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农业组织

Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

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

Продовольственная и  
сельскохозяйственная организация  
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

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# COUNCIL CONSEIL CONSEJO

<p><b>Hundred and Fiftieth Session</b> <b>Cent cinquantième session</b> <b>150.º período de sesiones</b></p>
<p><b>Rome, 1-5 December 2014</b> <b>Rome, 1-5 décembre 2014</b> <b>Roma, 1-5 de diciembre de 2014</b></p>
<p><b>FIFTH PLENARY MEETING</b> <b>CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE</b> <b>QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA</b></p>
<p><b>3 December 2014</b></p>

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 9:41hours  
Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa,  
Independent Chairperson of the Council, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 41  
sous la présidence de M. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,  
Président indépendant du Conseil

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 9.41  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa,  
Presidente Independiente del Consejo

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



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**Item 14. World Food Programme****Point 14. Programme alimentaire mondial****Tema 14. Programa Mundial de Alimentos***Item 14.1 Election of Six Members of the WFP Executive Board**Point 14.1 Élection de six membres du Conseil d'administration du PAM**Tema 14.1 Elección de seis miembros de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA**(CL 150/3; CL 150/LIM/3)***CHAIRPERSON**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning.

The first item on the Agenda this morning is item 14, which concerns World Food Programme matters.

Under sub item 14.1 the Council is required to elect Six Members to the WFP Executive Board. The documents before Council are CL 150/3 and CL 150/LIM/3.

Before commencing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the World Food Programme Secretariat members, and for sub-item 14.1 to Mr Philip Ward, Secretary to the Board *ad interim*.

The Secretary-General will now give us an update on the candidates listed in document CL 150/LIM/3.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Thank you, Chair, and good morning to everyone.

For list A, there is one candidate for one seat to be filled: Libya.

For list B, further to the withdrawal of Bangladesh, there is now one candidate for one seat to be filled: Islamic Republic of Iran.

For list C, further to a communication from the list C Coordinator, there is now one candidate for one seat to be filled: Brazil.

The list C Coordinator has informed the Secretariat of the understanding that Brazil will stand down from this seat at the end of 2015, and that Guatemala will stand for the seat for 2016 at the end of the December 2015 Session of Council.

It is further understood that Guatemala will stand down from this seat at the end of 2016 and that Brazil will stand for the remainder of the term of office to 31 December 2017.

For list D, there are two seats to be filled and two candidates: Australia and Denmark.

For list E, there is one seat to be filled and one candidate: Poland.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Mr Gagnon. Given that we have the same number of nominations as seats will be filled for lists A, B, C, D and E, I propose that the Council appoint these countries by general consent.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Applausos*

**Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)**

Canada has issued a statement under the sub-item 14.1, *Election of six Members of the WFP Executive Board* and requests the Secretariat to reflect this in the verbatim record of the meeting. Thank you.

**Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)**<sup>1</sup>

In our capacity as a member of the World Food Programme Executive Board, Canada welcomes the election of certain new board members and looks forward to working with them over the coming years.

Canada is a steadfast supporter of the World Food Programme and applauds the organization's indispensable work in fighting global hunger, especially in conflict zones such as Syria and Iraq.

With that in mind, however, we are concerned by today's acclamation of Iran, an actor which continues to fuel some of the very wars causing food crises in these regions. We do not see how a regime which so want only exacerbates starvation can have any credibility within a body seeking to assuage it.

**Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)**

We have a statement based on the note made by the colleague from Canada. I will send it to you for insertion in the records of the meeting.

I would like to make an intervention about this election.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of my Government, I would like to express my gratitude and sincere appreciation for the valued support that Member Nations have given to the candidate of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the WFP Executive Board.

I thank also our colleague from Bangladesh who after consultation decided to withdraw his candidacy in favour of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This kind of gesture is really appreciated and shows the solidarity and cooperation which exists among country Members. I wish to emphasize the role of Islamic Republic of Iran in fighting hunger side by side with the World Food Programme and the other Rome-based Agencies.

Islamic Republic of Iran has always participated in the World Food Programme activities and takes pride to have a longstanding partnership with World Food Programme. Islamic Republic of Iran follows actively all humanitarian issues in the region, hosting one of the largest refugee populations in the world and due to its geographical situation is an appropriate corridor for transition of food assistance and any other related issues by WFP.

The Islamic Republic of Iran always appreciates WFP for its excellent humanitarian assistance to the needy and destitute people all over the world and through this new mandate which is to strengthen its coordination with this Organization.

**Mr Seyed Aminollah TAGHAVI MOTLAGH (Islamic Republic of Iran)**<sup>2</sup>

The Islamic Republic of Iran regrets the statement made by Canada on Iran's unopposed election to the Executive Board of WFP and refutes the unfounded allegations contained therein.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to insist on the value of the Technical nature of FAO and urge other Members to respect the role and the nature of this organization as a Technical organization not as political organization. The Islamic Republic of Iran is always on the front line for fighting against hunger and food insecurity, helping the countries in the region with humanitarian interventions and supporting refugees in camps in the instability and insecurity of the region but such allegation coming in this context are not appropriate in the respect for all country members which should be the essential element in the United Nations Organizations and we hope that this kind of allegation will not be repeated in the future.

Finally, we would like to remind that Islamic Republic of Iran has been a long time member of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme and its commitment, diligence through concrete actions have been fully recognized by Authorities of this Organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

<sup>2</sup> Statement inserted in the verbatim report on request.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me conclude this item.

Pursuant to Resolution 7/2011 of 2 July 2011, the Council elected six Members of the WFP Executive Board, for a period of three years, that is from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017 with the following distribution: List A: Libya; List B: Islamic Republic of Iran; List C: Brazil; List D: Australia and Denmark; List E: Poland.

*Item 14.2 Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2013*  
*Point 14.2 Rapport annuel du Conseil d'administration du PAM sur ses activités en 2013*  
*Tema 14.2 Informe anual de la Junta Ejecutiva del PMA sobre sus actividades en 2013*  
(C 2015/LIM/10-CL 150/12)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We now proceed to sub-item 14.2, *Annual Report of the WFP Executive Board on its activities in 2013*. This item is presented to Council in line with the Resolution adopted by ECOSOC in July 2013 which requested United Nations funds and programmes to consolidate their current annual reporting cycles in line with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review.

Please ensure that you have document C 2015/LIM/10-CL 150/LIM/12 before you.

I will now pass the floor to Mr Chris Kaye, Director of the Performance Management and Monitoring Division, to introduce this item.

**Mr Chris KAYE (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)**

It is an honour to have the opportunity to present the Annual Performance Report of the World Food Programme for 2013 to you today.

I have a number of slides that I will go through which will provide you with an overview of how the Report has been constructed, what it contains and bring your attention to particular areas of interest to the Council, without necessarily getting into the detail of the Report, taking account of the importance associated with the requirements demanded by ECOSOC and the QCPR.

The Report is a key accountability tool to highlight the results against our Strategic Plan and it is the primary oversight mechanism to inform the Executive Board of the work that the Organization has done in the preceding year.

It is prepared through a very extensive consultation at headquarters, in collaboration with our regional bureaus and our country offices. It draws on performance data that is collected through our standard project Reports. These are project Reports that are prepared annually on each of the projects that the World Food Programme undertakes across the globe.

The Report is produced for the annual session and is presented to the Executive Board for comprehensive consideration and discussion and final approval, and in fact the document that you have in front of you has been approved by the WFP Executive Board.

The Report consists of four parts: the first part provides an introduction, an extensive description of the global context within which WFP operates and carries out its mission during the year. It provides a narrative description of the particular challenges that we faced and gives an overview of how we have attempted to overcome those challenges. This is an important section that captures some of the activities that we were unable to fully articulate as a result of the collection of data through our various performance frameworks.

Part two provides a more detailed description based on our performance framework that has been developed against our Strategic Objectives. It consolidates the results that are collected through our standard project reporting format to be able to describe what we have done during the course of the year, specific to Strategic Objectives 1 to 4.

Part three is again a more technical section which describes how we have undertaken our work. It is based on a performance framework that measures activities associated with the way we manage our business, what we call our Management Results Framework. From here you get a greater deal of understanding of how efficient we have been.

Part four is a section which looks forward. It provides the reader with an understanding of the future challenges that we face in the coming year. This is presented in June. Since you are reading it now at the end of the year, you find challenges that we have predicted that we would face during the course of 2014. This section gives an indication of the opportunities that we think that need to be taken up during the course of 2014. Of course, that lays the foundation for what we then report against in the following Annual Performance Report.

The next slide gives some sense as to the key highlights of our performance in 2013. If we begin at the bottom, the way that we consider and we crafted a conceptual model to represent performance management is to think about a temple, which is founded with strong foundations associated to the way we manage our business.

The columns that sustain the temple are associated with the way that we undertake our business. Those columns represent each Strategic Objectives. You will see this representation within the document. Those pillars support the roof which in effect is our mission committed to supporting and addressing the requirements of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

The work undertaken to strengthen the foundations of the Organization in 2013 was based around the Organizational restructuring and strengthening work that was undertaken. In terms of our specific activities, the “what we did”, the body of our work was very much focused around the unprecedented requirements demanded of us through the four Level 3 emergencies and the broader span of assistance that we provide across 75 countries. As I said, there is a very strong commitment that the Organization has to steer our work to address all five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Looking at some of the more specifics, the headline stories that we provided support close to 81 million beneficiaries during the course of the year with a variety of different assistance modalities: food, cash, vouchers, as well as other people benefiting beyond just those standard food transfer modalities.

We were able to demonstrate through our performance metrics good performance in terms of our ability to save lives in emergencies, to prepare communities for disasters, as well as to support the restoration of livelihoods in post-crisis situations.

We were also able to demonstrate good progress in terms of strengthening of national capacities, not only for preparedness, but also in the area of support for national nutrition programmes, school feeding and, more generally, food security.

I would like to turn to a few areas of particular interest to the Council in taking account of the commitments of the Organization to report to ECOSOC, as well as QCPR commitments.

The Report covers very significantly the important aspects of our collaboration with other Rome-based Agencies. It highlights the work that we have done not only with FAO, but also with IFAD with regard to aligning our plans and policies with the Zero Hunger Challenge, the continue support to the Committee on World Food Security, the increased number of operational partnerships at the country level with FAO and IFAD, during the course of the year and, more generally, the work that we do within the CFS with regard to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Report is also strong in terms of reporting our strengthened efforts to improve partnerships and coordination. In 2013 we prepared a new corporate partnership strategy very much focused on the role that we play to not only support our partners in the field – the work that we do in leading the clusters in emergency situations – but also with regard to the work that we do with our partners in support to the Post-2015 Agenda and the Zero Hunger Challenge.

Finally, we also give note to the emerging work that was undertaken during the year with regard to the World Humanitarian Summit, which of course has accelerated significantly during the course of 2014.



The final slide gives a sense of the attention that we give to three other areas of particular interest, I think, to the Council. One, which relates to the work on Organizational Strengthening, with a comprehensive update on the progress that we made during the course of the year with regard to Strategy, our Organizational Design, Human Resources Management, Business Processes and Partnerships. There is a dedicated annex providing details on the allocation of funding and expenditure in each of those work streams.

The second area concerns our commitment to follow the requirements of the QCPR. For example, the Executive Board pointed out in the past that gender is not our strongest suite and that we needed to do more work on our commitments to gender equality. We were able to report more comprehensively in that regard in 2013. But also, with regard to the work that we have done vis-à-vis capacity development and South-South Cooperation.

And then we list a variety of very specific indicators that we have put into our performance framework which measures the extent to which we are committed to the requirements of “delivering as one” the alignment with UNDG programming principles, results-based management, accountability, simplification and harmonization, and so on. There is in general strong reference to the requirements of QCPR embedded throughout the Report.

As I mentioned, we realize that we need to do more work with regard to gender. Executive Board Members will recognize that this year we have taken every opportunity to update Membership on the work that we are doing to strengthen our commitment to gender equality. But within the 2013 Report, we were able to weave into all sections of the Report progress relating to our commitments and the use and reporting specifically on key indicators, getting the disaggregated data necessary to be able to provide more complete and thorough picture of how we are working, both in terms of our programme work, as well as in terms of the way we manage our business: staff profile and the use and application of the gender marker.

Finally, looking forward is very much the indication of the work that has been undertaken during the course of this year associated with the development of agenda policy, which the Executive Board will review next year.

**Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)**

Agradecemos a la administración del PMA por la elaboración del informe que es largo y completo y que muestra el valioso trabajo del Programa Mundial de Alimentos en países que sufren hambre. Algunas de las actividades del PMA se empalman y complementan con las que realiza la FAO, por lo que vemos esto genera oportunidades de colaboración entre ambos organismos. Hemos visto que la FAO y el PMA han fortalecido su colaboración aquí en Roma, pero creemos que todavía falta más por hacer en el terreno.

Un organismo puede aprender de las experiencias del otro, por ejemplo en actividades de distribución de alimentos, cupones por trabajo, desarrollo de mercados locales y cadenas de valor, así como la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular. Mi Delegación lo ha hecho en el PMA y ahora lo hacemos aquí en la FAO: hacemos un llamado para que ambos organismos colaboren de manera más estrecha en el terreno.

**Mr Mhutang SELEKA (South Africa)**

This statement is presented on behalf of the Africa Group.

We commend the WFP for their clear and focused nature of the document, in particular for its Organization in performance results reporting aligned with the Strategic Objectives, as well as the Organizational performance reporting by management results dimension.

The Africa Group would like to acknowledge the many challenges the WFP faced in 2013, not only in terms of addressing emergencies and hunger crises around the world, but also in bedding down and operationalizing the many internal reorganization and reprioritization initiatives in the way that most efficiently serves the global hungry poor.

As the Executive Director stated in her forward to the annual Report: “meeting these needs and the needs of other countries tested the limits of WFP’s response systems [...] but we met the challenge head-on, thanks to the contributions of governments, partners and individuals”. Being able to meet these challenges head-on in our view attests to the foresight and “can-do” attitude of the management and the rest of the WFP staff, especially those in the field. The Africa Group in this regard wishes to express its appreciation for the excellent work done as reflected in the Annual Performance Report.

The Africa Group welcomes the increased contributions to WFP in 2013 to USD 4.38 billion and expresses appreciation to donors for having contributed 12 percent more than in 2012, despite the ongoing global economic challenges. We urge all donors to build on the solid governance foundation of the WFP and to continue in the future to increase their commitments.

Furthermore, we would in particular like to urge donors to build on the 12 percent rise in donations and to also help in addressing activities in programmes that fall outside the global news coverage and to avoid creating so-called “forgotten emergencies” such as, for example, in the Republic of Chad and others.

It is not only the availability of funds that matters, but more importantly the efficient use of such resources, and in this regard we welcome that available funds were used as planned and unspent project balances reduced. We welcome that between 2012 and 2013 the percentage of undistributed food at year’s end decreased from 9.6 to 8 percent. We wish to also note that the percentage of undelivered cash and vouchers remained unchanged.

The Africa Group also notes that the WFP’s presence in conflict stricken areas has by necessity increased the need for staff security measures. We recognize that the frontline staff in the field often operates under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions, and we highly commend them for their unflinching commitment and dedication to assisting the global hungry poor.

In the same breath, we are however extremely concerned that a number of security incidents rose by 15 percent to 1,031 in 2013 – almost three per day – and of which 72 percent were work-related. In this regard, we strongly condemn any attacks on WFP and partners’ personnel as they go about doing their work and preserving the sanctity of life. To this end, we urge all affected parties to do everything in their power to guarantee the safety of all workers, including WFP and its partners in the field.

We note that the annual cost of food assistance paid per beneficiary increased from USD 38.75 to USD 48.57 between 2012 and 2013, as well as the general explanations given in the document for this, including that proportionally more food assistance was provided over longer periods; the up-scaling of cash and vouchers; declining beneficiary numbers; as well as the very significant demands of the operations related to Syrian Arab Republic during that year.

We also note and welcome that the WFP procured 2.1 million tons of food in 91 countries in 2013, valued at USD 1.2 billion, and that 79 percent of the tonnage was purchased in developing countries. We also welcome the increased purchases of food from local farmers in many areas and the P4P programme and look forward to the continued expansion thereof.

Finally, the Africa Group wishes to welcome the forward looking nature of the Annual Performance Report and the outlining of the various principles that will underpin the WFP’s work in the coming years and further commend the WFP’s continued commitment in 2013 to develop tools for augmenting staff capacities in line with Fit-for-Purpose.

We note that the middle-manager programme for P3 and P4 staff and national officers in 13 countries at equivalent grades attracted 295 staff, of which 34 percent were women. We also support in particular the continued development of the WFP People Strategy to build a capable, balanced workforce wherein diversity and gender are integral components; the WFP’s continued engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge; the focus on enhancing transactional processes to improve productivity and reduce unit costs, focusing on P4P, nutrition, home-grown school feeding, resilience, and climate change adaptation, the scaling-up of cash and vouchers; as well as continuing to increase the number of donors to provide the resources it needs.

**Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)**

Canada would like to thank WFP Secretariat for providing a very interesting overview of the 2013 Annual Report. Canada was pleased to approve this report at the June 2013 Annual Session of the WFP Executive Board.

We were also pleased to see that the emphasis had been put on reporting against the Strategic Objective at the outcome level, which was a significant improvement from previous years.

The year 2013 was an extremely busy and challenging year for humanitarian actors. Simultaneous Level 3 crises, such as those in Syria, the Central African Republic and South Sudan stretched the humanitarian system like never before.

Through this report, WFP demonstrated its ability to deliver in difficult contexts. This report demonstrates WFP's strong performance and we commend WFP for its commitment to reaching those in need.

**Mr Lupiño Jr. LAZARO (Philippines)**

The Philippines would like to thank the WFP Management and Secretariat for the presentation of the Annual Report for 2013. We would like to take this opportunity also to congratulate the newly elected Members of the Executive Board.

We note the progress and achievements in Rome-based Agency collaboration partnership and coordination and organizational strengthening that are issues of interest to this Council. We would like to join earlier speakers in commending WFP in its leadership and contribution in addressing food security and nutrition, hunger, poverty, and for very well demonstrating its comparative advantage in extending humanitarian assistance.

We wish to appreciate in particular the responses delivered for three emergencies in 2013, including the Typhoon Haiyan disaster which hit the Philippines last year. We reiterate our gratitude for WFP's assistance, together with the international community, during those dark days of our recorded disarray.

With these brief comments, our Delegation endorses the Annual Report as we already did during the Executive Board Session.

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

My Delegation expresses its appreciation for a comprehensive Annual Report of the World Food Programme. I congratulate WFP on its tremendous accomplishment in providing direct food assistance to approximately 81 million people. We acknowledge the performance reporting against Strategic Objectives, as well as Management Result Dimensions from the core of the Annual Report.

We wish to highlight the significance of the results-based approach in implementing the work of the WFP since its approach as participator and based on priorities emanating from needs assessment and support the principles that will underpin the work of the WFP in the coming years.

In particular, one: partnership. Since the Government of Trinidad and Tobago espouses the power of partnership and the WFP aims to be the partner of choice in programmes addressing hunger, and hence the new Corporate Partnership Strategy will guide the development of partnerships at all levels. And two: processes and systems, since improvements in processes and systems contribute to increased operational efficiency and achievements of results.

Accordingly, my Delegation supports the progress made by the WFP in achieving its mission to end global hunger as reflected in its Annual Report for 2013.

**Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)**

Liberia fully aligns itself with South Africa and the statement made on behalf of the Africa Group.

Liberia would like to take the floor at this moment to express profound gratitude to WFP for the help received in combatting the Ebola epidemic in the West Africa Region. WFP came to the need of the affected countries at the right time without any delay.

Also, we want to thank the Executive Director of WFP for her visit to the West Africa Region when many others were afraid to visit that part of the world. We also want to express our profound gratitude to the staff of WFP that is out in the sub-region assisting the affected countries in distributing food, as well as helping with infrastructure.

At this moment, we want to also inform you that the Ebola situation in Liberia and Guinea is improving: we have reduced most of the affected cases that we were previously reporting.

We also want to congratulate the newly elected Members of the Executive Board.

Liberia, therefore, concludes by endorsing the report.

**Ms Eugenia A. DENISOVA (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to thank the WFP Secretariat for having prepared and presented a very high quality and very comprehensive document and we would also like to welcome the newly elected Members to the WFP Executive Board and wish them all the best.

We highly value the operative work of the WFP at eradicating the repercussions of massive humanitarian crises in the Philippines, South Sudan, Syria and the Central African Republic, which have required Level 3 emergency measures response.

We would like to especially say that this kind of success in the Programme necessarily involves very strict compliance with UN humanitarian principles and we welcome these steps made by the WFP to broaden its donor base. And we would point out in this connection that the 2013 determined 8 percent growth of the donor support financing.

The main task of the Members of the WFP Executive Board is to strengthen the authority, the prestige of the Organization as a non-politicized organization, to broaden the donor base pursuant to the requests of the recipient countries.

We would also like to speak in favour of continuing refinement of the evaluation approach to determining the number of beneficiaries.

**Mr Chris Kaye (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, WFP)**

I would like to acknowledge the appreciation of Council Members and thank you very much.

We are committed to ensure that the quality of our report continues to improve every year. We are just engaging in the process of developing the report for 2014 and rest assured, we will take forward the improvements that were made in the Report for 2013, particularly with regard to reporting on outcomes, as well as some more specific reporting we hope that we can make with regard to advancements on gender-related issues, amongst others. We would like to thank Council Members for their comment.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I want now to make conclusions on Agenda 14.2 as follows.

1. The Council welcomed and endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme to the Economic and Social Council and to the FAO Council on its activities in 2013 and noted that this report was presented for the first time in the form of the Annual Performance Report.

2. In particular, the Council:

- a) welcomed the efforts of WFP to strengthen collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies, in particular with regard to the continued support provided to the Committee on World Food Security;
- b) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, in line with its newly approved Corporate Partnership Strategy, its engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge and the post-2015 agenda, as well as its active participation in preparations for the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit;
- c) noted the important programmatic and structural changes implemented at WFP during the previous year under the Fit-for-Purpose Initiative.

d) noted WFP's implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review reporting into its Annual Performance Report, with a particular focus on gender, capacity development, south-south and triangular cooperation, "Delivering as One", alignment with United Nations Development Group, results-based management and harmonization and simplification of business practices.

**Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

Thank you, Chairperson. We agree with your summary. Could you please also add one point about WFP's good performance in WPF actions? Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. Accepted. We have concluded this Agenda Item.

**Item 12. Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2015-18**

**Point 12. Programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil 2015 -2018**

**Tema 12. Programa de trabajo plurianual del Consejo para 2015-18**

(CL 150/7)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and gentlemen, the next Item on the Agenda is Item 12, *Council Multi-year Programme of Work 2015-18* (MYPOW). The document before Council is CL 150/7.

As agreed by the Conference, this planning tool is a standing item on the Council's Agenda. In my pre-session letter of 12 November, I pointed out that this living document is the result of consultations during the regular informal meetings with the Regional Groups' Chairs and Vice-Chairs.

Should Delegates wish to propose further amendments to the text you have before you, I suggest that we maintain the practice of circulating the proposed changes to Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups for discussion within the Regional Groups before taking them on board. I now give the floor to Delegates who wish to speak on this Agenda Item.

**Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)**

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The Candidate Countries to the EU, Albania and Serbia, align themselves with this statement.

We appreciate the draft Council Multi-Year Programme of Work for 2015-18. We consider the draft MYPOW to be a living document and an effective planning tool. It has proven its value in the past and we would like to see it firmly established within the work of the Council over the coming years. We welcome the changes in the new MYPOW. We would stress the more detailed descriptions of the results and outputs, as well as the working methods in Chapter 2. We consider this to be an improvement on the previous version and believe this will increase appreciation of the Council as a Governing Body.

We believe that the presentations given by the Secretariat on Management Strategies and Policies to the Council are extremely valuable and provide a welcome opportunity to exchange ideas and promote mutual understanding and trust.

In order to further enhance the usefulness and quality of the MYPOW, we expect the Independent Chair of the Council to reappraise the MYPOW on a continuous basis and improve and adapt where deemed necessary. In particular, we would appreciate a similar improvement in Section D of Chapter 2 as we have seen in other sections.

We would like to reiterate the importance of monitoring the Calendar of the FAO Governing Bodies for the next biennium with a view to optimizing the planned sequence of Regional Conferences, Technical Committees, Finance and Programme Committees and Council.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation of the intersessional work that you did as Independent Chairperson of the Council using existing informal structures. This

helps to maintain a good dialogue within the Membership. We therefore endorse the MYPOW for 2015-18.

### **M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)**

La délégation du Royaume du Maroc prend la parole au nom du Groupe régional Afrique sur le point 12 de l'ordre du jour relatif au programme de travail pluriannuel du Conseil pour 2015-2018.

Elle souhaite tout d'abord saisir cette occasion pour exprimer sa satisfaction devant le travail réalisé par le Secrétariat qui nous présente un document de qualité. Pour rappel, la Conférence avait décidé que le programme de travail pluriannuel, en raison de son utilité en tant qu'outil de planification, devait figurer en permanence dans l'ordre du jour du Conseil.

Le Groupe Afrique, après examen de ce document, exprime sa satisfaction quant aux orientations programmatiques retenues pour la période 2015-2018. Celle-ci demeure, dans l'ensemble, conforme à l'esprit à la lettre de la résolution 8/2009 relative à la mise en œuvre des actions du plan d'action immédiate concernant le Conseil.

Le Groupe Afrique prend note des amendements apportés au programme de travail pluriannuel dans sa version présentée précédemment et souhaite inviter le Conseil à en faire de même, et plus spécifiquement, en ce qui concerne les décisions de la Conférence concernant les stratégies, les priorités, les programmes et le budget de l'Organisation, ainsi que la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde, qui sont alignés sur les objectifs stratégiques de la FAO, et se fondent sur les avis du Conseil : élaboration de l'ensemble des priorités des membres pour un plan de travail de l'organisation ; recommandations et décisions concernant la nécessité de convoquer des réunions ministérielles si nécessaire ; retour d'information à la Conférence sous forme de rapport sur la mise en œuvre des décisions de gouvernance ; présentation par le Secrétariat au Conseil des stratégies et des politiques de la direction, et enfin, renforcement, si nécessaire, des ressources humaines et financières mobilisés par le Secrétariat pour l'exécution du travail du programme de travail pluriannuel et les suites qui lui sont données.

Des textes fondamentaux de notre Organisation, aux recommandations du groupe de travail indépendant des réformes de la gouvernance, en passant par les recommandations formulées à la mi-2007 par l'évaluation externe indépendante, communément connue sous le nom de EEI, le Groupe Africain ne peut que constater une certaine évolution dans la doctrine concernant les programmes de travail pluriannuels, à telle enseigne que le document CL 150/9, intitulé « examen indépendant des réformes de la gouvernance », que le Conseil a examiné hier, les deux experts indépendants, que nous félicitons au passage pour la qualité de leur rapport, nous font le constat suivant (je cite) : « de nombreux membres ont une attitude ambivalente au regard de l'utilité des programmes de travail pluriannuels, tout comme certains des fonctionnaires du Secrétariat, chargés de l'établissement des projets » (paragraphe 164).

Toutefois, les deux consultantes nous recommandent, au paragraphe 168 du même document, de maintenir et de continuer à suivre la mise en œuvre des programmes de travail pluriannuels établis pour le Conseil, pour le Comité du Programme, pour le Comité financier, qui sont pleinement opérationnels, alors qu'elles nous recommandent de les supprimer pour les conférences régionales et les comités techniques.

Avant d'arriver dans un proche avenir je l'espère à l'adoption et la mise en œuvre de ces deux principales recommandations des experts indépendants, sur les programmes de travail pluriannuels, le Groupe africain souhaite, dans l'état actuel des choses, mettre en exergue le point E du document CL 150/7 de cet ordre du jour, et notamment, la nécessité de doter les prochains programmes de travail pluriannuels du Conseil d'indicateurs de performance, comme cela est proposé. Ces indicateurs permettront de réaliser avec efficacité le benchmarking qui facilitera la comparaison de la gouvernance de notre organisation avec d'autres organisations internationales. Monsieur le Président, si les tableaux figurant dans les pages 8 à 12 du document CL 150/7 donnent une vue d'ensemble des programmes de travail indicatifs du Conseil, il n'en demeure pas moins qu'à l'exception des 150, 152 et 153<sup>ème</sup> sessions du Conseil qui se dérouleront toutes entre mars et décembre 2015, les programmes

de travail des sessions postérieures à décembre 2015 jusqu'à décembre 2018, demandent encore un effort de prévision plus affiné.

Nous comprenons par ailleurs, au sein du Groupe Afrique, qu'il soit encore trop tôt pour mener un exercice détaillé d'anticipation crédible.

**Mr Abdul Razak AYAZI (Afghanistan)**

We welcome this MYPOW, which is a much better improvement over the previous one. MYPOW is a living document and should remain a living document. We have a few comments to make but I will not read them. I will take your suggestion that we submit their report to the Regional Group who will then submit it to our next meeting with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Regional Groups.

**Ms Molly RIVERA-OLDS (United States of America)**

The United States of America thanks the FAO Secretariat for providing the opportunity to review the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Council for 2015-18.

We thank the Members and the FAO Secretariat for considering revisions recently proposed by the United States. Whereas not all of our suggested changes were accepted, we believe the changes to the MYPOW proposed in Council document CL 150/7 will improve the functionality of the MYPOW by making it clearer and better focusing the outputs and indicators and adding more detail to proposed activities.

We believe this is an important step to making the MYPOW the clear and precise management tool it was designed to be. The United States encourages FAO to use the preparation of Council MYPOWs as an opportunity to examine its work plan in a structured manner in keeping with the results-based management approach, as well as a chance to review working methods and practices at regular intervals.

The United States supports the endorsement of document CL 150/7.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can conclude on this Agenda Item as follows.

1. The Council reviewed and approved its Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2015-18.
2. The Council noted the living nature of the document and agreed to continue using the informal meetings convened by the Independent Chairperson of Council with the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups as a forum for further discussion and refinement of the document.
3. The Council agreed that any suggested amendments would be forwarded to the Independent Chairperson of Council for circulation to Members and further discussion during the informal meetings.

I thank you. This concludes our Agenda Item 12.

**Item 21. Any Other Matters****Point 21. Autres questions****Tema 21. Asuntos varios**

*Item 21.1 Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*

*Point 21.1 Nomination d'un représentant de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité des pensions du personnel*

*Tema 21.1 Nombramiento de un representante de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal*

*(CL 150/LIM/5)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We can now move on to item 21, *Any Other Matters*. Sub-item 21.1 concerns the *Appointment of a Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee*.

Relevant information can be found in document CL 150/LIM/5.

The Council is invited to appoint a representative to the Staff Pension Committee due to the departure of one Conference Appointee.

Indeed, in view of the fact that the Conference holds biennial sessions, it decided to authorize the Council to appoint replacements for its representatives who have resigned or have been transferred for the remainder of the term of office.

Hence, I now ask if the Council is willing to proceed to appoint Ms Roxana Oller Catoira, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017?

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Applausos*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. May I congratulate Ms Roxana Oller Catoira on her appointment.

For Sub-item 21.1, I can therefore conclude that Ms Roxana Oller Catoira, Alternate Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has been appointed Representative of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee for the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017.

That concludes sub-Item 21.1.

**16. Margarita Lizárraga Medal****16. Médaille Margarita Lizárraga****16. Medalla Margarita Lizárraga**

*(CL 150/INF/6)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We now move to Item 16, *Margarita Lizárraga Medal*. The document before Council is CL 150/INF/6.

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

It is proposed to bestow the 2014-2015 Award upon the “Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group” of Botswana, in recognition of its endeavours to stop Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, by demonstrating that much can be accomplished with relatively limited resources through



good networking, sharing of information, regional and international cooperation, and a strong commitment to stop IUU fishing.

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

The Council is invited to endorse the nomination of the proposed candidate organization, which will be awarded the Medal during a special ceremony to be held in 2015.

**Sra. Maria De Lourdes CRUZ TRINIDAD (México)**

En noviembre de 1997, la Conferencia de la FAO creó la Medalla bienal Margarita Lizárraga que se concede a propuesta del Consejo a una persona u organización que hubiese trabajado en la aplicación del Código de conducta por la pesca responsable.

La Medalla es un homenaje a la ya fallecida mexicana Dra. Margarita Lizárraga, oficial superior de enlace de pesca en su papel decisivo en el fomento del Código de conducta para la pesca responsable por su productiva labor en el campo de la pesca durante casi cuarenta años, especialmente en los países en desarrollo.

En ese sentido, México se congratula por el refrendo de esta denominación.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you. Let me conclude as follows: The Council endorsed the nomination of the Stop Illegal Fishing (SIF) Working Group and proposed that the Medal be presented to it by the Director-General during a special ceremony to be held before 31 December 2015

**Item 13. Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 149<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council**

**Point 13. Suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent quarante-neuvième session**

**Tema 13. Estado de aplicación de las decisiones adoptadas por el Consejo en su 149.º período de sesiones**

(CL 150/LIM/4)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We now turn our attention to Item 13, *Status of implementation of decisions taken at the 149<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 150/LIM/4.

As foreseen in the Multi-year Programme of Work, the Council is invited to note the information on the implementation of decisions taken at its last session. In addition, document CL 150/LIM/4 also contains an update on the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 148<sup>th</sup> Session of the Council held in December 2013, for which actions had not been completed at the time of the 149<sup>th</sup> Session of Council in June 2014.

I would like to point out that due to the nature of work involved, which in some cases requires the attention of sessions which have not yet take place, the status of a number of the items is shown as "ongoing".

**M. Marc MANKOUSSOU (Congo)**

La République du Congo prend la parole au nom du Groupe Afrique. Le Groupe Afrique voudrait féliciter Monsieur Gagnon, et toute l'équipe qui a produit la synthèse sur cette question relative à la suite donnée aux décisions adoptées par le Conseil à sa cent quarante neuvième session.

De l'exploitation du document, le Groupe Afrique accueille favorablement ce rapport, du fait qu'un grand nombre des décisions adoptées par le Conseil ont déjà trouvé leur achèvement, et aussi toutes les autres décisions adoptées sont en cours d'exécution.

Le Groupe Afrique note que les questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de gouvernance et celles relatives au Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et des questions traitées à titre de divers ont

trouvé leur achèvement. La majorité des décisions en cours d'exécution concernent les questions liées au Programme, au Budget, aux Finances et à l'Administration.

Le Groupe Afrique encourage le Secrétariat de tout mettre en œuvre en vue d'aboutir à leur achèvement.

Pour terminer notre intervention, le Groupe Afrique prend note de toutes les informations contenues dans ce document.

**Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)**

The document provides Council with a very simple and useful tracking tool. We very much look forward to the further implementation of the Council decisions which are currently shown as “ongoing”, in particular those related to gender, decentralization and the further elaboration of the results framework.

As a strong advocate of the FAO's partnership strategies for civil society and the private sector, we join the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees in welcoming the progress Report on the implementation of the strategies presented in November 2014.

However, in June 2013, Council asked that progress Reports on implementation of the partnership strategies with civil society organizations, the private sector and regional organizations be provided. The Report in June was a welcome beginning but it would be inaccurate to say that the implementation of this Council decision is complete.

Canada looks forward to the future specific progress Reports on each of the two strategies containing differentiated information on different groupings of partners at global, regional and national levels.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let me conclude Item 13 as follows.

1. The Council appreciated the document and took note of the status of implementation of decisions taken at its 148<sup>th</sup> and 149<sup>th</sup> Sessions (respectively 2-6 December 2013 and 16-20 June 2014).
2. The Council encouraged the Secretariat to pursue the completion of decisions shown as ongoing

**Ms Mi NGUYEN (Canada)**

Canada would like the point 3 of the status of implementation of decisions taken at the 149<sup>th</sup> Session which relates to providing *progress reports on implementation of the partnership strategies with civil society organizations, the private sector and regional organizations* be reflected as “ongoing” instead of “completed” and reflected in your summary. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It will be reflected in the Report. Thank you.

**Mr Abdul Razak AYZI (Afghanistan)**

I think what Canada said was covered, if I'm not wrong, when we discussed the Joint Meeting of the Programme and Finance Committees.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think Canada would like to emphasize the importance of this work, so that it is reflected in the Report as ongoing.

**Item 18. Provisional Agenda for the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council (March 2015)****Point 18. Ordre du jour provisoire de la 151<sup>ème</sup> session du Conseil (mars 2015)****Tema 18. Programa provisional del 151.º período de sesiones del Consejo (marzo de 2015)**  
(CL 150/INF/2)**CHAIRPERSON**

We are now moving to Agenda Item 18, *Provisional Agenda for the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council in March 2015*. The relevant document is CL 150/INF/2.

The Council is requested to consider the draft agenda for its next session and propose, if necessary, matters for inclusion.

However, I wish to draw the Members' attention to the following items, which have been included, in addition to standing items:

- Item 7: *Synthesis of Evaluations of FAO Regional and Subregional Offices*, which was requested by Council at its 149th Session in June this year

- Item 16: Status report on Antimicrobial Resistance, which was proposed by COAG at its 24th Session this year, and was supported when the Report of the Session was discussed at our first meeting on Monday.

No comments on this item?

For item 18, I can therefore conclude that: The Council endorsed the provisional agenda of its 151<sup>st</sup> Session that will take place in March 2015.

**Item 20. Working Methods of the Council****Point 20. Méthodes de travail du Conseil****Tema 20. Métodos de trabajo del Consejo**

(CL 150/INF/5)

**CHAIRPERSON**

The next item on the agenda is Item 20, *Working Methods of the Council*. The relevant document is CL 150/INF/5.

I call on the Secretary-General to inform us of initiatives to improve our working methods.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

The following initiatives have been taken or are being undertaken for improved services to Members.

Firstly, the electronic voting system in the plenary has been upgraded and was used for the first time at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of CFS in October 2014. The video wall installed on either side of the plenary hall displays the names of Members and how they vote during roll call votes.

Following the example set by United Nations Bodies, which have adopted paper-smart correspondence, the Organization is introducing new approaches to correspondence which would minimize and in many cases replace manually dispatched paper-based corresponds through expanded use of the Members Gateway.

Finally, a new webpage for "Announcements" has been set-up on the FAO Members gateway to publish non-work related announcements such as cultural and social events, and if I may add cars for sale.

**Sr. Benito JIMENEZ SAUMA (México)**

Agradecemos a la Administración su informe sobre las mejoras para el trabajo del Consejo de los miembros de la FAO. En particular agradecemos a la Administración la cuestión del tablero electrónico en la Plenaria para votaciones, es algo que hemos impulsado y que nuestra Delegación había pedido desde hace algún tiempo y que hemos un poco fastidiado a la Secretaría en este sentido,

pero lo agradecemos, ya que hemos visto que funciona muy bien. Las votaciones no es algo que hagamos todos los días, pero ha funcionado muy, muy bien.

Querría añadir solo un par de puntos: uno es sobre la aplicación, no se mencionó, pero la hemos visto en otras sesiones, la aplicación iPermReps, que es para iPhones. Queremos agradecer esta iniciativa, pero sentimos que todavía falta mejorarla más.

A este propósito, tengo algunos comentarios que voy a enviar directamente a los desarrolladores. Otra es una cuestión práctica es para la sala del Plenario, allí, a diferencia de otras salas de la FAO, no hay conexiones eléctricas para trabajar con nuestros laptops y quizá es algo que se podría poner en el futuro.

**Sra. Maria Eulalia JIMENEZ ZEPEDA (El Salvador)**

También nosotros queremos agradecer la presentación de este informe y los esfuerzos que la Secretaría hace para mejorar las condiciones en que se trabaja en el Consejo y en todas las otras reuniones de la FAO. Nosotros queremos felicitar sobre todo en este momento el que se haya atendido la solicitud de algunos de nosotros para que se estableciera en un lugar separado el tipo de publicaciones, como las que señaló el Secretario, relativas a cuestiones más personales, como venta de vehículos porque realmente se nos llenaba el correo con ese tipo de información. y creo que es bueno que podamos acceder a ellos aquellos que estén interesados en este tipo de servicios.

Por otra parte, quiero respaldar plenamente lo que acaba de señalar el Delegado de México con relación a que es necesario adaptar la sala de la Plenaria para permitirnos poder trabajar con mayor facilidad, ya que actualmente la mayoría de los Miembros trabaja y necesita utilizar los servicios de la corriente eléctrica, que eso no está arreglado como se ha hecho tanto en la Sala Roja como en la Sala Verde y otras salas.

Por último, queremos también felicitar a la Secretaría por ese ahorro de documentos, ya que los mismos pueden ser consultados por Internet sin necesidad de utilizar demasiado papel, que todos sabemos las consecuencias que eso tiene. Y creo que también el Portal para Miembros de la FAO puede ser mejorado para permitirnos hacer un uso más eficiente de él.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I take the floor to support what Mexico has said about the upgrading of services in the Plenary Hall, particularly the electric sockets.

**Mr Jon E JONASSON (Iceland)**

As many of you know, I'm new. But I'm also old in the sense that I was here many years ago and I see so many improvements and I thank all the Members for doing that in between I haven't been here.

There is one thing I would like to mention regarding the Order of the Day distributed to the Members. It is my understanding, that the original timetable of the meeting in the afternoon is from 14:30 to 17:30 or later if required. That was totally misunderstood by me and I realized that many delegations were unsure if the Agenda Items originally scheduled for the meeting were going to be discussed or not. To enable better planning within the management of the Missions on the distribution of the Agenda Items, it would be helpful if the Chair could give advance information on the exact timing of the Session.

I also would like to mention that maybe the seats in the room could be changed or I simply will take a cushion from my home.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I know that these seats are not that comfortable but we are to work.

**Sr. José Antonio CARRANZA (Ecuador)**

Apoyamos el informe que ha presentado la Secretaría sobre las mejoras y quisiéramos que a lo mejor se pudiera considerar el hecho, con referencia a las comunicaciones que se envían a las Representaciones Permanentes y el hecho de que se usa por supuesto la plataforma web de los

Representantes Permanentes, lo cual por supuesto que lo respaldamos. No obstante, también se ponen las comunicaciones en los casilleros de los países, con lo cual los países ya recibimos por vía electrónica a través de la página web esas comunicaciones y luego nos encontramos el mismo documento en papel en los casilleros, lo cual implica una duplicación, un gasto de papel y por supuesto, de trabajo en la FAO.

Por supuesto que hay comunicaciones que por la naturaleza tienen que ser por escrito, sin embargo, quizás se podría considerar, para no duplicar esfuerzos, que las comunicaciones que ya se envían a través de la página web de los Representantes Permanentes ya no se dupliquen en el casillero a fin de evitar costos y trabajo.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Thank you for the positive comments expressed by Members. Yes, indeed, we are trying to move towards paper-smart practices and it is to my knowledge the case in other United Nations Organizations, which are also aiming at paper-free environment. I must say that the recent experience of ICN2 was a step in a good direction, because very few documents were printed and most Delegates came with their own devices and followed the proceedings without using printed documents.

The other point I wanted to touch upon is the improvements in the Plenary Hall to install electric sockets. We identified this need some time ago and the Administrative Services Division is trying to identify funding to begin the works in the Plenary Hall. We will also install new seats because the FAO Membership is enlarged since the last Conference.

### **CHAIRPERSON**

I can therefore conclude that the Council will count the initiatives taken by the Secretariat to improve the methods of work of the Council and encourage further improvements. Thank you.

#### **Item 17. Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-16**

#### **Point 17. Calendrier 2014-2016 des sessions des organes directeurs de la FAO et des autres réunions principales**

#### **Tema 17. Calendario de los períodos de sesiones de los órganos rectores de la FAO y otras reuniones importantes en 2014-16**

*(CL 150/LIM/1)*

### **CHAIRPERSON**

The last item on the Agenda this morning is Item 17, *Calendar of FAO Governing Bodies and Other Main Sessions in 2014-2016*. The document before Council is CL 150/LIM/1.

To avoid the overlapping of meetings, FAO produces this calendar in close coordination with IFAD and WFP. Through this Web-based common calendar, all three Rome-based Agencies can insert their updates. This common calendar can also be consulted at any time by all Members on the FAO Members Gateway available from the FAO home page.

The schedule of meetings for 2014 is presented to Council for information as well as the proposed calendar for 2016. The Council is requested to approve the proposed calendar of meetings for 2015.

#### **Dr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)**

I note that the dates the Meeting of the Executive Board of WFP and the Governing Council of IFAD in February are scheduled back to back. It means that from 9 to 19 February Delegations will be here throughout this period of about ten days. I am just thinking about the duration, whether that is not too long to keep people here to attend both meetings continuously.

### **SECRETARY-GENERAL**

As indicated in the table the meeting at WFP will be held from 9 to 13 February 2015 at WFP and the meeting scheduled at IFAD from 15 to 19 February will be held at IFAD and not here at FAO Headquarters.

**Mr Mohammed S. SHERIFF (Liberia)**

I think the question raised by Sierra Leone, even though the Secretary-General has answered, doesn't actually – because if the meeting at IFAD is 9 to 13 and at the same time there is another meeting that starts on the 15 to 19 February at WFP, not at FAO, and you expect Member Nations from Africa Region to attend those meetings, I think that's what he was basically referring to.

That indeed it would be a burden on those Member Countries to leave the Capital to come and sit in Rome from 9 to 13 February at IFAD, then remain here two more days from 15 to 19 February in WFP doing nothing but just IFAD and WFP meetings and leaving the task behind them as Ministers in the Africa Region will be too heavy. I think that is what the Minister was alluding to.

**Mr Luca FRATINI (Italy)**

We are only observing the calendar for 2016, and especially the second half, and we note that we are falling into the same situation we found ourselves this year with the sequence of very dense events starting in July with COFI followed by COFO in the following week, and then October we have COAG, CCP, CFS and CCLM all in a row followed by Finance and Programme. So I think that should be handled carefully as we stated also in previous occasions.

**Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Observer for Sierra Leone)**

I think you have many more of these instances mentioned before. If you look at June, for example, the 6th to the 15th, remaining nine days here continuously. You look at 2016 February from the 8th to the 19th. We go down to October 2016 and Delegates will have to stay from the 3rd to the 12th, and not too long you'll come for CFS. So the point here is in the instance of events, Delegations would have to stay to attend one after the other seems to be too long in the instances I've mentioned. And I will say there are about four of them according to my notes here. In 2015 from the 9th to the 19th of February, also from the 6th to the 15th of June, and 2016 we are talking about 8th to the 19th of February, and we go down to October from the 4th to the 12th. You also have the CFS on the 17th. So you have around five days to be around, if you want. So there are some complications here in terms of the nearness and duration of these sessions that I've mentioned.

I do understand that they are being held in different places, whether it's WFP and FAO, and so on. But also be in mind that Delegations can be the same, running all over the place, especially when the events are sequenced. So you have the same team moving from one point to the other.

**Mr Khalid MEHBOOB (Pakistan)**

I would like to support what Italy has just drawn attention to. It's the density of the meetings within a short period of time which has caused problems this year, because apart from the density of the meetings, the three Rome-based Agencies keep calling informal consultations and informal seminars where representatives have to shuttle between the three organizations, apart from the fact that many Delegations have to make preparations and there's a massive amount of reading to do. So I would support Italy in suggesting that this density should be looked at.

**SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Let me first address the point made by Pakistan and Italy. Today we are to adopt the calendar for 2015 and 2016 is there for information. So these comments are well taken and we will see if there's a possibility to extend the sequence of meetings.

During 2014, I was impressed to see many delegates coming here in August to participate in meetings to work on the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Agricultural Investment. This could be a solution to avoid concentration of meetings, but we will evaluate all possible options.

Concerning the point made by Sierra Leone, let me observe that what is presented for 2015 and 2016 is also the pattern that we followed in February 2014. The priority is to avoid the scheduling of meetings in conflict among the three Rome-based Organizations. In order to do that we coordinate closely and well in advance with our counterparts at WFP and IFAD, but this may lead to have meetings scheduled back to back.

In addition, please note that WFP and IFAD have the practice of blocking the whole week when using the common calendar, when at times meetings have a shorter duration. This free time can be useful to prepare subsequent meetings.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

You can see that we are not having many activities in July, August, September, I think it's a time when most of the Members are not in Rome. On the other hand, some some Members noted that that when you have back-to-back meetings, you save on travel costs. All these comments will be considered for the calendar of 2016

I would like to conclude that the Council approved the proposed calendar for 2015 and took note of the draft calendar for 2016.

#### **M. Mostafa NAHI (Maroc)**

Je voulais juste poser une petite question pour le calendrier 2015, spécialement pour les activités prévues en octobre 2015, et plus particulièrement la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Le document est muet sur le lieu alors que j'ai crû comprendre que peut-être cette journée serait célébrée à Milan, dans le cadre de l'Expo Milano 2015. Je voudrais avoir des renseignements plus spécifiques sur ce point.

#### **SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL**

Ce que je peux dire, à ce stade, au représentant du Maroc, c'est qu'effectivement cela a été proposé, mais je ne peux pas vous en dire plus en ce moment parce que je n'ai pas d'information confirmée à cet égard. C'est une idée qui a été exprimée, et dès que nous en saurons davantage, je pourrai informer les Membres à ce sujet-là.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

By approving the calendar for 2015, Council has decided that its next session will take place from 23 to 27 March 2015. Item 17 is concluded.

This brings us to the end of this morning's Plenary meeting. Please note there will be no Plenary meeting this afternoon and that the first meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene at 15 hours in the Lebanon Room.

The second meeting of the Drafting Committee will convene at 9:30 tomorrow morning; therefore we shall meet again on Friday morning at 9:30 for Agenda Item 19, Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO: for information (CL 150/INF/4) which is presented to the Council for information.

I would like to remind you that the side event on Social Progress through Land Development: Lessons from Malaysia's FELDA", which will take place from 13.00 to 14.30 in the Iran Room and, this afternoon in the Austria Room from 17.00 to 18.00, the film "Symphony of the Soil" will be shown as a preamble to World Soil Day. Since we will not be meeting tomorrow morning, I wish to mention the side event "A Territorial Approach to Food Security and Nutrition and Rural Poverty Reduction", which will be held tomorrow Thursday 4 December, from 13.00 to 14.30, in the Iran Room.

The meeting stands adjourned.

*The meeting rose at 11:38 hours*

*La séance est levée à 11 h 38*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 11.38*