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Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

<p>Thirty-ninth Session Trente-neuvième session 39.º período de sesiones</p>
<p>Rome, 6-13 June 2015 Rome, 6-13 juin 2015 Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015</p>
<p>FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I QUATRIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I CUARTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</p>
<p>9 June 2015</p>

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.36 hours
Mr Luca Fratini,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 14 h 36
sous la présidence de M. Luca Fratini,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta reunion a las 14.36
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luca Fratini,
Presidente de la Comisión I

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- Item 17. Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) (19-21 November 2014)**
- Point 17. Deuxième Conférence internationale conjointe FAO/OMS sur la nutrition (CIN2) (19-21 novembre 2014)**
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(C 2015/30)

CHAIRPERSON

I am glad to note that we are on schedule; therefore we will start this afternoon's debate with Item 17 which is the *Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition* which took place in Rome from 19 to 21 November last year. The reference document is C 2015/30, and without further hesitation, I call upon Assistant Director-General Jomo Sundaram to take the floor.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

I would like to introduce the Director of the Nutrition Division, Ms Anna Lartey, who is on my immediate right, who was also very instrumental in organizing the Conference. Allow me to proceed with our speaking points. I am pleased to introduce document C 2015/30 on the Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition, abbreviated as ICN2, convened by the two Organizations and successfully held in Rome, at FAO Headquarters in November last year.

In six sections, this report covers: the background to the conference; preparations for the conference; proceedings; outcomes; and follow-up to the conference; and guidance sought from this assembly.

The two outcome documents of ICN2 are appended to the report. The outcome documents, namely the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action were negotiated by a Joint Working Group of representatives of FAO and WHO Members who met cost-effectively through videoconferencing between Geneva and Rome from March to September 2014.

Eventually, the two documents were finalized in October 2014 at an extended face-to-face meeting of an Open-Ended Working Group of the entire membership of FAO and WHO. Inputs to the outcome documents were also contributed through web-based consultations by UN partners and other international organizations, as well as civil society and private sector representatives.

Attendance at the conference was fairly high. In addition to a number of eminent special guests, over 2200 participants, including 85 Ministers, 23 Vice-Ministers, and 82 Ambassadors, represented 164 Members of FAO and WHO. Also in attendance were representatives of 27 UN and other intergovernmental organizations, together with 164 civil society and private sector organizations.

Besides five Plenary Sessions, the conference included three thematic round tables and nine side events. It was also preceded by three special events: a meeting of Parliamentarians, a meeting of civil society organizations, and a meeting of private sector representatives. The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its complimentary Framework for Action were adopted by acclamation at the outset of the conference. The Declaration first acknowledges the multiple challenges of malnutrition to inclusive and sustainable development and to health. It then sets out a common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition; and finally, makes ten specific commitments to action for addressing malnutrition.

The Framework for Action provides a set of voluntary policy options and strategies to guide implementation of the commitments made in the Declaration. It contains 60 recommendations calling for a variety of actions in six main areas: 1) creating an enabling environment for effective action; 2) increasing actions for sustainable food systems promoting healthy diets; 3) achieving food security and nutrition targets through trade and investment policies; 4) enhancing social protection, nutrition, education, and information to build capacities; 5) creating strong and resilient health systems to address all forms of malnutrition; and 6) improving accountability mechanisms for nutrition.

In terms of follow-up, several actions have been taken in response to the Declaration and Framework for Action, both within as well as outside the Organization. Within FAO, action taken by the Secretariat included the following measures: 1) Designation of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme under Objective 6 in the Reviewed Strategic Framework of the Organization, with a dedicated outcome statement in the Programme of Work and Budget for 2016-2017 aimed to secure further mainstreaming of nutrition within the Strategic Framework with a view to improving support to the membership. 2) Identification of priority activities to be carried out by FAO over the course of 2015 and during the next biennium in support of the ICN2 outcomes. 3) Setting up an Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming ICN commitments into concrete actions by financing nutrition-enhancing programmes and projects. To this end, resource partners have been invited by the Director-General to make voluntary contributions to the fund. As with the funding kindly provided for organizing ICN2, it is hoped that generous voluntary contributions will also be made to help implement ICN2 commitments and recommendations in order to efficiently address the challenges of malnutrition worldwide. 4) Strengthening the Nutrition Division through the allocation of additional resources to enhance its capacity to perform greater tasks in terms of its expanded work on nutrition and its new planning and operation functions in support of the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund; 5) Ensuring regular reporting on ICN2 follow-up to the FAO Governing Bodies, including this Conference, as well as to Council, Regional Conferences, and technical committees.

Outside FAO, follow-up activities undertaken collaboratively with partners, especially the World Health Organization, have included the following:

One, requests made to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to arrange for the United Nations General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. To facilitate this process, FAO and WHO are working in collaboration with other stakeholders on the substantive content of a proposed Ten-Year Programme of Action on Nutrition and a Draft Resolution that welcomes the ICN2 outcomes and was proposed by Member States for consideration and adoption by the United Nations General Assembly.

Two, at the 68th Session of the World Health Assembly, delegates approved the Resolution endorsing the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action which governments had previously agreed to at ICN2. The World Health Assembly called upon governments to implement commitments to make policy changes and investments aimed at ensuring all people have access to healthier and more sustainable diets. They requested WHO to report back on progress with implementation every two years. Delegates also referred to ongoing discussions in New York on the UN General Assembly Resolution to welcome the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and a proposal to declare ten years of sustained action in multiple sectors to improve nutrition.

Three, efforts made to improve UN System coordination and collaboration on nutrition based on strengthening existing mechanisms. In this context, steps to enable the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to serve as the appropriate global multi-stakeholder forum on nutrition are to be further considered, in particular, through the CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work Process.

Four, in cooperation with other UN partners, FAO is working on the development of a coherent mechanism for monitoring progress on implementation of the ICN2 outcomes. It will also continue to collaborate with relevant partners for the preparation of the Annual Global Nutrition Report.

Five, with a view to reflecting ICN2 outcomes into the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN) has developed, with inputs from FAO, WHO and other UN Agencies funds and programmes, a policy paper highlighting potential areas for inclusion of nutrition in the proposed Sustainable Development Goals with specific nutrition indicators.

Finally, Expo Milano, dedicated to "Feeding the Planet Energy for Life", provides a valuable opportunity to promote and amplify the food security and nutrition messages of ICN2.

On the eve of the opening of the universal exhibition, the Milan Charter was unveiled. Echoing the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, it states that "everyone has the right to have access to a sufficient

quantity of safe, healthy, and nutritious food that satisfies lifelong personal nutritional requirements and enables them to lead an active life”.

As requested in the last section of document C 2015/30, the 39th Session of the Conference is kindly invited to: endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action; urge FAO Members to implement ICN2 commitments and recommendations; call on resource partners to make voluntary contributions to the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund; and provide guidance on further follow-up actions going forward. In this regard, it should be noted that similar decisions were made three weeks ago at the 68th World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Ecuador realiza esta intervención en nombre de los países miembros de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños, CELAC, en su calidad de presidente pro tempore. Agradecemos la presentación del documento C 2015/30 referente a la Segunda Conferencia sobre Nutrición organizada conjuntamente por la FAO y la OMS del 19 al 21 de noviembre de 2014.

La conferencia de la FAO en su 38 periodo de sesiones realizada en el año 2013 respaldó plenamente la convocatoria conjunta para la realización de dicho evento solicitando que esta se centre, especialmente, en los problemas de materia de nutrición a los que se enfrentan los lugares más pobres y más vulnerables desde el punto de vista nutricional, especialmente las mujeres y los niños.

Reconocemos que el proceso preparatorio para la segunda conferencia internacional sobre nutrición estuvo liderado por los estados pero a su vez fue amplio inclusivo a otras organizaciones de las Naciones Unidas, a organizaciones intergubernamentales, así como las organizaciones de la sociedad civil y del sector privado. Como países miembros de la comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños, nos congratulamos por el éxito de la Conferencia de Nutrición en cuyos documentos resultantes, la declaración de Roma sobre nutrición y su marco de acción complementario, al tiempo de reconocer que una de las causas profundas de la malnutrición es la pobreza y el subdesarrollo, estableció el compromiso político de hacer frente a los desafíos para la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición y propone una serie de medidas y recomendaciones para alcanzar ese objetivo.

La región de América Latina y el Caribe tiene un firme compromiso político con la erradicación del hambre, la pobreza y las desigualdades. Nuestra región ha sido la primera en el mundo de alcanzar las dos metas internacionales de reducción del hambre y ahora tiene como objetivo la erradicación total a través de varias iniciativas regionales y subregionales. Además las jefas y jefes de estado y de gobierno de la CELAC, aprobaron en su tercera cumbre el plan de seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y erradicación del hambre 2025 cuya preparación fue encomendada a la FAO. De esta manera, el compromiso y la voluntad políticos de América Latina y el Caribe se direccionan a través de mecanismos efectivos para lograr ese objetivo en 2025.

Sobre la base de enfoque de derechos humanos, y particularmente, al disfrute del derecho a la alimentación adecuada. En ese sentido, América Latina y el Caribe renuevan los compromisos establecidos en la declaración de Roma sobre nutrición e instamos a que los estados miembros de la FAO apliquemos las medidas y las recomendaciones de la CIN2. Entre ellas, queremos resaltar el que la asamblea de las Naciones Unidas considere la aprobación de una década de acción sobre nutrición, mecanismo que consideramos clave para canalizar los compromisos establecidos en la CIN2. Ya que esto contribuirá a que el sistema de Naciones Unidas y los gobiernos generen programas y acciones internacionales, regionales y nacionales, coordinados y coherentes en su lucha contra la malnutrición.

Respaldamos las medidas tomadas por la FAO para apoyar a los países en la implementación de la declaración de Roma sobre nutrición y el marco de acción. Entre esas medidas, destacamos la de terminación de la nutrición como tema transversal en el objetivo 6 del marco estratégico revisado, el establecimiento de un fondo fiduciario, el envío de oficiales de nutrición a las oficinas descentralizadas, y la definición de actividades para el bienio 2016-2017 relacionadas con los 5 apartados del marco de acción que guardan relación directa con el mandato de la FAO. Nos parece apropiado el mecanismo de seguimiento de las decisiones de la CIN2 dentro de los órganos rectores de la FAO y además consideramos muy importante el aporte que darán las conferencias regionales de la

FAO para seguir avanzando en las medidas recomendadas por la segunda conferencia internacional sobre nutrición.

Con estos elementos, los países miembro de la comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños respaldamos que la conferencia de la FAO apruebe la declaración de Roma sobre la nutrición y el marco de acción complementario.

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

We would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the detailed document on this Agenda item and for the very comprehensive presentation. We highly value the outcomes of the Conference that took place last November and we support the outcome documents and their content, namely the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the voluntary Framework for Action. We are satisfied with the great attention that has been given in the relevant documents to the inter-linkages between nutrition and social protection, education, and ensuring food safety. These issues, including the outcomes of ICN2, will be discussed at the global level during the Global Forum on Social Protection, Food Security and Nutrition due to take place jointly between Russia and the World Bank in September in Moscow.

We support the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution supporting the ICN2 outcomes. We are in favour of strengthening FAO's coordinating role in ensuring follow-up work on the conference's outcomes. We are also in favour of concerted work with the UN System on improving nutrition, working together with WHO and other specialized agencies. We are prepared to continue considering possibilities of declaring a UN Decade of Action on Nutrition between 2016 and 2025.

This could serve as a common platform on this issue for all stakeholders. We positively value the fact of including nutrition as a cross-cutting theme in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017. We also think that there will be better relevant outcomes and indicators. We support the efforts of FAO's Headquarters and decentralized offices and the experts in the field of nutrition. We also note the adoption by the 15th Session of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food Production and Agriculture, of the Voluntary Guidelines for including biodiversity in nutrition policies.

I would like to add that Russia continues to actively participate in the intersession work of the Committee on World Food Security in order to ensure a more comprehensive consideration of nutrition in the CFS' activities on the basis of its mandate and comparative advantages.

Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)

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

The EU and its Members reaffirm their full commitment to the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and to its Framework for Action adopted at the Second International Conference on Nutrition held in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014. We stress the need for the speedy and effective implementation of the Framework for Action by all stakeholders in a coordinated manner to make all vision and commitments of the Rome Declaration come true. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, together with the World Health Organization, are at the forefront in leading and coordinating international efforts towards the implementation of ICN2 commitments.

We would like to express our appreciation for the inclusion of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 and we are pleased that additional resources have been allocated to nutrition. We underline the need to reinforce FAO's capacity to work on nutrition, both in the field and at its Headquarters where the Organization's strengths and coherence lies. The EU and its Members welcome the political signal that the Draft UNGA Resolution, tabled by Bolivia, gives about the importance of nutrition and about the need for better coordination of full actors.

As the Rome Declaration states, implementation will mainly be the domain of national governments supported by relevant UN agencies, including FAO, IFAD and WFP, as well as the WHO, UNICEF, and others. We would be pleased to receive regular updates on any joint activities that FAO intends to undertake with other UN agencies, especially the World Health Organization. Without prejudging the deliberations of the forthcoming 42nd Plenary in October, we believe that CFS, whose mandate includes "Nutrition in the Context of Food Security", should have a more permanent focus on nutrition

issues in the future in order to enhance the multi-stakeholder dimension in the fight against malnutrition at all levels - global, regional, national and local.

We would also welcome closer collaboration between the CFS and the WHO, the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition, and the High Level Task Force on Food Security, as well as with the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement in fostering the implementation of ICN2 outcomes.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

We congratulate all involved in the development and adoption of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. The Framework for Action was developed through careful, inclusive consultation and provides voluntary policy options which governments can implement according to each country's individual circumstances.

Australia continues to encourage FAO and WHO's ongoing work to be undertaken wherever possible through existing structures unless there is a clearly demonstrated requirement that cannot be made through strengthening existent mechanisms. We are pleased to see nutrition strongly reflected in the post-2015 development negotiations to date.

In the interests of efficiency and coherence, the follow-up to ICN2 should be consistent with the finalized version of this agenda. Australia supports the draft resolution to endorse the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action.

The Decade of Action should be implemented within existing structures and available resources. We encourage relevant UN Agencies to consult widely and work collaboratively in considering the proposed Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Mr Winny Dian WIBAWA (Indonesia)

Indonesia would like to appreciate during FAO, WHO and IFAD in conducting ICN2 and all those involved in it. Indonesia strongly supports the initiative undertaken by the FAO in collaboration with WHO to organize the Second International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014.

The ICN2 has important meaning for efforts to rebuild shared commitment at global, regional and national levels to handle challenges in food and nutrition issues in the future. This conference noted that this report, in collaboration with parliament, civil society, and private sectors in the presentation of the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Decade of Action.

Indonesia endorsed the ICN2 Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and recommends FAO to provide guidance for further ICN2 follow-up actions

Mr Amr HELMY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to congratulate you. I am delighted to see you chairing the work of this session. I am convinced that with you at the helm, we will do good work. I would like to restate the fact that I am speaking here on behalf of the Near East Group.

Chairman, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its Framework for Action from ICN2 were the fruit of collective efforts which lasted for more than a year and which involved many countries from all regions.

The Rome Declaration on Nutrition reaffirms the right of each and every person to a healthy and sufficient level of nutrition and it also reaffirms the need for actions and strategies that are workable for governments and which can be implemented in line with governments' investment strategies and these should be taken into account during negotiations at the international level on nutrition.

We are aware of the fact that food security is a top priority for FAO. It is paramount in order to improve food security levels and we need to strengthen agriculture in order to ensure better levels of food security and to reduce poverty.

Thus it was important to implement action plans and to ensure families' food security as well as the quality of nutrition. We need to be able to deal with pests and diseases and ensure that the poorest in our societies have access to food.

Food systems must be made more sustainable at the national level as well. I would like to say that nutrition-related issues and food security are a top priority for a large number of Near Eastern countries, especially given that our region is currently being ravaged by armed conflicts which have created a very complex situation when it comes to food supply and nutrition.

After all, we are seeing waves of refugees - thousands of them - and they are in really difficult conditions, especially when it comes to their food security.

This has driven us during the ICN2 Conference to reaffirm the right of citizens to food in conflict areas as well as the right of populations living under occupation to have access to food and to obtain the necessary nutrition and food. Governments must also be committed to fulfilling their duty in this respect.

Armed conflicts have increased the number of people suffering from chronic malnutrition, especially among children. Despite efforts made at the regional level by the relevant organizations working in school feeding, for instance, these programs cannot always be applied in conflict-affected areas.

The Near East is currently facing a major challenge relating to its growing population. We have been compelled to launch a regional initiative on improving food security and nutrition in Northern Africa and in the Near East. This aims at bridging the gap that exists in terms of access to food and nutrition and in particular it aims at fighting against food waste and the lack of drinking water.

On the four measures put forward by the Conference, I would like to say that the third proposal calling on partners to make voluntary contributions in order to work on enhancing nutrition with a view to closing the gap between currently allocated funds and the region's needs is of particular importance.

We should also give due consideration to the fact that countries in our region are grappling with food challenges and they can do so through policies and legislation that build on the Rome Declaration. Allow me finally to say once again that we pin our hopes on the ICN2. However, effective work from all stakeholders will be necessary if we are to achieve our final goal, namely fighting against poverty and ensuring food security for all.

Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

New Zealand was among the countries that participating in the Second International Conference on Nutrition and fully endorsed and supported the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action.

I think as we all know, nutrition and the broader issues on the growth of Non-Communicable Diseases and the burden of obesity is something that affects most countries in the world today and it is a particular issue of interest in the Southwest Pacific Region where many countries have significant issues on obesity and Non-Communicable Diseases.

From that point of view and the linkages to nutrition, it is through international initiatives, like the International Conference on Nutrition that is timely. We think the Declaration reflects the very complex and multi-dimensional nature of nutrition and the solutions that it demands. Having this clear Framework for Action is a very important and significant statement.

We have noted Mr Sundaram's reporting of the actions that have been taken by FAO, in particular the recognition of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme that will be picked up right across the Organization's programme. That is again a very significant statement.

We also take note of the proposals to have the UN General Assembly secure and provide recognition for the Rome Declaration and the Plan of Action and the more important suggestion of declaring a Decade of Nutrition.

I think many of the nutrition issues require generational changes and the decade itself may sometimes be seen as a relatively short period. Importantly, it requires concerted action from governments, industry, non-governmental groups, and most importantly, us as consumers.

In conclusion, we think this is one of the most important challenges facing the world today and it is a very important initiative and we fully support the action plan that is indicated. I would just simply like to conclude that there is a clear opportunity for FAO and WHO to even further strengthen their

partnership with WHO and other multilateral agencies because there are clear synergies between the programmes of FAO, WHO, UNICEF and the various other agencies.

Overall, it is a commendable initiative and outcomes and we are fully behind it.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

The United States supports FAO's ongoing work to mainstream nutrition, an area whose subtle complexity has caused it to be underemphasized in the past. We, the Members of the UN, took on the challenge through ICN2 to elevate the importance of nutrition and reinforce our commitment to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms.

It's an important step for the world to realize that sufficient food alone will not defeat malnutrition and that year-round access to diversified, healthy diets is an essential component to accomplishing this goal. Therefore we support FAO's efforts to help countries create robust trade environments that provide year-round access to food and promote healthy diets.

Still, individual choices supported by policies and regulations are the catalyst for improving diets. In this regard, we firmly support FAO's work in nutrition information and education, from national governments down to the school and household levels.

The United States recognizes the steps that FAO is taking to ensure an inclusive approach among nutrition stakeholders in the UN System and support continued efforts to partner and engage with these and other stakeholders to ensure coherent actions on nutrition.

The United States appreciates FAO's efforts to maintain momentum after ICN2. We encourage the Secretariat to continue its hard work and to continue in providing these useful updates to the Governing Bodies. The United States is firmly committed to promoting the global importance of nutrition. We were among the many Members that worked to shape these outcome documents and we can endorse them today.

During the Second International Conference on Nutrition in November 2014, the United States submitted an explanation of position for the record regarding the outcome documents that are being endorsed today.

We continue to hold the positions expressed therein and we would ask the Secretariat that the full text of that written explanation of position for the record be included in the Conference Final Report.

Ms Candice VIANNA (Brazil)

Brazil fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, and would like to reiterate the following comments. At the outset, let me congratulate FAO and WHO for their organization of the Second International Conference on Nutrition last November.

We believe this initiative has fully achieved its purpose, promoting a broad and high level debate on nutrition and its different facets as well as resulting in concrete recommendations and has promoted a paradigm shift on the global commitment to tackle the terrible burden of nutrition to an integrated approach considering the centrality of sustainable food systems for a healthy diet.

More importantly, the ICN2 has placed nutrition high in the international political agenda, building a momentum to gather efforts to ensure the human right to food and nutrition and the right to health. Brazil extends its support to the endorsement by this 39th Session of the Conference on the outcomes documents. We believe they provide the needed guidance to guarantee food and nutrition security, as nutrition is integral to the concept of food security.

Therefore, we commend FAO for its follow-up actions and urge the Organization to continue its support to the implementation of the commitments and recommendations outlined in both documents. As just mentioned by the statement on behalf of CELAC, Brazil understands that the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 represents a unique opportunity to joint international efforts to address the numerous causes and consequences of malnutrition, an opportunity that cannot be missed.

There is a lot to be accomplished for better nutrition in the forthcoming decade and the cost of inaction is unbearably high. We therefore would like the support of the Decade of Action to be reflected in the report of this Conference.

Food and nutrition security stands as a priority for the Brazilian Government. Over the past years, we have gone a long way in reducing the levels of the prevalence of undernourishment in our country. On the other side though, Brazil has been facing a rising rate in overweight and obesity, especially among the most vulnerable populations.

Nowadays, overweight affects almost half of the Brazilian population of which around 50 percent are obese. This is a challenge that affects developed and developing countries alike and we must join efforts to revert this trend.

Brazil wishes to seize this opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to hold the next High-Level Event on Nutrition for Growth during the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro next year. It will be a single occasion to reiterate global commitment on nutrition and track progress made since its early edition during the Olympics in London in 2012, building on the achievements of the ICN2.

Finally, Brazil wishes to highlight the central role of FAO along with WHO in advancing nutrition in the ICN2 follow-up. Moreover, FAO plays a leading role in the global governance on nutrition. Together with the Committee on World Food Security, that should be further strengthened so we can fully comply with this mandate on nutrition.

Sr. Jorge ARREAZA (Venezuela)

En primer término, nos queremos sumar a la declaración realizada por Ecuador a nombre de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños CELAC, agradecemos también la presentación de los resultados de la CIN2, así como de las acciones que ha adelantado la secretaría conjunta FAO/OMS, para implementar los resultados de la conferencia y facilitar su seguimiento.

Nos complace que la CIN2 haya superado el enfoque de la nutrición como un problema de salud-enfermedad, para enmarcarlo en un contexto más amplio e integral del sistema alimentario y sus distintas dimensiones. Respalamos que la Conferencia de la FAO apruebe los documentos resultantes de esta conferencia, es decir la Declaración de Roma y su Marco de acción. También deseamos alentar a la Asamblea General de la ONU a que prosiga sus debates en función de la adopción de una Década sobre la nutrición, como ya han dicho las delegaciones de Ecuador y Brasil.

Esta década permitirá poner en primer plano a la nutrición en el marco de las políticas intersectoriales que cada país adelante en función de la erradicación del hambre y de la obesidad.

Mr Yoji MATSUI (Japan)

Japan would like to raise three points and suggestions for the good implementation of outcomes of the ICN2.

Firstly, as some countries highlighted, FAO should focus on the area in which it has a comparative advantage. Promoting agriculture in the food industry to tackle malnutrition is such a typical area as is highlighted in the Framework of Action in one of the recommended actions in sustainable food systems promoting healthy diet.

Secondly, we must reiterate how deeply we have analysed and discussed nutrition issues so far and how widely the fundamental information on nutrition issues is shared among stakeholders, including policy-makers.

Nutrition issues contain different types of programmes which therefore require different solutions. Nutrition issues include those on micronutrient deficiency which seriously affects specific populations groups such as infants and women and need urgent actions.

On the other hand, it also includes issues of joint micronutrient deficiencies which affect wide population groups in the country and need long-term actions.

Also there is no accurate data and information to monitor such issues. Therefore, while implementing the Framework for Action, we should still discuss and consider the types of nutrition issues, their fundamental causes, expected solutions, and what FAO should do in its technical committees.

It also should be kept in mind that we need to make effective collaboration with other UN Organizations working in this field.

Lastly, Japan has supported to combat nutrition issues through the various undertakings developing countries. Recently, private food companies including Japanese farms started a unique attempt to improve nutrition conditions of local people using its high quality of technologies in Asia and Africa.

In a sense, promoting a public and private partnership would be an effective type of practice for solving nutrition issues and warrants considering.

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

I would like to thank Mr Sundaram for the excellent presentation on follow-up actions which FAO has taken to implement the outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

We thank the Secretariat for the detailed document before us. Pakistan fully supports the implementation of the outcome documents of ICN2. The data emerging from SOFI 2015 underscores the urgency of international action to address the global nutrition situation.

Governments have the primary responsibility for addressing food security and nutrition situations in their country. They should demonstrate political commitment by prioritizing this issue and national policies. However, the support of international partners and other stakeholders is also essential in bridging gaps of resources and capacity.

We welcome the steps being taken by FAO to implement ICN2 outcomes as detailed by Mr Sundaram in his presentation. In this regard, we would like to highlight the following elements. The first step is obviously resource mobilization. We congratulate FAO for quickly establishing the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund. Given the importance of nutrition, Member States should generously contribute to it.

Funding should also be sought from the private sector. Since nutrition is a crosscutting issue, we welcome the inclusion of nutrition as a crosscutting theme under Objective 6 within the reviewed Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 of FAO.

We also welcome allocation of additional resources by the Organization, including strengthening of the Nutrition Division. Follow-up on the outcomes of ICN2 would also require coordination between various UN entities that are working on the issues of nutrition such as FAO, WHO, WFP, IFAD, UNICEF and CFS on normative, policy, capacity-building and operational aspects of nutrition.

There is also need for a multi-stakeholder approach including civil society and the private sector. The option for South-South cooperation in the field of nutrition should also be explored for capacity building purposes.

Finally, we support the declaration of a Decade of Action on Nutrition through a resolution of the UN General Assembly.

Ms Bodil BLAKER (Norway)

We would like to express our appreciation for the successful organization of the ICN2 here at FAO in Rome, in close cooperation with WHO. We welcome the important outcomes of the ICN2 which we would like to see successfully implemented. We therefore fully support the endorsement of the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action. They are both important documents to assist us to better address nutrition even more.

When we soon embark on the area of the Sustainable Development Goals, it seems nutrition will figure more prominently in these new Global Goals as a key factor for development. I would also like to commend the Secretariat for its comprehensive report in document C 2015/30 which contains the plan to follow up on ICN2. We note the suggestion to strengthen the fight against world malnutrition by FAO and especially in the regions.

We agree that this is an important step to meet the challenges set forth by the ICN2. We clearly support the decision to include nutrition as a cross-cutting theme in the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17. We appreciate that this will be ensured to a new outcome, number 6.5, which will provide, among others, indicators and resources for technical support to Member States. However, we would recommend the Secretariat to elaborate these plans even further in order to make it even more clear how exactly and to what extent nutrition will be strengthened as a part of FAO's work.

We must encourage a nutritionally healthy diet based on sustainably-produced food. Guidance on healthy and sustainable diets can contribute to food and nutrition security and a healthy life for present and future generations. We urge the FAO Secretariat to cooperate closely with WHO to follow-up on this important issue. In general, close and consistent cooperation between FAO and WHO is essential for a follow-up of the ICN2.

We would like to see an implementation plan developed by the two Organizations together, including monitoring mechanisms. Other relevant Organizations in the UN family must be involved in the follow-up process as soon as possible and in line with the decision to be approved by the UN General Assembly later this year. Monitoring by Member States must be well coordinated between the two Organizations, build on existent systems, and not be overly demanding. We also encourage the involvement of all stakeholders. In this regard, the Committee on World Food Security has an important role to play.

The Council at its 150th Session indicated that efforts to improve the UN System Coordination on Nutrition should be based on strengthening existent mechanisms. The CFS should serve as the appropriate Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Global Forum on Nutrition. At the 68th World Health Assembly, several delegates expressed that the CFS may be an appropriate mechanism to take the work forward. However, it was pointed out that WHO should be more closely involved in the leadership of CFS, alongside FAO, the World Food Programme and IFAD. We do share this point of view. In this regard, we also urge the FAO to clarify the future role of the Standing Committee on Nutrition, the SCN.

The global institutional architecture on nutrition is complicated. Therefore, there is a need to look for more efficient coordinating mechanisms across existing mandates leading to improved cooperation. We appreciate that FAO is actively taking part in such considerations. Finally, we look forward to be subsequently informed about progress made and expect FAO, together with WHO, to report back on implementation every second year.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Canada welcomes FAO's actions to elevate the importance of nutrition, prioritizing it across its Strategic Framework, and appreciate its relentless efforts to keep the momentum on an issue that calls for a multidisciplinary approach but yet has tended to be addressed in a very fragmented way.

In this endeavour, we would like to reiterate the importance of FAO continuing to collaborate with other UN Bodies to provide consistent, clear and coherent advice that takes into account the respective roles and mandates of other UN Bodies and make sure that coordination and monitoring build on existing efforts. Specifically, there are now 55 countries belonging to the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement that are prioritizing nutrition and looking for coordinated support from UN agencies.

We would welcome information on how FAO is working with WHO, UNICEF and WFP to provide optimal support. Finally, Canada is pleased to endorse the two outcome documents of the ICN2. During the Conference, Canada issued a statement of position and would like, given that this position remains valid, to ask the Secretariat to reflect fully in the Report of the Conference such position.

Mr Vimlandra SHARAN (India)

India would like to say that we align ourselves with what most countries have just spoken about.

Chronic malnutrition over time contributes much more to child death than food security, yet surprisingly we don't hear so much about it in the morning news. For us in India, a country which has the highest incidence of child mortality and malnutrition deaths in the world, the ICN2 was extremely important because we feel it brought malnutrition and nutrition-related issues out of the shadows of

food security and hunger and gave it a place of its own and brought back the focus which it deserved. We feel that though the negotiation process on the documents was pretty tough and a lot of time was spent, ICN2 brought its Member Countries not only on the same stage but I think it brought the Member Countries on the same page.

Today, as you would have heard around the room, there is all-round appreciation of the work done, all-round support to the cross-cutting theme of nutrition and welcome of the Rome Declaration and Framework for Action.

We join all Members in welcoming these two documents and in supporting the Decade of Action on Nutrition. We look forward to FAO taking a very active, or rather a very proactive role in this and becoming the lead Organization in this fight against malnutrition. With these comments, we welcome the Report and fully endorse the Declaration as well as the Action Framework.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Atento al tiempo, intervengo brevemente para reiterar nuestro respaldo a la declaración efectuada por Ecuador a nombre de la CELAC, también me sumo a las presentaciones efectuadas por Brasil y por Venezuela y hacemos presente el respaldo de Argentina a la Década de Acción sobre la nutrición.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

We very much appreciate the guidance you have provided, especially in terms of what FAO should be doing sometimes as an Organization but also in collaboration with others in moving forward on the follow-up to ICN2. We do hope that the generous support which made ICN2 possible will continue in order to ensure that we are able to effectively follow-up.

Allow me to focus on a number of issues which have been raised in order to clarify what we are doing and how we are going about doing our work. There was concern expressed that we may be going beyond existing structures and available resources. I can assure you that we are trying very hard to work with existing structures. This is something which is not widely appreciated outside FAO and WHO, but it is something which we are trying to strictly adhere to, and I'll come back to this issue in terms of clarifying some of the issues later.

We are also working within available resources, and because the resources available for nutrition have become very modest over the decades - FAO started off in the 1940s with a Director-General who was a nutritionist. It had a Department of Nutrition. When the Nutrition Division moved to our Department, it had been whittled down to about a dozen professionals. Thankfully, we have seen, thanks to your strong support and your engagement and support for ICN2, a modest increase in those resources in the recent period. This is most welcome but it reminds us of the budgetary and other resource constraints under which we operate and in which we try to do our work.

Allow me to move very quickly to a very complicated issue of the role of the different players in the field of nutrition. CFS as correctly pointed out by several of you, is a global forum. It is not only an intergovernmental forum; it is also a multi-stakeholder forum. This is what distinguishes CFS from the World Health Assembly. The World Health Assembly is certainly an intergovernmental forum, but it is not a multi-stakeholder forum for reasons specific to the recent history of WHO. So we have the responsibility as a multi-stakeholder forum to work within the CFS. Their mandate exists from the reform period and we will continue to elaborate on that mandate, and we had a useful discussion yesterday on the role in the future of CFS.

The Standing Committee on Nutrition was created in 1977 and for 11 years it was based here in FAO. In 1988, it moved to WHO. Currently, the active members of the Standing Committee on Nutrition include not only WHO and FAO, but also UNICEF, the World Food Programme and IFAD. It is our hope and intention to broaden once again the involvement of other UN System agencies, funds and programmes, which are relevant to the work on nutrition. Particularly, we have been engaging with the World Bank which has recently, for the first time in its history, formed a nutrition unit which involves the work of the Agriculture and Rural Development Practice as well as the Practice on Health and Population. So we look forward to this engagement.

The High-Level Task Force, set up by the Secretary-General in response to the elevated prices of food several years ago, has broadened its work since the Secretary-General issued the Zero Hunger Challenge. The Zero Hunger Challenge involves five elements around which there are five Working Groups. The first Working Group is the Working Group which originally focused on trying to eliminate stunting. It now has a broader mandate of addressing malnutrition efforts more broadly. All these are basically UN System entities and there are clear lines of responsibility and accountability to Member States which is especially important for the specialized agencies such as WHO, the World Bank and FAO.

The Scaling Up Nutrition Movement has slightly different origins and has four constitutive elements which have been crucial to developing the Scaling-Up Nutrition movement. It has focused primarily but not exclusively on questions relating to stunting, which is, of course, a very important priority shared by the entire nutrition community. There is also the related issue of what governance involves. Governance for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement involves the accountability of those who have joined the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. Of the 55 countries that were mentioned earlier, it is the governments who are held to be accountable. So, the relationship of accountability is a different relationship of accountability and it is not something which the Member State organizations especially are able to accommodate necessarily as part of the UN responsibilities. Nevertheless, WHO and FAO are very important partners of the UN Network for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement. We have been engaged with the other parties involved in supporting the work of SUN. This commitment was renewed at the end of last year, just before the ICN2, and renewed again more recently with a commitment to transform the Secretariat for something called REACH into the Secretariat for the UN Network for Scaling Up Nutrition. All this may sound a little complicated but I hope you bear with me because these are important issues of governance and accountability which many are not necessarily clear on.

A number of other issues which were raised, particularly Japan raised the question of focusing on comparative advantage. What we have learned is that there is need for a coherent multi-sectoral effort. One of the big problems, as you all know, with nutrition, is that there has never been real responsibility for nutrition at the national level. There is some responsibility in health ministries which turn to medicalize the problem of nutrition. We have found that progress on nutrition requires a concerted effort. For example, despite high economic growth and improved availability of food in some countries, the fact of lack of progress on sanitation has meant a high incidence of gastrointestinal diseases which has in turn retarded progress on nutrition. This is very clear from the Global Nutrition Report as well as many other studies. We also find that specific types of interventions which do not take into consideration context have limited effects.

Allow me to cite a recent study which was done by Dr Lartey because she will be too modest to talk about her own work. This was done before she joined FAO. She did work looking at the effect of lipid-based nutrient supplements for mothers in her own country, Ghana, and Malawi. It was found that those supplements were very successful in Ghana for *primiparas*, which means mothers who are having the first pregnancy. But it was found to be not effective for mothers who were not on the first pregnancy. In the case of Malawi, the same nutrients did not even have the same effects on mothers during the first pregnancy. So context becomes very specific and the view that you have some kind of magical solution with particular types of interventions completely involving supplements alone may not be correct. In fact, the editorial of the journal which published her study, I think, was entitled "Context Matters". So please keep this in mind.

If I may move on to the other point raised by Japan, I want to assure him that we do not have a "one-size-fits-all" approach and that is why the continued engagement of the range of partners with whom we are working, including IFPRI and others. It was very important for organizing the preparatory meeting in 2013, for organizing the conference itself last year and especially now for the follow-up work.

I will move on very quickly to the Decade for Action. Some questions have been raised in the past, like "what on earth are you going to do for one whole decade?" Well, as correctly pointed out, one decade is actually relatively small when it comes to nutrition. I think New Zealand made that excellent

point. But more importantly, we do not envisage doing the same thing over and over again. We want to highlight the importance of different types of interventions. So, each year, we envisage a different focus. So in one year, it might be the first thousand days. Another year, it might be progress on sanitation. Do not forget that sanitation is the Millennium Development Goal Target on which there was least progress. It's therefore very important for us to recognize that there are a range of interventions which are needed to achieve progress on nutrition.

We have not even begun to discuss the diet-related Non-Communicable Diseases often associated with obesity on which a broad range of interventions are needed. Finally, we look forward to reporting to Conference every two years. This will be very much in line with the World Health Assembly Decision. In which case, we will be able to make sure that these biennial reports, as suggested by Norway, will be fully aligned with the World Health Organization's own co-leadership of the effort to follow-up on the ICN2. I would like to ask Ms Anna Larthey whether she has anything to add to this.

Ms Anna LARTEY (Director, Nutrition Division)

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the massive support, especially support for the outcome documents, the Rome Declaration and the Framework for Action. As you have seen, a lot of changes have taken place and it's your efforts that have led to the changes that we now see for nutrition, especially in FAO.

I would like to continue to encourage you to continue to support the work of nutrition here. Our work has expanded because there is a lot of demand and we are very grateful for your support that has led to the increase in support for the Division. We as FAO, WHO, and others, stand ready to provide technical guidance that is needed in the implementation of the commitments that have been made. We continue also regarding the Decade of Action which Mr Sundaram has talked about. We would like to continue to have your support, especially when discussions on this open up in New York. We really would like to see that the Decade of Action will become a reality. So, again, your support in this respect will be appreciated.

Just to add a little bit to what my ADG has talked about already regarding our support to some countries, which was asked by Canada, all the UN Agencies responsible for nutrition, are all part of the UN Network for Scaling-Up Nutrition movement. We have monthly calls to discuss regularly. We have what is called a Compendium of Action on Nutrition which has been developed by all of us and we are agreed on it so that we have a common way of working in all these countries and we also encourage in that at the country level we work together as one in supporting the countries. So, we are really together in working to support the SUN countries through the UN Network.

Mr Jomo SUNDARAM (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Development Department)

Allow me to clarify why resources were not mentioned in the Report. The main reason is because this was discussed by Council, and also it is under the mandate of Commission II rather than Commission I, and hence the question of resources was in that part of the discussion at Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of this item. I will now read the summary conclusions. They are a bit long but you will understand that this is a very rich point.

The Conference:

- 1) appreciated the successful outcome of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), jointly convened by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO) from 19 to 21 November 2014.
- 2) endorsed the ICN2 outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action, and urged FAO Members to implement the commitments and recommendations set out therein.
- 3) expressed satisfaction with the ICN2 follow-up actions supporting, in particular, the following measures:

- a) mainstreaming of nutrition as a cross-cutting theme under the reviewed Strategic Framework and Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 to improve support on nutrition to FAO Members;
 - b) identification of priority activities to be performed by FAO during the period 2015-17 in support of the ICN2 outcomes and recognition of the role of regional conferences with regard to nutrition;
 - c) strengthening of FAO's internal capacity to enhance its role on nutrition;
 - d) establishment of the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund to support governments in transforming ICN2 commitments into concrete actions. The Conference called on resource partners to make voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund;
 - e) request made to the UN Secretary-General for the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. The Conference appreciated the efforts made in this regard and encouraged FAO to continue its collaboration with WHO on the substantive contents of the Decade of Action on Nutrition within existing structures and available resources;
 - f) efforts to improve UN system coordination and collaboration on nutrition through the strengthening of existing mechanisms. The Conference encouraged consideration of further steps to enable the Committee on World Food Security to serve as the appropriate global forum on nutrition;
 - g) efforts to include nutrition in the Sustainable Development Goals, reflecting ICN2 outcomes in the post-2015 Development Agenda; and
 - h) advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting and amplifying the food security and nutrition messages of ICN2 through Expo 2015 Milan.
- 4) the Conference asked FAO to report on ICN2 implementation at future sessions.

I forgot to mention that the two requests from the United States and Canada to include their explanation of positions will be dealt with by the Secretariat in due course. At this stage, I cannot say more because obviously it is difficult to include this in the conclusions of the item.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I guess our delegation would have some concern about prejudging any outcomes of future discussions under the Decade of Action on Nutrition that will take place in New York.

Our understanding of the current status is that there was a decision to not have this considered this year and to wait until the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals. So, I'm not even sure how the dates will be influenced by that either. We would prefer not to have a mention of this, maybe a broader reference to any kind of actions that could be decided by the UN General Assembly in this regard.

CHAIRPERSON

If I may answer directly, the first reference is plain because we are only repeating something which is in the outcomes. In the second reference, I might have a counter-proposal for those who prefer not to prejudge discussions to be held in New York and elsewhere but mostly in New York. I have not even consulted with the Secretariat but I am just bringing this up for your consideration.

It could continue its collaboration with WHO on the substantive contents of ICN2 implementation which is broad enough and it doesn't necessarily imply that the Decade will be proclaimed. But I leave this to Members.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

We just had a couple of questions for clarification and partially to make a point where in your summary, you had mentioned commitments as in point two and then in the other parts of your summary where we need to recall that the Declaration was negotiated and the Framework for Action was decided that it would be a voluntary framework.

So we feel like that needs to be better noted or in some way reflected that the Framework for Action does not necessarily have commitments in them.

The other thing that I would ask is if we could read out point F that talks about CFS. I think we would feel more comfortable separating the ideas of joint collaboration with other UN agencies and the role of CFS in nutrition into two separate points rather than having them together.

But also, we strongly believe that the CFS is responsible for dictating its work in nutrition and we feel that that shouldn't be a mandate that comes from the FAO Conference. I would be helpful to hear again the references to CFS in your summary.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to point out for the US that yes indeed, I don't see this as a difficult job. We will try and do it. Maybe in point two referring to commitments and recommendations, we can specify that those commitments and recommendations come from the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and just changing the order of the words will do the job.

On separating the two-sub points under (f) which relates to the UN system coordination on the one hand and CFS on the other I think is fine.

With regard to what you say about the need for CFS to keep its own decision power, we have used the word "encouraged" in this report and in this summary so maybe the wording is not that conflictive with what you are suggesting.

I will repeat it anyway, 3(f): "The Conference encouraged consideration of further steps to enable the Committee on World Food Security to serve as the appropriate global forum on nutrition".

As you see, it is quite soft.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

In what you read to me, it was unclear on who was supposed to be taking the further steps to enable the CFS. It seems to imply that there is some sort of body outside of the CFS that is going to be doing something to enable the CFS to become more important.

CHAIRPERSON

I think it is the Members but if you want, we can put "by Members" so this will clarify the whole thing: "further steps by Members to enable".

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

I was just reaching paragraph 17 of the Rome Declaration which mentions that the ICN2 recommended to the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition as well as the Framework for Action as well as to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition.

So really I don't see a problem with the language that the Chair has proposed. If it is a matter of concern for some delegations, perhaps we could use the same language as is mentioned in paragraph 17.

Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)

Lo que hoy quería es solamente mencionar en cuanto a la referencia que hizo Canadá al tema de la Década de acción de que no consideramos que estemos prejuzgando las negociaciones que tienen lugar en Nueva York. Lo único que estamos haciendo es citando la referencia que hace la Declaración de Roma en el apartado 17, como lo ha mencionado el delegado de Paquistán. Lo único que estamos haciendo es recordando aquí, en la FAO, en la casa en que se aprobó esta Declaración de Roma, estamos reiterando ese hecho y como digo, no consideramos que estemos prejuzgando los debates de Nueva York y como varias delegaciones expresaron el apoyo a este tema, consideramos muy importante que se refleje en el informe.

CHAIRPERSON

Canada, can you accept the present formulation, especially considering that after the reference to collaboration on the substantive contents on the Decade of Action on Nutrition, there is the mention of “within existing structures and available resources”?

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I think there is a part preceding this that talks about the Decade of Action. Can you just repeat again how it would read with that whole sentence?

CHAIRPERSON

The whole sentence would be. The Conference supports:

e) the request made to the UN Secretary General for the UN General Assembly to endorse the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and to consider declaring a decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025. The Conference appreciated the efforts made in this regard and encouraged FAO to continue its collaboration with WHO on the substantive contents of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, within existing structures and available resources.

Personally, I don't see this as a threat to the New York negotiations.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Perhaps when we talk about it, we could consider declaring a Decade of Action because what I understand is that this was language that was in the Rome Declaration but there was a decision by the UN General Assembly not to have this Decade this year. So there was a decision. They considered it and there was a decision. But it doesn't mean that it will not surface again, so I am not.

If we could say “to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition in due time...” and not putting dates around it because I'm not sure when that will be taken up again and adopted and I don't know if it will coincide with 2016-2025.

CHAIRPERSON

My reading of New York is that there will not be a declaration of the Decade before or during the Summit. That doesn't mean that there won't be one after but I will give the floor to Mr Sundaram who may wish to add something.

Ms Candice VIANNA (Brazil)

We support your summary. On this point of the Decade on Nutrition, I think it does not prejudice the discussions that may take place in New York and, from our knowledge, it can be taken up again this year after September so it doesn't mean that the discussions are closed on this point.

On paragraph 3(d) mentioning the Trust Fund for Nutrition, we would suggest a minor review because we don't quite understand what resource partners actually refer to. Maybe something along the lines of “call on voluntary contributions” or “call for voluntary contributions”.

We would prefer to have it a broad call for all of those that can make this contribution to the Action for Nutrition Trust Fund.

CHAIRPERSON

On the second one I think resource partners is a broad concept used by FAO quite frequently and it includes all sorts of possible partners in resource mobilization so I would stick to this one.

On the Decade, I have a proposal for compromise which I hope can be accepted by all of you. The sentence remains the same but with the addition of one word which does not prejudice, again, what might happen in New York. I will only read the last bit of that point 3(e).

“The Conference appreciated the efforts made in this regard and encouraged FAO to continue its collaboration with WHO on the substantive contents of the proposed Decade of Action on Nutrition within existing structures and available resources.” I hope this is okay.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

Thank you for your efforts to bring this. Maybe a last option would be to use the language that we always use in the Council and add at the end “further consideration by the UN General Assembly in due time”.

CHAIRPERSON

It is already on the calendar for October so I really am a bit sad that we have to discuss this when we know that it is in a way going to be discussed this year. Yes. We take your point. I would like to give the floor to those who have asked for it.

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

We would like to support your summary which you read out and echo what Ecuador and Brazil said what you said. We don't feel here that we would be prejudging the outcomes of New York. The decision will be taken in New York but it would be a shame if the highest Governing Body of an Organization which led the ICN2 Conference did not support what is said in the outcome document.

We adopted similar information at the Council and we would prefer to use your summary.

Sr. Jorge ARREAZA (Venezuela)

Al igual que Rusia y otros, solamente para apoyar su resumen, creo que ya usted ha hecho un esfuerzo bastante grande con sus sugerencias para que todas las posiciones expresadas en la sala se reflejen en la conclusión. Nos sorprende además, este desacuerdo que tenemos ahora en cuanto al decenio, puesto que es un tema que hemos sido informados desde nuestra misión en Nueva York, que cuenta con un gran respaldo allá, que se está trabajando con mucho empeño y que la Asamblea ha considerado tratarlo en el momento que han decidido que es más apropiado. Pero no es un tema en el que existan oposiciones o sobre el cual haya diferencias que tengamos que trabajar más en profundidad. Apoyamos su resumen.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I go on with the interventions, we are already a bit late compared to the schedule that I had in mind but I want to clear at least the remaining paragraph which was not agreeable to everybody and that is para 2 on the endorsement.

Following on what the United States have suggested, I would simply adjust it by saying:

“the Conference endorsed the ICN2 outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action and urged FAO Members to implement the commitments and recommendations set out in the Rome Declaration” which replaces therein.

Therefore it is clear that all of the commitments and recommendations come from the Rome Declaration.

Now let's continue presumably on this letter “e”.

Mr Ahmed Yakubu AL HASSAN (Ghana)

Ghana wishes to support the resolution of the statement as encouraged. That is because it is often difficult to agree on the totality of the wording of a statement. It is going to consider New York somehow or the other and, at the end, there is nothing wrong with suggesting a time to consider it if they think they have to deal with one at a time. I think it is for New York to decide.

But I think we prejudge an issue that we have a passion for, that I wish was done yesterday. I don't want it postponed to some other time. I don't think it would be right and judging from the mood of the room, I think the argument is more to leave it as it is.

Mr Yaya Olaitan OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

As for much of CFS, I want to encourage us to put in as much as we can to go to the United Nations General Assembly. Otherwise New York may not be as passionate as Rome and Geneva are. Therefore I would strongly suggest your earlier conclusion. In fact let us include it. It makes it more

precise and New York and the debate can then decide whether they are going with that date or change it.

CHAIRPERSON

I really encourage Canada to accept my very last attempt for compromise which is the addition of the word proposed before Decade of Action but as you heard, the room is very much in favour of keeping reference to FAO and WHO working on the Decade and I would also like to add that if the Conference does not give this kind of encouragement to FAO preparations which are already ongoing, and have been ongoing for the last months after the ICN2, they will come to a halt and that would be a great pity and a great loss for the role that this Organization can play in the field of nutrition.

Therefore, please try to understand our position and accept compromise with the word proposed. It would be a gesture which would bring us forward and make us move forward to the four remaining items of this Commission. I would really like to try and finish by 17.30 hours.

Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)

We welcome your summary and we support it. We believe this is what we agreed upon which this is what was included in the Rome Declaration so this is the first issue.

The second issue regarding the explanation of the positions of some of the countries that submitted during the ICN2 Summit's initial position and there, for the sake of consistency, we suggest that the three explanations of positions that were submitted would be included in the Report of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Point taken. As you heard before, the Secretariat will deal with this accordingly.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We agree with the previous speakers, we support your summary.

Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)

I think that is giving too much credit or weight to what we're going to have to say but I just wanted to clarify that we are absolutely appreciative of FAO's work in trying to keep up the momentum and identify activities that could be taken up in a sustained way.

We just have to say that we are surprised that delegations seem to be questioning this discussion when it was raised in Council, but we want to be of course flexible and in the spirit of compromise, we will accept your summary, but we raised this question because we have other information from our delegation in New York and we're trying to be as coordinated as possible.

If this passion exists in the room, we would encourage all delegations to convey that in New York so that we don't have these kinds of disjointed outcomes. Last time we had this discussion in Council. We were expecting something coming out of it and then the decision was made to postpone it. So, I would like you to know, make a plea for consistency and in the spirit of flexibility, we will accept your summary.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Gracias a todas las delegaciones que han intervenido sobre este punto y gracias a Canadá por la flexibilidad que está demostrando; pero creo que sí es importante que tengamos presente que más allá del proceso que está en New York sobre este punto, lo importante es la posición que estamos tomando como miembros de la FAO y la que va a tomar la Conferencia y, es ese el sentido político que le estamos dando a esta declaración.

Por lo tanto, me parece muy satisfactorio que hayamos llegado a este texto de acuerdo, porque nos permite presentar un compromiso claro de apoyo a la Década de acción para la nutrición. Hago este comentario, porque estando compartido el texto que hemos hecho, facilitará mucho su trabajo en el Comité de Redacción.

CHAIRPERSON

With these remarks by Argentina which I think reflect the spirit in the room, may I once again thank Canada for their flexibility. If there are no other comments, I declare this item closed.

18.2 Evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming 2014

18.2 Évaluation de l'Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale (2014)

18.2 Evaluación del Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (2014)

(C 2015/33)

18.3 International Year of Soils 2015 and World Soil Day

18.3 Année internationale des sols (2015) et Journée mondiale des sols

18.3 Año Internacional de los Suelos (2015) y Día Mundial del Suelo

(C 2015/34)

18.4 International Year of Pulses 2016

18.4 Année internationale des légumineuses (2016)

18.4 Año Internacional de las Legumbres (2016)

(C 2015/35)

CHAIRPERSON

We are moving to Item 18 on International Years. The first sub-item is 18.1 on the evaluation of the *International Year of Quinoa 2013*. The reference document is C 2015/32. I am pleased to give the floor to Mr Raul Benitez, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sr. Raúl Osvaldo BENITEZ (Subdirector general y Representante Regional de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Con el lema de un futuro sembrado hace miles de años, el 2013 celebramos el Año Internacional de la Quinoa, esto sin duda es un reconocimiento a los pueblos andinos pero también lo deberíamos entender como un reconocimiento a todos los cultivos y tradiciones ancestrales de todos los pueblos del mundo.

Para la implementación de este año internacional, lo primero que hicimos fue tener la idea clara de lo que queríamos transmitir, de lo que queríamos hacer con este año internacional. Y acá jugó un rol importante en tener en claro que la quinua es un aliado incondicional en la lucha contra el hambre y esto lo tratamos de transmitir. Formamos un comité internacional por distintos países Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Francia y Perú. Bolivia tenía la presidencia de este comité internacional para la celebración del año internacional. Declaramos embajadores internacionales de la quinua al Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, el Presidente Evo Morales y a la primera dama de Perú, a la Sra. Nadine Heredia y también establecimos un sistema de alianzas con el sector público, con el sector privado, con la academia, con distintas organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Con todo el mundo se establecieron alianzas a fin de que este Año Internacional de la Quinoa fuera exitoso. Obviamente para la información y la comunicación del evento teníamos una exposición itinerante que se llamaba de los "Andes al Mundo", con una gira que pasó por distintos países incluyendo Holanda, Italia, Estados Unidos, hasta China llegamos con el Año Internacional de la Quinoa. Hicimos distintos eventos gastronómicos, quiero destacar el primer festival de la quinua en Bruselas en Bélgica que fue particularmente exitoso y si me permite, Señor Presidente, quiero destacar un comentario del presidente Evo Morales en el momento que celebramos acá cuando lo designamos embajador.

Acá se había preparado también un evento gastronómico, cuando el presidente Evo Morales vió los platos de quinua como estaban preparados dijo: bueno, es al estilo europeo, no tenía nada que ver con las recetas tradicionales, pero sí, siempre muy innovadores y siempre muy exitosos. También se prepararon recetarios para ver como podíamos cocinar quinua para la erradicación del hambre. La investigación de la tecnología no estuvo ausente en el Año Internacional de la quinua y se desarrollaron distintos eventos de investigación y desarrollo. Estamos implicando a más de cincuenta

países en todos los continentes del mundo, e incluso se llegó a una nueva variedad de quinua que justamente lleva el nombre de FAO, lo cual nos enorgullece mucho. Se desarrollaron distintos congresos mundiales. Tenemos que destacar el IV Congreso Mundial realizado en Ibar, en Ecuador y el V Congreso Internacional realizado hace pocas semanas atrás en Jujuy en Argentina.

También se presentó el libro del Estado de arte de la quinua que involucró a 166 investigadores de todo el mundo. Los resultados de este Año Internacional de la Quinua fueron totalmente exitosos. Yo les voy a mostrar en un par de gráficos cómo ha ido evolucionando esto que les estoy diciendo. Fíjense que de la quinua se empezó a hablar, bueno obviamente es un cultivo ancestral, pero empezó a tener notoriedad a partir de inicios del siglo XX. Sin embargo, las actividades que estaban o los países que involucraban actividades con la quinua siempre se mantuvo o, durante los primeros años del siglo XX, se mantuvo a un nivel muy bajo. Ahí está en el eje de las ordenadas, tenemos las fechas en el eje de las ordenadas, tenemos los países miembros de las Naciones Unidas y luego cómo ha ido evolucionando a través del tiempo. Fíjense que hasta fines de la década del setenta, el número de países que estaban involucrados en eventos con quinua era relativamente bajo.

A partir de la década del ochenta, se hicieron importantes esfuerzos de investigación, y podríamos decir que pasamos del dos y medio a cerca del 10 por ciento de los países de Naciones Unidas con eventos de la quinua. Esto fue creciendo con el paso del tiempo a finales del siglo XX, con distintos testeos que hacíamos en Europa y en Estados Unidos, principalmente, y los países crecieron pero fíjense el salto que se produce con la declaración del Año Internacional de la Quinua, donde prácticamente duplicamos los países donde hay eventos de quinua a nivel mundial y esto sin duda, es el mejor indicador de éxito de este Año Internacional de la Quinua. En este mapa podemos observar cuáles han sido estos países donde hemos tenido distintos eventos y ustedes podrán observar que están todos los continentes del mundo involucrados en este evento. Y esto es muy lógico. La quinua es un cultivo muy noble que se puede sembrar al nivel del mar o a más de 4000 metros de altura y últimamente en Chile se están haciendo experimentos donde se están testeando algunas variedades que resisten ser cultivados o regados con agua de mar, con agua salina.

En honor al tiempo vamos a ir avanzando. Lo que podríamos decir que adónde deberían estar dirigidos nuestros esfuerzos para los próximos años. Yo creo que el principal esfuerzo es considerar a la quinua, no como un alimento, no como un cultivo más de ya de por su muy valioso y muy saludable sino que debería formar parte de todo sistema alimentario y nutricional que se valga de tal por sus características de un cultivo que es incluyente en términos sociales, que respeta el medio ambiente, que puede dinamizar el desarrollo local y la agricultura familiar y obviamente, donde la cooperación entre los países, principalmente en los países del sur con el resto del mundo, debería estar presente.

Esto es básicamente lo que ha sido la celebración del Año Internacional de la Quinua. Vamos a poner a disposición de ustedes algunos pen drives con la presentación completa, que la hemos abreviado por motivos de tiempo y también esta versión digital del libro de la que hablaba hace un momento con el estado de avance de la quinua o con el estado del arte de la quinua del año 2013.

CHAIRPERSON

I now would like to give the floor to Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Office for Partnership Advocacy and Capacity Development of the FAO, for a brief presentation of the other three International Years which are respectively: Family Farming 2014, Year of Soils 2015 and Pulses 2016.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

As you have heard from the Chair, I have the task of talking about past, present, and future years, and this all needs to be done so that we can finalize our discussions with four factors. So I will try to be very brief.

Let us start by the International Year of Family Farming. After the UN Resolution asking FAO to lead its implementation, we had a fantastic expression of interest on family farming throughout all the regions of the world and incorporating all the stakeholders. We had governments, UN agencies, family farmers' organizations, civil society, private sector, academia, many other actors, all of them joined

efforts to celebrate this year at the national, regional, and global levels, are calling for political support in favour of family farming to include family farming in political agendas.

This item is about evaluation of the year. When it comes to evaluating an advocacy effort, you can do it in different ways. One is telling you about what activities took place and I think I would not have time to tell you about all of the activities that took place because they were really, really numerous. The other one is focusing on the results of the Year. With an advocacy effort such as an International Year, what we would like is to have that advocacy to have an impact in very concrete ways. I think with the International Year of Family Farming, we were able to have quite a number of results that will have long-lasting impact for all of the issues around family farming in the future.

Advocacy efforts throughout the Year very specifically resulted in increased political commitment in awareness and knowledge. I think the Year was very successful in promoting awareness on the critical contribution of family farmers to sustainable development, food security, and nutrition. We wanted to carry the message that family farming is not part of the problem of hunger, it is part of the solution to hunger, and I think that message was very well taken.

The Year emphasized the importance of implementing an enabling environment for policies for family farms to access and use natural, and also very importantly, financial resources of which they are usually cut out. The year also increased knowledge around family farming, around its characteristics, around its needs. There was also a need to carry out research, but not only research to also have the voices of family farmers heard in the research process, and this is another important result of the Year. Policies that have come out of the Year are policies that include the voices of family farmers and therefore they are much more robust than it would have been otherwise. The Year was also very successful in raising the profile of family farmers in the preparation for the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda. This is a very important point.

By specifically addressing family farming within the SDG Agenda, we know that countries will need to focus their attention on this in the future of their own political agendas. The year was also very successful in encouraging the creation of many national committees and multi-stakeholder platforms for policy dialogue which will be continuing their work after the Year itself. And, finally, leveraging political commitment in favour of family farming at the highest levels across the world; so we have different bodies that have pronounced in favour of family farming, including parliaments; the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) for example, including the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and many other international bodies.

We believe that with this the Year fulfilled all of its objectives, providing concrete results in each of the four objectives that the Year set up for itself. And I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all the members of the International Steering Committee that was set up for this. And specifically, I would like to specially thank the role of Mr Lupino Lazaro who was the Chair of the International Steering Committee and who led the work of the Organization and the members throughout the Year.

Now there is the issue of the legacy of the Year and to see what comes next. What next? There is an example of the What Next Regional Initiative on Family Farming. You are all kindly invited to come to the Side Event tomorrow where you will be seeing what is part of the legacy of the Year, embedding family farming within the Strategic Framework of the Organization through its regional initiatives.

There is another example. I would just like to cite a recent example. Just last Sunday we had a meeting of the CPLP, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Languages, and Ministers in favour of family farming, there was a Working Group that was set up during the Year, and it is continuing its work to see how specifically policies to support family farming can be continued to be supported.

We also have an important event. Actually, right next week which is the launching of the Family Farming Knowledge Platform and that is going to be launched on the 16th of June. We believe the Year was very successful in reaching its objectives. I wish that the Members would endorse the Evaluation Report on this issue.

I shall go straight into the next Year which is the current Year we are celebrating: *the International Year of Soils*. Upon the proposal of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand, the International Year of Soils

2015 was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly as well as declaring 5 December as World Soil Day. We celebrated the first World Soil Day by linking family farming with soils, with the participation of more than 80 countries. I think we all know how important soils are and how they play such a fundamental role in terms of the food we eat and more than that, but they are in danger. They are being degraded at a very quick rate.

The International Year of Soils advocates sustainable soil management and creating awareness of the links of soils and sustainable soil management with biodiversity, sustainable food production, food security and nutrition, eradication of poverty, women's empowerment, climate change, sustainable food systems, and improving water availability.

We all know that agricultural production will have to increase by at least 60 percent by the year 2050 in order to match increasing demand. Sustainable soil management is a part of that. And just by having better management, sustainable management of soils, we know that we could increase the production of food by up to 58 percent. The activities of the year are well underway at global, regional, and country levels, involving all of the stakeholders around soils and the Global Soils Partnership has been playing a central role in the implementation of the Year. Through the Global Soils Partnership, we will have regional soil partnership, regional sustainable soil management plans of action for the next five years and this is going to be a legacy of the Year. After the year, how are we also going to ensure that, in every one of the regions, sustainable soil management is going to be promoted in a clear and effective way?

Also related to the future, the legacy of the Year, it is very encouraging to see that in the Agenda for Post-2015 development, the issue of soils is very well embedded. Soils are mentioned in SDG 2, 3, 12, and 15, including key aspects like, for example, improving soil quality, reducing the number of deaths and illnesses caused by soil pollution, and combating desertification and restoring degraded land and soils. This makes us very confident that the issue of soils is going to be continued in a very clear way after the Year itself.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the support of the Member Countries, all of the other actors, civil society, private sector, academia, research institutions, for the support that they are providing to the Year. And very specially, I would like to thank the members of the Steering Committee and specially Thailand for very ably leading this Steering Committee and specifically His Excellency Sompong Nimchuar for his leadership. I would like to invite FAO Members to engage strongly in the activities of the International Year of Soils in each one of your countries and to ensure that we will be keeping up the efforts ensuring the centrality of good soil management for food security and nutrition beyond the Year itself, beyond 2015, by developing sound policies and increasing long-term investment in soils.

I would like to invite all of you to come to the Side Event we will be having tomorrow at 17:00 hours at the Sheikh Zayed Centre where we will be nominating the two global ambassadors for soils and they are Professor Claire Chenu and Professor Tekalign Mamo. I hope to see you there tomorrow for an interesting conversation on soils and hear also from the Ambassadors.

Let us go now to the future. Next year, as you all know, is going to be the International Year of Pulses 2016. Again, after the UN General Assembly has endorsed FAO's Resolution for the Year. We will be celebrating the Year starting 2016, but I am happy to say that the preparatory activities for this Year are well underway.

The objectives of the Year are to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food security and nutrition. As you know, pulses are important food crops and offer significant nutritional and health advantages given their high protein and essential amino acid content, as well as being a source of complex carbohydrates and offering several vitamins and minerals. They also play a very important role as part of sustainable food production. You may know that in many countries it is the smallholders who have a very big role in producing the pulses and also they have immediate benefits by having a very nutritional crop to nurture their own families' right within their own plots. We also know that the pulses also have very important environmentally-friendly characteristics which are, among others, their ability to fix nitrogen and also they have a smaller carbon footprint than many other crops. So the contributions of pulses as part of a healthy diet are quite important and they also

help in addressing some of the issues that were being dealt, just in the last item on the Second International Conference on Nutrition, issues of obesity, prevention of diseases such as diabetes, coronary conditions, and cancer. So clearly pulses offer very, very important issue to follow for a number of benefits of all different kinds.

As I said before, we are well underway with the preparatory activities. The International Steering Committee has already been constituted. It consists of Member Countries, civil society, private sector, representatives from other UN organizations, and it is being co-chaired by Turkey and Pakistan. It is already met. It will continue to meet throughout the year for the preparations and we hope to launch this Year towards the end of 2015. We have already launched the website so I invite all of you to visit the website and also to contribute with all of the preparatory activities that may be taking place within your own countries because we would like to keep updating this website with the activities and also with all of the knowledge, research results that are also being developed for the Year.

We very much look forward to working closely together with you for the implementation of the Year. And by working together, I am sure that it is also going to be a very big success.

CHAIRPERSON

I think time constraints have given us a unique opportunity, at least as far as I am concerned. I have never had the possibility to look at the International Years of the FAO as a complex ensemble of different elements. But in this case, I think we have a pretty good overview of what has happened in the recent past and what is going on now and what will happen next year. So along with this slight reformulation of the Agenda, I would like to now invite Members' interventions. You are free to intervene on any sub-item related to International Years and also to make general comments referring to International Years as such.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Voy a hacer dos intervenciones a nombre del GRULAC, en relación con el Año Internacional de la Quinoa y con el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

En relación con la quinoa, deseamos transmitir como GRULAC el agradecimiento por el decidido apoyo y el impulso que la FAO otorgó a la aprobación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa 2013 y posteriormente al desarrollo del ambicioso plan maestro que contempló múltiples actividades posteriormente implementadas, en estrecha colaboración con los gobiernos y con otras organizaciones de Naciones Unidas, junto a las asociaciones de productores, instituciones de investigación, el sector privado y la comunidad académica. Todo lo cual permitió alcanzar los principales objetivos del año internacional, al que no dudamos en calificar como muy exitoso. El objetivo principal del año internacional fue el de centrar la atención mundial sobre el papel de la biodiversidad de la quinoa y su valor nutricional.

Actualmente, muchos conocen y han escuchado hablar de la quinoa, el grano de oro de los andes, y a ello ha contribuido que la FAO, actuara como caja de resonancia, a través de la promoción del lema «*La quinoa: un futuro sembrado hace miles de años*». En cooperación con las partes interesadas y con la sociedad civil, quedó demostrado que la quinoa es un sistema alimentario saludable y sostenible a los fines de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria con soberanía. La realización del Año Internacional de la Quinoa tuvo un sentido especial para esta región, que luchó por su aprobación porque, luego del maíz y de la papa, una vez más desde estas tierras se entrega al mundo un alimento sembrado, cultivado y preservado durante los últimos 7000 años por nuestros pueblos indígenas. Es la práctica agrícola de los pueblos indígenas de la región, que se ha compartido para que los países puedan alcanzar el objetivo de desarrollo del milenio número 1: relativo a la reducción de la pobreza y del hambre en el mundo y recordando y compartiendo las experiencias que se remontan a miles de años.

Una mayor producción, consumo, visibilidad y conocimiento científico sobre la quinoa es el legado que deja para el mundo el año internacional, pues que ha demostrado que la quinoa tiene todo el potencial para jugar un rol preponderante en la seguridad alimentaria mundial, ya que hoy se cultiva en más de 70 países del mundo. Felicitamos entonces la celebración del Año Internacional de la Quinoa 2013 porque el mismo, al margen de constituirse en un aliado eficaz en la lucha contra el

hambre en el mundo, ha coadyuvado también a recuperar un cultivo y un alimento injustamente olvidado y que sobre todo significa revalorizar culturas y modos de vidas tradicionales.

En relación con la agricultura familiar, queremos destacar en relación con la evaluación del Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar, documento 2015/33, documento sobre el cual adelantamos nuestro respaldo, ya que refleja el éxito del año internacional en generar una mayor concientización sobre el relevante rol y la importante contribución que realiza la agricultura familiar para alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición. En nuestra región, el apoyo y el desarrollo de la agricultura familiar, es un paradigma asentado en un reconocimiento a sus aportes a la agricultura y a la economía, pero sobre todo a la cobertura de necesidades sociales.

Hemos obtenido resultados favorables y experiencias valiosas que hemos compartido con otras regiones a través de una participación intensa en el marco del año internacional. Destacamos la amplia participación de todos los sectores interesados en las distintas instancias en que la agricultura familiar fue tratada, no solo en el ámbito de la FAO como en las conferencias regionales y los comités técnicos, sino, y particularmente, en los comités nacionales creados en 50 países y en los diálogos internacionales llevados cabo finalizando con el diálogo mundial realizado en la sede de la FAO en octubre pasado.

Por nuestras propias experiencias, sabemos que aún resta mucho camino por recorrer. Por eso nos satisface que como resultado del año internacional, se cuente con herramientas que ayudarán a continuar los estudios, para conocer las diferentes realidades de los agricultores familiares en todo el mundo y para difundir y respaldar las correspondientes actividades para su promoción y apoyo. Destacamos en ese sentido, el documento delegado del año internacional, redactado por iniciativa del comité directivo internacional que reseña los avances logrados y las tareas a continuar. Asimismo, consideramos de fundamental importancia, la Plataforma de Conocimientos sobre Agricultura Familiar establecida por la FAO y apoyada por numerosos miembros y otros sectores interesados, porque constituye una fuente de singular valor para acceder a la información política, científica, jurídica y estadística sobre agricultura familiar.

El éxito del año internacional, fue resultado de la estrecha y constructiva colaboración entre los miembros de la FAO y la organización, especialmente con la Oficina de la FAO para asociaciones, actividades de promoción y creación de capacidad, a cuya directora, la Sra. Marcela Villareal, extendemos nuestro reconocimiento. Agradecemos asimismo al comité directivo del año internacional por el asesoramiento brindado y, en particular, a su presidencia, la República de Filipinas, por el apoyo otorgado que culminó con el acto de clausura oficial del año internacional, realizado en noviembre pasado en Manila.

Tenemos la convicción y la satisfacción de saber que el año internacional ha sido la base de un proceso mayor que fortalecerá la agricultura familiar, proceso en el cuál la FAO tiene un rol clave. Por ello, reiteramos nuestro endoso a la evaluación del Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar, recordando el tema del día mundial de la alimentación de 2014, cuyo concepto era *“Agricultura familiar, alimentar el mundo, cuidar el planeta”*.

Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)

I have taken the floor on behalf of Turkey and Pakistan as Co-Chairs of the International Steering Committee of the International Year of Pulses. We thank Madame Villarreal for her briefing.

According to the latest figures of the recently released SOFI 2015, seven hundred and 95 million people suffer from hunger and more than two hundred million children under five years of age suffer from malnutrition. The rural population is expected to increase by 34 percent by 2050, requiring a 50 percent increase in food production. The solution for several such emerging problems will be key to sustainable development.

In this regard, we believe that pulses can play a major role in addressing the future food and nutrition security needs, especially for the most vulnerable people. In terms of their nutritional value as a low priced and accessible protein source and being an alternative to animal based protein, especially for the poor, pulses make a major contribution in achieving food and nutrition security. Pulses are recommended as an invaluable part of a healthy diet by health organizations for avoiding non-

communicable diseases. In developing countries, the ratio of pulse consumption is over 75 percent while in developed countries, it is 25 percent.

Pulse related processed products such as pulse flour, noodles, bread dumplings, and snacks as value added products are consumed in various countries. Smallholder farmers, especially in developing countries, depend on pulse production for their living. It is a fact that female farmers have a greater share as labour force in pulse cultivation.

According to the latest FAO records, total pulse production of the world countries is around sixty-two million tons. 11 million tons are created which has a value of USD 7 billion. We believe that the celebration of the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses would create a unique opportunity to encourage linkages throughout the food chain. It would raise awareness on the valuable contributions of pulses in terms of food and nutrition security, health, poverty reduction, sustainable agriculture, and environment.

In the following decades, the recognition of benefits of pulse consumption will drive increased production in market technology, development, and transfer. In this context, we would like to express our sincere thanks once again to all countries for their support on the proclamation on the Year and state our expectation to see the same support during the celebration of the Year in 2016.

Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)

I also thank the Secretariat's reports which cover four International Years. The Chinese delegation supports that in 2013, the celebrations relating to the International Year of Quinoa and the other varying reports regarding the 2014 International Year of Family Farming. We also support that in 2016, we will hold celebrations in the International Year of Pulses.

Regarding the 2015 International Year of Soil and World Soil Day, I wish to make a few remarks. As we all know, soil serves as the basis for human survival, ecosystems, and agricultural production. It is also a limited resource. So far soil degradation has affected nearly one third of the global land areas and has posed a serious threat to various agricultural systems.

Humankind needs to protect soils and habitable environments to ensure food security in the sustainable ecological environment for future generations. The Chinese delegation appreciates the progress made in celebrations regarding the International Year of Soil in 2015. We call on FAO Member States to work together and provide support for achieving targets relating to the International Year of Soil. We also support the debate on soil management as an element to achieve food security and nutrition beyond 2015.

Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its twenty-eight Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the evaluation of the International Year of Quinoa 2013 and take note of the information provided in document C2015/32. The European Union and its Member States appreciate the significant role played by FAO and specifically the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in raising public awareness of the contribution that quinoa could make to eradicating hunger, malnutrition, and poverty, and also supporting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

We take note of the master plan drawn up for the successful implementation of the International Year of Quinoa along with complementary components such as information and communication, research, technology, and marketing events and the mobilization of cooperation and funds.

We also take note of the technical support by FAO to various projects in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Near East for the pilot introduction of quinoa and strengthening of quinoa's food system.

We acknowledge the contribution of the IYQ International Coordination Committee, the national committees, the producers associations, and the rural communities, the governments and the private

sector, the research and development agencies, and the non-governmental organizations. Their common efforts have all contributed to achieving the main objectives of the IYQ.

The European Union and its Member States welcome the outcomes of the International Year of Family Farming. We are happy to note that the four basic objectives of the International Year have largely been achieved and that the three global lines of action were implemented at national, regional, and global levels together with other partners, particularly IFAD and the WFP.

The IYFF contributed to raising public awareness on the crucial contribution of family farmers to food security and nutrition and sustainable development. The European Union and its Member States played an active role in raising public awareness through organizing national and international events and workshops throughout the International Year, highlighting the role of women in family farming.

We note the establishment of the Family Farming Knowledge Platform which, in the coming months, may develop a reference source of information on family farming assisting a wide range of stakeholders in policy making.

To keep up the momentum achieved in 2014, the national committees established for the International Year of Family Farming should continue their work and engage in policy dialog on family farming.

We would like to draw special attention to the legacy document of IYFF 2014 and the way forward which summarizes the outcomes and commitments beyond the International Year for all stakeholders.

In particular, we recall the recommendation of the legacy document in paragraph 28 according to which UN Rome-based Agencies as well as other organization should keep family farming as an integral element of their agenda and facilitate participation of the representatives of family farmers and others in their work.

The European Union and its Member States endorse the report on the evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON-PISTRE (European Union)

The European Union and its Member States welcome the outcomes of the International Year of Family Farming. We are happy to note that the four basic objectives of the International Year have largely been achieved and that the three global lines of action were implemented at national, regional, and global levels together with other partners, particularly IFAD and the WFP.

The IYFF contributed to raising public awareness on the crucial contribution of family farmers to food security and nutrition and sustainable development. The European Union and its Member States played an active role in raising public awareness by organizing national and international events and workshops throughout the international year, highlighting the role of women in family farming.

We note the establishment of the Family Farming Knowledge Platform which, in the coming months, may develop a reference source of information on family farming assisting a wide range of stakeholders in policy making.

To keep up the momentum achieved in 2014, the national committees established for the International Year of Family Farming should continue their work and engage in policy dialog on family farming.

We would like to draw special attention to the legacy document of IYFF 2014 and the way forward which summarizes the outcomes and commitments beyond the International Year for all stakeholders.

In particular, we recall the recommendation of the legacy document in paragraph 28 according to which UN Rome-based Agencies as well as other organization should keep family farming as an integral element of their agenda and facilitate participation of the representatives of family farmers and others in their work.

The European Union and its Member States endorse the report on the evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming.

Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)

Regarding the International Year of Soils 2015 and World Soil Day, we want to confirm our commitment to the 2015 International Year of Soils and express our appreciation for the way FAO supported the celebration of World Soil Day for the first time on 5 December 2014.

Sustainable soil management provides benefits for multiple global and local issues including climate change, biodiversity loss, and water resources. Most evidently, healthy soils are critical to ensure food security in the context of climate change and growing demand. The International Year of Soils and World Soil Day both provide much needed occasions to celebrate and raise awareness on soils and their numerous functions. We welcome the submission of this progress report to the FAO Members and appreciate FAO's role in the various activities undertaken in the framework of the IYS.

Many of these activities have taken place or will take place in the Member States of the European Union. We look forward to the continuation of the good collaboration with FAO to further pass the essential messages that are connected to the IYS's.

More structurally, we consider the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership as an essential instrument for action and synergy with the UNCCD to take forward the initiatives started during the IYS, in particular as regards the protection and sustainable management of soils.

Although the Sustainable Development Goals will be agreed only later this year, sustainable management of land and soils will no doubt be of crucial importance in the Post-2015 Agenda. This makes the choice for 2015 as the IYS all the more relevant in that it underlines the need for lasting initiatives on improving the health of cells for a healthier life of people.

And finally regarding the International Year of Pulses 2016, we would like to express our full commitment to the 2016 International Year of Pulses which clearly offers an exceptional opportunity to raise public awareness on the significant contribution of these crops.

We acknowledge that pulse crops are a critical source of plant-based proteins for people around the globe and the role that pulses play as a part of sustainable food production and toward food security. In this regard, pulse crops fit in areas with limited natural resources due to their low water and soil nutrients requirement.

We recognize the nutritional and health value of the pulses due to their high protein and essential amino acid content as well as being a source of carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals. We welcome the newly created secretary which in collaborating with the International Steering Committee will lead the IYP implementation process.

We strongly encourage the Steering Committee to promptly start discussing IYP action plans, setting out the objectives and listing the measures required for achieving them. Lastly, with regard to the decisions on future international years, we would like to recall the agreed FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of international years.

Ms Manar AL SABAH (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Chairperson of this meeting and Kuwait speaks on behalf of the Near East and this related to the Evaluation of the International Year for Family Farming. We are representative of the Near East countries that celebrate in the International Year of Family Farming. Last year was very useful in relation to raising public awareness and knowledge with relation to the role played by the family farming.

Yet we recognize at the same time that we are still at the beginning of the road towards deep dialog to create clear foundations for a sustainable family farming, especially as it is related to the state and condition in the Near East. The available Reports on the International Year for Family Farming have not identified the real needs in the region, especially the weaknesses and strengths in this area. We in the Near East Region need that the FAO will analyze the status for family farming in our countries and how to sustain this vital component in our national agriculture strategy.

Therefore we need to add more ideas and information about the realities of family farming and their role in supporting the regional and national strategies in order to strengthen the role of small farmers and smallholder farmers.

While we emphasize the importance of family farmers at all regional, national and international levels, we suggest to have a mechanism to evaluate family farming in each region and the regional office for the Near East will assume this role and function, preferably that the CFS will discuss having guidelines in the family farming in all regions.

Ms Doojduan SASANAVIN (Thailand)

I make this statement on behalf of the Asia Group. The Asia Group thanks the Secretariat for preparing the Report. We appreciate the progress made in implementing the Plan of Action for the International Year of Soils.

Achievement of the IYS was recognized by the listings of governance on fundamental roles of soils to food security and nutrition as well as its essential function for ecosystem protection. We welcome the inclusion of sustainable soils management in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals.

Asia Group concurs that the IYS Plan of Action should be a living document. We appreciate FAO's work and the Secretariat of the IYS for coordinating, communicating, and providing technical input for the implementation of the plan. We admire the active participation of FAO in providing communication, materials, current events in different countries, and a dedicated website for IYS.

Asia Group encourages Members to engage more on celebrating IYS and enhance their support through financial contributions or by joining campaigns to increase awareness and technical knowledge exchange to applications and international conference organizations.

Our members such as China, Japan, Kazakhstan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand have been actively showing their support on this. Sustainable management of soils needs strong commitment and collaborations among all stakeholders. We advise our Members to join hands for protecting these essential natural resources together because healthy soil is for a healthy life.

Mr Vimlandra SHARAN (India)

I have been eating pulses since I was a kid and my country is the largest consumer of pulses apart from being a major producer. But I never knew that pulses could be as interesting as Ahmad made it sound in his intervention. So I really look forward to the International Year of Pulses and we really support it wholeheartedly.

We align ourselves with Thailand in supporting the International Year of Soils and I don't know what they are going to say about the Year of Family Farming but whatever it says, we align ourselves with them. That leaves me to just one issue that is a future sown thousands of years ago, the International Year of Quinoa, where I want to say something.

The increased production and consumption of quinoa coupled with higher visibility and greater scientific knowledge about the so-called Andean super crop is the legacy left to the world by the International Year. We are happy with the successful implementation of the Year which elevated quinoa into a crop with an heir of gourmet available in health food stores and at high end grocery stores.

Our biggest problem is now getting quinoa into our diet because of its high price. Usually now it is costing more than three times the price of most common grains. Now what I read out next is not something which I can authenticate but is from a magazine on the net so maybe the Secretariat will be more knowledgeable.

But what it says is that "moreover, this high price for quinoa has been a double-edged sword for its producers. The recent spurt and demand for quinoa has sent the prices soaring, initially a boon for the poor farmers in Bolivia and Peru where it grows so highly at all altitudes and near desert-like conditions. But the foreign demand has now made the crop an export crop, too expensive for that same local population where it had been a staple for perhaps millennia. Ironically, the Bolivian government has reported a possible rise in malnutrition in the quinoa growing regions as a result."

I really do not know how true it is but what I would like to say is when we celebrate these international years, especially international years of commodities, I think we need to keep a close eye on the effect of these years. Which way are we going in our quest to really promote the crop? Are we really harming the people who are the original growers of the crop?

While this Year is history, 2013, Year of Pulses is coming as another commodity crop in 2016. So that was the only point I wanted to make that when we are celebrating these commodities, we must keep our eyes and ears open and close to the ground to really understand the effect of these years.

Mr Ahmed Yakubu AL HASSAN (Ghana)

My first comment is about the International Year of Quinoa. This certainly has been a success. They have been with us in West Africa. We know about the crop. We are fully aware now and its uses as well. We have a TCP with the FAO in Ghana, and sometime during the first quarter of this year many scientists from Central and West Africa assembled in a crowd to undergo training.

I believe that this will go a long way to get the crop moving in. I do believe the increase of quinoa in our food and nutrition systems in our country will have to be through a process of more capacity-building for those of us who do not yet know their crop, deeper research globally, and then ensuring that we will have extensive information, in particular on how it can be integrated into our food systems, and more importantly, indigenous food systems, because it really holds potential to inform better nutrition in our rural communities in Ghana and countries that are similar.

With respect to the International Year of Family Farming, I just have one small remark to make. Perhaps the awareness of family farming will now give policymakers some managers such as us an opportunity to explain that when we say small-scale farmers should transition into conventional farming, we are calling for more efficiency in family farms to make them more profitable, and not necessarily treating them with non-existence commercial or big-time farming.

The International Year of Pulses and that of the Soils, I think, are seriously interlinked. I consider the pulses about nutrition, losing our regions soils, and I think that these two are very strategic in getting us globally to reconstruct the nutrient cycle which I believe was broken and that is why we are beginning to have all of these challenges with our production falling every now and again.

I think that Ghana, particularly, endorses the idea of developing the Regional Soil Management Plans and the other countries to mainstream these Soil Management Plans in their agricultural policies and plans and to commit resources to same so that we can have our natural resources reconstructed to support our crop production exercises and better nutrition.

Mr Yaquob AL-RAHBI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

Many countries, including Oman, due to the importance and highly nutritious value of this crop, that make a number of countries that rely on it as a strategic crop. In this context, the Sultanate welcomes the outcomes of the Evaluation of International Year of Quinoa which was included in this Report and this was very clear through the activities and programmes carried out by the governments, civil society organizations and private sector that focused mainly on the importance of this crop in limiting malnutrition and raising the awareness of the farmers and urging them to pay more attention to this crop and its nutritious value.

The Sultanate pays attention to this crop and implementing core research activities in collaboration of FAO and the EQA through which a number of promising quinoa species in order to evaluate how they adapt to the environment in the Sultanate. In case these species succeed, it is expected that it will have an impact in the food security system in the country. As it related to the International Year of Soil and World Soil Day, we welcome the report and emphasize the importance that the governments, international organizations, civil society organizations, will organize the events on the management of agriculture that will achieve the sustainable agriculture and food security and eradication of hunger and poverty, enabling women to stand and address the negative impacts of climate change. In response to the FAO goal in celebrating the International Year of Soil, it has really started to prepare to organize a number of events relevant to conservation of soil and we will hold in October a workshop on this. It is worth mentioning that the Sultanate in 2015 had identified a focal point with the FAO on

the Global Partnership for Soil in addition to starting the implementation of project with the United Nations on management of the soils impacted by salinity.

With regards to the International Year of Pulses, the relevant knowledge of this year, which is included in the Report submitted before the Conference, we believe a high relevance and can urge the governments and the non-governmental organizations to allocate activities and programmes in 2016 to highlight the role of these crops in achieving the economic diversity and the food security and a way to ensure the sustainability of these crops. It is also important that the governments and the non-governmental organizations will undertake the respective responsibilities in providing the best means and making that the awareness of the farmers and the stakeholders of the importance of these crops. So in this framework, the Sultanate exerted great efforts to collect all kinds of pulses because they are sometimes a danger due to the high salinity of drought and the high temperature. As a result of the climate change, in 2016 the Sultanate will participate with all countries in celebrating the International Year of Pulses by intensifying activities and programmes related to pulses and organize a number of events highlighting the role of pulses. The year 2016 will be in parallel with the Five-Year Plan which will enable the policymakers to include the research and development activities related to pulse crops.

Mr Mmaphaka Ephraim TAU (South Africa)

I would comment on the Evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming. South Africa wishes to thank the Chair of the Steering Committee of the International Year of Family Farming, Mr Lupino Lazaro of the Philippines, for his able leadership in 2014.

South Africa notes with appreciation the achievements made in 2014 to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing the world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty by providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources and protecting the environment.

The 2014, International Year of Family Farming, has added impetus to the repositioning of family farming as key to agricultural, environmental, and social policies in the national agendas. It helped to identify gaps and opportunities to promote a shift towards more equal and balanced development. Governments, family farmers, organizations, civil society organizations, research centres and private sector representatives, were able to discuss and cooperate at national, regional, and global levels to raise awareness and deepen an understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers.

South Africa has family farmers that range from households with none or even limited access to land, small-scale subsistence farmers who farm for all consumption and sell part of their produce on local markets, medium-scale commercial farmers and large-scale or well-established commercial farmers. The South African government is committed to supporting the development of policies conducive to sustainable family farming with emphasis on subsistence and small-scale farming. South Africa welcomes the efforts made in 2014 to address family farming and invites Member States and stakeholders to continue to raise the profile of smallholder farming.

The International Year of Family Farming encouraged Member States to establish an enabling environment for the sustainable development of family farming. May 2014 not be the end as more can still be done to increase knowledge in support of family farming as well as to address constraints to ensure sustainable farming. South Africa acknowledges the achievement of the International Year of Family Farming and note with appreciation the collaborative leadership provided by Member States, regional bodies, civil society, and private sector. Finally, South Africa endorses the adoption of the Evaluation Report of the International Year of Family Farming by the Conference.

Ms Maria Adelaide D'ARCANGELO (United States of America)

The United States would like to make a statement with regards to the International Year of Soils. Many in this forum know that the United States, when considering International Years, assesses their global relevance, cost neutrality, and their potential for raising international awareness to a specific issue.

Because healthy and productive soil is essential as global demands rise for food, fuel, and fiber, we were pleased to support and play an active role in celebrating 2015 as the International Year of Soils. U.S. participation is being coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture with a Natural Resources Conservation Service as the lead agency. We are committed to our continued alliance with FAO's Global Soil Partnership.

On 6 January, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack headlined an event for USDA employees and partners in Washington D.C. to commemorate the beginning of this important Year. Leaders from NRCS, Forest Service, Soil Science Society of America, Foreign Agricultural Service, and others, joined together in support of IYS. NRCS is working collaboratively with conservation partners around the globe to help spread the message of the importance of soil. Soils also play a crucial role in food security, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation, poverty reduction, and sustainable development.

As America's Agency for Soil Conservation, Classification, and Studies, the United States, and NRCS in particular, is excited that 2015 will bring worldwide attention to the importance of soil. We believe that this year offers an unprecedented opportunity to engage not only farmers and land users in our mission to protect and improve soil resources, but also wider, more general audience that previously was not aware of the many life-giving qualities of soil that are often taken for granted.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

I would like to join others in thanking the Secretariat for the informative presentations of these evaluations and updates on International Years. Rigorous evaluation of the outcomes of International Years and the contribution they make towards the attainment of the FAO's goals is vitally important.

As stated in the annex to the Economic and Social Council Resolution 1980/67, each International Year should have objectives likely to lead to identifiable and practical results. Procedures for evaluation should be established during the preparatory process and should form part of the implementation and follow-up of each International Year.

As a member of the International Steering Committee for the International Year of Pulses, Canada looks forward to working with other members to establish these procedures prior to the launch of the International Year of Pulses scheduled for late 2015. Given that the costs arising from International Years is above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the FAO, should be met through voluntary contributions. It is very useful to see financial data included in the evaluations which were presented today.

Canada notes the generous contributions to International Year Trust Funds made by FAO Members and also welcomes the substantial financial contributions made by the private sector; the International Fertilizers Association for the International Year of Soils and the Global Pulse Confederation for the International Year of Pulses. This financial contribution is a welcome addition to the rural partner organizations' play on the International Steering Committees for these years.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

Australia supports the International Year of Family Farming and endorses the Report. We have been active in promoting the important contribution that family farmers make to reduce hunger and poverty, provide food security and nutrition and achieve sustainable development. Family farming is important in Australia agriculture.

The Australian National Farmers Federation states that 99 percent of Australian farming businesses is family-owned. These family farms are a diverse mix of different farming enterprises and come in all different shapes and sizes. Australia believes that a vibrant, innovative, and competitive agriculture sector will create jobs, encourage investment, and help build stronger rural and regional communities, and in turn, a stronger Australia.

At the same time, we do not believe that it is appropriate to have a specific farming structure. We recognize that smallholder family farms are in Developing Countries and they can face specific challenges, including in relation to access to finance, high post-harvest losses, and integration into markets and value chains. These are all issues that FAO and the international community should

continue to work with national governments to address. We believe that the types of government policies that support family farmers are those that assist to the farm sector to become more competitive, profitable, and sustainable.

We congratulate FAO on the appointment of Soil Ambassadors and we would like to tell you that Australia has its own Soils Advocate. The Australia Prime Minister has extended General Jeffries in appointment as National Advocate until the end of 2015. I think that this shows the importance that Australia places on soils and the International Year of Soils.

Australia is pleased to endorse the International Year of Pulses in 2016. Australia believes that pulses are a valuable contributor to sustainable agriculture. The International Year of Pulses would provide Australia with an opportunity to promote itself as a reliable global supplier of food. The initiative will help to raise awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses and their contribution to global food security, as a substantial food base for the poor. Pulses are an important crop in Australia, both in terms of their export value and in terms of their role in Crop Protection Systems, improving soil health in cereal crops.

Australia has set some ambitious targets such as increasing pulse consumption by 470 percent by 2020 to meet the Australian Dietary Guidelines Recommendations and has planned a range of activities in order to meet such targets.

CHAIRPERSON

Philippines, you have already an endorsement from another member country of what you are going to say.

Mr Lupino LAZARO (Philippines)

I was about to say that. I am focusing my intervention on the International Year of Family Farming and happy to note that even before I delivered a statement, I already got endorsements like what India did.

This statement is being delivered on behalf of the G77 in China. We would like to thank the Secretariat for the overview and we endorse the Report on the Evaluation of IYFF 2014.

FAO estimates that there are around 500 million family farms worldwide; a significant portion of which are found in the Member Countries of the G77 in China. Family farming is not only the dominant model of food and agricultural production globally. It is a way of life as well. We are grateful for the extensive efforts of FAO, starting with the Director-General, in fulfilling its mandate to facilitate IYFF's implementation, including through the establishment of the International Steering Committee, the Interdepartmental Task Force and Secretariat, headed by Director Douman, a dedicated website, and soon to be a launched knowledge platform. FAO likewise designated IYFF's special Ambassadors and conducted regional dialogues and analytical and policy work in collaboration with members and other Rome-based Agencies, particularly IFAD and WFP, and concerned stakeholders, including the initiator of the campaign, the World Rural Forum.

Owing to its sheer relevance and wide breadth of scope, the IYFF successfully generated broad political and social support in raising awareness on the crucial contribution of family farmers, including smallholders, to sustainable development, food security, and nutrition. As highlighted in the document, legacy of the IYFF 2014 and the way forward approved by the ISC-IYFF, the year's main legacy are the policies, programmes, and institutional arrangements that have been and will be formulated, improved or implemented since its declaration by the UN General Assembly.

Despite limited Trust Fund, IYFF's total returns and impact are significant as mentioned in the Report. And much more could be done to sustain IYFF's momentum beyond 2014 since IYFF is now treated not only as a year-long celebration but as an opportunity to bolster and continue a process to promote the welfare and interests of family farmers and smallholders worldwide.

In addition to the envisaged actions by FAO listed in the Report, we reiterate the recommendations put forth by the ISC in the legacy document including: one, the promotion of enabling policies for agriculture and rural development. Two, securing access and use of land, water, and other natural

resources for family farmers. Three, empowering women and achieving gender equality. Four, enhancing the quality of life in rural areas to make it more attractive and vibrant for young people. Five, Innovations adopted to family farming, and six, promotion of producers organizations, farmers associations, and agricultural cooperatives to foster economic empowerment to family farmers.

I would just like to add Philippine's observation that the impact and persistence of the IYFF advocacy is very much reflected in the inclusion of family farming in many if not most of the statements in this Conference by the Delegations up to the highest levels such as the guest presidents and heads of states. I also wish to thank all of the Members for the kind words to the ISC and Philippines in the leadership in this campaign.

Finally, we have supported the International Year of Quinoa and endorse the International Year of Soils and International Year of Pulses.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We join others in thanking the Secretariat for the report. We also would like to align ourselves with the statement made by Philippines on behalf of G77 China.

We commend FAO for all the work that went into creating the International Years organized. We further commend the people and Governments of the following four countries: Bolivia, Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, and Turkey, for playing a leadership role in getting the International Years of the four items organized.

We would like to express also a similar concern as my Indian colleague in relation to the quinoa. Quinoa is getting popular internationally and this obviously will generate income for the country as a whole. But has it affected the consumption of the local population. I am raising this issue because we also have a similar case in Ethiopia whereby we have a tiny crop called teff. Some of you in this hall may have tried that. It is becoming popular internationally and some of our people are getting worried. Since it is becoming popular internationally, it is going to be more and more of it will be exported and so on. Do the people in Bolivia and the other quinoa-producing countries also facing similar problems.

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

We would like to thank the Representatives of the Secretariat for their comprehensive and very interesting presentation.

We value the Evaluation of the International Year of Family Farming and support the recommendations therein. The Russian Federation also supports the International Year of Family Farming proclamations. We also place great value on the development of family farming. Starting from 2009, we have organized a number of activities related to the development of family farms, family animal husbandry farms, and also activities to support farmers in the beginning of their careers, and also activities to support farmers in the beginning of their careers using grants. As far as the work carried out by FAO in this area, we feel that this work is very useful and relevant today. We support the inclusion of family farming issues in the Strategic Framework and we would also like to note the relevance of the FAO report regarding the state of international farming that is SOFA 2014, innovation in family farms.

We count on the FAO continuing its work in supporting mechanisms to support family farms. We also welcome the International Year of Soils 2015 as well as the World Soil Day. We are satisfied that the leading role played in carrying out these initiatives has been played by the Global Soil Partnership.

We also commend the establishment of the Steering Committee for the Year of Soils as well as the nomination by the Director-General of two soils Ambassadors as well as the thematic activities carried out by the Organization in this area.

I would like to note that the Year of Soils was greeted with great enthusiasm in the Russian Federation and an internet portal on soils was established in Russia. We carried out scientific conference and international conferences. We have also planned a soils parade in the Russian Federation.

We support the carrying out of the Year of Soils in 2015 and we hope that this initiative will continue into the future.

Ms Merja SUNDBERG (Finland)

Finland aligns herself with the EU statement. Apart from that EU statement, Finland wishes to raise a separate issue.

We would like to share the information that, at the recent tense meeting of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures of the International Plant Protection Convention, the IPPC.

Finland has made a proposal to proclaim an International Year of Plant Health for the year 2020. This proposal was unreservedly supported by and accepted by the IPPC Commission. It is our firm belief that plant health is one of the most underrated key factors in agricultural productivity and environmental protection on a global scale.

Consequently, we would find it essential to raise the awareness of a global audience about plant health and its positive contributions to food security, environmental protection, and subsequently to poverty alleviation.

Finland has informed that it will promote the proclamation of such an International Year of Plant Health. Finland will propose resolutions to this effect in relevant UN bodies. This will include a proposal to FAO to be made in the near future.

Finland kindly requests the before said to be reflected in the Commission I Report.

Mr Fabian Sumba MUYA (Kenya)

We wish also to join others to thank the presenters for their good presentations on Item 18.

We also support and agree with the statements that have been read by the Delegates in this Plenary Session and as regards the International Year of Pulses, we urge Members to be productive during the International Year of Pulses 2016 as we all know that pulses contribute immensely in human health.

In line with the statement made by Finland, Kenya delegation wishes to support the proposal by Finland to proclaim an International Year of Plant Health 2020. As we recall, the importance of plant health cannot be overemphasized, for its purpose and usefulness in ensuring food security for people.

I would want to mention that if this International Year of Plant Health is observed, it will offer considerable opportunities for consideration in Member States to create a more public awareness and develop more plant policies, plant health policies and provision of resources for analysing and promoting plant health, productivity, and hence feed the world with the food that good plants will generate.

Kenya supports the proposal of proclaiming 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health.

Ms Yoon-kyung JO (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea would like to support and endorse the proposal from Finland to designate 2020 as the International Year of Plant Health. Recognizing its main concept, healthy plants to feed the world, we believe that the International Year of Plant Health will enhance the global awareness on the importance of plant health and the role of IPPC in protecting plant health.

Ms Liz NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

We do like everyone's company here but we will never the less be brief. The United Kingdom would also very much like to support the proposal for the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 as proposed by Finland and also as endorsed, supported by Kenya and the Republic of Korea very much along the lines that all of those three previous speakers have outlined, essentially that it is important to raise the awareness about plant health and its importance with regard to food security and environmental protection as I said, as those have already outlined.

Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)

Australia would like to join our colleagues here in supporting Finland's intervention by welcoming the initiative for the International Year of Plant Health in 2020 to be brought to the next conference for endorsement.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Canada)

Canada would just like to align itself with the statement of Finland, Kenya, Korea, the UK, Australia, and I think I have forgotten somebody, in support of the International Year of Plant Health in 2020.

Mr David OPATOWSKI (Israel)

We support the initiative by Finland and the other colleagues to make the year 2020 the International Year of Plant Health. Even as we meet here, negotiations are going on in Geneva and they are finding a work plan that will pave the way and the WTO will go around on negotiations. If found, it hopes to include reductions in cost and tariffs and remove all trade, reflecting measures in agriculture, it will encourage increased global trade in agricultural products.

Under such conditions, the risk of spreading pests and diseases will increase and with it, the threat of reduced production and closure of markets. It is imperative that we increase the awareness so that Member States will be able to meet this challenge without adverse effects.

Therefore, we fully support this initiative in naming the year 2020 the International Year of Plant Health.

Ms Ursula SCHWARTZ (Austria)

Austria also likes to support Finland for an International Year of Plant Health.

Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)

We also support the initiative of Finland and welcome this idea of declaring the year 2020 as International Year of Plant Health.

Sra. Andrea S. REPETTI (Argentina)

Argentina también se suma a las delegaciones que apoyan la celebración del Año Internacional de la Sanidad Vegetal 2020.

Mr Vimlandra SHARAN (India)

We support Finland's proposal for an International Year of Plant Health 2020.

Ms Burcu SERIN (Turkey)

Turkey also supports the proposal made by Finland related to the proclamation of the 2020 as the International Year of Plants. We believe that proclamation of the year will raise global awareness of the international community and policy makers in emerging threats to plant health from international trade, climate change, and other growing challenges.

Mr Luiz Maria PIO CORREA (Brazil)

Brazil also supports the initiative of Finland to proclaim 2020 the International Year of Plant Health.

Mr Given LUBINDA (Zambia)

Zambia would like to join all of the others in supporting the proposal for 2020 to be the year for plant health but also to commend FAO for choosing 2016 to be the Year of Pulses. Zambia is one of the countries that produce a lot of maize and yet her people do not have very high nutrition value and it is our hope that with the year of pulses next year, the nutrition value of the people of Zambia will increase.

Mr Abreha Ghebrai ASEFFA (Ethiopia)

We support Finland's proposal.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you all for these interventions. I wish to thank everybody for their participation to this rich debate and also thank you for your understanding in my choice of merging the four sub-items on the international years. I hope this was not too stressful. On the contrary, I believe that it was interesting to

see them from this transversal perspective and I am very glad to give the floor to our best expert in the room on international years.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Partnerships, Advocacy and Capacity Development)

I would like to first thank very wholeheartedly our Members for their resounding support on the celebration of the Years and for the endorsement of the work that actually we have carried out together.

I would like to just make a comment on the governance of these International Years. Several of you have referred to how we have followed the Years including by setting up the International Steering Committees and how this has enabled us to work together and you have shown that the results that we have been achieving through the implementation of the International Years is also by working very closely together.

I must say that personally, I appreciate this enormously. By bringing together all of the Members and also the different stakeholders, I think that we have been able to have an influence on how the Years evolve and very specifically, on the big impact and big results that they are having.

Now each Year is very different. One year the family farming has been proposed more by civil society, the World Rural Forum. The International Year of Pulses has strong backing by the private sector. The Year of Soils is very much backed by the international community and academia. Therefore, each of them is a very different kind. But by having been able to come together, establish processes of listening to each other and processes of dialog not only among ourselves but also at the regional level, I think that we have been able to contribute very strongly to the success of the Years and actually to the work of this Organization, bringing together the different stakeholders with all of their different voices.

There was mention to the financial implications of the Years and there was an illusion also to the policy. That tells us very clearly that FAO should not be spending the resources from the regular budget for the support of the work of the Years. So this is why we believe it is so very important to receive financial contributions from different sources and also, I allude to the point that Canada raised, the evaluation is also an effort that has to be done together.

We will be looking forward to set the criteria for evaluation already from the proprietary phase of the International Year and including also the financial aspects, financial implications of the Years.

There has been mention also on the links between the Years. Very clearly the Year of Family Farming has very close links with the Year of Soils and that too also has very close links to the Year of Pulses. And this is an aspect that we would like to work more together with you how these Years are linked.

There was reference made to gender issues and yes of course, gender issues are fundamental throughout all of the different International Years. This is one of the strong linking factors from the International Years.

The legacies of the Years including, reference was made to the document, the legacy document of the Year of Family Farming and how the legacies have to deal with what happens after the Year in terms of policies, programs, and institutional arrangements. Here I would like to say that you count as usual with FAO's full support on these very fundamental aspects.

Finally, I would just like to make one point responding to the Near East and we will be very happy to work together with you from supporting the Regional Office to ensure that the specificities of family farming within the region are identified and addressed through policy and other measures.

Sr. Raúl Osvaldo BENITEZ (Subdirector general y Representante Regional de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)

Seré muy breve y ya solo para completar el comentario de la Sra. Villarreal sobre el vínculo, incluso me gustaría vincular con el punto anterior referido a nutrición el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar, preservación de los suelos y la quinua, y el Año Internacional de la Quinua que están estrechamente relacionados y solamente reafirmar también lo del presupuesto que mencionó la doctora

Villarreal, recordarle al representante de Canadá que en el documento, en el punto 14 hay un comentario respecto a los fondos que manejamos, que fueron básicamente donaciones de Bolivia, de Perú y de Argentina.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes our Agenda Item and I will read my summary conclusions. Please bear with me. It is like a long one. Consider them as four short bits put together plus a little addition after Finland's proposal.

One, Quinoa. The Conference:

- a) welcomed and endorsed the evaluation report of the International Year of Quinoa 2013.
- b) recognized the achievements in raising public awareness on quinoa's potential role as an ally in the fight against hunger and malnutrition.
- c) recognized the collaborative work of Member Nations, FAO, UN organizations, NGOs, producers associations, research institutions, private sector, and academia in the implementation of the International Year of Quinoa. And finally,
- d) invited all FAO Members to continue to support activities coordinated by FAO to promote quinoa food systems, especially in countries suffering from hunger and malnutrition.

Now I move to Family Farming. The Conference:

- a) acknowledged that the International Year of Family Farming was successfully celebrated through multi stakeholder policy dialogs and awareness raising events in all regions and at the global level.
- b) welcomed the strong worldwide political commitment at the highest level emerged in favour of family farming during the IYFF and noted that this legacy will have to materialize in national and regional policies, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks to support family farms concretely.
- c) recognized the role played by FAO in facilitating the Year and at all levels and asked FAO to further integrate family farming in its Strategic Framework.
- d) endorsed the Report on the Evaluation of the International Year of Farming 2014.
- e) welcomed the creation of the Family Farming Knowledge Platform hosted by FAO in collaboration with many stakeholders. And finally,
- f) encouraged the national committees and all other multi stakeholder platforms for policy dialog created for the IYFF at national – at regional levels to continue their work beyond the year 2014.

Three, Soils. The Conference:

- a) acknowledged the progress report on the activities undertaken during the International Year of Soils 2015.
- b) noted with appreciation the role of FAO for the timely facilitation and coordination of the Secretariat and welcomed the varied composition of the International Year of Soils Steering Committee, welcomed the interest from the National Statistical Services in maintaining the inclusion of soil-related indicators in the SDG process.
- c) expressed support for the activities under IYS 2015 in support for soil fertility and to reverse soil degradation.
- d) welcomed the effective linkage advocated during the year between healthy soils and food security and nutrition. And finally,
- e) invited all FAO members, international organizations, and others in the promotion and observance of IYS at national, regional, and international levels as well as attract voluntary contributions from stakeholders including the private sector.

Four, Pulses. The Conference:

- a) acknowledged and welcomed the progress reports on the preparation of the International Year of Pulses 2016 declared by the UN General Assembly at its 68th Session.
- b) expressed support for IYP 2016 and its objectives, particularly on the need to raise awareness on the role of pulses through sustainable food production and their contribution to global food security and nutrition.
- c) noted with appreciation the role of the FAO for the timely facilitation and coordination of the preparatory activities of IYP such as the establishment of the IYP Steering Committee in collaboration with FAO members, international organizations, and relevant stakeholders.
- d) underlined the need to ensure adequate funding for IYP and encouraged FAO Members to respond generously with extra budgetary resources to support the implementation of IYP activities and obtain its objectives. And finally,
- e) invited all FAO Members, international organizations, and others in the promotion and observance of IYP at national, regional, and international levels as well as attract voluntary contributions from stakeholders including the private sector.

Plus we have a standalone paragraph which is the Conference welcome the proposal of Finland to establish an International Year of Plant Health in 2020.

Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)

This is with regards to the last paragraph. If I remember correctly, the language is usually to request that the General Assembly to consider, something to that effect or are we not yet at that point in considering the New Year?

CHAIRPERSON

You are right. It is not that far looking because it's the next Conference which we will have to request the General Assembly.

Is my summary agreeable? Yes. Thank you.

Item 19. Global Soil Partnership

Point 19. Partenariat mondial sur les sols

Tema 19. Alianza mundial sobre los suelos

(C 2015/31)

CHAIRPERSON

And now we have our last item on the agenda of this Commission I which is item 19: *Global Soil Partnership*. The reference document is C 2015/31. Please be aware that this item includes a Draft Conference Resolution endorsing the Revised World Soil Charter.

I am glad to give the floor to Mr. Moujahed Achouri, Director of the Land and Water Division of the FAO.

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I will present item 9 which is the World Soil Charter. Maybe the first question which can come to mind is why an update of the World Soil Charter.

I shall briefly mention that the World Soil Charter, existing one, has been developed in 1982 which was adopted by the FAO member countries in the 1982 FAO Conference. However, it was agreed by Member States that the Global Soil Partnership was duty-bound to promote the principles of the 1982 World Soil Charter. Maybe some of the maps can give a little bit of an idea why the updating the World Soil Charter since 1982. There are maps that can tell a little bit about some kind of direct link between land degradation and the newest map of FAO Hunger. Also, all of us we are talking about the need for a 60 percent increase in food to cope with the growing population of 9.5 billion people in 2050.

All of us we agree that our soils are under threat. And as you know, 33 percent of our soils are degraded. So taking the opportunity of the International Year of Soils 2015, there is really a need to boost and strive towards healthy soils. Also, it requires commitment and political will in order to advocate and implement sustainable soil management. The World Soil Charter aims to advocate for that goal and you heard today a lot about the International Year of Soils and healthy soils for healthy food.

I would like to briefly mention the steps which have been taken to update the World Soil Charter. In November 1981, as I mentioned earlier, the 21st Session of the FAO Conference adopted the World Soil Charter, cautious of the threat to food production from alarming soil degradation. In July 2013, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils started the Charter update to reflect current challenges and development over the last three decades. In July 2014, the new Charter submitted to the Global Soil Partnership Plenary Assembly in July 2014 modified and finally endorsed by the Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership. In October 2014, the new Charter was endorsed by the Community of Agriculture, COAG. And in December 2014, the new Charter was endorsed by the Council.

A few key elements that have been already mentioned in your endorsement statement for the International Year of Soils; these are for healthy soils and we do believe that there is still a lot to be done with it and maybe the Soil Charter will promote what I am saying here. Our policies and governance which are required for our healthy soils, research, what is required from research for healthy soils, education and educational programmes are required, sustainable soil management is a prerequisite for healthy soils, stopping or reducing land degradation and soil degradation, restoring as well degraded soils, and soil information which is missing in many of our countries.

To conclude my intervention, I would first like to thank you all for your support beyond *2015 The International Year of Soils*, and we thought that since in 2015 also falls the FAO Conference, it would be an occasion for the Conference to be invited to consider the new World Soil Charter as a vehicle to promote the sustainable management of global soil resources.

Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)

Argentina respalda la medida que se ha propuesto. Hemos trabajado intensamente junto con otros miembros de la FAO para llevar adelante el proceso integral por el cual se está fortaleciendo el tratamiento del tema de suelos en la FAO. Por lo tanto, nos sumamos al respaldo a la aprobación de este documento y reiteramos este agradecimiento a la División de Tierras y Aguas por el apoyo que han dado, particularmente al Sr. Achuri y al Sr. Ronald Vargas.

Mr Mmaphaka Ephraim TAU (South Africa)

South Africa welcomes the mandate of the Global Soil Partnership to improve governance of the limited soil resources of the planet in order to guarantee healthy and productive soils for food supply as well as support other essential ecosystem services in accordance with the sovereign right of each state over its natural resources.

Soil is under pressure. The renewed recognition of the central role of soil resources as a basis for food security and their provision of key ecosystem services calls for regional and international initiatives and concerted action. In this regard, South Africa recognizes the World Soil Charter as adopted by the 21st Session of the FAO Conference in 1981. Over the years, South Africa has applied the principles and the guidelines of the Charter to conserve soils and has since, through the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership, seen the need to update the text of the Charter. The reformulated Charter embraces the now better understood framework of ecosystem services and has adjusted the original emphasis on land use, planning and land evaluation.

South Africa welcomes and supports the endorsement of the updated World Soil Charter.

Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)

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

We recognize that soils are limited natural resources and of fundamental importance with a view to achieving food security and maintaining key ecosystem services. Healthy soils through improvement of soil fertility, water retention capacity, as well as carbon sequestration as a core benefit, are key to adapt agriculture, enhanced resilience, and improve agricultural production and productivity for food security in the context of climate change. We agree that the maintenance or enhancement of global soil resources is essential if humanity's primary need for food, water, and energy security is to be met.

We commend all the efforts undertaken by the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and its Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils which prepared the Revised World Soil Charter that was initially adapted 30 years ago by the FAO Conference. As this is the International Year of Soils, we consider that this is a unique opportunity to adopt a revised World Soil Charter that incorporates those issues such as climate change and urban sprawl which will emerge or have become more acute over the past decades. We are pleased to adopt the Draft Resolution endorsing the revised World Soil Charter.

We wish to express our general appreciation of the GSP as an interactive, responsive, and voluntary platform, and of its mandate to improve this preservation and enhancement of the limited soil resources and guarantee healthy and productive soils for a food-secure world. In particular, we welcome the arrangements made to ensure the successful implementation of the International Year of Soils and the World Soil Day. We take note of the preparations despite a strongly constrained timeframe of the Report on the Status of World Soil Resources.

We would encourage the GSP to ensure that there is broad acceptance and implementation of the revised Charter at all levels from policymakers down to soil practitioners and at national, regional, and international levels. We encourage it to be delivered by means of various channels of communication, both with the involvement of key actors provided by the GSP and in the context of the International Year of Soils.

Finally, we encourage GSP to continue to work closely with the three Rio Conventions. In particular, we welcome the first joint ITPS-SPI meeting organized on the occasion of the 3rd Global Soil Week held from 20 to 24 April 2015 in Berlin as a first step to implement an effective communication and collaboration between the science and policy interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS).

Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)

Soil is at the core of the main challenges faced by our planet. Nevertheless, it is a resource still widely considered as a given. And as a result, degradation of soils is increasing worldwide. Studies carried out by FAO and UNCCD estimate that soil degradation affects almost 2 billion actors and 1.5 billion people nowadays. By 2050, around 2.4 billion people might be living in severely degraded lands subject to water scarcity and floods. Fortunately, the international communities are awakening to the facts faced by this natural resource. The Global Soil Partnership and the Declaration of 2015 as the International Year of Soils are good examples of international initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of soils and foster the adoption of adequate policies and practices to its conservation and sustainable use.

Soil is present in the discussions about the Post-2015 Agenda, given that it is essential to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Eradicating poverty, changing patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and sustainably using natural resources for achieving economic and social development are crucial to a systematic approach on soils. As a country of continental dimensions and great diversity of soils, Brazil has also begun to do its part to support initiatives to promote healthy soils in different biomes and such economic realities. Last March, for instance, our federal court of accounts organized in Brazil a first Conference on Soil Governance,

bringing together different ministries and national institutions to discuss means to protect and sustainably manage this important resource.

The adoption of integrated approaches, the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms, as well as the use of technology tools for information and planning, are essential for the success of soil management initiatives at local and national levels. As a platform for action in the field, the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) hosted by FAO can play an important role in assisting countries and their needs. It is already doing so. In this context, I must recall that last March, for instance, members of the South American Soil Partnership had met in Santiago to work on a five-year plan for the recovery of soils in the sub-region. In this context, Brazil notes that the revised World Soil Charter was extensively discussed before its approval and the Second GSP Plenary Session. Therefore it deserves all of the support already given by those countries that have preceded Brazil on this subject.

In our view, the voluntary nature of this Soil Charter allows it to be more inspiring in its role to encourage countries to take bold directions on sustainable soil management. Brazil recalls that in two weeks' time, the Third GSP Plenary Assembly will meet to take stock of our progress and set the agenda on soils for the next year term and very soon FAO will be launching the state of the world soils prepared by the GSP intergovernmental technical panel on soils.

Let us give these events the importance they deserve and let us take the health of our soils more seriously in our debates and national policies.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

Thanks to the presenter for bringing this subject to our attention. Canada certainly endorses the revisions to the World Soil Charter. One point in particular I would like to highlight that was important for Canada was recognition in the revised Charter that all soils actively managed or not have a role to play in water management, in climate change mitigation. It is certainly something important.

Canada would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the Global Soil Partnership and the intergovernmental technical panel on soils in revising the Charter.

Ms Doojduan SASANAVIN (Thailand)

Thailand supports the revision of the World Soil Charter. The calls for action will be useful for all stakeholders to take part in their roles in promoting sustainable soil management when integrated with the other resources for food security and nutrition.

Mr Ahmed Yakubu AL HASSAN (Ghana)

Ghana would like to endorse the World Soil Charter and to thank all of those who are putting in efforts to put such a huge global resource together. I would like to stress emphatically that this must be a very long-term effort to reconstitute our productive base which is the soil which to my mind has no alternative except to manage it in the long term.

Therefore member countries must be encouraged to invest in soil management in the long term, basically almost institutionalize soil management until it turns into their long-term development planning because soils affect almost everything as part of our human life.

It then calls upon an upward investment in the long term but while our technical assistance agencies to be forthcoming in support of such a long-term plan so that together we can have a global, stable soil environment for food security and nutrition security development apart from the added bonus of environmental management that is staring us in the face and affecting almost every aspect of human life.

So with these few comments, we would like to say once again that we will comment on the efforts put in place for soil management and endorse the revised Soil Charter.

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

We would like to thank the Secretariat for their presentation and the documents they prepared for this agenda item. We support the work of the Global Soil Partnership and we place high value on the fast pace of development of this mechanism.

We welcome the action plan on four of the five pillars of the Global Soil Partnership, the establishment of its financial instrument, the platform on healthy soils, as well as the network of regional partnerships and national coordinators.

Within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, the Eurasian Soil Partnership is working quite effectively. I would like to use this opportunity to draw your attention to an initiative proposed by Russia called “Healthy Soils for Future Generations”.

It includes the following: the development under the edicts of the Global Soil Partnership of voluntary guidelines of sustainable soil management.

In conclusion, we would like to announce that the Government of the Russian Federation has taken the decision to allocate funding for the FAO of USD 1 million for supporting the work carried out within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership for rational development of soil resources.

Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)

In 2014, the intergovernmental technical panel made many amendments to the Global Soil Charter, the World Soil Charter that was first adopted in 1981 at the 21st Session of the FAO Conference that year. The revised Charter was adopted at the 24th Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the 150th Session of the FAO Council.

This year we celebrate the International Year of Soils. We think that the adoption of the revised World Soil Charter will have very special importance for that reason. That is why we endorse the adoption of this Charter.

Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)

Allow me to thank the Mr Achouri for the introduction of the World Soil Charter and to join others by giving our support to the endorsement of the Charter. Without healthy soils, we will not be able to meet our new goals we are about to endorse in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

Allow me also to join the EU and its Member States in raising the issue of cooperation between the Global Soil Partnership and the Rio-92 Convention. We welcome the steps that have been taken and look forward to seeing further cooperation in the future

Mr Moujahed ACHOURI (Director, Land and Water Division)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the comments, endorsements. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the colleagues that have been helping through the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Plenary Assembly who endorsed this updated World Soil Charter in July 2014 as well as the Council in COAG. Thank you for your support. I guess this World Soil Charter is being endorsed within the International Year of Soils and it is calling already for implementation as we heard from many. We will take this for steps to follow mainly for implementation.

With regard to some of the comments that were made about the status of the work of the soil resources in the world, I can assure you that work has been done, again with the contribution and support of Member Countries. The first document will be made available during the Third Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership which will be taking place from 22 to 24 June in FAO Headquarters, and hopefully this first science document made about the world soil resources will be published on the World Soil Day on 5 December 2015.

So thank you again for all of the support and thanks for the countries that are providing support for the implementation of the international soils as well as for the action plan which have been developed with Member Nations.

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

I would like to thank all of the participants, all of the ambassadors for their positive comments and the endorsement of the update towards the World Soil Charter. As it was already said, without healthy soils, we do not have healthy food and we cannot have sustained development.

Let us, in this International Year of Soils, celebrate the importance of soil for our own lives. And I would like to thank the Russian government for their generous contribution and we would like to thank the other partners and we expect that others will join Russia in this endeavour.

I will need to remind you that tomorrow we have a side event on the International Year of Soils. We will be presenting the two Ambassadors for this International Year of Soils and we count on your presence tomorrow from 17:00 to 18:30 hours.

Thank you for your support and let us put soils in our common agenda.

CHAIRPERSON

I now have very brief conclusions to propose for this item.

One, The Conference noted and appreciated the comprehensive nature of the process that had been followed to update the text of the World Soil Charter.

Two, the Conference endorsed the revised World Soil Charter.

Three, the Conference adopted the Resolution presented in document C 2015/31.

Is this agreed?

SECRETARY OF COMMISSION I

Now that we have gone through our agenda items, we can think about the Drafting Committee.

This announcement is related to the first meeting of the Drafting Committee. It will take place tomorrow. We have a backlog with the translation of documents. I would like to hold the first meeting tomorrow at 15:00 hours.

It will be held tomorrow in the Lebanon Room at 15:00 hours.

I will read the composition of the Drafting Committee. Chairperson: Mr. Mafizur Rahman from Bangladesh. The membership is Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Spain, and the EU delegation of course they will join. This has been clarified.

CHAIRPERSON

It is time to say thank you and the first thanks which I would like to express are for the interpreters up there. Thank you very much for your help. You contributed very professionally to the success of our proceedings.

I also wish to thank Security. I wish to thank the messengers for their collaboration. Of course the Secretariat as a whole and, in particular, the Secretary, Mr Boubaker Ben Belhassen who is next to me of course and all of the team starting with David and all of the people behind me. And these were the thanks I think I can extend to them on your behalf.

I have some thanks on my own behalf and those thanks go to you and I really would like to thank you all, all of the members, for entrusting me with this challenging but very rewarding task.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

The meeting rose at 18.50 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.50