that your guidance, your advice will be taken into account.

We will also ensure you that we will improve the work of CFS, to make it better and better, and we will make sure that CFS will have more relevance to all of you.

CHAIRPERSON

I need to make a suggestion here about our timeframe. It is well past 12:30 in the afternoon. From one to two o'clock, there is a side event on the Hand in Hand Initiative. Then from 2:30 to 4:00 there is another side event on the Fall Armyworm.

My suggestion would be that we break now, we reconvene at 4:30 and carry on our work till 6:30 and at 6:30 the Drafting Committee could meet. This will enable you to participate in the side events as well, because one of them is from 2:30 to 4:00 which is the usual time when we meet.

Would this be agreeable to you? I see people nodding. What I will do is, I will summarize now, if you would like, and then we have your reactions when we meet at 4:30. Or if you prefer, I could read out my summary then. You prefer it now or then? Okay. What we will do is we will reconvene at 4:30 and then I will read out my summary and then we will have your reactions. Okay?

We adjourn the meeting now.

The meeting rose at 12:39 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.39