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Organisation des Nations  
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et l'agriculture

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сельскохозяйственная организация  
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Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas para la  
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-ninth Session - Trente-neuvième session - 39.º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 6-13 June 2015  
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I  
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 6-13 juin 2015  
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I  
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ACTAS TAQUIGRÁFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISIÓN I  
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# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

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| <b>Thirty-ninth Session<br/>Trente-neuvième session<br/>39.º período de sesiones</b>                             |
| <b>Rome, 6-13 June 2015<br/>Rome, 6-13 juin 2015<br/>Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015</b>                             |
| <b>FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I<br/>PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I<br/>PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b> |
| <b>8 June 2015</b>                                                                                               |

The First Meeting was opened at 10.51 hours  
Mr Luca Fratini,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 51  
sous la présidence de M. Luca Fratini,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera reunion a las 10.51  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luca Fratini,  
Presidente de la Comisión I



- Item 11. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**  
**Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:**  
**Tema 11. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

*Item 11.1 Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for the Near East (24-28 February 2014)*

*Point 11.1 Rapport de la trente-deuxième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (24-28 février 2014)*

*Tema 11.1 Informe de la 32.ª Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (24-28 de febrero de 2014)*

*(C 2015/18)*

## CHAIRPERSON

These are the only words I will say in Italian during this week. *Buongiorno a tutti e benvenuti a Roma.* Welcome to Commission I. I am pleased to open the first session of Commission I. First of all, allow me to say that I am honoured to have been elected Chairperson of this Commission and very much appreciate the trust that you have placed in me to chair the discussion on the core technical work of FAO.

We have an important task ahead of us. I also welcome the two Vice-Chairpersons of Commission I elected by the Conference through the First Report of the General Committee, namely Ms Natalie Feistritz of Austria and Mr Charles Essonghe of Gabon. Together with the team of the Secretariat, we will do our utmost to ensure the smooth running of the work of the Commission.

Upon consultation with the various regional groups, the following have been nominated as members of the Drafting Committee for this Commission. The Chairperson is Mr Mafizur Rahman from Bangladesh. Members are Afghanistan, Argentina, Canada, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Spain. May I take it that the Commission agrees on the proposed Membership and Chairperson of the Drafting Committee? It is so decided.

The timing of the meeting of the Drafting Committee will be announced at a later stage. I would also like to remind Delegates from the outset that programme and budgetary matters arising from the reports have already been considered by the Council, so our discussions and report should focus on the substantive policy and regulatory matters arising from these reports. Following the discussions on each of the agenda items, I will draw up conclusions to facilitate the drafting of the report.

In order to make the best use of the time at our disposal, may I appeal to you to keep your interventions as brief and focused as possible, and please not to rush your interventions. The quality of interpretation will be improved if interventions are made at a reasonable pace. Still on interpretation, may I remind you that to ensure accurate interpretation of statements, timely production of verbatim records, and web posting on the Conference website, delegations are kindly requested to submit the electronic version of their statements to [Conference-Statements@fao.org](mailto:Conference-Statements@fao.org) or please give hard copies to the messengers. This is very important. And, also, Members wishing to make available copies of their statements to the Conference participants should provide the desired number of copies to the documents desk.

With these announcements, we will now start with the first item on our agenda for this morning which is item 11, *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from Regional Conferences.*

The first sub-item is 11.1, *Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for the Near East*, which was held in Rome from 24 to 28 February 2014. The relevant Conference document is C 2015/18.

I now invite His Excellency Akram Chehayeb, Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon, to introduce this item.

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

Je suis très honoré d'être aujourd'hui avec vous, pour vous présenter le Rapport de la Conférence sur les résultats de la 32<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale du Proche-Orient, qui s'est tenue à Rome, en Italie, du 24 au 28 février 2014. À cette Conférence 155 délégués étaient présents de 22 pays et sept pays observateurs, trois organisations des Nations-Unies, une organisation inter-gouvernementale, trois organisations non-gouvernementales et un observateur. Je vais parler précisément dans mon rapport des questions qui concernent la politique ainsi que des questions de règlement, et en ce qui concerne ce point, six sujets ont été abordés lors de la Conférence régionale:

1. l'état de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans notre région;
2. essayer de réduire les pertes et le gaspillage de denrées alimentaires;
3. comment faire avec l'Initiative régionale sur la raréfaction de l'eau pour arriver à une stratégie de collaboration;
4. essayer de réduire l'écart entre les 2 sexes en ce qui concerne le secteur rural dans notre région;
5. les recommandations issues des Commissions régionales de la FAO et des principales réunions tenues dans notre région; et enfin
6. la décentralisation et le réseau de bureaux dans les différents pays.

En ce qui concerne l'état de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans notre région, la Conférence régionale, par ses recommandations, a approuvé la stratégie sur la sécurité alimentaire, a encouragé aussi les États Membres à déployer davantage d'efforts en ce qui concerne ce sujet, que ce soit au niveau régional ou national.

Cette Conférence a aussi réaffirmé l'importance des réserves de céréales dans la région. En ce qui concerne la réduction des réserves alimentaires dans notre pays, notre Conférence régionale tout particulièrement a approuvé la stratégie régionale sur la réduction des pertes de denrées alimentaires dans la région et a demandé aux Membres de la région d'Afrique du Nord et du Proche-Orient de mettre en place des plans de travail avec des indications et des objectifs clairs, en vue de garantir la sécurité alimentaire. Elle a demandé aussi d'aider les États Membres à mettre en œuvre tout ce qui concerne les communications afin de parer à ce problème dans la région.

Quant au point de l'ordre du jour concernant l'Initiative régionale sur la raréfaction de l'eau: vers une stratégie de collaboration, cette Conférence régionale a souscrit à l'Initiative régionale sur la raréfaction de l'eau et a salué les efforts que la FAO a déployés avec ses partenaires afin de mettre en œuvre une stratégie régionale de collaboration pour une gestion durable de l'eau au service de la sécurité alimentaire.

Cette initiative régionale, qui est complémentaire d'autres initiatives nationales et régionales, vise à créer un mécanisme pour faire face à la raréfaction de l'eau à un niveau dépassant le simple champ national et à mettre en avant la question des ressources hydriques agricoles grâce à la «Stratégie pour la sécurité de l'eau dans les pays arabes» de 2010 à 2030, ainsi que d'autres initiatives, dans la région.

Elle a demandé à la FAO et à ses partenaires d'aider les États Membres à mettre au point leurs stratégies nationales en ce qui concerne les ressources en eau et à fournir l'aide technique nécessaire et préparer les études de faisabilité correspondantes.

Elle a demandé aussi à la FAO d'étudier les capacités institutionnelles de la région en rapport avec le changement climatique et l'impact de celui-ci sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire, et aussi de promouvoir davantage de collaboration afin de parer aux problèmes comme la sécheresse et la désertification.

La Conférence a abordé également la question de la réduction de l'écart en matière d'agriculture entre hommes et femmes dans le secteur rural, et a reconnu l'importance de prendre en considération cette dimension dans les domaines du développement rural et de l'agriculture, de développer aussi le capital humain, d'hommes, de femmes, de jeunes. La discussion a en outre porté sur la façon dont la FAO

compte s'attaquer à ce problème dans son programme de travail ainsi que dans les activités connexes qui sont menées dans la région.

En ce qui concerne les recommandations issues des Commissions régionales et des réunions régionales importantes qui se sont tenues au Proche-Orient, la Conférence régionale a demandé à la FAO de fournir un appui technique aux Commissions régionales dans le domaine de la pisciculture et a demandé aussi aux États Membres d'apporter leur soutien aux unités de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin dans la région afin de mettre en œuvre des stratégies de contrôle et de prévention antiacridiennes.

Au sujet de la décentralisation, la Conférence a reconnu l'importance des programmes financés par des fonds fiduciaires unilatéraux, tels que les programmes de coopération entre la FAO et l'Arabie saoudite ainsi que la FAO et la Lybie, comme vecteurs de collaboration bilatérale entre la FAO et les États Membres.

La Conférence s'est également félicitée des progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne les activités de développement ainsi que la nomination d'un adjoint du Représentant de la FAO dans certains pays membres et le processus d'alignement des cadres de programmation par pays sur le Cadre stratégique révisé de la FAO.

Enfin, la Conférence régionale a exprimé son soutien à la nouvelle orientation stratégique de la FAO, et a souligné qu'il fallait assurer la continuité de l'orientation stratégique et de la direction de l'Organisation pour que le potentiel du Cadre stratégique révisé se réalise intégralement.

Je vous remercie de votre attention, merci à vous tous.

**Ms Amira GORNASS (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan is taking the floor as Chair of the Near East Group. We would like to talk about the results of the Regional Conference, so we would like to focus on the results we have reached in our deliberations. We would like to talk about the issues and the problems we dealt with in the Regional Conference that concern our region.

The number of people suffering from malnutrition has increased: 30 million people suffer from malnutrition today. This is a problem. Children are especially concerned. Food security is a huge problem due to conflicts in countries in the region. Some people in the region suffer more than others due to political conflicts in the Near East Region. We have a record number of refugees in the region. This is exacerbating our problems. The number of refugees is growing and it is straining capacities of countries in the Region. Prices for food items have increased. Unemployment has increased as has malnutrition.

I would like to say that the documents we looked at during the Regional Conference dealt with very important issues, namely poverty and malnutrition. Sixty-five percent of food items and raw materials are lost due to technical, administrative and political constraints and this is linked to refrigeration, transportation and harvesting. This has changed the way these food items are consumed, particularly in Gulf countries. The average GDP is high in those countries, but there is a lack of food items and raw materials in these countries, so these are the biggest importers of food items. Some countries import 40 percent of the food they need. Urbanization has decreased agricultural lands; desertification and water scarcity are also huge issues, and we are looking at ways to resolve these problems. We need to change the way people consume food in order to increase reserves and this will impact the food chain.

As far as the second document regarding water scarcity is concerned, the Minister said this requires partnership, and water is a huge issue for our region. Our region is undergoing crises and conflicts related to water. We think this trend will increase by 2050. We have other issues regarding urbanization and demographic growth. Our region has 90 percent of our land under threat - that is our agricultural land. We also have agricultural production methods that are not sustainable. Regional offices and the network of technical offices can play a role in resolving these issues.

We would like this regional network to play a greater role to respond to the food needs of the Near East Region. We would like these offices to have the financial and human resources they need in order to carry out their work in building capacities so that they can serve their region better. These offices represent the Organization in the field and so they need our support. The region is suffering from

instability and other issues. We know about the conflicts our region faces today. In some countries of the region half of their population are either refugees or internally displaced and obviously this impacts on agricultural production. This also impacts animal husbandry in the Near East Region and we have to provide support and aid to countries in conflict as well as countries that are home to a large number of refugees in the region.

In conclusion, agriculture needs to be supported. We need aid. We need aid in order to strengthen dialogue between offices on all levels, international and local, in order to deal with the challenges facing our region and provide sufficient food.

**Mr Saywan BARZANI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to congratulate the Minister for Agriculture of Lebanon for his excellent report regarding the last Regional Conference. This last Regional Conference was very important for the countries in the region because it helped coordinate activity on the regional level and it enabled us to take action to face regional challenges. One of the biggest challenges facing our region is the lack of agricultural production, water scarcity, and other challenges.

It is clear that lack of water is one of the biggest obstacles to developing agriculture in the region. We are facing greater and greater water scarcity so there is more competition between water users; that is between the agricultural sector and other sectors. One of the urgent issues facing us is that these resources are shared by more than one country in the region. And we do not have regional agreements. For example, in the Tigris-Euphrates Water Basin that we share with Turkey, there are issues regarding sharing these very scarce water resources. We must also add to this the lack of trust between stakeholders and the desire for some countries to use these scarce resources more than other countries, so the FAO within the UN System can play a stronger role in this issue.

We would also like to add another danger facing our countries. This is a form of aggression concerning Syria, and we saw that since 2014 Syria's water and other resources were affected and the Tigris-Euphrates Water Basin. This is a huge threat to water provision to inhabitants. It also affects the agricultural sector. It also uses these resources for criminal activities. I would also like to draw your attention to this huge danger facing our region and I invite the Regional Conference to take this into account in their future sessions and their discussions. We should develop programmes targeted towards local populations as well as refugees. We have nearly three million Iraqis displaced or refugees. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Any other delegations at this stage wishing to take the floor? I see none. I hear the Minister had to leave so I would like to introduce and give the floor to Mr Lahoud, Director-General of the Lebanese Ministry of Agriculture.

**M. Louis LAHOUD (Liban) (langue originale arabe)**

Après avoir écouté les interventions de la déléguée du Soudan et du représentant de l'Iraq, je voudrais dire au sujet de cette Conférence régionale, qui s'est déroulée à Rome du 24 au 28 avril 2014, qu'elle a cherché à répondre aux grands défis qui se posent dans notre région et qu'ici nous ne pouvons que représenter le représentant de la région qui a suivi l'action de cette Conférence régionale au cours des deux dernières années.

Nous voudrions également saluer tous les États Membres de la Conférence et vous annoncer ici que la prochaine réunion se déroulera en février 2016 dans la capitale libanaise, Beyrouth, et nous voudrions dire que les recommandations qui ont été présentées dans le rapport oral de M. le Ministre de l'agriculture du Liban, portaient sur six éléments, dont l'état de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans la région, la limitation des pertes de produits alimentaires, l'initiative relative à la raréfaction de l'eau à l'échelle régionale. Vous savez très bien que nous avons connu ces derniers temps un recul des précipitations ou alors des saisons de pluie raccourcies avec un niveau de précipitations extrêmement important, ce qui est tout aussi pernicieux pour le secteur agricole.

Autre recommandation: il s'agissait d'aborder la question du genre dans l'agriculture et dans notre région. Nous avons également fait une recommandation adressée à la Commission régionale de la

FAO portant sur la décentralisation et le réseau de bureaux décentralisés. Enfin, nous voudrions ici mettre l'accent également sur un point extrêmement important dans la région, à savoir l'afflux de réfugiés et de personnes déplacées dans la région. Ainsi, au Liban, nous sommes confrontés particulièrement à la question des réfugiés syriens, qui se trouvent en très grand nombre dans notre pays.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, the Regional Representative for the FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa, to take the floor if he wishes.

#### **Mr Abdessalam OULD AHMED (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Near East and North Africa) (Original language Arabic)**

I would also like to thank not only the Chairperson of the Conference for his report but also all of the Arab delegations that took the floor and expressed their encouragement for our Organization.

We also have noted all of the recommendations issuing from the Regional Conference of 2014. We are going to work on these recommendations and we are looking forward to the debates that we will be holding at the regional level during the following sessions which will deal with water scarcity.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would conclude this item with very simple conclusions as I believe the substance is well enshrined in the report of the Regional Conference. So the Conference endorsed the report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. Appreciation was expressed for the manner in which Iraq has chaired the Regional Conference. This concludes agenda sub-item 11.1.

I wish to thank all of those who participated in this discussion and I think we have a slight change of seats here in the podium at this point.

- Item 11.2 Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (10-14 March 2014)*  
*Point 11.2 Rapport de la trente-deuxième Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (10-14 mars 2014)*  
*Tema 11.2 Informe de la 32.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (10-14 de marzo de 2014)*  
(C 2015/15)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

So let us move to sub-item 11.2 which is the *Report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific* which took place in Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia from 10 to 14 March 2014. The relevant Conference document is C 2015/15 and I am pleased to give the floor to Mr Choi-Ish, Director-General of Strategy, Planning and Policy Department at the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture of Mongolia, to present the report of the Regional Conference.

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

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

The Regional Conference was attended by 206 delegates including 30 Ministers and nine Vice-Ministers, representing 41 Member Nations' delegations, plus 47 delegations as observers.

The final report includes a summary of the main recommendation for the attention of the FAO Council and for the attention of the Conference. Please refer to Conference document C 2015/15.

In reference to the agenda item on the State of Food and Agriculture in the Asia and Pacific Region, including future prospects and emerging issues in the Regional Conference, note that if the

Millennium Development Goal target is reached by 2015 in the Asia and the Pacific Region, more than a hundred billion people in the region would still be under-nourished.

Highlighted as special challenges of Pacific Island countries in ensuring food security and nutrition, in light of the unique social, cultural and physical challenges of this operation, emphasized the critical emerging impacts of climate change on agriculture and urged FAO to provide increased support for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities, including climate smart agriculture in order to create more resilient agricultural and fisheries sectors.

Requested FAO's support in addressing the key challenges of increasing agricultural productivity, managing natural resources, and improving the livelihood of the smallholder farm families, including analytical and policy work, some data collection, opportunities for women and youth, sustainable agriculture, nutrition and food safety, and the promotion of underutilized indigenous food resources.

Regarding the agenda item on Realizing economic opportunities in agriculture to promote greater food security in Pacific Island countries, the Regional Conference requested FAO's support for data collection and analysis, conducting food nutrition analysis and applying best practices to increase the competitiveness of the local agriculture sector.

Considering the agenda item on Meeting farmers' aspirations in the context of green development, the Regional Conference acknowledged that they need to broaden discussion on the future of agriculture and meeting farmers' aspirations beyond agriculture and the natural resource sector to include *inter alia* issues related to urbanization, rural infrastructure, traditional and indigenous culture, education and support services and youth development.

Urged the FAO and Member Nations to facilitate policy dialogue in the exchange of information, knowledge and experiences related to the evolution of agriculture and farming.

Regarding the agenda item on the restoration of grassland and forests for climate change mitigation and adaptation and the promotion of ecosystem services, the Regional Conference stressed the importance of identifying and addressing the underlying causes of grassland and forest degradation and loss, and urged FAO's support for related analysis and formulation of action plans for addressing such factors.

Highlighted the many environmental, social and economic benefits that can accrue from effective forest and grassland restoration while stressing the need for safeguards to ensure that restoration activities protect and enhance biodiversity and respect the rights and interests of local people, especially indigenous people and traditional forest and grassland users.

Requested FAO's support in the following areas related to forest and grassland restoration, advocacy and awareness-raising, capacity-building, and policy formulation, innovative financing, livelihood development, and promotion of information exchange and mechanisms for multi-sectoral approaches.

In reference to the agenda item on priorities for FAO activities in the region, the Regional Conference highlighted the important role of FAO in providing statistics and information for policy formulation, supporting the work of the standard-setting bodies and capacity development.

Emphasized the need for a much stronger focus on outcomes and continuity in the strategic direction and the leadership of the Organization.

With respect to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Malaysia has kindly offered to host the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific 2016, which will be held from 7 to 11 March 2016.

**Mr Guy SUMMERS (Australia)**

The Australian delegation is pleased to be represented here at Commission I to contribute to the discussion of the important issues before us this week as indeed we were pleased to be represented at the APRC Conference itself in Ulaanbaatar last year.

Australia supports the outcomes of the report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and its recommendations. As a Co-Chair for the Southwest Pacific sub-region of FAO, we were



particularly pleased by the fact that the agenda and the papers for the Conference contained explicit discussion of items directly relevant to the sub-region.

At the APRC Conference, Australia requested the FAO to assist Member Nations in the Asia Pacific Region to strengthen normative standard-setting, particularly in relation to CODEX and IPPC, provide technical analysis and support for the development of new policy frameworks and to promote sound data collection, and technical and socioeconomic analysis.

Australia believes it is important that the appropriate technical support is available from Headquarters, and from the FAO office for the sub-region.

There has been good progress made by FAO in including the voice of the Southwest Pacific but we must not relax our attention. For example, the Southwest Pacific has trended towards an alarming increase in the prevalence of obesity and other health challenges, and is very susceptible to natural hazards and the effects of climate change.

It is imperative, we believe, that the upcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Regional Conference in Kuala Lumpur next year includes agenda items that address these and other issues of interest to the Southwest Pacific sub-region and that FAO focuses, for example, on resilient food systems in the Pacific.

**Mr Deepak KUMAR (India)**

India welcomes the report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We would also like to place on record our appreciation for the Regional Representative of FAO, Mr Hiroyuki Konuma, who we are told will be retiring from FAO soon, for the excellent work done by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific under his leadership.

The report is significant in that it highlights our achievements in the region and also underlines the areas of concern. Hunger and malnutrition in the Asia region are endemic and further exacerbated by climate change.

We fully endorse the proposal in the report for FAO to provide increased support for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities to increase agricultural productivity and improve the livelihood of smallholder farm families.

We are aware of the specific food security and nutrition concerns of the South Pacific Island nations and endorse paragraph 18 of the report, encouraging an enhanced role of FAO in that area. In this regard, we welcome the introduction of technical cooperation programmes for small island states in this biennium's PWB.

India is aware of and party to the green economy and green growth, diverse and various national flora. It is true that neither the true import of these terms nor the full implications of adapting green growth or green development strategies are clear to many underdeveloped and developing countries, and we urge FAO to play a proactive role in assisting Member Nations formulate a roadmap for agricultural transition by developing their understanding and capacity.

Last but not the least, we welcome the prioritization of country and regional levels and are happy that FAO has mainstreamed GIAHS and South-South Cooperation, two very important priorities of the regional activities.

With these comments, we fully endorse the report.

**Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)**

Japan also would like to support the report and outcome of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. I would like to praise the work done by Mr Konuma and his team. They, very successfully, well organized the Conference. And also I would like to thank the Mongolian Government to show us good hospitality and good arrangement of the meeting.

Japan would like to support again the entire report of the meeting.

**Ms Liping SHEN (China)**

China supports the report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. We would like to show our gratitude to the Mongolian Government for their work for the successful meeting of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference.

The Chinese delegation appreciates FAO's work in the Asia-Pacific Region and prioritizes its work including implementing working areas listed in the previous meeting and also supporting the priority work and developing the capacities and the directions as well as the four measures listed. And also pushing forward the GIAHS and the tackling of climate change and promoting of South-South Cooperation and decentralization in the form of the decentralized offices as well as technical assistance and cooperation, especially in areas where FAO has rich resources.

The Chinese delegation appreciates the priority work in the Asia-Pacific Region and we hope FAO will strengthen the work in our region, especially the cooperation between islands and to promote the intellectual, smart agriculture work, improving the resilience of farming and the fishing industry, help Member Nations to improve their agricultural capacity to improve the management of natural resources and improving smallholders' livelihoods.

We also hope FAO will continue to promote the GIAHS which has been established for our region and financing resources for the cooperation between south-south nations.

**Mr Winny Dian WIBAWA (Indonesia)**

I would like to thank Mongolia who has presented the report of the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Indonesia would like to stress the importance of the Ulaanbaatar communiqué of the Ministers as one of the important outcomes of the meeting.

Indonesia recognizes and emphasizes the decisions made during the 32<sup>nd</sup> APRC are very important as a milestone of regional contribution to the world through supported four regional initiatives including the Zero Hunger Challenge in Asia and the Pacific, Regional Rice Initiative Phase II, Blue Growth, developing local food chains for food security and nutrition in the Pacific Island countries.

The Government of Indonesia is underlining that sustainable production for food security means also the sustainability of its livelihoods. Therefore with regard to the Regional Rice Initiative, Indonesia has established some demonstrated points in several potential yet undeveloped districts to promote fisheries production in fields as additional income for farmers.

Despite some challenges in scaling up the programme, I am pleased to inform you that our two line ministers, that is Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, are going to take collaborative efforts and synergize the programmes to enhance the nation's rice and fish culture programme in Indonesia.

In this regard, we would like to welcome FAO's support in strengthening this collaboration through the Regional Rice Initiative II. Indonesia is pleased to acknowledge that there is globally growing recognition to fisheries contribution in supporting food security and nutrition, particularly by endorsement of the Blue Growth Initiative under the 32<sup>nd</sup> FAO APRC by Member Nations.

Hence Indonesia would like to take this opportunity to propose the inclusion of the contribution of fisheries to nutrition and food security and the potential of Blue Growth into the agenda of the next APRC meeting.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

New Zealand would like to join the other members of the delegations in support of the outcomes and recommendations of the last Asia Pacific Regional Conference. It was particularly pleasing to see the greater recognition and emphasis for the issues and concerns of the South Pacific Region. There are many small island states that face particularly unique challenges in terms of climate change, small scale agriculture, distance from the markets and various associated difficulties.

So, from that point, we were very pleased to see the emphasis and recognition for the issues of the Southwest Pacific and we also firmly supported the initiatives and recommendations of the

Conference in regard to the Regional Conference and in regard to the various programmes that are particularly relevant for the Southwest Pacific. I particularly mention the Blue Growth Initiative that was significant for them.

We also supported very strongly the Director-General's push for decentralization and the greater initiatives to improve the efficiencies of the regional and sub-regional and country offices and we look forward to continuing initiatives to strengthen through various administrative reforms and so on.

There was also, as my colleague from Australia mentioned, strong recommendations around strengthening the initiatives around the CODEX and the International Plant Protection. Both are important to improve food security. But as we know, food security and food safety go hand-in-hand. So from that perspective, the emphasis on strengthening capacities to participate in CODEX and promote international standards development and the capacity to update standards are important.

Overall, we are very pleased with the Conference and we look forward to participating in the next conference and we would like to join the other delegations in thanking Mongolia for hosting a very great conference and also Mr Konuma for the excellent work that he has been doing over the years in the region.

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

Thank you for all comments. I would like to thank you for organizing this Regional Conference, the Government of Mongolia, and all the Members of the APRC.

**Mr Hiroyuki KONUMA (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific)**

I would like to thank Mr Choi-Ish, for presenting the outcome of the Regional Conference today in this very important meeting. And also I would like to thank the Government of Mongolia for hosting the Regional Conference. It was very successful and thanks again to the Government of Mongolia for their generous hosting and hospitality. I would like also to thank the Member Nations for the positive comments provided and the continuous support provided to FAO in the Asia-Pacific Region.

As has been mentioned and reported already, the Asia-Pacific Region has achieved Millennium Development Goal Number 1C, Hunger Target by this year before the end of the MDG period and this is a remarkable achievement and I would like to congratulate all Member Nations for their effort for achieving this very important target.

Having said this, there are variations among the countries, among the sub-regions, especially a concern on South Asia. Their number for chronic hunger still remains. And also Pacific Island countries, their problem with obesity and very slow in the progress of eradicating hunger.

At the same time, even if we reduced the proportion of hunger to 12 percent and achieved the MDG target, we have still 12 percent remaining in our society that are suffering from chronic hunger and most of them are left behind of the benefit of economic growth. So without supporting this 12 percent in our society, we will not be able to achieve sustainable development in equitable society.

So that is why moving towards zero hunger is very important and we should keep momentum of our efforts that we have achieved and using our joint efforts towards eradicating hunger which is also very much in line with Sustainable Development Goal 2.

In this opportunity, I would like to thank all Member Nations for the support provided.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Mr Konuma. I would also like to thank Mr Choi-Ish for being with us and let me draw the short conclusions as I did for the previous item.

The Conference endorsed the report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Mongolia, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference which on a personal basis, I must say, was expressed by many delegations, so congratulations from the Chair as well. This concludes sub-item 11.2.

- Item 11.3** *Report of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Africa (24-28 March 2014)*  
**Point 11.3** *Rapport de la vingt-huitième Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (24-28 mars 2014)*  
**Tema 11.3** *Informe de la 28.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Regional para África (24-28 de marzo de 2014)*  
(C 2015/14)

## CHAIRPERSON

Our next sub-item is 11.3, the *Report of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Africa* which was held in Tunis, Tunisia, from 24 to 28 March 2014.

I now invite His Excellency Saad Seddik, Minister for Agriculture, Water Resources, and Fisheries of the Republic of Tunisia, to introduce the Report of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Africa.

### **M. Saad SEDDIK (Tunisie)**

J'ai l'honneur et le privilège de vous présenter les résultats de la 28<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (FAO) pour l'Afrique, tenue du 24 au 28 mars 2014, à Tunis en Tunisie.

La Conférence a enregistré la participation de 49 sur 54 pays membres et d'autres institutions et organisations partenaires, dont les organisations de la société civile représentées au plus haut niveau.

Je renouvelle avec plaisir les remerciements de Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République tunisienne ainsi que de Monsieur le Président du Gouvernement, et ceux du peuple tunisien, à toutes les parties prenantes de la Conférence régionale et en particulier à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO.

J'ai le plaisir de confirmer aux Membres de la Conférence de la FAO, réunis en sa 39<sup>ème</sup> session, que le rapport final adopté et présenté, exprime clairement les conclusions de la 28<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale.

Je soumetts à la Conférence une synthèse des principales recommandations concernant le point II, en l'occurrence les «Questions relatives aux politiques régionales et mondiales, et les questions relatives à la réglementation».

Le thème «La jeunesse africaine dans le secteur agroalimentaire et le développement rural» a été au centre de nos discussions. À ce sujet, la Conférence régionale a recommandé aux États Membres les points suivants:

- Premièrement: de créer des conditions favorables aux jeunes dans l'ensemble des politiques et programmes de développement agricole et rural, en améliorant notamment l'accès des jeunes aux ressources productives, en particulier la terre et les ressources financières, afin de promouvoir l'investissement.
- Deuxième point: d'encourager les partenariats publics-privés, afin de tirer partie des synergies entre les grandes entreprises agricoles et les petites entreprises dirigées par des jeunes ou des femmes.
- Troisième point: d'investir dans les compétences techniques, professionnelles et administratives des jeunes, et notamment d'améliorer la participation des jeunes aux associations professionnelles de production et de commercialisation, et d'intégrer les technologies de l'information et des communication dans le secteur agricole.
- Quatrième point: de poursuivre l'élaboration des politiques et de programmes qui favorisent la transformation du secteur rural et le développement des activités commerciales dans la chaîne de valeur agricole, ce qui encouragerait les jeunes à se lancer dans l'agriculture et à s'y consacrer durablement.
- Cinquième point: d'affecter des fonds spécifiques à l'emploi de jeunes dans le cadre des programmes de développement agricole et rural, en particulier sous la forme d'investissements dans les compétences techniques et l'esprit d'entreprise des jeunes et dans l'amélioration de leur accès aux principales ressources productives, notamment la terre et les financements.

- Sixième et dernier point: de faciliter la participation des jeunes aux programmes de développement agricole et de mettre en place des processus consultatifs favorisant le dialogue.

La Conférence régionale a également recommandé à la FAO de faciliter la coopération Sud-Sud et la mise en commun des bonnes pratiques en matière d'emploi des jeunes dans l'agriculture, et d'aider les États Membres à concevoir des projets à l'appui de l'emploi des jeunes et également de renforcer le partenariat avec la société civile, les organisations non gouvernementales et le secteur privé pour favoriser l'emploi des jeunes dans l'agriculture.

La Conférence régionale s'est également prononcée sur «La situation de l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans les régions et l'exécution du Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA), avec un éclairage particulier sur les petits exploitants agricoles et l'agriculture familiale». À ce sujet, elle a recommandé aux États Membres les points suivants:

- le premier point étant d'intégrer les objectifs nutritionnels et les investissements en faveur d'une agriculture sensible aux enjeux nutritionnels dans les plans intéressant l'agriculture.
- de renouveler leur engagement à accroître l'investissement public dans l'agriculture conformément à la déclaration de Maputo, pour favoriser un développement agricole reposant sur une large assise.
- troisièmement d'intensifier leur effort pour l'amélioration de la productivité, des revenus et de la sécurité alimentaire des petits exploitants agricoles et des agriculteurs pratiquant une agriculture familiale.

Ces efforts consistent notamment à investir de manière soutenue dans la recherche agricole, à intégrer des programmes de protection sociale, à permettre aux organisations et coopératives paysannes de réaliser des économies d'échelle et à mettre en place des instruments de financement, des programmes de protection sociale ciblés et des mécanismes de gestion des risques à même de renforcer la résilience.

- quatrième point: de promouvoir l'inclusion et la participation conjointe des acteurs étatiques et non étatiques aux niveaux national et local, afin de favoriser le respect de l'obligation de rendre compte, la transparence, l'efficacité et la compétitivité du système agroalimentaire et des filières de produits.

À cet effet la Conférence régionale a également recommandé à la FAO:

- de continuer d'aider les États Membres et les communautés économiques régionales à renforcer les capacités aux fins de la formulation et de la mise en œuvre des pactes, de plans d'investissement et des réunions d'affaires du PDDAA, y compris les actions décentralisées qui répondent aux priorités locales;
- de soutenir l'intégration de la gestion des risques, des considérations liées au changement climatique dans la formulation et la mise en œuvre du Programme;
- de redoubler d'efforts pour que l'intégration au marché soit davantage prise en compte dans le cadre du PDDAA, aux niveaux national, régional et continental;
- d'analyser et de diffuser largement des procédures et des méthodes permettant d'estimer les dépenses publiques allouées au secteur agricole, afin de suivre précisément et facilement les suites données à la Déclaration de Maputo;
- de renforcer également les efforts fournis aux niveaux national et régional pour améliorer la formulation et la mise en œuvre des cadres juridiques régissant le régime foncier;
- de renforcer les capacités régionales et nationales de recherche agricole et de développement technologique.

Concernant les délibérations du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), la Conférence régionale s'est félicitée de l'approbation des «Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts, dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale et du Cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition».

Mesdames et Messieurs, notre jeunesse doit être mieux prise en compte dans nos programmes de développement. La présente session de la Conférence devra y veiller effectivement.

Je vous remercie pour votre attention.

**Mr Nthutang Khumoetsile Martin SELEKA (South Africa)**

We thank the 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Africa and His Excellency Saad Seddik, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Tunisia, for his excellent leadership during the Conference and the presentation of the report. We believe that the report succinctly captured the most important outcomes of the African Regional Conference of which a key highlight was an intervention by the Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency, Mr Ibrahim Mayaki, on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union, Dr Dlamini-Zuma. It was noted that apart from 2014 being the African Union year of African agriculture and food security, it also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

South Africa fully concurs with the Chairperson of the Commission who recalled that Africa would only achieve its goals through responsible management of its natural resources. By choosing inequalities, capacity development, empowering women and youth, and creating wealth in a conducive investment environment for farmers. The Chairperson of the EU Commission also correctly understood the need for increased public investment, providing public goods to address market failures, promoting inclusiveness and catalyzing investment, particularly for African smallholder farmers.

The Africa Regional Conference highlighted the key partnership role played by the FAO in achieving our continental goals as shown by the Director-General's emphasis in supporting African initiatives and Africa's guidance and by underlining the need for investment that safeguarded the rights of vulnerable communities and contributed to sustainable development. South Africa looks forward to strengthen the already existent solid partnership between the continent and FAO. That said, the renewed emphasis on Africa's priorities during the Conference as well as the consolidation of the outcomes and discussions of the excellent Evaluation Report of the FAO's Regional and Sub-Regional Offices for Africa will further serve as important building blocks.

Finally, Chairperson, South Africa wishes to once more express its appreciation to the Government and people of Tunisia for hosting the Conference and its warm-hearted hospitality. We look forward to a new and successful African Regional Conference in 2016 in Côte d'Ivoire.

**Mr Aseffa Abreha GHEBRAI (Ethiopia)**

We join South Africa in expressing our thanks to the Minister for presenting a very comprehensive report of the Regional Conference of Africa. We also express our appreciation to the people and Government of Tunisia for hosting the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Africa.

**M. Saad SEDDIK (Tunisie)**

Je voudrais juste réagir par rapport à certains points qui ont été soulevés par le Représentant de l'Afrique du Sud: il s'agit de la bonne gestion des ressources naturelles. C'est un point qui fait défaut actuellement et qui mérite d'être renforcé en Afrique; c'est pourquoi je voudrais bien insister là-dessus, et il est parfaitement logique d'aller dans ce sens. Sinon la Tunisie est prête à collaborer encore plus avec tous les intervenants, essentiellement avec le bureau à Accra afin de préparer convenablement la prochaine session, qui aura lieu en Côte d'Ivoire. Nous sommes disposés à faire tous les efforts nécessaires pour la réussite de ces conférences. Quant à la matérialisation, à la mise en œuvre de ces recommandations, nous sommes disposés à y adhérer convenablement.

**M. Soumaïla Kouassi BREDOUMY (Côte d'Ivoire)**

Je voudrais donc au nom de notre pays, adresser nos félicitations au Directeur général pour sa réélection. Je voudrais l'assurer de notre soutien et de notre disponibilité; la Côte d'Ivoire oeuvrera avec la FAO dans la lutte pour l'élimination de la faim. Nous avons pour mission de féliciter particulièrement la Tunisie pour l'organisation de la 28<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale et nous nous félicitons

de l'appui qui a déjà commencé en Côte d'Ivoire pour l'organisation de la 29<sup>ème</sup> Conférence régionale. La Côte d'Ivoire voudrait donc remercier toute l'Afrique pour la confiance placée en elle pour l'organisation de la prochaine Conférence.

Notre pays vous le savez est un pays à vocation très agricole; l'agriculture est un secteur très important pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest, mais particulièrement pour la Côte d'Ivoire, et les derniers éléments de mise en œuvre de notre programme national d'investissement agricole ont permis à notre pays, d'avoir une croissance des produits d'exportation de 14 pour cent de 2012 à 2014, et de 28 pour cent pour les produits vivriers. C'est un élément important qui va être défini et décrit dans le cadre de la Conférence régionale.

Dans cette grande embellie de la renaissance agricole, la FAO a été à nos côtés. Elle a été l'une des rares institutions qui n'a pas abandonné la Côte d'Ivoire pendant les 10 ans de crise que nous avons connus. Et cela, le pays nous a demandé de le relever ici, car c'est bien grâce à l'appui des autorités de la FAO – et c'est extrêmement important - que beaucoup de programmes sont actuellement en cours. L'appui à notre programme de recensement agricole, dont le lancement vient de commencer, a été possible grâce à l'Union européenne et à la FAO. La Côte d'Ivoire compte sur l'ensemble des pays africains pour qu'une participation massive des milieux de l'agriculture se fasse en avril 2016 lors de la Conférence régionale. Nous nous tenons à votre disposition et prendrons les contacts nécessaires pour que les expériences passées nous soient transmises, en vue de la bonne réussite de la 29<sup>ème</sup> Conférence en Côte d'Ivoire et pour le succès de l'agriculture en Afrique de l'Ouest.

**Mr Bukar TIJANI (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Africa)**

I want to express FAO's appreciation to the Government and people of Tunisia and also to the Chair of the Regional Conference for Africa. When we approached Tunisia for the organization of the ARC we had very limited time, but Tunisia showed very strong partnership and took the responsibility of what the rest of African countries have asked it to do during the 27<sup>th</sup> Session. So I want to express our appreciation for that.

I want to also assure all our Member Nations within the region that we will make a very strong follow-up with the Chair of the 28<sup>th</sup> ARC and make the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference even more successful.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Please allow me now to conclude this item. The Conference endorsed the report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Tunisia, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference. This concludes sub-item 11.3.

*Item 11.4 Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe (1-4 April 2014)*

*Point 11.4 Rapport de la vingt-neuvième Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (1-4 avril 2014)*

*Tema 11.4 Informe de la 29.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Regional para Europa (1-4 de abril de 2014)*

*(C 2015/16 Rev.1)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

Our next sub-item is 11.4, the *Report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe* which was held in Bucharest, Romania, from 1 to 4 April 2014.

I would like to invite my colleague and friend, Ambassador Christina Grieder, Permanent Representative of Switzerland and Vice-Chairperson of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe, to introduce this agenda item.

**Ms Christina GRIEDER (Vice-Chairperson, 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe)**

On behalf of European and Central Asian countries, it is an honour for me to present the outcomes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe held in Bucharest, Romania, from 1 to 4 April 2014.

The Regional Conference for Europe was attended by 46 Member Nations and one Member Organization, along with 22 observers, while 24 Members were represented at ministerial, deputy ministerial or state secretarial level.

The Regional Conference report is available as Conference document C 2015/15 Rev.1 which outlines the summary of the main recommendations that required the Conference's attention related to policy, regulatory and information matters. Therefore, I limit myself to a short introduction and presentation of the conclusions reached at ERC following intensive interactions.

With regard to the State of Food and Agriculture in the region, including future prospects and emerging issues, I would like to mention some of the highlights of the debate. The Regional Conference emphasized the primary responsibility of countries to tackle national food insecurity and malnutrition and encouraged the Members to give appropriate importance to food security and nutrition as well as to agriculture. The Regional Conference recommended a multi-partner approach by all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, working in a coordinated manner. The Regional Conference also strongly supports mainstreaming gender. It also considered the development of agriculture through strengthening of family farms to be important and supported that governments developing and implementing a comprehensive approach to the revival and development of their agricultural sectors could help enhance food security and livelihoods.

At the ministerial round table related to food losses and waste in Europe and Central Asia, the following issues were raised by the Member Nations. The Regional Conference recognized the serious impact of food losses and waste on hunger and malnutrition and agreed that reducing food losses and waste was closely linked to the right to adequate food for all people in the world. It also stressed that the reduction of food losses and waste should be embedded in the broader concept of promoting sustainable food systems which encompasses sustainable food production on the one hand and sustainable diets and consumption on the other in multi-sectoral approaches and initiatives. The Regional Conference agreed that food losses and waste have huge special environmental and economic impact and costs, and requested that FAO take the lead in sharing knowledge, information and best practices to reduce food losses and waste.

The Regional Conference also endorsed that FAO should continue to address gaps in the availability of data and statistics on food losses and waste, including at the small-scale farm level in the countries of the region. The Regional Conference endorsed that FAO in cooperation with the donors should continue to support Member Nations in their effort to include small farmers in value chains with a view to reducing food losses.

Related to the agenda item on the International Year of Family Farming in Europe and Central Asia, it was reiterated by the Delegates that family farming is of importance for the region. The Regional Conference in particular took note of the need for an enabling environment and supportive legal frameworks, such as access to natural resources and financial support, improvements in rural infrastructure, and training and education. The Regional Conference requested a focus on equal opportunities for women and men. However, it was also noted that family farming and commercial farming traditionally existed in the region with both production systems contributing to food security and rural development. The Regional Conference considered family farming crucial for the sustainability of agriculture and preservation of natural resources and cultural heritage. It reiterated the importance of family farming from economic, socio-cultural, and environmental perspectives, calling for its positioning at the centre of agriculture and rural development policies.

I would also like to inform that the Session of the Regional Conference was preceded by a consultation meeting of the Civil Society Organizations in the region by a multi-stakeholder meeting related to the Committee on World Food Security and the European Commission on Agriculture. Representatives of CSOs attended the Regional Conference and their contributions were fully integrated into the discussion.

I thank you for your attention and stand ready to provide further information on the deliberations and recommendations after the 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe as the FAO Conference may request.

**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, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.



We endorse the comprehensive and detailed report of the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Europe. The Regional Conference, kindly hosted by the Government of Romania in Bucharest in April of last year, was very useful and attracted wide participation with ministers and high representatives from most of the Members in the region attending.

We support the conclusions taken at the Regional Conference, especially those in relation to the ministerial roundtable on food losses and waste and those related to decentralization and the Decentralized Offices Network.

In relation to the food security work in the region, we would like to stress once more our request for FAO to address food security, including food security assessments more prominently in line with the voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the rights to adequate food in the context of national food security.

We further wish to recall the importance of two landmark CFS products, namely the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security and the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems.

Concerning the priorities in the region, we have endorsed the regional activities proposed at the Regional Conference and would like to emphasize that future work in the region has to concentrate on the focused countries that have been identified and ensure the efficient use of resources by working together with other organizations and civil society and by building public/private partnerships.

We recall FAO's important role as a neutral and inclusive forum. Regarding the new regional initiative on agrifood trade and regional integration, we acknowledge the importance of further deepening partnerships. To that end, FAO should work closely with other organizations, in particular WTO. We would also like to reiterate that FAO work on trade-related issues requires a cautious and balanced approach and should not interfere with ongoing trade negotiations. In our view, quantitative analysis of specific trade agreements would go beyond both FAO's mandate and FAO's resources.

Finally, we are looking forward to the implementation of the new arrangements decided in Bucharest to prepare the European Regional Conference in Turkey next year.

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

At the outset, I would like to emphasize the important role played by the Regional Conference as a key Governing Body of FAO in the context of implementing the Technical Cooperation Programme, decentralization of FAO's activities, bringing the Organization closer to users, and achieving its strategic goals.

The Regional Conference for Europe now reports directly to the FAO Conference. This is a very important result of the FAO reform process.

When we talk about the work conducted in the Europe Region, I would like to note deepening cooperation between the European Regional Group of FAO and the FAO Regional Office in Budapest. We believe that the informal consultations of Member Nations between sessions of the Regional Conference for Europe adds value to the work of the FAO. We support the continuation of such informal consultative sessions.

We are in favour of strengthening institutional ties of the European Regional Conference with other bodies of the Organization including the European body in charge of fighting foot-and-mouth disease, the European Commission on Forests, and the European consultative body on fisheries and bodies of water.

We welcome the attention paid by the Regional Conference to food loss and waste. That is a very important issue. We believe that FAO is the optimal platform for developing a unified framework for assessing food waste and loss as well as ensuring access of all Member States to various methodologies and technologies in this area.

As far as we are concerned, we are interested in strengthening cooperation with FAO in this area, including within the framework of projects carried out by the Regional FAO Office in Budapest.

We believe that the priorities adopted during the last session of the FAO Regional Conference are still relevant today. This concerns the two regional FAO initiatives, that is strengthening smallholders and small family farms in order to reduce poverty as well as agricultural and food trade in the context of regional economic integration.

We assess the work carried out in this area very positively. We also welcome the broadening of the decentralized FAO offices in the region including in countries with which we have very strong ties in the agricultural sector.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Russian Federation. Of course forgive me for just mentioning Europe, the Conference refers to Europe and Central Asia.

#### **Mr Vlad MUSTACIOSU (Romania)**

It was a pleasure and an honour for us to host and organize the 29<sup>th</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Europe last year. I would also like to thank the Representative of Latvia as representative of the EU presidency for his kind words towards our organization of the event.

We support the report and we call for continuation of the efforts in implementing the priorities of FAO activities in the region and at the same time we would like to wish good luck to Turkey in organizing the next Conference.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I was personally in Bucharest last year so I can confirm that the Conference was excellent and very well organized, so thank you very much. Now before closing this item, I would give the floor again to Ambassador Grieder for any comments she might have.

#### **Ms Christina GRIEDER (Vice-Chairperson, 29<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Europe)**

Thank you for the interventions, which all supported the report. I have not much to add but I would like to thank also Romania for this interesting event you organized, in particular with the site visits.

I wish Turkey a good Regional Conference next year and I hope that it will not be too much work. I am sure that all of the Europe and Central Asian countries are looking forward to next year's Conference.

#### **Mr Vladimir RAKHMANIN (Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Europe)**

First of all, thank you to Christina Grieder, Vice-Chairperson of the Regional Conference, for the substantial report and recommendations, providing us with a lot of things to think about.

I also want to join you all in expressing my gratitude to the Government of Romania and the people of Romania for taking the burden of arranging this Conference. But I believe it was exciting for all of us together and the recommendations that were there and which the Representative of the European Union stressed were very important.

What is also important is that we try to engage the civil society in our discussions and we will continue to do it. Our region is the largest and the most diverse and we are strong only through our Members. That is why your advice and support are absolutely invaluable. We continue to consult with you and we will be looking at ways to enhance these consultations. We also appreciate the Russian Federation support for informal consultations. There are other ways to do it and we will be doing that.

We are looking forward to the next Conference in Turkey. We are grateful for Turkey to host the Conference and we believe that we will be able all together to bring our work in the region to the next level.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I would now like to conclude this item. The Conference endorsed the report and took note of the recommendations presented therein. It expressed its gratitude to Romania, the host country, for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference. This sub-item is closed.

**Item 11.5** *Report of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (6-9 May 2014)*

**Point 11.5** *Rapport de la trente-troisième Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (6-9 mai 2014)*

**Tema 11.5** *Informe de la 33.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (6-9 de mayo de 2014)*

(C 2015/17)

## **CHAIRPERSON**

We continue with sub-item 11.5, the *Report of Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean* which took place in Santiago, Chile from 6 to 9 May 2014.

In that respect, the Conference document is C 2015/17 and I would invite His Excellency Carlos Furche, Minister for Agriculture of Chile and Chairperson of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to introduce this agenda item.

### **Sr. Carlos FURCHE (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)**

En nombre de los Países Miembros de América Latina y el Caribe, es un honor presentar a la Conferencia el informe de la 33.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe realizada en Santiago de Chile del 6 al 9 de mayo de 2014. Dicha conferencia tuvo un alto nivel de participación y contó con la asistencia de 30 países de la región que incluyeron 31 ministros y viceministros de agricultura, medio ambiente y desarrollo social, así como representantes de la sociedad civil, el sector privado y de organismos internacionales en calidad de observadores. En esta ocasión, haré referencia a los principales resultados de la conferencia regional en relación a las políticas y los asuntos regulatorios regionales.

La conferencia consideró como desafíos relevantes de política para la región: a) la erradicación del hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria, la malnutrición y la pobreza extrema; b) la producción sostenible de bienes y servicios de los sectores agrícola, pecuario, forestal, y pesquero, la reducción de riesgos, el mejoramiento de la resiliencia de los medios de vidas ante amenazas y crisis en un contexto de cambio climático; y c) el desarrollo inclusivo y eficiente de la agricultura y los sistemas alimentarios a nivel local, nacional e internacional.

La conferencia señaló igualmente la importancia de que la FAO siga acompañando los esfuerzos de los países y organismos de integración regional en el desarrollo de su respectiva política, planes, estrategias de seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, así como erradicación de la pobreza.

En este sentido, la conferencia internacional ratificó las tres iniciativas regionales planteadas en el Marco del programa de Trabajo y Presupuesto de 2014-2015, a saber: apoyo a la iniciativa América Latina y el Caribe sin hambre; agricultura familiar y desarrollo territorial en zonas rurales; y mejoras en los sistemas nacionales e internacionales alimentarios y agroalimentarios en el Caribe.

Estas iniciativas regionales articulan los diferentes objetivos estratégicos de la FAO para apoyar a los Países Miembros en el fortalecimiento de sus marcos institucionales y de políticas para la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza extrema en la región. Asimismo, la conferencia solicitó asegurar que la acción de la FAO mantenga la atención en temas transversales tales como género, juventud rural y pueblos indígenas y respaldó la necesidad de continuar la dirección estratégica y liderazgo de la Organización con el objetivo de lograr el máximo impacto en el apoyo de los países miembros. La conferencia regional destacó el compromiso político con la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza expresado por los jefes de estado y de gobierno en la Primera y Segunda Cumbre de la comunidad de Estados latinoamericanos y caribeños (CELAC), que se celebró en Santiago de Chile en el año 2013 y en la Habana, Cuba en el año 2014. Y en ese sentido, la conferencia respaldó el plan de acción de CELAC 2014 y resaltó la importancia de que la FAO apoye en el diseño e implementación de dicho plan, en especial los apartados sobre seguridad alimentaria y nutrición y erradicación del hambre y la pobreza.

La conferencia enfatizó igualmente la importancia del apoyo de FAO a los países para mejorar la producción sostenible de bienes y servicios en los sectores agrícola, pecuario, forestal y acuícola y pesquero. Así como para reducir los riesgos y mejorar la resiliencia de los medios de vida en un

contexto de cambio climático. La conferencia respaldó, en el marco de la CELAC, que la FAO impulse el fortalecimiento de políticas agroambientales en los países de la región para promover simultáneamente la reducción de la pobreza, el mejoramiento de la seguridad alimentaria y acciones de adaptación y mitigación del cambio climático en América Latina y el Caribe.

Por otra parte, la conferencia reconoció la necesidad de promover y conseguir sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios más inclusivos y eficientes a nivel local, nacional e internacional que incidan a su vez en la disponibilidad y accesibilidad de alimentos variados y nutritivos y al mismo tiempo en la capacidad de los consumidores para elegir una dieta saludable. La conferencia regional solicitó a la FAO promover la movilización de recursos a través de la cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular, entre otros mecanismos, para mejorar la implementación de las iniciativas regionales y el marco de programación del país. Asimismo, la conferencia regional alentó la labor de la FAO en asociación con la sociedad civil y el sector privado y solicitó continuar fortaleciendo los vínculos con el Comité Mundial de Seguridad Alimentaria y otros espacios globales y regionales de gobernanza de la seguridad alimentaria y regional y nutricional.

Quisiera finalizar este informe como Presidente de la Conferencia para América Latina y el Caribe, ratificando el avance que ha logrado la FAO en el cumplimiento de las recomendaciones de la conferencia regional y muy especialmente los logros de las iniciativas regionales y de la estrategia de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular emprendida durante el último año. Estos logros serán presentados en los eventos paralelos sobre hambre cero y agricultura familiar y desarrollo rural en el marco de esta conferencia.

Quisiera por último destacar la presencia del día sábado de la Presidenta Michelle Bachelet que ha reafirmado el compromiso de mi país de los objetivos que la FAO se ha fijado para reducir el hambre y la pobreza en la región y en el mundo.

#### **Mr Godfrey ENEAS (Bahamas)**

The outcomes of the Conference were that the Director-General met with the CARICOM Ministers for Agriculture in the Bahamas and we are grateful for that opportunity to hear some of the issues affecting the Caribbean, as opposed to the broader region Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### **Sra. Monica ROBELO RAFFONE (Nicaragua)**

En representación de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe, quisiera referirme al informe de la 33.<sup>a</sup> Conferencia de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe realizada en Santiago de Chile del 6 al 9 de mayo de 2014. Al respecto, agradecemos el informe presentado por el Presidente de la conferencia regional, el Ministro de Agricultura de Chile, Señor Carlos Furche. Deseamos aprovechar esta oportunidad para destacar lo señalado en la conferencia en relación a los principales desafíos para la región, específicamente para los que dice relación con la erradicación del hambre, la seguridad alimentaria, la malnutrición y la pobreza extrema.

Tal como fuera señalado por el Señor Ministro, la conferencia regional ratificó las tres iniciativas regionales planteadas en el Marco del Programa de trabajo y Presupuesto 2014-2015 de la FAO, esto es apoyar la iniciativa América Latina y Caribe sin hambre, apoyar, asimismo, la agricultura familiar de desarrollo territorial en zonas rurales y mejorar los sistemas nacionales y regionales alimentarios y agroalimentarios en el Caribe. Por su parte, en relación con el trabajo de la FAO en la región, tal como fue indicado, la conferencia solicitó que la Organización refuerce aún más aquellas políticas transversales relativas al género, la juventud rural y los pueblos indígenas. Consideramos estas políticas vitales para hacer de nuestra región una región más inclusiva y justa.

En cuanto a los compromisos asumidos por los Estados Miembros en los foros regionales, la conferencia destacó los esfuerzos desplegados en la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza, expresados por los Jefes de estado y de gobierno en la Primera y Segunda Cumbre de la comunidad de los Estados latinoamericanos y caribeños (CELAC) en Santiago de Chile en el 2013 y en la Habana, Cuba en el 2014.

En ese sentido la Conferencia respaldó el plan de acción de la CELAC 2014 y resaltó la importancia de que la FAO apoye el diseño e implementación de dicho plan, en especial, lo apartado sobre la

seguridad alimentaria y nutrición y erradicación del hambre y la pobreza. La CELAC, así mismo, solicitó que la FAO impulse el fortalecimiento de las políticas agroambientales en los países de la región para promover simultáneamente la reducción de la pobreza rural, el mejoramiento de la seguridad alimentaria y acciones de adaptación y mitigación del cambio climático en América Latina y Caribe.

En este punto, la Conferencia junto con hacer eco de esa solicitud, reconoció la necesidad de trabajar para conseguir sistemas agrícolas y alimentarios más inclusivos y eficientes a nivel local, nacional e internacional; específicamente en el ámbito internacional, la conferencia solicitó a la FAO, promover la movilización de recursos, a través de la cooperación sur-sur y cooperación triangular para la plena implementación de las iniciativas regionales. Por lo tanto, recibimos con agrado lo informado por el Señor Ministro en cuanto a los avances logrados por la FAO en el cumplimiento de estas iniciativas regionales y de la estrategia de cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular puesta en marcha en este último año.

Quisiera finalizar estas palabras, en nombre del GRULAC, agradeciendo el informe presentado por el Presidente de la conferencia y desearle éxito en el resto de su mandato.

**Sr. Carlos FURCHE (Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)**

Solamente expresar también a nombre del GRULAC la alegría por la reelección de un destacado latinoamericano de ser Graciano Da Silva, como Director General, lo que, desde luego, nos compromete a continuar respaldando su gestión en los próximos cuatro años, acaba de llegar justamente para recibir esta felicitación y la expresión de nuestro orgullo, de nuestra honra porque un destacado latinoamericano cumple de manera tan respaldada esta gestión así que muchas gracias también señor Presidente.

**Sr. Raúl Osvaldo BENÍTEZ (Subdirector General, Representante Regional para América Latina y el Caribe)**

Quiero agradecer al Ministro de Chile por tan excelente presidencia de la Conferencia regional. Estuvo muy bien organizada y la estamos desarrollando muy bien, de acuerdo a los resultados que vamos obteniendo. Este año, en la segunda parte del año, vamos a realizar suerte de preconferencias, ya en preparación también para la conferencia del próximo año en México y también ir rindiendo cuenta de lo que también estamos haciendo todos los días en conjunto de los países de la región.

**CHAIRPERSON**

The Conference endorsed the report and took note of the recommendations therein. It also thanked Chile as the host country for the excellent organization of the Regional Conference.

This closes the item and the morning session.

*The meeting rose at 12:46 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 46*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.46*



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thirty-ninth Session<br/>Trente-neuvième session<br/>39.º período de sesiones</b>                              |
| <b>Rome, 6-13 June 2015<br/>Rome, 6-13 juin 2015<br/>Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015</b>                              |
| <b>SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I<br/>DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I<br/>SEGUNDA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b> |
| <b>8 June 2015</b>                                                                                                |

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.48 hours  
Mr Luca Fratini,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 48  
sous la présidence de M. Luca Fratini,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda reunion a las 14.48  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luca Fratini,  
Presidente de la Comisión I





**Item 11. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from: (continued)****Point 11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants: (suite)****Tema 11. Asuntos regionales y mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes: (continuación)***Item 11.6 Input from the Third Informal Regional Conference for North America 15-16 April 2014)**Point 11.6 Éléments d'information issus de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (15-16 avril 2014)**Tema 11.6 Aportación de la Tercera Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (15-16 de abril de 2014)**(C 2015/LIM/1)***CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and gentlemen, we resume with item 11.6, *Input from the Third Informal Regional Conference for North America* held in Washington D.C, United States of America, on 15 and 16 April 2014. The Conference document related to this item is C 2015/LIM/1.

I now invite Ms Natalie Brown, Deputy Chief of the United States Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, to introduce the item.

**Ms Natalie BROWN (United States of America)**

On 15 and 16 April 2014 Members of the FAO's North America Region, United States and Canada, met in Washington in an Informal Regional Meeting to discuss FAO's work on governance. As was just mentioned, the document C 2015/LIM/1 provides a full report on this event. It is our expectation that our region's views will continue to be integrated in the same manner as other regional perspectives on FAO priorities, budget and governance.

The meeting was hosted by the United States Department of State and it convened senior and technical level representatives from Canada and the United States, as well as staff from the FAO Liaison Office and headquarters via teleconference, video conference and in person.

The Conference discussed FAO's work on biotechnology, particularly as a leading proponent of unbiased and sound science in agriculture, and reaffirmed that innovation, including biotechnology, will be needed to close the agricultural productivity gap by 2050 and conserve natural resources. As a result of this conversation, we urge FAO to update its statement on biotechnology using a science-based approach to reflect a fact-based up-to-date perspective. The Region also reaffirmed that the United States and Canada will continue to work together with FAO to support the development and adoption of science-based standards.

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

Regarding partnerships, the North America Region discussed the implementation of the FAO Partnership Strategies with civil society organizations and the private sector to date. We stress the importance of the implementation of these strategies, especially at the country level, and look forward to Member Nations' consideration of this issue in the near future.

In a special session on the Independent Review of Governance Reform, the Region appreciated the work of the Independent Review Team in carrying out an evidence-based assessment of progress in governance reforms as identified in the Immediate Plan of Action. The Conference also acknowledged

the important contributions of Regional Conferences to FAO governance, policy, and regulatory issues, with region-specific priorities and recommendations, and noted the value of flexibility afforded by the informal nature of the North America Regional Conference.

Furthermore, the United States and Canada agree that the current informal nature of the Informal Regional Conference for North America continues to be the most cost-effective method for the region. On behalf of the United States and Canada, I would like to thank FAO officials for their cooperation and participation in the Third Informal Regional Conference for North America, including the Director of Strategy, Planning, and Resources Management, Boyd Haight, and the Assistant Director-General of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department, Dr. Ren Wang.

We look forward to continuing to work with FAO in the future on addressing priority issues of the North America Region, including during our next Informal Conference that will take place on 21 and 22 March 2016, in Ottawa, Canada.

**Mr Dario GILMOZZI (Senior Programme Officer, Office of Support to Decentralization)**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the United States of America for hosting the Third Informal Regional Conference for North America. We have all seen the report, and I would like to thank you also for the very good presentation of the findings and recommendations included in the report. At the same time, I would like to thank Canada for the decision to host the next Informal Regional Conference next year.

**CHAIRPERSON**

May I now conclude this agenda item? The Conference took note of the practice of the North America Region to host an Informal Regional Conference allowing Member Nations of the Region to make inputs into the Organizations prioritization process. This closes this agenda item.

**Item 12. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**

**Point 12. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:**

**Tema 12. Asuntos mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la regulación planteados en los siguientes informes:**

*Item 12.1 Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 June 2014)*

*Point 12.1 Rapport de la trente et unième session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juin 2014)*

*Tema 12.1 Informe del 31.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (9-13 de junio de 2014)*  
(C 2015/23; C 2015/INF/6)

**CHAIRPERSON**

Without further hesitation, may I move straight to the first sub-item under Item 12, the *Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries* held in Rome from 9 to 13 June 2014.

I invite Mr Johan Williams of Norway, Chairperson of the Commission on Fisheries, to introduce this agenda item. May I also acknowledge the presence of Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo and also that of Deputy Director-General Dan Gustafson who was with us this morning.

**Mr Johan WILLIAMS (Chairperson, 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries)**

I would like take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Graziano on his re-election as Director-General. I can assure that millions of fishermen and fish farmers and billions of fish stay ready to contribute to eradication of hunger and to provide world with nutritious and healthy seafood.

The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held in Rome from 9 to 13 June 2014. And as Chair of 31<sup>st</sup> COFI, I am very pleased to report before FAO Conference on the outcome of this session. The 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee was attended by Delegates from 116 Member Nations of FAO, six UN agencies, and representatives from 65 IGOs and civil society.

COFI is by this by far the largest of the FAO technical committees and the broad attendance underlines the importance of FAO and the Committee as the workshop for developing the normative

framework for world fisheries, aquaculture, sector trade and its contribution to world food security and nutrition. It shows the need of international cooperation in managing our fish resources, and hence the special importance of FAO for our sector.

At this session, COFI endorsed two new important instruments – the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, so called SSF Guidelines, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance.

As the Committee, due to time constraints, did not manage to adopt the report from the 31<sup>st</sup> COFI in full, the draft report of the session prepared by the Drafting Committee was adopted and subject to a special arrangement. As an element, it was agreed that comments, invitations, suggestions, would be reproduced in *Appendix D* to the report (C 2015/23). I thank all delegations for their flexibility shown in this matter.

I will now turn to the outcome of the session with a particular focus on Global Policy and Regulatory Matters for the attention of the Conference. The first substantial item on the Agenda was Item 4 – State of World Fisheries and Agriculture and Progress in Implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and Related Instruments. Under this particular Agenda, the Committee expressed its appreciation of The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2014 publication called SOFIA. The Committee emphasized the need for strengthened effort to further development of measures to rebuild fish stocks.

While noting the progress made by the Members in implementing the Code of Conduct and its related instruments, the Committee also underscored the need to continue supporting Developing Countries to this end. The Committee acknowledged efforts being made by Members in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and emphasized the importance of the coming into force of the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and eliminate IUU fishing as soon as possible. And under sub-item 6.2, the Committee endorsed the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance.

The Committee requested FAO to increase its effort to support effective implementation of the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards.

Under agenda item 5, Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries, the Committee endorsed the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and welcomed the FAO's initiative for establishing a Global Assistance Programme for promoting implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Guidelines and recommended to develop further the assistance programme in a participatory manner.

Under agenda item 6, Global and Regional Processes and Instruments, FAO's Blue Growth Initiative under Director-General of FAO was presented, responding to the calls from Rio+20 and as a part of the Strategic Framework of the Organization. The Committee acknowledged this initiative and suggested the establishment of a working group to follow the application of the initiative. Many Members also emphasized that FAO should ambitiously strengthen its role as the center of fisheries and aquaculture activities and normative work within the UN System.

With agenda item 7, Inland Fisheries, the Committee for its first time addressed inland fisheries as a stand-alone agenda item. The Committee acknowledged the importance of inland fisheries and recommended that inland fisheries issues be better included in national, sub-regional, regional and global instruments addressing water use and food security. The Committee called for FAO to provide guidance and increase development efforts in the inland fisheries sector. The Global Conference on Inland Fisheries held at FAO from 26 to 28 January 2015 was an immediate answer to this call.

Under agenda item 8, Fish Trade and, and 9, Aquaculture, the Committee endorsed the reports of the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade and the Seventh Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture respectively with recommendations and decisions made by those sub-committees. The Committee reiterated its support for FAO's work with regard to commercial exploited aquatic species of interest to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) as well as expressed support for FAO's collaboration with the World Trade Organization (WTO) on issues related to trade in fish and fishery products and, in particular, the fisheries subsidies negotiations.

The timing of elections of chairs for the two sub-committees was changed to follow the mode established for election of offices for COFI. The Bureau will further have the sub-committee chairs/the vice-chairs, as sit-ins during the Bureau meetings. This would create a governance system enabling COFI and the Sub-Committees to work well coordinated.

Concerning FAO's Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture under the Revised Strategic Framework, the Committee welcomed FAO's new Strategic Objectives as a basis for focusing FAO's work in Fisheries and Aquaculture. The Committee also reiterated the need to promote and implement existing international instruments, agreements, plans of action and technical guidelines.

The Committee endorsed the Progress Report of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2012-15 of the Committee and the MYPOW for 2014-17.

The Committee adopted the proposed amendments to its Rules of Procedure as in Appendix B to the report.

With regard to date and place of the next session, it was proposed, as a part of the FAO Governing Bodies and other Main Sessions 2014-16, to organize COFI 32 from 11 to 15 July 2016 subject to the final approval by the Council.

Finally, I will draw the attention to the report on the role of fish in global food security and nutrition and the decisions taken on this issue at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee for World Food Security in October 2015. It was the first time that CFS addressed fish and thus the first time fish was on the menu in the context of food security and nutrition. For me having fish for dinner six times a week throughout my entire childhood, this was really incomprehensible. Food losses were also dealt with at the CFS Session as a horizontal topic.

That is also a challenge facing fish and has to be addressed as a part of policies directed at increasing the contribution of fish to global food supply. This initiative came from Rio+20 and substantiated by COFI. The recognition of fish having a role in food security and nutrition clearly challenges the fisheries and aquaculture sectors. COFI can and will take the leading role in addressing this challenge. That will necessitate priorities in Programme and Budget.

This concludes my presentation and the Conference is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI, as introduced, and particularly on Policy and Regulatory Matters, and if found agreeable, endorse its support. Thank you for your kind attention.

**Mr Helder BARBALHO (Brasil) (Original language Portuguese)**

At the last session of COFI, Brazil, together with other Members of the Committee, very positively assessed the publication regarding the World State of Fisheries and Aquaculture. We understand that much progress had been made in the development of fisheries and aquaculture throughout the entire world even though many other challenges are still to be tackled. Considerably important to reconsider the application of the agreement, the 2009 Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing which I will point out at this moment is in the process of being ratified in my country.

Brazil also considered it important to ensure the effective implementation of the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards and, to this end, participates actively in the project REBYC-II in Latin America and the Caribbean. Reducing losses is an intelligent way to increase the intake of fisherpersons without increasing the pressure they exercise on fish stocks. In this same manner, the Government of Brazil is placing priority on improving the quality and the added value of catch, reducing the participation of intermediaries and in such a manner to allow consumers to obtain better quality fish and a lower price, and fisherpersons would have better value for their products.

Another important outcome of the recent session of COFI was the approval of the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance and the support of said committee to the ongoing development of the Global Record with which our country, sir, is in full agreement. Particularly important for Brazil and other relevant countries was likewise the approval of these Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. The majority of

fishery production in Brazil comes from small-scale fisheries, and public policies must take into consideration what are the needs and what are the opinions of the fishermen, fisherpersons, and this is a participatory process.

The recent meeting of COFI also focused the very necessary attention on the issue of inland fisheries. It recommended that it would be better included in national, subregional, regional and global instruments to tackle the use of water and food security. Now this is an important discussion for many countries like Brazil, especially for developing countries, that do have substantial inland fisheries. FAO has put this result into action, including the Organization, with a World Conference on this issue of inland fisheries.

Lastly, the Brazilian Government was also satisfied on the election during the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI of Professor Fabio Hazin to chair the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFI. We are convinced that with his experience in international organizations and with his broad background and knowledge, together with the support of the Member Nations of FAO, the next session of the Fisheries Committee will be successful.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to reiterate the invitation to the Eighth Meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and it will take place in Brazil in October 2015. I would also like to congratulate and applaud the election of Dr Graziano from Brazil for a second term of office at the helm of FAO.

**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 and Turkey, align themselves with this statement. We welcome the large and active participation by FAO Members in the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries, a trend we hope will continue in the future. We encourage COFI to further strengthen its input to FAO decision-making by providing clearer recommendations to FAO's Governing Bodies. We commend the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department on its excellent work in producing the SOFIA publication and encourage it to continue reporting on The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture.

With a view to the completion of SOFIA reporting, the EU and its Member States would encourage the FAO to develop further the diagnosis of production trends and provide more information on fleet capacity. The FAO should also provide more support to countries on data collection and quality. We welcome the endorsement by COFI of the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries. Increased attention to the role of small-scale fisheries is essential both for food security and for promoting economic growth in coastal areas. These Guidelines address a wide range of issues relevant to small-scale fisheries and to secure sustainable use of fishery resources.

They will be an important complement to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We agree with the development of implementation strategies for the Guidelines at various levels, including local, national and regional levels. We welcome the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on Flag State Performance. These instruments, all by voluntary, are of high political importance in the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. We are also pleased to note the broad support within COFI for the establishment of a Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels, including the use of the IMO number as a unique vessel identifier for Phase 1 of its development.

We will continue to give active support to the development of the Global Record and cooperate with the FAO on its development and implementation, in particular, in the fields of technical guidance and advice, evaluation of the global record prototype and testing of this data exchange. The maintenance cost of the global register system should be assessed and addressed by the FAO with due regard to the principle of cost-efficiency.

We would like to stress once again the importance to attach to the Agreement on Port State Measures and invite all states to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible as the measures provided for in the Agreement will only be truly effective in combating IUU fishing if and when they are enforced worldwide in a comprehensive, uniform and transparent manner. In addition to these important elements in the fight against IUU, we would emphasize the value of catch documentation schemes (CDSs) in combating IUU fishing. We fully support the decision by COFI to convene an Expert

Consultation to develop guidelines on CDSs, taking into account existing schemes. CDSs are the best tools for ensuring full traceability of fishery products as catch certificates, providing the means to identify illegal consignments and subsequently prevent them from being imported.

We welcome COFI's approval of the Evaluation Framework for Assessing Conformity of Public and Private Certification Schemes with the FAO Technical Guidelines on Aquaculture Certification. We appreciate the fact that COFI also addressed the issue of bycatch management and reduction of discards in line with the obligations under the EU's Reformed Common Fisheries Policy and ask the FAO to continue its efforts to implement effectively the International Guidelines on Bycatch and Reduction of Discards and looking to ways of addressing more successfully the problem of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).

Lastly, we welcome the FAO Blue Growth Initiative which recognizes the contribution of aquatic resources to food security. We encourage the FAO to work on the prioritization of this initiative to make it more effective.

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

Kuwait is speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. We know very well that fisheries, including inland fisheries and aquaculture, are subjected to various types of threats and dangers. We also know that fisheries and fish stock are very important for food security in our own country and are not sufficiently exploited. So we have many challenges to tackle and face in this area.

But how can we develop this sector in a sustainable manner? We know that FAO does possess vast know-how, expertise and considerable data in that area. Therefore we knock at the Organization's door, that they open said door and provide us help and support so we may be able to develop our fisheries sector and do so in such a manner or in such a way that would be up to what our capabilities are.

Hence we would like to take advantage of our fisheries resources but in a sustainable manner. We would also like to do our best to fight against IUU fishing and, I would add, also manage fisheries and catch in all of the stages of the food chain.

I think we also have to take into consideration climate change and the impact of climate change on resources even of our country because said resources are not lasting and are not subject to ongoing monitoring. Now the fisheries sector as such is not subject to any real management regarding stocks, transport or marketing of catch. Hence the catch or the products do not really reach consumers and in many countries.

I would also say that we have a considerable extent of inland fisheries and aquaculture as well. Now these sectors also need ongoing support and hence we would like to pay tribute to the initiative of this Organization relative to the Blue Growth Initiative and we would also call upon FAO to apply this initiative in the most effective manner of fashion.

We also applaud the Organization's efforts in applying the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries so that it really turns into something concrete in the field or in the water. We would also hope that FAO would provide all support possible to our region because this would serve the interests of the Organization and the region.

**Mr Deepak KUMAR (India)**

India welcomes and endorses the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI and takes note of the global policy and regulatory matters which have been placed for the attention of the Conference.

With over 8,000 kilometres of coastline and innumerable levels and water bodies, India today is the second largest producer of fish in the world. Fish has constituted the livelihood of nearly 14.5 million fishermen, most of whom are resource poor and technologically weak.

We therefore call for FAO's enhanced role in developing fisheries, both marine and inland, guided by the prime motive of protecting and further enhancing the livelihood of resource-poor fishing communities, especially fisherwomen.

Further, we urge FAO to deepen its presence on the world stage and be the fulcrum of normative knowledge development in this sector. While much needs to be done, we are aware that, as a Member Nation, it is our responsibility to respond positively and support what has already been put in place and therefore address the need to promote and implement existing international instruments, agreements, plans of action and technical guidelines.

Finally, we welcome the Committee's endorsement of the SSF guidelines and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance.

**Mr Alawi AL-HAFIDH (Oman) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to echo what was said about the report and the recommendations of the COFI report which are in perfect harmony with the EU recommendations and the wishes of many countries of Europe.

We would also like to point out that the Sultanate of Oman has deployed considerable efforts in this field, that is in the field of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. We have applied this Code and adopted its principles as basic principles in our fisheries policy.

We directly manage this sector on a science-specific basis and this for responsible fisheries and rational use of resources. On that basis, the Sultanate has also focused most of its importance on scientific research so that the fisheries sectors as such could make good decisions and do so on a scientific basis.

The Sultanate of Oman has also adopted the participatory approach. By that I mean that it has involved the fisher folk and fishery professionals in all of the decision-making processes in all policy settings.

We also apply preventative measures and also note a worsening in the level of stocks. The Sultanate of Oman was able to strengthen its monitoring facilities whether the catch is offloaded in a port or on the high seas, and also the quality of the fishing gear. We have also been very active in the timely monitoring during the major fisheries seasons.

Now turning my attention for a moment to the Agreement on Port State Measures, we ratified that agreement in 2013. We apply all of the measures set forth therein and we also supervise all vessels that come into the ports of our country.

Regarding the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, 95 percent of the catch in our country is the direct result of efforts by small-scale fishermen, fisheries, and this is 44,000 fisher folk. So this aspect of small-scale fisheries is the backbone of Oman's fishery sector. Hence, the importance we ascribe to it.

We also organized a conference on those voluntary guidelines on 24 and 25 March 2012. These guidelines are for small-scale fisheries in the Near East.

We also hosted the workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries from 6 to 10 December 2015 and once again in our region in the Near East.

We do this in order to further strengthen the application of those guidelines that we plan to increase the number of endeavours undertaken if we are to ensure the sustainability of small-scale fisheries in the context of food security and poverty eradication.

We also support the Blue Growth Initiative. At this moment in time, we are applying various programmes that fall under the general heading of the 2020 development plan for the fisheries sector, but also aquaculture and other related areas. We are also taking up various challenges in this sector, but we do have challenges as well: infrastructure, fisheries management, marketing and the quality assurance of products.

Regarding the Blue Growth Initiative, I would just like to point out that we have set up plans and programmes to develop fisheries resources, and also to keep pollution under control, and this is an equally important issue in this area.

Now the development of the fisheries in the Sultanate of Oman goes hand in hand with the development and improving of nutrition and food security and I would add the improvement of the level of living of the inhabitants along the coastlines.

We would like to congratulate FAO for the role that it so actively and well plays in launching initiatives in a number of countries throughout our region and, in particular, endeavours regarding IUU fishing. Now we started fighting against that plague back in 2006 and I would like to point out that we have worked up a plan against IUU fishing and we have been applying that even since 2011 over the territorial waters of our country.

Now regarding the catch and fisheries product, we would like to support the efforts of the Organization as far as we can in order to ensure the sustainability of resources, particularly those species which are in danger of extinction. At the moment, we are working on the discarded species and this within the context of CITES, numbers one and two of CITES Appendices.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

At the outset, let me thank the Chair of the Committee for his presentation of the report and conclusions and recommendations of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI. The fisheries sector is a very important part of the New Zealand economy and indeed much of the Southwest Pacific Region and we take a strong interest in the work of this committee.

I would like to highlight the very important leadership that FAO plays in developing international frameworks and rules to ensure sound governance of the global fisheries resources. FAO's role is critical to promoting sustainable management of the global fisheries resources and contributing to achieving the Strategic Objective of promoting food security.

Reference has already been made to the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing issue, the IUU. We also share those concerns. It is a particular problem in the large, expansive southern oceans and we have been playing our part in dealing with this issue.

The important thing from our point of view is for a global cooperative approach, particularly among the Port State countries to deal with these in a collaborative and rules-based basis.

In that context, reference has already been made to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. We also, as has been done by a number of other countries, urge members to sign on to this agreement as quickly as possible so that we can have a sound regulative framework to deal with the problem of unregulated fishing.

We would also like to draw attention to some of the initiatives that New Zealand has pursued and supported. We are planning to hold an international workshop next year on the global fisheries enforcement training workshop in March 2016 in New Zealand which will, among other things, provide a forum for networking among officials dealing with these issues and assisting in dealing with regulated fishing.

Reference has also been made to the need to improve the global documentation system and networking and, again, we would like to support the initiatives that have already been made by FAO in this context and hope that we can collectively work to improve the global catch and monitoring of resources.

Ultimately, fishery resources need to be managed sustainably and collective efforts in all of these areas are going to be important to us.

**Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)**

The Chinese delegation appreciates FAO's focus on fisheries and aquaculture in its new Strategic Objectives, acknowledges FAO's support for implementing the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other international guidelines, and thanks FAO for strengthening the role of fisheries in promoting food security and nutrition, in particular, FAO's efforts in developing aquaculture under the sustained use of fishery resources.



As a large fish producer and trader, China has for many years devoted itself to combatting IUU fishing, actively implementing fishing closures and protecting fishery resources. Remarkable progress has been made so far. The Chinese government attaches great importance to international cooperation and the welfare that is strengthening its cooperation with FAO and the Member Nations in the field of fisheries.

At the same time, we also hope that FAO will provide greater technical support for its Members, especially developing countries.

**Mr Winny Dian WIBAWA (Indonesia)**

In this opportunity, Indonesia would like to support the endorsement of the 31<sup>st</sup> COFI report with considerations as follows. First, endorsement of Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries by COFI was indeed a landmark of achievement for all of us. However, we should not forget that the challenges of its implementation lie ahead.

The commitment and capability to implement these guidelines might vary within countries and regions. We are of the view that the FAO needs to provide more support also in the future to engage further small-scale fisheries in the global food chain and market access.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform that Indonesia, in collaboration with the FAO, is hosting a regional consultation meeting on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries which is held tentatively on 25 to 27 August 2015 in Bali.

Secondly, Indonesia is making strong efforts in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and we are of the view that linkages between safety at sea and forced labour and encouragement of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing need to be addressed effectively.

Therefore Indonesia encourages further collaboration between the FAO, ILO, and also IMO, International Maritime Organization, in securing the safety and livelihoods of fishermen as well as supporting the capacities of Member Nations in complying with related agreements and conventions.

Finally, Indonesia supports the FAO's new Strategic Objectives as a basis for focusing FAO works in fisheries and aquaculture. In this regard, we would like to support COFI's recommendation to include inland fisheries issues into the national, regional and global agenda under the Blue Growth Initiative framework and encourage FAO collaboration with Member Nations to address the impact of climate change in fisheries and aquaculture sectors by promoting the contribution of coastal carbon in the Asia and Pacific Region.

**Mr Alexander OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

I would also like to thank you for the wonderful presentation of the report and, like other delegations before us, we would like to endorse the results of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee.

We would particularly like to underscore the importance of the adoption documents during the session such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance and the Voluntary Guidelines for Ensuring Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication.

With regard to the performance of flag states, we would like to suggest in the future to consider developing a legally binding international document in this regard.

The Russian Federation would also like to voice some concerns linked to the recommendation of the UN *Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction* to UNGA to decide to develop a new international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982. We are particularly concerned by the potential creation of a new international organization which would overlap in terms of its functions and which would also govern international fisheries.

We believe that such agreements could undermine the basis of international fisheries regulation in international waters. Currently such activities are governed by regional fishery bodies and regional fisheries management organizations. We would rather strengthen the existing system and not replace it

with new documents. We think that this question could be included on the agenda of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

And finally I would like to underscore the importance of setting up the Bureau's activity for the Committee on Fisheries. We think these activities are highly important and we would like to support setting up the Bureau's activities in the future as well.

**Mr Jon Erlingur JONASSON (Iceland)**

Iceland welcomes this report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of COFI and, in one sentence, I would like to of course thank the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department for all of its work and its best wishes in the future. I say the future and I take the floor now to especially highlight one issue.

Mr Chairperson of COFI, Johan Williams, my delegation is of the view that you and your Bureau should be recognized and get special thanks for having brought fish to the table of CFS. It was high time. Thank you for that.

Fish is important to all of us but it is often overlooked how important it is to employment, food security, nutrition and income. I recommend this will be recognized by this Committee to make sure that this will not be an on-off issue for CFS. Fish should be on the table for CFS in the future as well.

Sustainable food security will not alone be reached with sustainable solutions on land. We have heard already in this Conference on the state of agriculture that there are limits to how much arable land is available for food production. Ninety-five percent of food is produced on land, on soil, and it will not be there if we continue with the business-as-usual model.

So the options are not many, but one option so often overlooked is all of the options in the oceans, in fisheries. All of the post-harvest losses that we have to work on and I am sure and that is already happening in the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, something that will be a big contribution of this department to food security in the future.

So just to recognize this and thank you again. I would almost say from the bottom of my heart, Johan, but maybe I should say from the bottom of the ocean, from Iceland.

**Mr Guy SUMMERS (Australia)**

Australia supports the work of the COFI and endorses the report of its 31<sup>st</sup> Session with thanks. Australia is a member elected participant in several regional fisheries management organizations or RFMOs and arrangements. Through these, Australia continues to strengthen its cooperative fisheries and maritime relationships in surrounding regions.

Of these regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) is the only one established under the FAO constitution. Australia continues to engage with members of the IOTC to pursue the conservation and optimum utilization of tuna and tuna-like resources in the Indian Ocean.

At the most recent IOTC annual session in April-May 2015, Australia successfully sought adoption of a measure to revise fishery reference points in accordance with recent scientific advice which represents a step towards a harvest strategy approach to the management of Indian Ocean stocks.

Australia also continues to promote and strengthen measures to deter the practice of shark finning.

Finally on the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, I would like to let you know that Australia expects to ratify the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing by mid-2015.

**Ms April COHEN (United States of America)**

The United States fully endorses the report and recommendations of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We in particular welcome the renewed push to make Phase 1 of the Global Record of fishing vessels operational. We urge FAO to accelerate the pace of this work and to see the input of interested members into its development.

The United States remains willing to assist in this effort. We also welcome the new Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance and Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and strongly support the recent work to advance their implementation.

Finally, we welcome FAO's continued capacity-building and training to support implementation of the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement and urge Members to ratify and implement this vital tool to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

The United States reiterates its full support for the excellent work done by COFI to advance sustainable fisheries and aquaculture around the globe.

**Mr Johan WILLIAMS (Chairperson, Committee on Fisheries)**

There were no questions, so I have no answers. I will just say that I thank you all for the positive interventions which I feel underlines the importance of the work FAO is doing on fisheries and aquaculture and that this work is being recognized by all the regions. So thank you very much. I appreciate the work we have been doing. And, for me personally, this is probably the last time of the 35 years working with FAO that I am speaking publicly.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**Mr Árni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)**

Ladies and gentlemen, I must say that, on World Oceans Day, I really appreciate your positive comments. In addition to the Director-General's comments this morning in his speech, I am feeling inspired and I think I can speak on behalf of all the staff in the department and all the many other staff in FAO that work on fisheries and aquaculture as well, including DDN and others, but we all feel inspired to improve our work even further in the next biennium.

**CHAIRPERSON**

This brings us to the conclusion of this sub-item and I would like to read out the summary conclusions. Please be indulgent and remember that these are not final conclusions. It is just a draft text which is being sent to the Drafting Committee for further elaboration.

The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 31<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Fisheries. In particular, (a) expressed support for the work of FAO on Fisheries and Aquaculture based on FAO's Strategic Objectives, highlighting the Blue Growth Initiative, the implementation of Port State Measures to Prevent Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, or IUU, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management; (b) Welcomed the Global Assistance Programme to support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication, and the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance; (c) Underlined the importance of development of sustainable marine and inland fisheries and aquaculture as a contribution to achieving food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, stable markets, and increased resilience; And finally (d) supported FAO's effort in capacity-development in the areas of data collection and analysis, stock assessment, management, post-harvesting and policy development. I hope this captures most of what has been said today. If this is the case, this item is closed.

**Item 12.2** *Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (23-27 June 2014)*  
**Point 12.2** *Rapport de la vingt-deuxième session du Comité des forêts (23-27 juin 2014)*  
**Tema 12.2** *Informe del 22.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (23-27 de junio de 2014)*  
 (C 2015/24; C 2015/INF/6)

## CHAIRPERSON

May I then introduce item 12.2, the *Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry* which was held from 23 to 27 June 2014.

I now invite Mr Joseph Hailwa of Namibia, Vice-Chairperson of COFO and Chairperson of the African Forestry and Wildlife Commission, to introduce the item.

### **Mr Joseph HAILWA (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)**

I am here to present the Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFO that took place from the 23 to 27 June here in Rome. The 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFO, which slogan was “Forests and People: Wood and Beyond”, was organized together with the Fourth World Forest Week and was attended by over 600 delegates from 117 Member Nations, plus 34 UN agencies and observers.

The very ambitious agenda was based on the recommendations of the six Regional Forest Commissions and contained five main thematic blocks: (1) The State of the World’s Forests 2014; (2) enhancing socio-economic benefits from a forest; (3) contribution to global process initiatives; (4) progress in the work of statutory bodies and the FAO work in forestry under the Reviewed Strategic Framework.

COFO is characterized by the strong involvement of Heads of Forestry administrations, including two facilitated dialogue discussions enabling policies and Zero Illegal Deforestation Challenges. COFO came up with recommendations and outcomes. It was guidance to FAO. COFO recommended to strengthen data and information on peoples' use and benefits from forest and to strengthen the links between forests and food security, in particular, in the context of Strategic Objectives 1 and 3. FAO should work on the development of appropriate targets and indicators of forests in the SDGs, monitor the contribution of forests to address the Zero Hunger Challenges agreed on at the global levels and present it to the Committee on World Food Security for consideration.

The Committee requested FAO to continue its leadership role in the CPF and, together with Members, develop a vision for its future. It also requested FAO to continue promoting cross-sectoral collaboration within FAO's Strategic Framework and elaborate, in consultation with the respective bureaux, a detailed proposal for collaboration for the consideration of the Technical Committees in their forthcoming sessions. It requested FAO to present possibilities for enhancing interdisciplinary work on boreal forests and to prepare recommendations for its next session, when establishing the Working Group on dry land forests and agro-pastoral systems.

COFO also came up with advice on support to countries. It requested FAO to step up its efforts in supporting countries in various areas, such as upgrading and disseminating socio-economic data, strengthening tenure and governance processes, strengthening forest-based industries, producers associations, and the community-based forest organizations, strengthening and introducing payments for ecosystem services skills, policy and planning, information exchange and access to funding to achieve Zero Illegal Deforestation, gender mainstreaming and economic empowerment of women, forest landscape restoration, and forest and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

COFO wanted to come up with strategic issues to consider issues of global strategic relevance and provide its guidance for Member Nations. We requested Members to ensure adequate consideration and the visibility of forests in the SDGs in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. COFO invited countries to strengthen the collaborative partnerships on forests as a broad interagency coordination mechanism and sent consistent messages to its member organization, invited countries to elevate their REDD-plus discussions to the highest political level in the countries, regions, and globally, strengthened mechanisms for intrasectoral coordination to achieve effective climate change adaptation and mitigation. The Committee also emphasized the need to consider FAO's work in forestry in the

broad context of FAO's Strategic Framework and prioritize it accordingly. The programme should be realistic and sufficiently financed. Financial resources needed to be allocated.

The Committee also made several recommendations to its Members. In particular, it invited countries to create enabling frameworks to fully allow potential offer by forest and ensure the sustainable provision of socio-economic benefits, which are often unrecognized and undervalued. It established and strengthened platforms for cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder dialogue and initiatives that link forestry and other culture and other natural resource-related sectors to enable more effective coordination and the communication at landscape level, create an enabling environment for forest communities, family forest owners, forest rights holder, and forest and the farm producer organizations which includes clear tenure access to markets, incentives programmes, and financing mechanisms, strengthen their response to Zero Hunger Challenge by developing relevant forest policies and integrated cross-sectoral approach to forests, food security, and nutrition, and work actively towards achieving Zero Illegal Deforestation, and to protect, conserve, restore, and sustainably manage forest resources, to ensure adequate consideration of gender issues in forestry, in all deliberations and fora, strengthen collaboration among all land use and invite COAG, COFI, and COFO itself to explore opportunities in this regard.

We also called interested countries to foster the cooperation within the existing initiatives on boreal forests and further invited countries to work with FAO for the formulation of a global capacity-development programme on sustainable management and restoration of dry land forests and agro-pastoral system.

With this long statement, I offer the COFO Report for the Conference's kind consideration.

**Mr Deepak KUMAR (India)**

I will be very brief in my intervention. I have read the report and there is nothing therein that one could disagree to. In fact, all the recommendations in the report are extremely valuable and cry for implementation, more so for us in India where 24 percent of the land mass is under forest cover. This is constantly competing from the ever burgeoning population. Despite this, we have managed to secure India's forest cover which grew at 0.22 percent annually over 1990 to 2000 and at the rate of 0.46 percent per year over 2000-10.

To me, it appears what we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mere reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another. It is staying in a state of perpetual disharmony and strife. Until we end this strafed forest, sustainability cannot be a guarantee. We cannot give up our quest to re-establish the balance between humanity and forests. It is in this spirit that my delegation welcomes and endorses the Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of COFO.

**Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)**

Brazil congratulates the Namibian Vice-Chair of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry for his report and commends the Secretariat for its support on that very substantive and fruitful session held in June 2014.

It is always worth to recall that forests are essential in global efforts to fight climate change as they are to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services, to guarantee food security and promote rural livelihoods. So any action we take in the forestry sector must be comprehensive enough to address the three dimensions of sustainable development. Brazil was glad to note that COFO 22 has advanced in the right direction. Let me just mention two considerable outcomes in this regard.

First, the State of the World's Forests Report, SOFO 2014, highlighted the contribution of forests to people's livelihoods, but also revealed the need for further information and policies adapted to enhance forests' socio-economic benefits. The report has also shed light onto the linkage between forests and family farming and they are all played by forests to achieve our goals on food security and nutrition.

Brazil is looking forward to see the coming work of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts on Sustainable Forests for Food Security and Nutrition which may fill remaining gaps of data and knowledge on these matters. Another important achievement of COFO to be highlighted is the launch of the Zero Illegal Deforestation Challenge. This FAO initiative is in the right time to underscore the

need to upscale the country's programmes and strategies directed to forests and the forestry sector. In Brazil's case, I should note that the approach proposed by the Zero Illegal Deforestation Challenge is consistent with our national plan on climate change launched in 2007.

As a result of cross-sectoral policies, deforestation in the Amazon has decreased by 79 percent in the last 10 years, turning Brazil into the single largest contributor to climate change mitigation. More recently, a programme for the Baiona was put in place to address the need to protect these ecosystems where agriculture and livestock are major economic drivers. However, despite the Brazilian progress, new challenges are being posed on us, and the same is valid for other developing countries with large forests. Therefore, the international call to protect and sustainably manage forests must be accompanied by the provision of the correspondent means of implementation. And cooperation must be in the heart of our global goals and strategies.

Last month in New York, the 11<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNFF revised and deliberated on the International Arrangement on Forests. Our countries have been recognized as the key role of the collaborative partnership on forests in bridging the science-policy gap. Brazil therefore congratulates FAO, and particularly the Forestry Department, for its good work in chairing the CPF partnership, and requests further work on making CPF outputs more visible and reachable to countries. We must act to make forest benefits long-standing and renewable and recall the need to promote more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, both in developed and in developing countries. Brazil understands that FAO has the technical means to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals on Forests and address the forestry challenges from a broader perspective.

Therefore, our delegation supports FAO's mandate to promote sustainable forest management worldwide and recognizes the work done by the Committee on Forestry in setting forth this Agenda.

**Mr Artis BERTULIS (Latvia)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 28 Member States. The candidate countries to the EU, Albania and Turkey, align themselves with this statement. We endorse the report, which highlights in particular the importance of forests and the multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits they provide. We welcome the publication of the State of the World's Forests 2014 with its focus on the socio-economic benefits of forests and its central message about the importance of forests for sustainable development, in particular, because the quantification of socio-economic benefits is a complex exercise. Further work is needed to assist countries in upgrading their system for collection and analysis of socio-economic data on forests so as to ensure that the full range of socio-economic benefits are quantified.

The publication of this report comes at a very crucial juncture as the international community is engaged in the finalization and adoption of Sustainable Development Goals as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Forests are linked to a range of other priorities and the development of the MDGs. Furthermore, the international community has to take note of the resolution adopted in May 2015 by the United Nations Forum on Forests on the International Arrangement on Forests Beyond 2015, and that has to be further adopted. We welcome the contribution FAO has made to global processes and initiatives. Under FAO's leadership, the collaborative partnership on forests has contributed to fostering interagency cooperation within and outside the UN System on forest-related matters and has supported the work of the UNFF. Following the direction designed at global level at UNFF, we firmly encourage FAO, in cooperation with the members of CPF, to strengthen the partnership and to continue in this direction in the future.

FAO can also make an important contribution to initiatives such as the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Zero Illegal Deforestation Initiative. In this respect, we underline the importance of the work of the CFS-HLPE on the 2017 Report on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition. The challenge of achieving Zero Illegal Deforestation requires above all stronger land governance, secure land tenure and more integrated land use planning, particularly between the agricultural and the forestry sectors. We welcome the recommendation by COFO to expand FAO's work in this area and recognize FAO's role and unique position in supporting member countries on these matters.

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

First and foremost, we would like to thank the Vice-Chairperson of the Former Session of COFO for the excellent presentation. We support the report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the FAO Committee on Forestry. We support the Organization's activities in the field of forestry as a core part of fostering sustainable management of national resources. We think that the link between forestry and food security should be further studied. Therefore, we welcome the decision of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on Food Security, the decision for the High-Level Group of Experts to prepare a report on this issue in 2017. Such a report should help monitor the implementation of the UN Secretary-General's initiative, Zero Hunger, at this crucial point in time. We would in particular like to underscore the need to duly include forestry in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

We are also in favour of placing greater emphasis on the collection of data, data that would reflect the socio-economic role of forestry. We are in favour of further consolidating the FAO's work in enhancing the efficiency and productivity of forestry.

While we are satisfied with the findings of the 55<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries which took place in St. Petersburg in June 2014, it is of particular importance in our view for the FAO to continue its work linked to wood energy as well as on innovations in forestry and on preserving forest biodiversity. We are also particularly interested in finding further ways for the FAO to get involved in interdisciplinary work on the boreal forests and we would like to see this thrust of work further strengthened within the Organization.

**Mr Winny Dian WIBAWA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia supports the endorsement of the report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry. Based on the meeting, we urge member countries to endorse and encourage the condition of the completion of forestry socio-economic data, especially forest-related income, employment, livelihood, and contribute directly to the wellbeing of indigenous and local communities.

In this regard, FAO needs to increase its support to Member States in terms of the collection of data and information, the development and testing of calculation methodology on contributions of forests to the quality of life, particularly food security, nutrition and health, including the contribution of surfaces, dissemination of information mentioned above, and contributing to the broader development objectives and incorporate socio-economic indicators in the information system of forests and regional forest monitoring.

Moreover, the meeting has invited countries to strengthen their response to the Zero Hunger Challenge by developing evidence and inclusive forest policy as well as integrated cross-sectorial approaches to national food security and nutrition services and programmes.

Improving the response can be conducted through promoting the role of forests in food security and nutrition, improving access to management of forestry resources by local communities, adopting practices that improve the resilience of food production systems, and promote policies that increase the productivity of small farmers to benefit as much as possible, thus increasing income, food security and nutrition.

To that end, FAO is expected to increase the capacity of the member countries in terms of monitoring the contribution of forests to the Zero Hunger Challenge at regional and global levels, as well as of assisting member countries in understanding these challenges and encouraging a balance between the management and conservation of forests, developing mechanisms for collecting, monitoring, and reporting of data related to the role of forests in food security and nutrition, and presenting the contribution of forests to food security to the Committee on Food Security.

**Ms Abl OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

The Sudan speaks on behalf of the Group of the Near East to talk about the outcomes of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry and recommendations on the important themes that aim at promoting and achieving food security and the Zero Hunger Challenge. We support the recommendation of the Committee and endorse this report. We would like to point out that the topics

that will be presented to the Council for review and to highlight their highest and utmost importance to our region, especially the challenges related to drought and climate change.

According to the FAO statistics, forests cover 25 percent to 30 percent of the globe, but unfortunately nine million hectares are lost annually. In our Arab region, forests cover about 10 percent of the Arab world or Arab region, especially two kinds: the tropical and semi-tropical forests, and the forests have diversified environments, as well as density and space.

Yet, the environment systems are very fragile and vulnerable and weak. The natural vegetation, as well as the cover density and the greenery coverage are very meagre in the species and this has resulted in the reduced productivity and the production of organic material and substance in the soil. Yet, these systems are still soils of diversified resources and they can institute stock that can be relied on in the development of the different food and forest crops. The roles played by the forests are multiple.

In supporting to maintain humidity and protection and to mitigate natural disasters, landslides, forests play an important role in the mitigation and adaptation to climate change impacts. The sustainable management of forests is very important due to the forest contribution in providing livelihood to the local communities and it has high potential to achieve socio and economic development in addition to other benefits.

And so development has high importance at the global level because the world is facing potential risk as the deterioration of the environment and other environmental problems that are very connected to the livelihood of people – deterioration in the living standards – despite the international initiatives. Forests are still the main resources that help a number of member countries in many ways. Some of the products do not have accessibility to the markets. Not to mention the poor management which can be observed in different countries.

Now we need to cultivate all the trees and forests; that calls for the FAO support to collaborate with governments and civil society organizations to conserve forests, which entails, in turn, financial and non-financial resources for the success of this endeavour, as well as public and private efforts to achieve green development. The current situation is dangerous because the different stations are on the rise and the harmful gases will increase, which has serious impacts on human and the environment's health. FAO should help the member countries to take the necessary measures to protect the forests by taking and issuing international and local binding legislations, to stop the over-exploitation of forests and to take measures to maintain the endangered species of the forests, when in the protected areas or in the gene banks.

Work should be done to increase investments in sustainable forest management, including the farms, and to encourage the effective reforms of the lowest institutions and policies that take into account the economic and environmental value of forests, aimed at addressing the challenges facing the management of this sector with the partnership of the multi-stakeholders in formulating policies and implementing the necessary programmes to enhance the local community's tenure.

And also work should be done to strike a balance between the productive usages of all types of forests and the protection of ecosystem services and biological diversity and the mitigation of climate change impacts like collaborating in different forms of partnership mechanisms and the sound management of forests and respect the needs of the local community to achieve the objectives of safeguarding and conservation of forests.

We support the report and the recommendation reached by the Committee on Forests at its 22<sup>nd</sup> Session.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

I would like to make some brief comments on this issue. Like the other speakers, we support the recommendations of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session. We attach particular importance to recommendations 3 and 10 which address the issue of cross sectorial multi-stakeholder dialogue and closer collaboration. With regard to 10, we note the emphasis on collaboration right across the various committees in FAO and



also strengthening the linkages with the Committee on World Food Security. These are quite important in the context of the overall Strategic Objectives of FAO.

We would like to touch briefly on the need for FAO to work to its strengths, particularly in regard to strategic directions providing policy leadership and promoting cross-sectorial land use policy and strengthening institutional structures.

New Zealand, as current Vice-Chair of the Southwest Pacific Region, is willing and ready to support any regional initiatives in this area to strengthen and work in areas where FAO has clear strategic leadership. Overall, forestry is an important sector right across the world and FAO has a very clear and important role to play in advancing the global forestry objectives.

**Mr Joseph HAILWA (Vice-Chairperson, Committee on Forestry)**

I think what I can say this time is we take note of your support. We also take note of the challenges you shared with us and the advice you made on the report, so let us commit ourselves to this and implement accordingly.

I believe my colleagues may have more to comment on this.

**Mr Eduardo ROJAS (Subdirector General, Departamento Forestal)**

Muchas gracias a los Señores Delegados por sus diferentes intervenciones y por el reconocimiento del trabajo del comité bajo el liderazgo del Presidente del COFO, el Señor Bharrat Jagdeo de Guyana que, lamentablemente debido a otras obligaciones, fruto de sus anteriores responsabilidades como presidente de Guyana no pudo venir y le agradecemos mucho al Vicepresidente del COFO y Presidente de la Comisión forestal de África, por su presencia aquí en Roma con muy poca antelación.

Agradecemos mucho los comentarios sustantivos expresados por los diferentes delegados y es obvio que la agenda del COFO fue densa y focalizó muy especialmente en los aspectos sociales del ámbito forestal. Creo que eso hay que destacarlo y que es una dirección general, no solo del ámbito forestal sino que de muchos otros aspectos y especialmente un tema que nos parecía originalmente no fácil de abordar que es la relación entre el desafío del hambre cero y el desafío de parar la deforestación ilegal tanto COFO como ustedes mismos lo han reconocido como un acierto en cuanto al momento y en cuanto al enfoque. Evidentemente nuestro objetivo es sobre ese consenso amplio construir nuestro programa en los próximos años.

También muy relacionado con ello ha estado el acuerdo de la última sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria de identificar la relación entre los bosques y, yo lo entendería en un sentido más amplio, los espacios silvestres y la seguridad alimentaria como aspecto que había quedado hasta ahora insuficientemente tratado. Creo que esta discusión en la preparación el hecho que ya esté el panel de aspectos y el camino hasta la reunión del comité, permitirá de cara al nuevo Marco Estratégico que seguirá a partir del año 2018 de incorporar con mayor intensidad los aspectos, sobre todo, cuantitativos de la contribución de los bosques a la seguridad alimentaria. Esto hace referencia a un tema comentado por uno de los delegados, que es la contribución de la leña, del combustible dije en forestal a la seguridad alimentaria y la importancia que este aspecto tiene, en especial, en la región de nuestro vicepresidente, en la región africana. Evidentemente también se ha comentado lo que la necesidad de una mayor interacción entre los diversos comités técnicos y se recordará el panel conjunto que hubo con los presidentes o representantes de los diversos comité técnicos, incluida la presidenta del comité de seguridad alimentaria que nos acompaña en esta sesión, durante COFO y les anuncio que al final de esta semana, el viernes habrá una reunión de los cuatro burós, para discutir cuál pueden ser los ámbitos de actuación concertada de estos comités.

Estamos evidentemente en una senda en ese sentido y también anunciarles que el SOFO 2016 tratará precisamente esos aspectos relacionados con los usos del suelo, con la competencia entre la agricultura y los bosques, pero también la potencialidad de buscar soluciones de ganancia recíproca del llamado *win-win* en inglés en la agroforestería, la restauración de paisajes y muchas otra. Por lo tanto, creo que aquí existe un trabajo por delante, especialmente interesante. Aprovecho para recordarles que tendremos el Congreso Forestal Mundial la segunda semana de septiembre en Durban, Sudáfrica que hay un espacio de información en el atrio y que habrán más actividades para presentar al congreso

durante esta conferencia que serán presentadas a su debido tiempo y en el marco del congreso evidentemente serán presentados los resultados de la Evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales (FRA) 2015, donde tendremos mucha información sobre el estado actual de los recursos forestales.

Con independencia que tomamos claro evidentemente el encargo del COFO, como de ustedes mismos, de reforzar de cara al FRA 2020 y cooperación con otras agencias, incluido el Banco Mundial. Todos los indicadores de esta contribución mundial que todavía es muy elusiva y en la cual las prioridades es crear capacidades en los países para que podamos informar para arriba a lo que sería la base de datos global que conforma el FRA y finalmente recordar y apreciar el reconocimiento del rol de la FAO en la revisión del arreglo internacional de bosques. Me alegra saludar aquí al anterior Presidente de la mesa del UFF por parte del Ecuador que nos acompaña y que estuvo en todas las preparaciones de este proceso complejo.

Tuvimos un resultado satisfactorio en Nueva York hace un mes; evidentemente esto también es un mandato importante para la actuación de FAO, sea lateralmente, sea bilateralmente con el Fondo Forestal de Naciones Unidas o sea en la presidencia de la asociación de bosques para recoger las indicaciones que han venido de FAO y evidentemente también del propio Foro Forestal de Naciones Unidas e informarles que en el Consejo del lunes habrá como uno de los elementos de información sobre actividades en el área de mandato de la FAO una explicación sobre los resultados de este foro de Naciones Unidas que ha planificado lo que será la discusión de la gobernanza global en los próximos 15 años. Les agradezco muchísimo todas sus contribuciones y obviamente les emplazo a todos los que puedan venir al congreso y al próximo COFO.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

This concludes our agenda item and before reading out the summary of conclusions, may I thank the Secretariat for the tremendous work they are doing in updating live those conclusions to reflect what is being said in the room.

The Conference endorsed the Report of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO), and noted in particular the importance of:

- a) the Zero Hunger Challenge; by developing evidence-based and inclusive forest policies as well as integrated cross-sectorial approaches and advocate for and work actively towards achieving zero illegal deforestation;
  - b) enabling environment for forest communities, family forest owners, forest rights holders, and forest and farm producer organizations;
  - c) establishing and strengthening platforms for cross-sectorial multi-stakeholder dialogue and initiatives that link forestry and agriculture and other natural resource related sectors;
  - d) FAO's participation in REDD+ at country, regional and global levels;
  - e) the collaborative partnership on forests as a broad interagency coordination mechanism in the future international arrangement on forests;
  - f) the cooperation within the existing initiatives working on boreal forests and requested FAO to scale up its support to countries on boreal forests;
- and g) a global capacity development programme on sustainable management and restoration of dryland forests and agro pastoral systems.

Second point, the Conference encouraged countries to:

- a) increase efforts to induce adequate consideration of gender issues in forestry;
- b) strengthen collaboration of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and other land use sectors to promote the application of integrated approaches across the landscape, including through increase collaboration of COFO with COFI and COAG as well as the CFS;
- c) strengthen the efforts to ensure adequate consideration and visibility of forests in the sustainable development goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Third and last point, the Conference emphasized that the work of FAO on forestry needs to be focused on the basis of the Organization's Strategic Framework.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

I am just not very certain about the source of the existing initiatives mentioned. Was it mentioned by some delegation or was it an outcome of the COFO? If you could kindly specify that. Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is verbatim from the COFO report. We will provide you with the exact paragraph. Is this okay for you? This concludes this agenda item.

*Item 12.3 Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture  
(29 September-3 October 2014)*

*Point 12.3 Rapport de la vingt-quatrième session du Comité de l'agriculture  
(29 septembre-3 octobre 2014)*

*Tema 12.3 Informe del 24.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (29 de septiembre a 3 de octubre de 2014)*

*(C 2015/21; C 2015/28; C 2015/INF/6)*

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will now proceed with Item 12.3, *Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture* which was held in Rome from 29 September to 3 October 2014. The Conference document is C 2015/21. Please also note there is document C 2015/28 Rev.1 which includes a Draft Conference Resolution on antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Therefore, under this item, the Conference is also invited to review the conclusions of the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council on AMR as set out in Appendix A of the document I just mentioned and consider the Draft Resolution on AMR in food and agriculture as set out in the same document for approval.

I now invite the Chairperson of COAG, His Excellency Joseph Sam Sesay, Minister for Agriculture of Sierra Leone, to introduce the item.

**Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)**

Before I present the report of our Committee, permit me to take this opportunity to congratulate on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, the Director-General, Professor Jose Graziano da Silva, for his resounding re-election.

It is my privilege as Chairperson of COAG to be here today to present the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG held from 29 September to 3 October last year here at FAO Headquarters. In view of global emerging challenges, the Committee had substantive discussions on matters relating to family farming, sustainable production intensification and sustainable food systems, sustainable livestock development and global eradication of *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR), food safety, soils for agriculture and food security, water governance, monitoring of investments in agriculture, the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and the International Rice Commission. The Committee's recommendations on the above matters have already been adopted by the 158<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council in December 2014.

I would like now to highlight some of the Committee's discussions and recommendations on the Global Policy and Regulatory Matters of COAG that require the attention of Conference. Among others, our Committee:

- Supported the development of common criteria for definitions on typologies of family farming, as well as the further development of the key analysis and indicators to assess better the status and trends of different types of family farming, including issues related to access to markets;
- Encouraged FAO to integrate further its work on the sustainability of food systems, including the development of a programme on sustainable food systems to be integrated in the Ten-year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

- Supported a greater role for FAO in trade facilitation programmes and in contributing to global food chain intelligence, as important means for supporting the delivery of FAO's food safety strategy.
- Recommended that FAO Member Nations consider incorporating water governance for food security and sustainable agriculture in their national policies and priority frameworks with a due consideration to specific context and diversities.
- Encouraged FAO to fine-tune the development and testing of new investments indicators and data products.
- Discussed the work of FAO's sustainable livestock in the context of the Global Agenda and noted a shift in perspective to ensure the Agenda comprehensively addresses the sector's contribution to sustainable food and agriculture.
- Recognized the importance of soils for agriculture and food security.
- Noted that the International Rice Commission suspended all its activities and operations in June 2013 and agreed that a standing item on rice be included in the Committee's regular session's agenda when appropriate.

The Committee also endorsed the joint establishment and implementation by FAO and the World Organization for Animal Health of the Global *Peste des Petits Ruminants* control and eradication programme. Endorsed the revised *World Soil Charter* to be presented to you for final endorsement on a separate item, Item 19 of our agenda.

On antimicrobial resistance, the Committee also recommended that FAO play a greater role in assisting countries to contain its growing threat and the potential negative impacts on food and agriculture. In this respect, our Committee requested FAO to provide a report on AMR resistance, including a Draft Resolution to be submitted to Council and Conference.

The 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council welcomed the status report and asked that a revised version of the Draft Resolution incorporating amendments suggested during the discussions be circulated to all Members and further considered at an informal meeting of the Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons of the Regional Groups. A Draft Conference Resolution presented in Appendix B of the Status Report, C 2015/28 Rev.1, is therefore the result of negotiations among Regional Group Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons at three informal meetings convened by the Independent Chair of the Council.

I now have the pleasure of inviting you to endorse the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture and, in so doing, endorse the Draft Resolution on antimicrobial resistance.

**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, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

In the context of climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources, agriculture and food systems, we will more than ever have to contribute to food security and nutrition while being more sustainable. We endorse the Report which shows that the Committee on Agriculture fully integrates economic, environmental and social sustainability with production and takes into account climate change. We are also pleased with the support given to the integration of activities related to family farming.

We want to underline the high value of the normative work done by FAO, in particular on food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary standards within the Codex Alimentarius and through the International Plant Protection Convention, as well as regarding the conservation and management of plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources. Development of a sustainable livestock sector deserves further attention and dialogue. In this spirit, we can in general support the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock as a multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed at improving the sustainability of the livestock sector.

We look forward to receiving concrete suggestions for solutions in the three focused areas. Good linkage with other relevant initiatives and partners such as the World Organization for Animal Health and the World Bank is key. We need to go beyond GASL in raising the profile of the global dialogue on the sustainable livestock sector in the deliberations of the FAO Governing Bodies. That is why we

reiterate or call for further discussion on the best options for achieving this goal based on a clear proposal to be presented at the next session of COAG.

Regarding transboundary animal diseases, FAO's role is crucial, as is that of OIE. We support efforts to eradicate the *peste des petits ruminants* through the development of a *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Global Eradication Programme, and we recall that the initiative has to be established and implemented jointly by both the FAO and the OIE within the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases mechanism.

Sustainable soil management, improvement of soil fertility, water retention capacity and restoration of degraded lands are key to enhancing agriculture productivity and achieving food security in the context of climate change. For these reasons, we are willing to continue to participate actively in the Global Soil Partnership. We appreciate the first outcomes of this partnership and are pleased to endorse the *World Soil Charter*.

With regard to these two partnerships, as well as the other multi-stakeholder initiatives in which FAO is engaged and whose Secretariat it often hosts, we would like to stress the need for FAO to develop corporate guidelines for the governance of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

**Mr Alawi AL-HAFIDH (Oman) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared this highly important Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture. Oman would like to place an emphasis on the importance of resource governance for the support of agriculture because that helps prevent all waste. We all need water and preventing water waste is particularly important for ensuring food security, especially in arid countries. Oman is making great efforts to use water rationally and sustainably. We are undertaking studies to assess our needs in water for crops and we are also preparing projects for building dams in order to ensure better use of water.

With regards to livestock breeding, we all agree that this is a crucial industry, especially for developing countries who largely depend on breeding and livestock breeding for their subsistence. Oman has implemented a great number of programmes in this particular field. For instance, we have programmes to improve the quality of species and races, we have vaccination campaigns, and we have programmes for boosting veterinary services. We are also trying not to rely on imports in this field. We do, of course, import frozen meat from a certain number of countries, but we are trying to ensure that we have domestic production as well.

We welcome the recommendations contained in the report, especially as livestock is a field that is facing new challenges now, including certain diseases, some of which are lethal for the animals in question. I think the FAO needs to work in this field as well.

I would like to talk about the global campaign for the full eradication of the *Peste des Petits Ruminants*. This programme contains a certain number of provisions enabling Member States to efficiently fight against this pest, the *Peste des Petits Ruminants*. It also contains provisions for fighting against a certain number of other pests. The Oman Sultanate, like other countries, has suffered from *Peste des Petits Ruminants*. It had a very deleterious impact on our livestock industry but we have successfully eradicated it now, and we did so thanks to the WHO and the FAO's recommendations. Oman has also set up a programme for eradicating PPR through internationally recommended vaccines. There is no doubt that a global programme agreed upon at the international level is or will be a very efficient tool in this fight. We would like the FAO and the WHO to jointly play a pivotal role in this field. We call on all States to join this programme which is of paramount importance and will doubtlessly have a very positive impact in terms of eradicating the *peste des petits ruminants* in various countries around the world.

With regard to the Global Soil Partnership, since the partnership was first launched, we have always been greatly keen on implementing it, especially as soils are adversely impacted these days due to various natural phenomena. In 2015, we will participate in the International Conference on Soils. With regard to the *World Soil Charter*, we are in favour of drawing up such a charter with a few amendments, and we are prepared to take part in the Global Soil Partnership in order to preserve this crucial resource.

Finally, Oman would like to mention the initiative linked to ingenious or Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems, the GIAHS System, because this is a very important programme for animal and vegetable resources. Oman is very involved in this field and, in the framework of our five-year plans, we have created three programmes dedicated to this particular field. A Global Agriculture Heritage System which would be implemented at the global level would, we believe, be very useful indeed for those countries who are trying to develop national programmes in this field. Thank you.

**Ms Abl OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan is speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. We would like to endorse what was just said by our distinguished colleague from the Sultanate of Oman. In addition, we would like to applaud the results and recommendations as set forth in the COAG report. We would like to focus our attention on issues of vital importance, family farming, for example. We know that family farming is closely linked to various aspects of rural development at large and is a vital element for farming, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry. So family farming in the global sense is also linked to family-based employment and is looked upon as a dominant feature in Near East countries.

Moreover, it also plays an economic, social, environmental and cultural role in my country. Family farming also enables us to free ourselves from poverty and to produce the foodstuffs consumed by our society. This sector of agriculture needs major support, because to abandon that type of agriculture would be fatal for the countryside, for the rural regions, and would deprive many countries of employment potential, especially in the Near East.

Among the other issues that we expect the Conference to focus its attention on are the sustainable food systems and the sustainable production intensification. We know that sustainable production intensification is the way of enabling farmers to improve their farming, cropping, and ensure the sustainability of their production. Nowadays, we do need sustainable production in order to resolve problems of inequality, in order to feed the world and to protect the planet. In research as well as studies in the future, we must focus on sustainable development and sustainable production intensification.

We did our social studies regarding the economic and social impact of sustainable production intensification. These studies will also indicate where this type of production will be possible and where it may not be possible as well. Then again, sir, the development of genetic resources in our respective countries will make it possible to attain agricultural self-sufficiency and thereby respond to foodstuff requirements and needs of our respective populations. It is for that reason that we think it is necessary to bring the attention of all the concerned parties on those ways and means that would make it possible to ensure sustainable intensification, exploitation of natural resources, while at the same time ensuring the safeguard of ecosystems. Studies and research, as well as science and technology, will enable us and will accompany us hand in hand in our ongoing daily research.

Now among the other themes, governance of water resources, there too is the key issue. We know that the Arab countries are faced with a crisis in terms of water resources, a rather rare commodity as well; 22 countries with 50 million inhabitants in 2014. This equals five percent of the world's population. But water resources, 220 billion cubic meters of water, and with one percent of world needs. So most of the people in the Arab countries live below what is an acceptable level of water accessibility.

Moreover, 140 billion cubic meters of water in the Arab countries comes from outside, from other regions beyond the borders or frontiers of those countries, from the Nile, the Tigris and the Euphrates. Therefore, we depend very much upon the outside world, not only for water but also for food. We pay half a billion dollars for our food imports. It is also evident that water has a major influence and impact on food security and on food production. Hence, the very close link between water resources and the soil for better development and for sustainable development, which is what we all seek. Now the management of water resources does have an important impact on farming, on food-related industries, and it is necessary to tackle this issue by considering irrigation systems and doing whatever may be necessary to increase the water table below ground. Then there is climate change, another cross-border phenomenon that comes into the picture as well. Said phenomena impose upon us the need for a proper, good, just, correct, rational management of water resources.

Now other issues, other themes, are extremely important subjects. For example, the Global *Peste des Petits Ruminants* Control and Eradication Programme. A large number of countries in our region are faced with this small ruminant disease and hence the smallholders, the small-scale farmers and livestock raisers in our countries, depend on the livestock sector for the production of meat. Livestock-raising constitutes a means for subsistence and a source of income, a source of food for the poorest of the poor, particularly women. That is, the women, to a great extent, are the ones who do most of the livestock-raising in our countries. Hence, we see the need to reinforce and to strengthen the efforts of sick countries to fight against any animal disease, and in particular small ruminant diseases. Now the world programme for the eradication of that disease will have a very positive impact on the poorest farmers and on their means for subsistence.

We would also like to underscore the importance of the Globally Important Agriculture Heritage Systems. Now more than 14 countries in Latin America, Africa and others, are involved in this, and we see it as a model for innovation. We would call upon FAO and other regional organizations in that area to deploy necessary efforts. For example, UNESCO and the Islamic Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization which are working with FAO in developing a system for the agricultural heritage of local populations; this is very important for the indigenous peoples in order to spread the agricultural know-how, agricultural knowledge and expertise, and systems or models in that specific area.

We would like to reiterate our sense of satisfaction regarding the contents of this report.

**Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)**

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the full European Regional Group, specifically on the draft Conference resolution on antimicrobial resistance. Growing resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobials constitutes an unprecedented global threat to human and animal health, livelihoods and our common efforts of poverty reduction.

When Sir Alexander Fleming accepted the 1945 Nobel Prize for medicine for discovering penicillin, he warned that inappropriate use would lead to resistance. We now face the reality of a return to a pre-antibiotics era where doctors are already avoiding medical operations due to the risk of untreatable infections.

Conservative estimates suggest that without urgent action, the current seven hundred thousand AMR-related human deaths per year will rise to ten million by 2050 with a cumulative loss to global GDP of up to USD 100 trillion by then.

There is a critical need to strengthen research and action in agriculture to address what the Secretariat's status report noted was the widely recognized excessive use and misuse of antimicrobials as two of the major drivers for acquired antimicrobial resistance.

We strongly support the work of FAO in this area and encourage continued collaboration with the World Health Organization and the International Organization for Animal Health. We repeat the concern expressed by the ERG during the March Council that such resources as the Secretariat is currently applying to this area are largely at the expense of other priorities in animal health.

Helping tackle AMR should be a high priority and a core activity for the FAO Secretariat. As such, we look forward to proposals from the Secretariat to ensure that AMR is supported by some dependable resources from the regular budget to guarantee long-term consistency of this important work.

Voluntary contributions are also welcome as FAO takes forward this critical work. We are pleased that through constructive collaboration, Members have been able to agree on a Conference resolution that brings FAO's governing bodies in line with those of the World Health Organization and underscores the importance of rapid action.

Strong support will help the Secretariat to achieve maximum impact, sharing its expertise with the Members, and gaining well-deserved credit for acting promptly on a common threat. We fully endorse the adoption of the Resolution.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

Thanks to the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture for his opening remarks. The COAG recognizes that the FAO's provision of impartial science-based guidance on food safety is very important and Canada fully supports that as well as the entire Report.

Canada also notes how antimicrobial resistance was a significant issue for deliberation at the COAG. We too are concerned with AMR and agree that the FAO should play a greater role working with organizations like the OIE, WHO and others.

The United States will speak on behalf of the North America region more fully on that topic. I would also like to turn to an issue that was not on the deliberations of the COAG but actually reflect on the intervention opening remarks from the Director-General.

I will read a quick quote from his statement in opening up this session of the COAG. He said "there is no doubt in my mind that we can overcome our challenges, but that calls for different approaches. Agro-ecology and climate-smart agriculture are options and so is biotechnology, including genetically modified organisms. We need to explore this alternative using an inclusive approach based on science and evidence and not on ideologies".

I would just like to reflect that Canada certainly appreciated the Director-General's remarks and fully supported the statement that he made.

**Mr Deepak KUMAR (India)**

Under this agenda item, I speak first as India and then on AMR on behalf of the Asia Group. India welcomes the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the COAG. The Conference's attention has been called towards ten issues. While we support all, due to scarcity of time, we will restrict our comments to four.

The first is regarding sustainable production intensification. In our understanding, both words and the phrase sustainable intensification need to be given equal importance, intensification by reducing pressure on land and other resources underpins sustainability and equally, food production in the context of a growing population must ultimately be sustainable if it is to continue to feed people in the future.

In this context, we welcome and note the various activities undertaken by FAO under SPI.

Our second point is regarding family farming, especially smaller-scale family farming which we feel is essential for sustainable agriculture and key for achieving food security.

We wish to underline the need for development of indicators to better assess the status and terms of the different types of family farming. Such adjustment is crucial for FAO to develop global goals and help themselves formulate the strategies for development of the smaller-scale family farming.

Our target intervention is on GIAHS. For us, GIAHS is a living heritage whose protection is of utmost importance. We therefore underline the necessity of mainstreaming GIAHS in FAO's body of work. Last but not least is the issue of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock.

India supports the shift in perspective from management and improvement of natural resource use for sustainable development of livestock to concurrently address issues of food security and health, equity and growth, and resource and climate as they all impact and in turn are impacted by the livestock sector.

Integral to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock is the issue of AMR. On this, India speaks on behalf of the members of Asia Regional Group. In 2014, WHO completed its first global report on AMR. The opening lines of the report were alarming and I quote, "AMR threatens the achievements of modern medicine, a post-antibiotic era in which common infections and minor injuries can kill. Far from being an apocalyptic fantasy, it is in a state of very real possibility for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Unquote.

In the report, WHO found high risk of AMR in a number of common infections in every region of the world. Additionally, it observed significant gaps in surveillance that made it difficult to get an accurate understanding of the extent of the situation. From 2014 to 2015, the situation has only worsened.



In its recently published first global assessment of natural strategies to counter the rise of AMR, it found that only a quarter of countries had plans in place to limit the use of antimicrobials, leaving major gaps in the struggle against AMR in every region of the world.

In our view, developing a range of strategies to reduce reliance on antimicrobials will be a key challenge for the future. From our perspective, this will require a multidisciplinary approach that cuts across agriculture and food security, animal science and human health.

FAO thus has a pivotal role to play: (a) in supporting research aimed at combatting AMR; (b) research for developing viable and effective alternatives to antimicrobials; and (c) development of affordable and accessible diagnostics in collaboration with WHO and OIE to enable rapid identification of antimicrobial resistant organisms or genes.

Besides this, FAO will need to proactively ensure the development of national plans on the strengthening of surveillance, raising public awareness, developing treatment guidelines for antimicrobial medicines, and implementing preventative medicines to reduce the number of infections that occur.

We are happy to note that we have an AMR Resolution before us agreed upon by all Member Nations despite a prolonged negotiation exercise. In our view, this is an enormous step forward as it brings the Membership on a common platform and it strengthens our resolve to work in containing AMR.

The criticality of the issue is best gauged by the tagline from the World Health Day in April 2011. No action today; no cure tomorrow.

With these comments we fully endorse AMR resolution and the COAG report.

#### **M. François PYTHOUD (Suisse)**

La Suisse prend note avec satisfaction du rapport du Comité de l'agriculture et souscrit de manière générale aux recommandations formulées. Plus spécifiquement, nous souhaitons prendre position sur les trois thématiques suivantes : le Programme cadre sur 10 ans de l'ONU sur la consommation et la production durables en relation avec l'intensification de la production durable et les systèmes alimentaires durables. Ce Programme sur 10 ans a été adopté à la Conférence de Rio comme un outil central pour le soutien à la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda post-2015 pour le développement durable.

Dans le cadre de ce Programme cadre sur 10 ans, actuellement la FAO et le PNUE élaborent conjointement un programme spécifique pour la promotion des systèmes alimentaires durables. La Suisse soutient cette initiative. Le processus de lancement du Programme a rencontré un grand succès et près de 100 gouvernements, organisations internationales, organisations non-gouvernementales, institutions de recherche et entreprises du secteur privé ont exprimé leur intérêt à y participer activement. Grâce à l'engagement de la FAO et du PNUE, le Programme sur les systèmes alimentaires durables devrait pouvoir être officiellement lancé d'ici à octobre 2015 comme une des composantes principales du Programme sur 10 ans sur la consommation et la production durables. Nous souhaitons que la FAO poursuive son engagement et nous invitons les autres pays et les parties prenantes à se joindre à ce Programme.

La Suisse souhaite également relever les progrès réalisés par le Programme mondial pour un élevage durable aussi bien au niveau de la gouvernance que des résultats et nous nous associons aux propositions formulées par l'Union européenne pour son futur développement.

Nous soutenons également le partenariat international sur les sols et relevons avec satisfaction l'adoption de la révision de la Charte mondiale, une contribution importante sur le plan politique en cette année internationale des sols.

En ce qui concerne la résolution sur la résistance aux antimicrobiens, la Suisse soutient la proposition présentée à la Conférence et s'associe entièrement à la déclaration du Royaume-Uni au nom du Groupe régional Europe. Cependant, nous constatons que la communauté internationale n'a apparemment pas été en mesure de faire des progrès sur l'opérationnalisation du principe de précaution inclus dans la Déclaration de Rio de 1992.

Les négociations sur la résolution ont même failli mener à un pas en arrière par rapport à ce qui avait été atteint il y a une génération. Nous espérons que la prochaine génération n'aura pas à nous blâmer pour cette absence de progrès. Finalement, pour conclure, nous sommes convaincus que le Comité pour l'agriculture sera amené à jouer dans le futur un rôle de plus en plus important dans le contexte de la mise en œuvre de Programme de développement pour l'après-2015 et les objectifs de développement durable.

**Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)**

En atención al tiempo disponible, voy a hacer una intervención solamente para referirnos al informe de situación sobre la resistencia a los antimicrobianos y voy a hacerlo en representación del GRULAC. Agradecemos la Secretaría, nuevamente, la preparación de este informe y recordamos que cuando fue considerado en el último Consejo, los países del GRULAC manifestaron sus preocupaciones y adelantaron su compromiso para afrontar esta situación. Precisamente, esta preocupación llevó al GRULAC a participar activamente en el grupo de trabajo conducido por el Presidente Independiente del Consejo, Embajador Wilfred Ngirwa, con el propósito de acordar un proyecto de resolución que reseñara las recomendaciones para llevar adelante acciones comunes entre todos los Miembros de la FAO y para orientar los trabajos de la Organización. Agradecemos al embajador Ngirwa y a los miembros del grupo de trabajo, sus esfuerzos para consolidar un compromiso y alcanzar un positivo resultado.

El proyecto de resolución es el que está ahora a consideración y el GRULAC respalda su adopción, consciente de que para lograrlo, fue necesaria una intensa negociación en la que todos los grupos regionales contribuyeron con una fuerte voluntad de consenso. Las posiciones del GRULAC sobre las maneras de encarar esta tarea han sido claras y oportunamente manifestadas.

Estamos convencidos de que la FAO puede hacer un aporte sustantivo para contribuir a encontrar soluciones y por ello, coincidimos en darle la orientación necesaria para desarrollar y brindar el apoyo que sus miembros requieren. Como dije previamente, los países del GRULAC, estamos particularmente preocupados, por las amenazas planteadas por la resistencia a los antimicrobianos y coincidimos con el resto de los miembros, en que para controlar esta situación, se requiere adoptar medidas efectivas a la brevedad posible. De la misma manera, para lograr resultados rápidos y concretos, los países en desarrollo deberán recibir una adecuada asistencia tanto financiera como en materia de transferencia de tecnología. Sobre estas bases, el GRULAC continuará trabajando junto con la FAO y sus Miembros para enfrentar este desafío y superarlo cuanto antes.

**M. Kouamé KANGA (Côte d'Ivoire)**

La Côte d'Ivoire voudrait se féliciter de la qualité du Rapport de la 24<sup>ème</sup> session du COAG.

Du 31 mars au 2 avril 2015, s'est tenue à Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire, la Conférence mondiale pour le contrôle et l'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants. Cette rencontre de haut niveau a permis de valider la stratégie de lutte contre ce fléau et de proposer un programme mondial d'éradication. La Côte d'Ivoire voudrait ici remercier la FAO, l'OIE et tous les parrains techniques et financiers qui ont permis d'atteindre ces résultats probants. En effet, la peste des petits ruminants est une maladie animale très contagieuse pour les ovins et les caprins, et elle menace 80 pour cent du cheptel mondial, soit près de deux milliards d'animaux dans 70 pays.

L'élevage de petits ruminants est exercé en majorité par des petits exploitants dans des exploitations familiales. Il constitue souvent un moyen important de subsistance des populations rurales vulnérables, particulièrement des femmes. Le contrôle et l'éradication de ce fléau contribuera donc à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition des populations concernées. Aussi, la Côte d'Ivoire soutient-elle les points soumis à l'attention de la Conférence dans les documents C 2015/21 et C 2015/28 Rev.1 pour la résistance aux antimicrobiens. Elle approuve donc le Rapport de la 24<sup>ème</sup> session du COAG et en particulier le Programme mondial d'éradication de la peste des petits ruminants. La Côte d'Ivoire voudrait inviter les États Membres à conjuguer leurs efforts et à accroître leur coopération pour parvenir à l'éradication complète de la peste des petits ruminants.

**Mr Luiz Maria PIO CORRERA (Brazil)**

The Brazilian delegation would like to point out the important results reached at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture in areas such as family farming, sustainable agriculture, including adaptation to climate change, statistics, animal health, soils, water and food safety.

Brazil adopts public policies aimed at supporting family farming, has promoted the theme regionally in Latin America as a whole and has integrated the international steering committee of the International Year of Family Farming.

It has been with great satisfaction that it has promoted the inclusion and discussion of this issue in COAG and its inclusion on the Organization's agenda. The legacy document of the International Year adopted also points in the direction of keeping the theme alive in the works of FAO with broad participation of concerned stakeholders.

As part of the legacy of the International Year of Family Farming for FAO, Brazil supports the working group devoted to the development of common criteria for definitions and typologies of family farming as well as the further development of the key analysis and indicators to better assess the status and trends of different types of family farming including issues related to access to markets, and appreciates FAO's commitment to continue its work in the promotion of family farming and its integration in the FAO Strategic Framework and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Public policies to promote sustainable agriculture are also underway in Brazil. This includes a national programme to lower carbon emissions in the field and adapt agriculture to climate change. The Brazilian experience is proving that sustainable agriculture can both increase productivity and tackle environment concerns.

Nevertheless, there is no easy track to achieve sound results, and countries must be supportive of each other in the international fora. Firstly, discussions on sustainable agriculture should keep the balance between social, economic and environmental dimensions.

Secondly, climate policies for the agricultural sector must focus on resilience and adaptation to tend to the world's growing demand for food, being at the same time fully consistent with the overall guidance provided by the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Finally, developing countries should not be harmed by unilateral measures which ignore the socioeconomic, technical, environmental and climatic characteristics.

In relation to food safety, Brazil supports the strict observance of CODEX standards which nations should strive to make sure that they continue to be science-based. Brazil therefore is opposed to standard-setting initiatives that do not take into account the CODEX criteria and standards.

Brazil consequently supports the important role of FAO as a provider of capacity-building programmes aimed at helping governments along with other stakeholders to implement the CODEX standards.

Brazil has welcomed the endorsement of COAG to the global soil partnership and the support to the International Year. Both initiatives provide a much needed visibility to such an important issue which until recently has been somewhat neglected.

Brazil hopes that the example given by COAG will help establish the theme more firmly on FAO's agenda in all of its dimensions.

Finally, Brazil would like to support GRULAC's statement on AMR and the draft Resolution.

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

New Zealand supports the recommendations of the last COAG meeting. We would like to draw particular attention to the references to the food safety area and the important role that FAO plays through its support for the work of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission and we note the concerns expressed in the document about the need for adequate funding for scientific advice. This is particularly important in the context of the discussions that are going on around antimicrobial resistance.

At the same time, we are aware there are real funding constraints, but it is important that we find some satisfactory solutions on that. We also support and recognize the emphasis given in this document to the collaboration that is needed between FAO, WHO, OIE and other relevant international organizations to ensure that issues of food safety, plant health and animal health are addressed right across the food chain in a holistic way.

We would also like to point out that FAO, through the CODEX Alimentarius Commission, dealt with the issue of antimicrobial resistance some eight years ago with the formation of a task force on antimicrobial resistance that, among other things, led to the development of international guidelines to deal with antimicrobial resistance, particularly in the food safety area.

The reason I would like to make that reference is because this issue has been very much up front in the minds of many of us and we have to deal with it at the global, regional and national levels. So we certainly support from that perspective the increasing focus through the Conference Resolution to address this issue.

We also support the reference to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock and the work of FAO in this area. The livestock area is particularly important in our context and any efforts that we can do collectively to address the issue of greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable prices are all good and worthwhile.

Overall, we support the outcomes and recommendations of this document.

**Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)**

I also would like to thank the Chair of COAG for the Report. The Chinese delegation supports this Report. We have noticed that, in the last few years, FAO has done a considerable amount of work to increase awareness on the importance of family farming, sustainable agriculture, and reinforcing the global food security situation, monitoring the situation in agriculture, the implementation of the global programmes for sustainable livestock production and eradication of PPR. The Chinese delegation appreciates and supports the work that has been done.

Now regarding the GIAHS Programme, its official status within FAO's programme, as described in the report, the Chinese delegation would like to say that we consider it to be very important. It was supported also by the Council. Unfortunately, this is not being considered by this Conference. Therefore, we would like to make an appeal. GIAHS should conclude the procedure as soon as possible and the Council's decision should be adopted and taken in the next Conference.

This time, the Chinese delegation has brought some excellent jasmine tea from China, and it will be on display in the building. It is one of the highest quality products of China and we hope that you will enjoy it.

Finally, we would like to say that we support FAO in its efforts to promote the work and we support what was said by India speaking on behalf of the Asian Group.

**Mr Yoji MATSUI (Japan)**

I would like to deliver three points very briefly. First, in the various topics covered in the COAG, Japan places higher importance in the area which FAO has comparative advantage. This includes agricultural statistics, normative works such as Codex and IPPC, transboundary pest diseases of animal and plant, genetic resources for food and agriculture, agricultural heritage systems and food value chain development.

Secondly, Japan thanks the Independent Chairperson of the Council for his dedicated efforts to make a consensus on the Draft Conference Resolution on antimicrobial resistance. Japan supports the Draft Resolution and aligns itself with the statement of Asia Group.

Lastly, Japan welcomes that GIAHS was identified as a higher priority area of work. In our country, recognition of local agriculture systems such as GIAHS gives rural people an incentive to revitalize their communities. We therefore expect further development of the GIAHS initiative and will continue our support to this initiative.

**Mr John NORRIS (United States of America)**

I speak on behalf of the United States with regard to the report and then also we will make a statement for the North American Group. In the interest of time, I will just say that the United States thanks the Secretariat for its hard work on this report and we support the report and its recommendations.

With regard to the North American Group, we want to express our appreciation for the statement by the European Regional Group on antimicrobial resistance and note that we also share the ERG's concerns regarding inappropriate use of antibiotics, particularly in animal livestock production. Antibiotics support nearly all of modern medicine, saving millions of lives each year in the United States and Canada, and around the world. Overuse and misuse can reduce the effectiveness of these antibiotics. The rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria threatens human and animal health with serious repercussions on the global economy.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that at least 2 million illnesses and 23,000 deaths are caused annually by antibiotic-resistant bacteria in the United States alone. Reducing AMRs is a national security priority for the United States. Preventing and controlling antibiotic-resistance requires developing alternatives to antimicrobials while simultaneously implementing measures to ensure existing antimicrobials are used appropriately. Combating antibiotic-resistant bacteria, domestically and internationally, depends on a strategic coordinated and sustained effort. Canada and the United States emphasize our support for the work of the FAO in implementing a number of AMR prevention and control measures in food and agriculture. We encourage the interagency collaboration among FAO, the World Health Organization and the International Organization for Animal Health. AMR represents an immediate international threat, and as such should be a top priority for the Programme of Work of the FAO. Increased efforts in this area will require careful consideration of the resource implications given the demands on FAO's existing budget. We will need to seek voluntary contributions as well as consider whether financing is available from the FAO regular budget in order to ensure the long-term consistency of this important work. We fully support the AMR resolution and appreciate the work of all the regions and the leadership of the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Ngirwa, in reaching consensus on this resolution.

**Mr Fabia Sumba MUYA (Kenya)**

Kenya takes the floor on behalf of the Africa Group. We thank the Chair of COAG for the presentation of the report and Africa Group endorses the recommendations therein.

With regard to the AMR resolution, the Africa Group wishes to thank the FAO Regional Groups Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons for participating in the three Informal Meetings convened by the Independent Chairperson of the Council, His Excellency Ambassador Ngirwa, to reach a consensus on a resolution on antimicrobial resistance.

The Africa Group acknowledges that access to effective antimicrobial agents may aid animal husbandry and aquaculture production systems. However, this may boost human health risks due to increasing resistance to antimicrobials. We therefore express a strong view that urgent action is required at the national, regional and global levels. We strongly support the ongoing work by FAO, WHO, OIE, and other organizations to assess the evidence of antimicrobial resistance in food and agriculture systems and to assist Members to effectively combat antimicrobial resistance.

The Draft Resolution presents ways to strengthen national monitoring of antimicrobial systems and the use of antimicrobials in agriculture. The resolution emphasizes the regulation of the prescription and use of antimicrobial agents as well as complies with internationally acceptable standards. We welcome the opportunity for capacity-building, technology transfer, and sharing international scientific evidence for addressing antimicrobial substance in food, agriculture and the environment. We join others in the call for the prevention of the unnecessary use of antimicrobials in animal husbandry and aquaculture production systems and the need to phase out the use of antimicrobials as growth promoters.

The Africa Group welcomes the review of the conclusions of the 151<sup>st</sup> Session of the Council on AMR and supports the approval of the draft Resolution on AMR in food and agriculture.

**Mr Salah AL BAZZAZ (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)**

This statement is on behalf of the Near East Group. I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to the Secretariat for this excellent report on antimicrobials and use of antimicrobials in agriculture. We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Council as well as the Chair of the Committee and all those who have taken part in this very important deliberation on this crucial subject. We believe that effective and efficient use of antimicrobials is important.

It is important to ensure sustainable agriculture, animal husbandry, aquaculture, healthy food production. However, we do see that antimicrobial resistance is on the rise, and therefore we have to think very carefully about the practices that are adopted and ensure that the most effective and wise use is made of antimicrobials.

We would like to express the support of our group to the draft Resolution that has been submitted to our Conference. It is important to identify the most appropriate way to deal with this threat.

**Mr Joseph SAM SESAY (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)**

I would like to request the Secretariat to make clarifications on technical issues if necessary, while I will make two statements on the contributions so far. I want to make two statements concerning the contributions. We had at least 15 interventions from the floor on the report which were generally very supportive, complimentary and informative. Important enough contributors have areas to discuss by sharing their experiences and offering opportunities to FAO and other countries wishing to benefit from the programmes addressing the issues in our report.

I thank you for this and I also want to thank China for the specialty that you offered us. Oman has proposed to make some amendments to the Soil Charter. We are looking forward to this.

**Mr Ren WANG (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture and Consumer Protection Department)**

Thank you for your overwhelming support to the COAG report.

I would like to recall, as you all probably remember, that the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of COAG had a rather substantive agenda. We touched upon a number of important issues as reflected in the report and highlighted in a very concise way by His Honourable Minister, the Chairperson of COAG. I would like to quickly respond perhaps to a number of points that I noted.

There was an overall overwhelming support for the joint initiative of FAO and OIE, the Global PPR Control and Eradication Programme. I would like to express appreciation to all for your support, and especially appreciation to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire who hosted the Global Conference in April this year where the Director-General of FAO and the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, together with Director-General of OIE, and with participating Delegates and Ministers, launched formally that programme. That programme is indeed the joint initiative of FAO and OIE. We are already discussing and developing the establishment of a joint Secretariat for the implementation of this important global programme.

There was a very important note proposed by Latvia on behalf of the EU that FAO should consider developing guidelines for multi-stakeholder initiatives in the context of discussions on such multi-stakeholder initiatives as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock. That is an excellent suggestion. We have taken note of that. Thank you very much.

With regard to AMR, which now clearly is a very important issue, we very much appreciate the initiatives and efforts especially taken by the Independent Chair of the Council in facilitating a very important consensus to adopt the Draft Resolution for the Conference. Now that really puts FAO in a solid position aligned with WHO in the statement resolution passed by the World Health Assembly on that topic so that we can move forward along with Member Nations in our efforts in containing this risk of AMR. Very much appreciate your endorsement.

With regard to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock itself, we noted the advice that you have given us. We are working with the multi-stakeholders in putting it forward, especially in integrating it with a Global Livestock Alliance, another initiative, and other initiatives by the multi-stakeholders.

## CHAIRPERSON

This brings us to the end of this very fruitful discussion. May I read the summary conclusions just updated together with the Secretariat.

1. The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and in particular:
  - a) the emphasis placed on family farming;
  - b) the call for a greater role for FAO in trade facilitation programmes in close collaboration with relevant partners as an important means for supporting the delivery of FAO's Food Safety Strategy;
  - c) the call for support to the implementation of the *peste des petits ruminants*, global control, and Eradication Programme; and
  - d) the importance for Members to incorporate water governance for food security and sustainable agriculture in their national policies.
2. The Conference took note that the International Rice Commission had suspended all its activities and that a standing item on rice would be included on the agenda of the regular sessions of the Committee on Agriculture, when appropriate.
3. The Conference noted the status report on Antimicrobial Resistance, welcomed the inclusive and consultative preparatory process of the resolution, and adopted the resolution on antimicrobial resistance presented in Appendix B of document C 2015/28 Rev. 1.

This concludes this Agenda item.

***Item 12.4 Report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems  
(7-9 October 2014)***

***Point 12.4 Rapport de la soixante-dixième session du Comité des produits (7-9 octobre 2014)***

***Tema 12.4 Informe del 70.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos  
Básicos (7-9 de octubre de 2014)***

*(C 2015/22; C 2015/INF/6)*

## CHAIRPERSON

We now move to item 12.4, the *Report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems*, held in Rome from 7 to 9 October 2014.

Conference document is number C 2015/22. I am very pleased to invite the Chairperson of CCP, Her Excellency Ambassador Maria Laura Da Rocha from Brazil, to introduce the item.

### **Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)**

It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to present to you today the report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (CCP) held from 7 to 9 October 2014.

Out of 110 members of the Committee, 98 attended the session, with 14 represented by Ministers. In addition to this, 40 Members of the Organization, the Holy See, one UN organization, four specialized agencies, ten intergovernmental organizations and one NGO participated as observers. The agenda of the session contained four substantive agenda items as follows: State of World Agriculture Commodity Markets, policy developments, reform of the CCP and subsidiary bodies, international action on agriculture commodities.

The Committee's deliberations were supported by a number of documents prepared by the Secretariat. Three side events were organized during the session. A side event on bananas organized by the FAO Intergovernmental Group (IGG) on Bananas and Tropical Fruits, a side event on Pulse Markets organized by the International Pulse Trade and Industries Confederation, and a third side event on the role of smallholder and family farming in sustainable commodity development and global food security organized by the FAO and UNCTAD.

Furthermore, in conjunction with the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCP, a Ministerial meeting on the theme of Governance and International Commodity Markets was held on 6 October 2014. The Chair's summary of the Ministerial meeting is attached in the Appendix D to the report. I would like to note that the programme and budgetary matters arising from the CCP session were brought to the attention of the Council in December 2014. I have the honour to have been elected as the new Chair of the Committee last October. The other Members of the Bureau are Australia, Estonia, Gabon, Jordan, Malaysia and the United States of America. The reform of the CCP and its subsidiary bodies was a major item on the agenda.

The Committee approved further amendments to its Rules of Procedure. These mainly concerned the appointment of a first Vice-Chairperson for the Bureau, the rotation of the Chairpersonship among Regional Groups, and nominations for the office of Chairperson. The Committee also agreed to the following as regards the operation of International Commodity Groups, or IGGs:

The IGG on Tea should continue to meet on a regular basis. The IGG on Hard Fibers and the IGG on Jute, Kenaf and Allied Fibers should continue to hold regular joint meetings. In all the other IGGs, grains, rice, oil seeds, oils and fats, meat and dairy products, bananas and tropical fruits, and citrus, should only meet when required. In this regard, the Committee has mandated the Bureau to decide if and when a needed IGG meeting should be called. Furthermore, the Committee examined the results of the review of the Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal (CSSD) and has mandated the Bureau of the CCP through the creation of an Open-Ended Working Group to conduct the further required work on the CSSD and to present its recommendations to the 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the CCP in 2016.

I am pleased to report that a Working Group has been established and good progress has been made in this regard. The Working Group has met twice and approved its terms of reference and we will meet next week to continue the work. In addition to this deliberation on the further action on the CCP reform and from a governance and policy perspective, the Committee recognizes the importance of timely and good data for credible market review and assessment and for informed decisions and commended the important role played by FAO in providing up-to-date market information and assessment and in promoting market transparency.

The Committee recommended that the governments increase their efforts to enhance the quality and timeliness of data and ask them to improve the response rate and quality of the data provided through regular questionnaires issued by FAO.

It stressed the importance of medium-term market projections as an essential tool for policy debate and planning.

The Committee welcomed the OECD/FAO collaboration on the medium-term outlook as a successful partnership and encouraged the further strengthening of this partnership to better serve the FAO Membership, including collaboration with regional and national partners.

The Committee took note of FAO's technical assistance to cultural negotiations and agriculture and underlined the importance of agreeing on a post-Bali work programme as foreseen in the Bali Agreement.

It welcomed the progress made with regard to the implementation of the agriculture marketing information systems, AMIS, noting its high relevance to the work of the CCP and recognized the importance of the initiative as an innovation in governance and encouraged its further strengthening.

The Committee also took note that the International Rice Commission suspended its activities and operations and agreed that instead an item of rice be included in the agenda of the regular sessions of the CCP, when appropriate.

The report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems was endorsed by Council in December 2014. I am pleased to present it to you today for your kind endorsement.

In concluding, I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of the former CCP Bureau under the able leadership of Mr Eric Robinson of Canada, as well as for the continued support provided by the Secretariat.



**Mr Nthutang Khumoetsile Martin SELEKA (South Africa)**

South Africa wishes to thank the Chair of the Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets, Honourable Lassaad Lachaal, Minister for Agriculture of Tunisia and Chair of the 28<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Africa.

We wish to congratulate Mr Eric Robinson, the Representative of Canada, on his astute leadership of the proceedings of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems that met from 7 to 9 October 2014 in Rome.

The report of the Committee on Commodity Problems highlights significant market developments and short-term outlooks and updates on the World Trade Organization agricultural negotiations, the work of intergovernmental commodity groups, food stocks, and price volatility and import surges and special safeguard mechanisms.

These are important issues which affect our daily lives and may have a negative impact on food security at household and national levels. South Africa has also been in consent about the negative effects of food price volatility on poor households who have neither the capacity to produce nor to buy food.

In 2006, South Africa established international a food price money system as a response to striking an understanding on the underlying causes of unexplained high food prices that are detrimental to food security. The system monitors prices of selected food items, monthly and quarterly monitoring on food price, trends and patents. One of the core functions of the system is to alert government to food price increases in an unexplained and haphazard manner so that government can implement appropriate actions and measures, part of which are safety nets to cushion the poor against price increases.

The system has helped South Africa to address commodity problems. Furthermore, South Africa wishes to note the progress report on the agricultural market information system, AMIS, a positive, successful initiative to materially improve global agricultural data.

Chairperson and distinguished delegates, South Africa is encouraged by the commitment of the recent G20 Agricultural Ministers Meeting in Istanbul, on 7 and 8 May 2015, meant to strengthen market transparency through deeper and stronger collaboration.

South Africa calls upon FAO Member States to address commodity problems by increasing their efforts to timely disclose reliable and comparable data where possible for the purposes of addressing global agriculture and food security.

South Africa supports the endorsement of the report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems by the Conference.

**Ms Laurence ARGIMON-PISTRE (European Union)**

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

We endorse document C 2015/22 which offers a valuable summary of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, CCP. We are pleased to note that the session, in light of the ambitious agenda, had positive outcomes on a wide range of issues.

On major market developments and short-term outlook, the EU recalls that one of the objectives in the CCP Reform 2013 was to improve the market orientation of the agricultural sector.

We actively contribute to the OECD/FAO partnership and to the agricultural market information system, AMIS. Regarding AMIS, we note that improving the response rate and quality of data provided by governments appears to be of crucial importance. We encourage all to remain vigilant and to avoid trade-distorting measures such as import and export restrictions.

We call attention on CCP Members' agreement that attempts to use stock to stabilize prices had proved ineffective and costly. We recognize that emergency reserves can play a vital role in food security, in particular at the regional level. But the focus must be on the vulnerable populations.

The CCP has a crucial part to play in providing expertise and technical assistance. However, we also note that trade negotiations are the preserve of the WTO. It is important to recognize respective competence and avoid overlaps or confusion between the core mandates of FAO and WTO.

The Ministerial Meeting on Governance and International Commodity Markets organized back-to-back with the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCP brought a new impetus to a committee that should not only address problems but come forward with in-depth analysis.

In this respect, while the bureau should examine the name of the committee, we would like to recall our suggestion to change the name to Committee on Commodity Perspectives to reflect a more forward-looking approach

**Mr Raj RAJASEKAR (New Zealand)**

We broadly are in agreement with the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on Commodity Problems, but as I have just noted from the previous speaker, we also share some of the reservations expressed in relation in particular to the issue of import surges and special safeguard mechanisms.

We believe that while the underlying interest of taking the vulnerable sections to the population is a valued one, we do not believe that constraints on trade and normal trade patterns will necessarily achieve the benefits intended.

We also recognize that successive studies have proven that this is to be the case. So that is the only area where we do have some reservations, but otherwise we support the document.

**Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)**

I have taken the floor first of all to thank them for their nice work and definitely I must appreciate the new Chair. I always find her very smiling. On different occasions, I have seen how she is handling the sessions and everything, so I hope that this issue will be more active.

But, as well as the other colleagues, we would like to support the report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the CCP but there is just one thing we would like to mention. It was said that AMIS was a very good technological informational tool to have the information of the price of the product throughout the whole globe. That actually helps the countries, the regions and even the farmers to get the accurate information what is the price and the production level of the product in different places of the globe.

So we trust that the FAO will continue this AMIS marketing information to be more accurate so that we can benefit from it. And finally, we are endorsing the report.

**Ms Maria Laura DA ROCHA (Président du Comité des produits)**

Je n'ai rien d'autre à ajouter. Je voudrais simplement vous remercier pour vos contributions, dont nous allons prendre note pendant nos discussions au sein du Comité.

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

Thank you very much to Ambassador Da Rocha for her excellent summary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Member States, especially those who have spoken up but also to encourage all Members to report information to FAO on a timely basis.

AMIS functions well only with your full cooperation. If we get partial information, we can only report partially. So full and timely reporting is extremely important for the successful work of AMIS.

I am also happy to report that at the meeting at Istanbul of the G20, the appreciation for AMIS of the G20 members was very strongly expressed and that the work of AMIS is to be enhanced. In addition, it is important to note that there has been renewed commitment made to the work of AMIS and we in FAO providing the Secretariat for AMIS are very proud of the appreciation expressed by G20 members and I note that the first and second respondents from the floor besides the Chair of the CCP are all from G20 countries.

I would like to also emphasize that there has been, as you all know, a turn in the commodity price levels generally. Commodity prices rose in the previous decade until fairly recently and have generally trended downwards. Agricultural prices do not rise as much as mineral prices, but food prices generally trended upwards slightly more than agricultural prices more generally.

As South Africa has noted, there have been two concerns since around 2006 or 2007. One is on the question of price levels and secondly and related to that, the question of price volatility.

In recent FAO reports, particularly from the trade and commodities division, we have noted that there has been a decline of price levels and there has also been a significant decline of price volatility. Particularly I will draw your attention to the food outlook which we issued last month where we noted that the volatility seems to have declined.

However, I would like to emphasize that it is not very clear why volatility has declined. The price levels and volatility increased around the middle of the last decade for a number of reasons. There have been, as we all know, general constraints on resources and the environment relating to food production. But also there were two other very important developments around this time.

One was the biofuel mandates on both sides of the North Atlantic and these biofuel mandates had an effect in elevating the prices of certain foods, but also the substitutes for those foods as you would expect.

In addition, however, we also find the greater interest in viewing food commodities as a financial asset class, not only the spot prices for food but also futures and options became of interest to financial investors and investment managers.

As a consequence of this, we see not only the increased elevation but because of the availability of cheap credit both before as after the financial crisis of 2008, there has been an increase in both price levels as well as price volatility.

This has declined, however, after the food price spike, particularly after the highest moment of the spike in the first quarter of 2008. There were subsequent price spikes but not of the same intensity and it would be fair to say that the 2012 price increase was largely due to drought conditions, particularly in North America, rather than due to speculation.

Nonetheless, it is important to note that there are no safeguards at the international level to discourage a recurrence of such financial speculation if conditions permit, and it is important to recognize that there is very little strong evidence that the decline in volatility is due to either the effect of regulations despite some regulations being introduced at a national level in some countries, or due to the success of model speculation.

As you know, there have been very important civil society protests as well as moral leadership by the Pope and others on this question of speculation. Neither of them seems to have been particularly significant in determining the decline of volatility.

Therefore, this is something to note. I would also emphasize the question of the relationship with the WTO. The EU Ambassador is absolutely correct to note that many of these issues which are discussed, the negotiations particularly, are the exclusive preserve of the WTO. I am happy to report that the two Directors-General of the FAO and WTO have met and have agreed to collaborate while not compromising the integrity of either organization in their respective mandates.

Last Friday, 5 June, there was a symposium on trade and food security organized by the FAO, particularly by the trade and commodities division at the WTO in Geneva and this is reflective of the close collaboration which is developing while not compromising the integrity and mandates of either organization.

We look forward very much to continuing to work with our WTO colleagues in this respect. Thank you very much for your support for the Committee and we rely on your full cooperation to ensure timely reporting on prices in order to serve you and the international community better.

## CHAIRPERSON

I will now read the summary conclusions.

First, the Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems and in particular:

- a) welcomed the reform of the CCP and its subsidiary bodies with a view to improving the functioning and working arrangements;
- b) recognized the importance of timely and good data for informing decisions and commended FAO's role in providing up-to-date market information and assessment and in promoting market transparency;
- c) stressed the importance of medium-term commodity market projections as an essential tool for policy debate and planning. Welcomed the OECD/FAO collaboration on the medium-term outlook and encouraged the further strengthening of this partnership to better serve FAO's Membership;
- d) took note of FAO's technical assistance to countries on WTO negotiations on agriculture and underlined the importance of agreeing on a post-Bali work programme as foreseen in the Bali Agreement;
- e) welcomed the progress made with regard to the implementation of the agricultural market information system or AMIS, noting its high relevance to the work of the CCP, and recognized its importance as an innovation in commodity markets governance.

Secondly, furthermore, the Conference:

- a) recommended that governments increase their efforts to enhance the quality and timeliness of data and encourage them to improve the response rate and quality of the data provided through regular questionnaires issued by FAO; and, finally,
- b) took note that the International Rice Commission suspended its activities and operations and that a standing item on rice will be included in the agenda of the regular sessions of the CCP, when appropriate.

This concludes this item.

**Item 13. Reports of the 40<sup>th</sup> (7-11 October 2013) and 41<sup>st</sup> (13-18 October 2014) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security**

**Point 13. Rapports des quarantième (7-11 octobre 2013) et quarante et unième (13-18 octobre 2014) sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale**

**Tema 13. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 40.º (7-11 de octubre de 2013) y 41.º (13-18 de octubre de 2014) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial**

(C 2015/19; C 2015/20; C 2015/INF/6)

## CHAIRPERSON

We now move to CFS and specifically item 13, *Reports of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security* which were held respectively on 7-11 October 2013 and on 13-18 October 2014.

I would like to invite the CFS Chairperson, Ambassador Gerda Verburg of the Netherlands, to present the report.

**Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)**

It is a great honour for me to join you here today at the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference. As Chair of the Committee on World Food Security, I have the privilege of introducing the Report of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Sessions of CFS held in October 2013 and 2014.

Two very productive sessions in which the Reform of CFS confirmed its ability to deliver on the vision and roles in 2009. Thanks to its multi-stakeholder character and its evidence-base, it is indeed today the most inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to work together to ensure food security and nutrition for all.

One of the biggest achievements of these last two years was the endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, negotiated in an Open-Ended Working Group, chaired by Switzerland. These voluntary principles address all types of investments in agriculture and food systems. They provide a framework that all stakeholders can use when developing policies in public and private programmes at all levels. But I know that many of you are already very aware of the principles and working on implementing them in your national context as we heard at our kick-start event in March of this year. The Rome-based agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP, have also committed to working together with CFS stakeholders to promote more responsible investment that contributes to food security and nutrition.

At its last Plenary Sessions, the Committee also welcomed the progress made by the Open-Ended Working Group on a Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis, co-chaired by Kenya and the United States. Since CFS 41, negotiations on the third draft of the document have been successfully concluded and the framework will be presented to CFS 42 in October this year for endorsement.

The last CFS Plenary also marked ten years since the adoption in 2004 of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. CFS 41 gave members the opportunity to take stock and reflect on the progress achieved during this decade based on the presentation of national case studies from El Salvador, India and Jordan. The Committee acknowledged the contribution of the Guidelines to this progress and we affirmed its commitment to achieving the progressive realization of the right to food in the years to come.

CFS has continued its work to develop a framework for monitoring CFS decisions. The Open-Ended Working Group, chaired by Uganda, has agreed on a methodological proposal as a first step which included conducting a baseline opinion survey on CFS effectiveness, as well as voluntary more in-depth country level assessments. CFS has successfully completed the opinion survey on CFS effectiveness and will present its encouraging results to the next Plenary. It will also present the outcomes of the upcoming high level forum on connecting smallholders to markets.

Our High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE), under the able Chairmanship of Professor Per Pinstrup-Andersen, has continued to provide CFS stakeholders with excellent knowledge-based reports. These have informed negotiated policy recommendations on a number of key contentious issues: biofuels and food security; investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition; food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems; and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition. This report was already mentioned this afternoon when dealing with the COFI report. These multi-stakeholder evidence-based policy recommendations now inspire discussions at many Conferences at national, regional and international levels that should lead to concrete results. They are also cited in other international fora such as the G20.

This year, the policy round table will address Water for Food Security and Nutrition. For 2016, the HLPE has been tasked with a report on Sustainable Agriculture Developments for Food Security and Nutrition, including the role of livestock. And in 2017, it will work on Sustainable Forestry for Food Security and Nutrition.

Since the last FAO Conference, the Second International Conference on Nutrition, co-organized by FAO and WHO, also took place in Rome and made room for the participation of non-state actors. It issued a political declaration calling for CFS to contribute to the global effort to address malnutrition by supporting national and regional efforts as appropriate and enhancing international cooperation and development assistance to accelerate progress.

This year, the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group have been discussing possible roles for the CFS, and a session in the upcoming CFS 42 is dedicated to nutrition to offer Members and participants the opportunity of a global and inclusive discussion on how CFS can play its part and add value. Our outward success has also been supported by an internal evolution. Since the 38<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference, the CFS Secretariat has evolved to become truly interagency with a new full-time Secretary, Madam Deborah Fulton, and let me say thank you to Kostas Stamoulis who took this responsibility before he could hand over to Deborah Fulton. With the new full-time Secretary supported by and reporting to all

three Rome-based Agencies and the Secretariat composed of staff, seconded by FAO, IFAD and WFP, the strength of all three are effectively reflected in CFS work streams and outcomes. Moreover RBAs are not only supportive of CFS in Rome, they are also becoming increasingly engaged at regional and country level.

The recent Near East Regional Multi-Stakeholder Workshop organized in Amman last April, together with FAO and WFP, Near East Regional Offices welcomed more than 100 multi-stakeholder participants from 15 countries to discuss the follow-up at regional level of CFS Policy Recommendations on Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and Food Losses and Waste, while discussion on food security and nutrition in protracted crisis fed into the negotiations.

Since the 38<sup>th</sup> FAO Conference, the Committee has welcomed more members. Its civil society and private sector mechanisms have grown exponentially, and reports of the CFS High-Level Panel of Experts are praised globally. The work of CFS is now mentioned well beyond Rome, the global hub for food and agriculture. CFS is increasingly cited in New York as an example of an innovative, inclusive platform for all stakeholders to discuss food security and nutrition-related issues, and as a forum which could play an important role in the future in hosting constructive exchanges, sharing of success stories, and lessons learned at all levels, including in relation to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

CFS needs to be fit for purpose by playing a constructive role to support the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly but not limited to SDG 2 to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

CFS has been repeatedly cited in the report of the Secretary-General of the UN on Agricultural Development, Food Security and Nutrition of last August, and given as an example, the Secretary-General of the UN, Mr Ban Ki-moon, addressed the CFS and at that time he said “*yours is one of the best untold stories of modern development*”.

I truly congratulate all of you for this result, but I am convinced that this is only a start. The UN Committee on World Food Security has become more relevant than ever for sustainable development and to achieve by working all together the vision of Zero Hunger, sufficient nutrition and sustainable agriculture worldwide. Thank you very much for your attention and I am looking forward to a constructive discussion.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Since you have already acknowledged the previous and the current Secretary of CFS, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the current Vice-Chairperson, Mr Gustavo Infante of Argentina. And now it is my pleasure to open the discussion on this item for delegations wishing to take the floor.

#### **Mr Guy SUMMERS (Australia)**

Australia acknowledges the reports of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. We would like to encourage CFS to continue its current work in an endeavour to demonstrate clear results in reducing the number of people experiencing food insecurity. Also, the CFS has its real value as a multi-stakeholder body. Amongst these stakeholders, Australia would like to also recognize the value of the Private Sector Mechanism and its contribution to the work of the CFS.

#### **Mr Yoshihide ENDO (Japan)**

Firstly, ending hunger is our global goal as indicated in the SDGs. However, the latest estimates show that we still have 795 million suffering from chronic undernourishment. Japan expects the Committee to lead the discussion to eradicate global hunger, to implement the policy recommendations of CFS, and we also expect FAO to support countries' efforts.

Secondly, Japan welcomes the endorsement of the Principle for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems at the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of CFS. We expect FAO leadership for implementation of the Principle. Japan would like also to continue supporting its implementation.

Thirdly, food losses and waste were one of the themes of the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the CFS because they hamper the development and sustainable food value chains and we expect FAO to continue its efforts

in improving methods of measurement of food losses and waste and sharing experiences and lessons learned to reduce food losses and waste.

Lastly, collaboration among the international organizations is critical to combat global challenges such as ending hunger, promoting responsible investment and reducing food losses and waste. We encourage FAO to proactively collaborate with the relevant international organizations to avoid duplication and maximize its synergies.

**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, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

Five years after its reform, the Committee on World Food Security continues to show its value as the main inclusive global platform within the UN System for policy convergence on food security and nutrition issues. The last biennium has seen significant outcomes such as the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems which could not have been achieved without the commitment of all CFS stakeholders. The technical and financial support given by the Rome-based agencies has contributed to strengthening the CFS. We wish to highlight the work done by the Bureau and Advisory Group members, the Secretariat, as well as the CFS Chair, who is instrumental in driving the agenda of the CFS and enhancing its international exposure.

We value the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts. Since the Reform, it has provided the scientific evidence and independent expertise required for decision-making processes. On issues of food and nutrition security, linking research and policies is key. We fully endorse the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. They are a major achievement for food security at global level and the milestone for CFS as a multilateral, inclusive body. Ensuring the implementation of those Principles by all stakeholders is now fundamental to achieve the forecasted results. We are also committed to act with all stakeholders at regional, national and local level to address food losses and waste as well, whether there are sustainable fisheries and aquaculture considering its role in food security.

We are keen to see the CFS continue to play its key role in food security and nutrition. Progress in disseminating CFS products and conducting international outreach will be required. In this regard, we encourage all Member States to promote the recommendations and outcomes endorsed at the CFS in other international fora.

Furthermore, implementing CFS recommendations on the ground, both regionally and in countries, in particular by FAO members, assisted by the Rome-based Agencies, will be key. CFS needs to focus its work on value-added work streams in order to reach its full potential with a view to achieving better worldwide results on food security and nutrition. We call on all CFS stakeholders to renew their commitment towards a stronger CFS that can tackle the challenges ahead. More than five years after the CFS Reform, we feel it is time to take stock of successes, constraints and challenges. An independent evaluation of the functioning of the CFS is therefore called for in order to further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of CFS.

We take note with satisfaction of progress made in the last ten years in implementing the Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security and encourage CFS to continue its commitment to achieving the progressive realization of the right to food in the years to come.

Finally, we welcome the consensus reached on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis.

**Ms Abl OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

Sudan is speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. I would like to say that we call great importance to the work of the CFS Committee on World Food Security and we would like to see even more coordination between the work carried out by this Committee and the work that is being done at a regional and international level.

We consider it to be very important for this Committee's work to be made well-known and we would encourage states to submit their national reports in due time. We consider the two round tables that were dedicated to biofuels and to smallholders to be extremely valuable. Biofuels are very important. As we know, they are a clean source of energy, obviously. But unfortunately it also requires large surface areas of agricultural land, of crop land. And we know that certain crops may be used for the production of biofuel, but of course priority must be given to the agricultural sector, and this does not happen in every context. We know that multinationals are often investing and paying large sums to governments to ensure that large surface areas of agricultural fields are being used for these crops that go into the production of biofuel. That means that these countries are accepting to jeopardize their own food security. There are other technologies that would deserve to be explored at greater depths. Biofuels, for instance, are produced from agricultural waste or other waste, but of course this trend is an area of research. It has not been developed yet as much as it should be. Priority has oftentimes been given to biofuels produced from certain types of crops alone.

I would like to mention also the round table on investment in smallholdings, and we see the very important connection between food security and investment at this level. It is important, therefore, to review all measures and steps that can improve the situation of smallholders and in this way contribute to food security. There are a host of creative measures that can be envisaged and that can help deal with the issues of smallholders, including the need for adequate water resources.

I would like to comment now on some of the paragraphs that were included in the reports of this Committee. Regarding food and loss and waste, we would like to point out the fact that statistics tend to be inadequate and inaccurate. They do not cover, of course, all of the states of the world. We know that there are one billion people today roughly, people who are undernourished, and yet we see that affluent countries, rich countries, still have extremely high levels of food loss, agricultural waste. They often use three to four times the actual needs in food commodities. There also is a lack of processing capability in many countries and this means a good part of the crops which should meet food security needs may run the risk of being lost or wasted. So there are a whole range of activities in our regions that need to be explored to ensure that we are more effective in the use of food, of agricultural products.

It is also important to review the consumption patterns of countries. Of course, this is an issue for consumers. But this is very important to meet the agricultural challenges and in this way also contribute to reducing food waste.

I would like to refer to one of the greatest achievements relating to the Voluntary Guidelines. We know that population is growing. There will be an extra one billion human beings in the decades to come, and therefore there is a need to step up agricultural production. It will require investment and more investment needs to be responsible investment, responsible investment also in smallholdings and not only in larger agricultural businesses. Smallholders should be able to produce ways that are more sustainable, more resistant to climate change, more protected against adverse external conditions and in a position to produce the food that is needed. These are principles, however, that are of a voluntary nature, and I think that we need to have a more binding approach to investment in agriculture because here we are dealing with what is an essential human right, the right to food, the right also to environmental conservation, the right for smallholders to be able to have a sustainable livelihood through farming, and often agricultural investment does not take into sufficient concern the rights of farmers, the right to a livelihood, the right for them to earn their income from agriculture. We believe that there is a need for this Committee to be engaged in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and we support the Draft Recommendation on the two reports for the 40<sup>th</sup> and the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee of World Food Security.

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

We would like to thank the Chair of the CFS for her excellent presentation of the Committee's work. We endorse the reports of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the CFS. We note the consolidation of the Committee's work. The CFS is a leading negotiation platform for global dialogue on the eradication of hunger, food security and nutrition. We would like to highlight the significant outcomes in the CFS' standard-setting work in recent years. We welcome the adoption of the Principles for Responsible



Investment in Agriculture and Food Security during the 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the CFS. We also welcome the recent conclusion of negotiations on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crisis situations.

We believe that today the CFS has a substantial normative tool kit. That is why in the coming years we propose that CFS abstains from developing new legal instruments. Instead, it would make sense for CFS to focus on ensuring compliance with already adopted instruments and providing assistance to interested Member Nations.

We commend the High-Level Panel of Experts on their work as well as on the reports they have prepared during the reporting period. These reports concern investment in smallholder agriculture, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, food losses and waste, as well as water resources and food security. We welcome the proposal for the Committee to pay special attention to the issues of balanced nutrition and healthy diets.

With respect to the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the CFS, we would call the CFS to limit itself to two major work streams during the two-year period. This does not include the yearly reports of the High-Level Panel of Experts. These work streams, in our view, should reflect the main issues concerning development of the global agricultural sector as well as the challenges in providing global food security and nutrition. At the same time, we believe it is crucial for the CFS to keep within the framework defined in its terms of reference and not encroach on the jurisdiction of other specialized bodies in the UN system.

**Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)**

This statement is on behalf of the Latin American countries and the Caribbean. GRULAC welcomes the report and the outcomes of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Session of the CFS. In years following the reform in 2009, the CFS has become the leading international forum, a multi-stakeholder forum for food security and nutrition and has proven its stability to develop consensus and to focus on crucial themes for the eradication of hunger.

A participatory, inclusive model of the Committee is possibly its greatest value. It is recognized as a benchmark, as a point of reference in the United Nations system for the development of global effective policies gets hunger – it is important to listen to the voices of those who are actually suffering from hunger and involve them in democratic and transparent fora involving the most vulnerable populations, indigenous peoples, family farmers. They should be leading actors. They are promoting their own development.

The last sessions of the CFS in recent years have embraced a broad range of diversity of themes relating to food security and nutrition, issuing very practical recommendations for action that are evidence-based and informed by the debate.

The reports of the High-Level Panel of Experts on nutrition have been outstanding in terms of their scientific basis and their practical focus and have been a valuable contribution to the decisions taken by the Committee and have helped increase knowledge of global issues relating to food security and nutrition and that is why we welcome the report on the round tables also on biofuels, on investment in small-scale agriculture, on sustainable development, and also on food losses and waste. These are all crucial themes for our area.

The selected food security programme has set forward a number of practical methods and suggestions to avoid the loss now. A total of six percent of losses are due to food waste in 2013 and 2014. In the sessions, we would like to mention the relevance of the principle responsible investment in agriculture. Investment plays a crucial role in our fight to eliminate hunger.

Most of the undernourished people in the region depend on agriculture for their subsistence and therefore the policy decisions of the third summit of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), recognized the direct contribution of family agriculture to food security and sustainable development in achieving the target of a hunger-free area.

Responsible agriculture investment has a huge transformative power for a development model that is more sustainable, fairer and more inclusive. And therefore we welcome the adoption of the revised

Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition. This reference document has been updated. We welcome the adoption of the main guidelines and also this framework that is based on the reform of the CFS reflects its nature as a forum for negotiation and its important role at a regional and also a national level.

The Committee represents a very special opportunity for us to celebrate the adoption of the main guidelines on the right to adequate food, ten year celebration. The right to adequate food is really the basis of the achievements recorded in our region in ensuring the improvements that we have had and the decrease in malnourishment and under nourishment going down from 15 percent to 5 percent.

Nutrition has also changed the focus of traditional policies that are guaranteed on issuing the right to all in the access to adequate food and healthy food, respecting cultures of peoples and recognizing also the value of local crops and foods. We would encourage FAO to continue to pursue the right to adequate food at all different levels.

Finally, GRULAC would like to express its satisfaction concerning the support that has at all times been given by FAO to the Committee on Food Security. We would like to encourage FAO to continue to disseminate the outcome of the CFS work, make it available to all interested countries.

We commend the work, the outcome that we can achieve when we work together, sharing information, sharing also a common vision of a world without hunger.

**M. Francois PYTHOUD (Suisse)**

Nous remercions tout d'abord la Présidente du CSA, Madame Gerda Verburg, pour son rapport exhaustif et surtout enthousiaste sur les activités et résultats obtenus par le Comité ces deux dernières années. La Suisse se félicite en particulier de l'adoption des principes pour un investissement responsable dans l'agriculture et les systèmes alimentaires. C'est une étape importante pour l'incitation à des pratiques durables dans les secteurs concernés. Nous demandons à la FAO de contribuer à leur mise en œuvre rapide et conséquente.

**Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)**

Thanks to the Chair of the CFS for her report. Canada welcomes the reports of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the CFS and we applaud the Committee in its efforts to advance the number of CFS activities including the studies of the high-level panels of experts on the important governance work. We all want a strong and well-functioning CFS.

The endorsement of the principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems was also a great achievement for the global community. These principles will serve as a useful guide to strengthen and improve investments in agriculture in support of economic growth, sustainable agriculture and gender equality.

Canada looks forward to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of the CFS and engaging with our colleagues in a constructive manner and hopefully a very successful session.

**Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)**

Egypt supports the expanded role of the CFS in addressing the very important issues of food security and nutrition. We welcome the adoption of the principles which we believe is a very important step in enhancing investment in agriculture and, at the same time, addressing food security and nutrition issues, especially in developing countries.

We commend the CFS for the importance it gave to the evolving issue of food security in protracted crises. We welcome the consensus reached last month, allowing this issue.

Madame Chair, we believe that the work of the CFS should be flexible in responding to the changing needs and the changing threats that face developing countries in terms of food security and nutrition. This should also be customized when we deal with the needs of developing countries and LDCs.

We believe also that there is room for the CFS to follow up the implementation with its recommendations to ensure that these recommendations play a role in addressing food security and nutrition

**Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We would also like to thank FAO, the Secretariat, for the reports of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. We commend the CFS for the work they have carried out over the past two years as well as the outcomes.

The CFS has held roundtables on various issues regarding food security, investment in smallholder agriculture, food losses and waste in the context of food systems, sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and other important issues.

The report had a series of concrete recommendations that will serve as political guidelines for various stakeholders to carry out. We approve the principles of responsible investment in agriculture and food systems formulated by the CFS. We hope that these principles will play an important role in promoting investment in agriculture.

We also note the state of food insecurity 2014. We note that thanks to the efforts of stakeholders and governance over the past years, the amount of people suffering from hunger has decreased but food security remains a problem.

We are still confronted with serious challenges including the eradication of hunger. We call on international organizations such as FAO and CFS to encourage Member Nations to prioritize food security in the long term and to take action that is adapted to the local level and to sustainably strengthen world food systems in order to improve food security and nutrition.

**Ms Gerda VERBURG (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)**

Thank you for your contributions. I was listening, of course, very intensely, and I heard, let's say, five messages. First of all, the recognition of CFS in doing a good job in making progress as the most inclusive platform to deal with food- and agriculture-related topics. Thank you for that and I would say let us continue the good work.

The second message is that we need also to focus on the implementation of the outcome of let us say the principles but also the policy recommendations of round tables, the continuation of the voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure, the right to food, and later on, after endorsement, also the framework for action for food security in protracted crises.

And for the implementation, we need your support because we can only implement if there is also the readiness at local and national levels to work together in a multi-stakeholder way.

The third message I heard is the need to also build regional and, where it is so desired, national CFS structures. I think this was also underscored by the multi-stakeholder workshop held in Amman and by other meetings, that we really need to build a multi-stakeholder structure together with you, with you as regions and with you as countries, and with the support of FAO, WFP, and IFAD to build these regional structures in order to continue to bring the message further and to also later on or at the same time, build the national structures for implementation.

The fourth message I heard is the need to continue, as it was mentioned by Japan, the proactive collaboration. Let me here underscore once again the huge appreciation for the strength and support of FAO but also WFP and IFAD.

I think this is really a huge step forward, but I agree with each and all of you that have mentioned that it is necessary to build upon this, to make it more proactive, but at least to strengthen the collaboration both in the technical support of the Organization in the financial and staff support but also when it comes to implementation of the outcomes and results and products of CFS.

And fifth and last message I take from you is that CFS needs to focus and to provide added value to topics when it comes to the multi-stakeholder perspective, focus on these topics where CFS, because of its multi-stakeholder character, really can add value in order to improve situations on the short or

medium but also longer term when it comes to the topics of CFS, food security, nutrition, agriculture, and related topics. Thank you very much for the positive support and encounter of the report of CFS and, as proud CFS Chair, I would say I sincerely count on you when it comes to sustained support in the years to come.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We sincerely thank the proud Chairperson of CFS and I ask Secretary of CFS, Ms Deborah Fulton, if she wants to add something? If not, I will conclude this item by reading out my suggested summary conclusions.

First, the Conference:

- a) endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> Sessions of the Committee.
- b) endorsed the voluntary principles for responsible investment in agriculture and food systems which were recognized as a major achievement and encouraged FAO Members and all of the other stakeholders to contribute to their implementation.
- c) encouraged implementation by all CFS stakeholders of the policy recommendations on biofuels and food security, investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition, food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems, and sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition.
- d) welcomed the successful conclusion of the negotiations of the CFS framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises which will be submitted for endorsement at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Session of CFS in October 2015.
- e) supported the Committee's reaffirmation of commitments to achieving the progressive realization of the right to food in the years to come.
- f) supported the evolution of the role of CFS in UN global level nutrition governance and implementation of the outcomes of the second international conference on nutrition in coordination with other UN bodies.
- g) recognized the usefulness of a comprehensive evaluation of the work of CFS since its reform in 2009. And finally,
- h) invited all FAO members and CFS stakeholders to promote the CFS unique multi-stakeholder model, disseminate its products and support its outreach activities.

This concludes this item and the session of today. We resume tomorrow morning at 9:30. Thank you all for your very constructive participation.

Sorry. I have to reopen the session. Russian Federation has asked for the floor. I presume it is on the proposed conclusions. You have the floor.

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

First of all, we would like to fully endorse your summary, as well as the conclusions presented by Ms Verburg. We would be grateful if you include in your summary, in a positive way, the idea of the need for the CFS to limit itself to its terms of reference.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

To me it is self-evident that CFS limits itself to its terms of reference so I do not understand the point.

#### **Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

Probably the interpretation was not quite what I meant. Not to limit itself to its mandate but rather to operate within the sphere of competence or within its mandate. If it is possible for you to reflect that.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I think this will be a matter for the Drafting Committee. I think personally from the Chairperson's point of view, it is pretty clear that the CFS is a body which operates within its mandate so I do not see the need to put this in the final report. But the Drafting Committee will decide on this.

**Ms April COHEN (United States of America)**

We would like to request that your language and your summation on the right to food use the previously agreed language that is 'the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security'.

**CHAIRPERSON**

That is agreed.

**Ms Roberta Maria LIMA FERREIRA (Brazil)**

It is just that I think you were a little bit fast on your summary so we would also like to comment on some items. Firstly, I think it was maybe letter 'g', about the evaluation of the CFS. I think that it is contemplated in the Multi-Year Programme of Work and we do not have to highlight one of the activities to be carried out. If we want to do that, maybe we should mention many other activities that are foreseen for the next biennium which we think are equally important here.

On the comment made by our colleague from Russia, we also agree with your views that there is no need to. It is quite evident that the CFS must concentrate on its mandate given by its reform and the mandate that it is foreseen for the Committee. So we do not think there is a need to make reference to that in this decision.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Since the first speaker to support the concept of an evaluation was the European Union and since they are now requesting for the floor again, I would like to ask them if they are okay with not inserting any reference in these draft conclusions to the possibility of a comprehensive evaluation of CFS and also, of course, you can comment on the other topic.

**Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)**

To answer to your question, on behalf of the EU and its Member States, it is okay for us. We can take it up with the Bureau.

And secondly, we would like to ask to make some changes in wording about the subparagraph we mentioned. Instead of 'implementation', better 'fostering of implementation'.

**CHAIRPERSON**

It is fine to me.

**Sr. Gustavo INFANTE (Argentina)**

En el párrafo en el cuál se hacía una referencia a la gobernanza en nutrición y a la evolución del rol del CSA, por supuesto, nosotros compartimos el reconocimiento que se hace al CSA como una plataforma para la interacción de las múltiples partes interesadas, pero no sé si los términos en cuanto a la evolución y gobernanza son los más apropiados.

El comité está llevando a cabo una muy interesante consideración de la manera de que CSA puede contribuir al esquema de nutrición y entendemos que tiene un rol, pero no sé si esto es suficiente como para afirmar que hay una evolución ya decidida en ese carácter y no sé si esto alcanza al sistema de gobernanza de nutrición. En ese sentido, recordamos que la línea de trabajo está basada en los documentos que surgieron de la Segunda Sonferencia internacional sobre nutrición y es ahí donde se indica la posibilidad del rol que podría tener CSA.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Following up on Argentina's suggestion, may I read a new proposal for paragraph (f) on nutrition which I hope takes into account all of the comments I heard?

“Supported the role of CFS in nutrition and in fostering the implementation of the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition in coordination with other UN bodies”.

Is this acceptable to all? Thank you.

**Mr Guy SUMMERS (Australia)**

Thank you, Chair. I think you have addressed our concern.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If everybody agrees with my summary, I think the item and the session are closed. Thank you.

*The meeting rose at 19.28 hours*

*La séance est levée à 19 h 28*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 19.28*

# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thirty-ninth Session<br/>Trente-neuvième session<br/>39.º período de sesiones</b>                              |
| <b>Rome, 6-13 June 2015<br/>Rome, 6-13 juin 2015<br/>Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015</b>                              |
| <b>THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I<br/>TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I<br/>TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b> |
| <b>9 June 2015</b>                                                                                                |

The Third Meeting was opened at 09.43 hours  
Mr Luca Fratini,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 09 h 43  
sous la présidence de M. Luca Fratini,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunion a las 09.43  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luca Fratini,  
Presidente de la Comisión I





## CHAIRPERSON

Let us start the Session of this morning of Commission I.

Before we go into the agenda items for this morning, I have two announcements. The first one is an omission from my part when I mentioned the membership of the Drafting Committee. It is customary that the European Union delegation is also part of the Drafting Committee, alongside with European Union members. So the European Union delegation is also in the Drafting Committee.

The second announcement concerns one of the items we discussed yesterday, and specifically, the *Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture*. After the meeting, we have submitted the summary conclusions to the relevant technical departments of FAO and to the Secretariat, of course, and some new points were added to reflect the correct discussions and deliberations that we had during that agenda point. Therefore, I am now signalling to you that in the summary conclusions which will be sent to the Drafting Committee, there are three new sub-paragraphs.

I will re-read the whole conclusions, and please take note that the additional paras are (e), (f) and (g):

The Conference endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Report of the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture, and in particular (a) the emphasis placed on family farming; (b) the call for a greater role for FAO in trade facilitation programmes in close collaboration with relevant partners as an important means for supporting the delivery of FAO's strategy for enhancing food safety globally; (c) the call for support to the implementation of the *peste des petits ruminants* global control and Eradication Programme; (d) the importance for Members to incorporate water governance for food security and sustainable agriculture in their national policies; (e) the support to Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) as it contributes to cultural heritage, biological diversity and sustainable development; (f) the support to the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock, and noted the Agenda setup and governance, including coordination with other initiatives; and finally (g) the support to FAO's work on sustainable production intensification and sustainable food systems.

The final part of the conclusions remains the same, and then we have point 2, The Conference took note that the International Rice Commission suspended all its activities and that a standing item of rice would be included on the agenda of the regular sessions of the Committee of Agriculture, when appropriate.

We believe this reflects correctly the points raised yesterday. We are sorry for the omission, but as you might recall, the discussion was very rich with so many interventions, and I think now we have a more complete conclusion to send to the Drafting Committee.

My third announcement is that, in the Drafting Committee, Afghanistan is being replaced by Oman.

### **Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)**

We take note of your suggested amendments to the Draft Summary. Looking again at our notes of the discussion yesterday, we did feel that your summary of the item on the AMR Resolution missed out the several calls made by various Regional Groups around resourcing. And while I realize you may not want to reopen the issue now since you have already touched on the text, our preference would have been to include one sub-phrase in that summary which would have been: "the Conference noted the importance of appropriate core and voluntary financial resourcing for FAO's work in this area".

Of course, if you are willing to reopen it, subject to the views of colleagues here, we would very much like that to be reflected in the summary.

## CHAIRPERSON

Would you please repeat slowly the sentence that you are proposing?

### **Mr Neil BRISCOE (United Kingdom)**

I will read the sentence you presented yesterday followed by this addition. As I noted your summary,, you said: "the Conference noted the status report on antimicrobial resistance, welcomed the inclusive and consultative process...", and then we would suggest adding: "noted the importance of appropriate

core and voluntary financial resourcing for FAO's work", and then your final words "and adopted the decision in Appendix B".

**CHAIRPERSON**

I tend to believe that since we are calling for resources, this is a matter for Commission II. It is out of the mandate of this Commission, even if it is obviously very closely related to policy and substantive matters. So, with your indulgence, I would keep the conclusions as they were and as you very correctly read.

**Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)**

Likewise, we were quickly reviewing our notes of the discussion of the COAG agenda item yesterday and it occurred to us that much of the discussion surrounding the issue of GIAHS was circumscribed by the discussion of the use of voluntary resources to implement GIAHS-related activities. We just wanted to express that and ask if you could somehow contain that issue in your summary as well with regards to the support for GIAHS.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have the same feeling since we are talking about voluntary contributions. I am sorry I am responsible for this reopening of the conclusions of COAG, but this was for a very substantial reason that simply the Secretariat and myself could not correctly pick all the inputs.

We want to send to the Drafting Committee a report which is as close as possible to accuracy. If now we reopen every single sub-point of the conclusions, I am afraid we will be going on for a long time with this kind of debate. And, on the substance, I believe that any references to budget and contributions should not be part of our work which I read at least as directly related to policy and substance.

So, with your consent, I would stick to the updated conclusions that I read and refer to the work of the Drafting Committee which, of course, will be a very important one. But I think this reading is close to accuracy as far as the reflection of the discussions of yesterday.

**Item 20. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme**

**Point 20. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO**

**Tema 20. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO**

(C 2015/LIM/10-CL 150/12)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We will now move to our agenda for today which starts with item 20, *United Nations/FAO World Food Programme*. The reference document is C 2015/LIM/10 – CL 150/12.

I have the pleasure to give the floor to Mr Chris Kaye, Director of the Performance Management and Monitoring Division at WFP.

**Mr Chris KAYE (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, World Food Programme)**

It is a great pleasure to be given the opportunity to introduce the main elements of WFP's Annual Performance Reports. Both the Annual Performance Report for 2013 and more recently 2014 have been approved by the WFP Executive Board; the report for 2014 only a couple of weeks ago.

The 2013 Report before you was presented to the FAO Council in December 2014. As you are aware, based on the guidance of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, WFP has integrated reporting on the implementation of QCPR into its Annual Performance Report which began in earnest in 2013. Our Annual Performance Reports therefore will now integrate the reporting streams previously presented separately to FAO and ECOSOC.

The period from 2013 through to 2014 has been a very significant period of transition for WFP; a transition from the former to the current Strategic Plan. A plan which continued to chart the transition of WFP from an Organization focused on providing food aid to one that is very much now focused on

providing food assistance. The period has been tumultuous, also in terms of the demand for our services.

Over the past two years, our work has been shaped by the unprecedented needs to four Level 3 emergencies during 2013 which grew to six Level 3 emergencies in 2014. Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Philippines, Central African Republic, and countries affected by the Ebola crisis. This on top are protracted Level 2 emergencies of which there were six during the period. WFP has provided direct food support to approximately 80 million beneficiaries annually, assisted through the provision of food commodities, cash and voucher-based programmes. However, it is important to note that our assistance provides for more than those that we provide direct assistance to, as an increasing amount of our work provides benefits to those beyond receiving food or cash transfers; this in addition to the vital and growing work that we do to support the humanitarian community more broadly with our logistics and emergency telecom support.

As one would expect, the results included within our reports have demonstrated success in addressing the lifesaving needs of those caught up in emergencies, as well, to prepare communities for disasters and to restore livelihoods in post-crisis environments. It is largely due to the generous funding that we receive from our donors; 80 percent of which has been spent on addressing the needs of people affected by humanitarian crisis. We have also been able to demonstrate the value of our work in other areas though beyond emergencies, and notably, as a result of enhanced partnerships with national governments, this has been evident in our work to strengthen capacities for emergency preparedness, nutrition support, school feeding and community-based food security. This has positioned us well to advance in all areas related to the five pillars of the Zero Hunger Challenge set forth by the Secretary-General.

The Annual Performance Report embodies WFP's growing culture of and commitment to meaningful performance management. The Report for 2013 provides a summary of WFP's contribution to the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations System in achieving the MDGs and bolstering sustainable food security through interagency, multilateral and NGO partnerships.

We strive to provide detailed analysis supporting the measurements of performance by Strategic Objectives. In the past two years, we have made significant steps to strengthen analysis at the regional and global levels to more clearly assess performance at outcome level. This enhanced analysis provides insights about how progress was achieved and how to enable it further. The report has further linked output to outcome reporting to present a more complete theory of change and WFP's contribution to broader outcomes. Specific focus is also given in the report to collaborative work with the Rome-based agencies, including alignment of policies and plans with the Zero Hunger Challenge, an increased number of operational partnerships with FAO and IFAD, and WFP's commitment to supporting the Committee on World Food Security with regard to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the dialogue and advocacy with NGOs and private sector partners.

The work with RBAs forms a part of a broader approach to partnerships and coordination efforts by WFP to be the partner of choice for programmes addressing hunger. This has been framed by a new corporate partnership strategy which guides the development of partnerships at all level. In addition to the mentioned partnership for the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Committee on Food Security, WFP partners with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee members on implementation of the Transformative Agenda, as well as for preparations for the World Humanitarian Summit, and further, with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

The report also covers updates and progress in our continuing organizational strengthening efforts. Performance has been enhanced by a variety of initiatives originating from the commitment to make WFP truly fit for purpose and the commitment to enable our country officers to deliver to people in need of food assistance. This is reflected in the shift of focus to field operations and to support functions such as people, management, and business systems and processes. Under fit for purpose, WFP reached key objectives in organizational design, executive management and strategic planning.

As Members will acknowledge, the global humanitarian situation over the past two years has tested the full range of WFP's capacities. Indeed, the Organization last year particularly was fully stretched.

However, we have shown that through efforts taken to strengthen the Organization, we were able to respond effectively. Much of this is to do with the work put in place during the course of 2012 and 2013.

Key to our success has been the increasing use of cash and vouchers firstly. The use of cash and vouchers has provided flexibility and access not imaginable with traditional food aid. An example of this was the facilitation of rapid large-scale access to food in the Syrian emergency where markets were functioning. During the course of 2014, some 9 million people were provided with cash and voucher transfers.

Secondly, improved emergency preparedness measures introduced beginning in 2011 have enhanced WFP's preparedness for emergency response. An example of this is the emergency roster which includes provision for training of staff being deployed as first and second wave responders within three days of the declaration of a Level 3 emergency.

Thirdly, the development of a corridor-based supply chain and the use of Global Commodity Management Facility, formerly known as the Forward Purchase Facility, has given WFP much greater flexibility in matching changing demands for food with the supplies available. Fourthly, WFP's leadership of the logistics and emergency telecommunications cluster, and its co-leadership of the food security cluster with FAO, helped to provide significant support for the humanitarian actors responding to crisis. In the Ebola crisis, for example, WFP provided general support for the United Nations System in what was essentially a health emergency.

Finally, WFP's vulnerability analysis and mapping capability has been augmented over the last couple of years by a new mobile system using mobile telephones and other remote data collection approaches. Again, this was used to collect data where access was limited; for example, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, where Ebola infection risks were high. It has contributed to effective targeting and programme selection.

Finally, it is worth noting the report's alignment with the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review. In the narrative, we have documented progress in key areas of the QCPR, ranging from delivering as one, to gender, to South-South Cooperation. I will end my brief introduction to our Annual Performance Report at this point and will be very happy to respond to any questions Members may have.

**Mr Márcio José Alonso BEZERRA DOS SANTOS (Brazil)**

Brazil commends WFP for their results achieved in defeating hunger and malnutrition, not only by saving lives in emergency situations, but also by strengthening the capacities of countries through handover strategies and local purchase. The document that we have before us shows the importance of building resilience of local livelihoods in connecting smallholders to markets.

Brazil agrees with the view that local purchase helps support local production and reduced costs, resulting in more efficient delivery of assistance to beneficiaries. The pilot, for instance, enabled WFP to experiment with new ways of leveraging its purchase power to support agricultural market development in low-income countries. Africa is another initiative implemented by WFP in partnership with FAO that has demonstrated the benefits of strengthening local food systems, encouraging local procurements, supporting national policies and establishing social protection programmes. The lessons learned within both initiatives should be incorporated to WFP programmes.

Paragraphs 57 to 60 of this document mentioned important contributions of capacity development in South-South Cooperation to help governments to eliminate hunger. In this regard, Brazil hopes that the new WFP policy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation will leverage such initiatives even more in these organizations. WFP should take into account the methods and principles of South-South Cooperation, not only to leverage specific instruments, but also seek to integrate these methods and principles to regular mechanisms such as emergency operations, particular relief and recovery operations, and especially country programmes. This new policy currently points out that South-South Cooperation can contribute to enhance institutional and technical capacities at country and regional levels, promote local ownership, facilitate learning and innovation, and address specific development challenge of developing countries. With these brief comments, Brazil approves this Annual Report of WFP activities.

**Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (Egypt)**

Egypt welcomes the report and wants to highlight the following points.

We appreciate the new direction of the WFP and the change to input aid to food assistance. We commend the tremendous positive work of the WFP in Syria, Iraq and Yemen. We are also satisfied with the very positive role of WFP in defeating Ebola in Western Africa.

Secondly, we saw the number of hungry people may be decreasing. The WFP is facing unprecedented escalating challenges. The number of Level 3 crises has risen to five in addition to six Level 2 crises. This puts too much pressure on the Organization to fulfil its mandate and requires a greater support from the international community and from the donors.

Thirdly, we support the direction of the Management to better target beneficiaries from WFP assistance to ensure effectiveness of its programmes. We also welcome the increasing usage of cash and voucher transfer, which may not only have positive effect on beneficiaries but also in hosting communities. We encourage the Management to enhance its engagement with middle-income countries to respond to their changing needs. This can include providing technical assistance and capacity-building. We encourage the WFP to continue its role in assisting countries, especially in programmes like asset creation and the school-feeding programmes which have very tremendous positive effect on the food security of developing countries.

We welcome the recent approval of the WFP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policy. We recognize this policy as a way of increasing the role of developing countries in supporting the objectives of WFP. We believe that South-South Cooperation should be seen as complementary to North-South Cooperation.

**Ms Courtney Hood (Canada)**

Canada was pleased to approve this report at the 2013 Annual Session of the WFP Executive Board. We were also pleased to see the emphasis placed on reporting against the Strategic Objectives at the outcome level which was a significant improvement from previous years.

2013 was an extremely challenging year for humanitarian actors with simultaneous Level 3 crises. Through this Report, WFP demonstrated its ability to deliver in difficult contexts. And based on the programme's strong performance, we commend WFP for its commitment to reaching those in need.

**Mr Deepak Kumar (India)**

We welcome and endorse the report and commend the excellent work done by WFP in face of multiple Level 3 emergencies. Seldom has WFP been more relevant, never has it been more necessary. We are all proud of what WFP has achieved, but clearly the work is far from over. If anything, the world is turning more and more to WFP in these difficult times of multiple strife and disasters.

Welcoming and endorsing the report, we wish to place on record our appreciation for the wonderful work done by the WFP field staff in very trying and often dangerous situations.

**CHAIRPERSON**

If there are no other interventions from the floor, I give the floor back to Mr Kaye who will be very happy with the comments because I heard a lot of appreciation for WFP's work.

**Mr Chris Kaye (Director, Performance Management and Monitoring Division, World Food Programme)**

Of course, it is a real privilege to be here and receive those warm words of appreciation for our work. I particularly appreciate the words from India in recognizing the work of field staff who really do shoulder the burden of the challenges that we face.

I would like to recognize the appreciation of the new policy on South-South Cooperation, which will certainly chart new ways forward for the way that we operate.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will now read out the proposed summary conclusions for this item. The Conference: (a) endorsed the Annual Report of the World Food Programme Executive Board to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and FAO on its activities in 2013; (b) commended WFP on its efforts to address the emergency food assistance needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by the rising humanitarian crisis, and recognized WFP's work in the field; (c) commended WFP for its efforts to strengthen collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies, in particular with regard to the Post-2015 process, and its support to the Committee on World Food Security; (d) welcomed WFP's involvement in partnership and coordination efforts, its engagement with partners in the Zero Hunger Challenge and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

I hope this captures the feelings present in the room.

**Mr Márcio José Alonso BEZERRA DOS SANTOS (Brazil)**

We believe that at least three delegations and the Representative of WFP mentioned the importance of South-South Cooperation. We believe that it could be reflected into your summary.

**CHAIRPERSON**

We suggest the insertion of a sub-paragraph (e) "welcomes the commitment to support and strengthen South-South Cooperation". With this, the item is closed.

**Item 14. Progress on the Millennium Development Goals targets relevant to FAO/Post-2015 Development Agenda****Point 14. Progrès accomplis en ce qui concerne les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement sur les questions intéressant la FAO et le programme de développement pour l'après-2015****Tema 14. Progresos realizados con respecto a las metas de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio de interés para la FAO y a la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015**

(C 2015/36 Rev.2)

**CHAIRPERSON**

We are now on item 14, *Progress on the Millennium Development Goals targets relevant to FAO/Post-2015 Development Agenda*. I do not think I need to introduce Assistant Director-General Jomo Sundaram, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development. The reference document is C 2015/36 Rev.2.

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

Honourable Ministers, Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, friends all, as you know, the Millennium Development Goals, or the MDGs, broke new ground in setting development targets and indicators for countries to aspire to.

Following on from the 2000 Millennium Declaration, the eight goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators focused unprecedented collaboration among stakeholders in directing resources and actions to tackle poverty, hunger, as well as other development objectives.

The MDGs have promoted a culture of monitoring and accountability. They have guided development policy decision-making and helped to improve statistical capacity as well as data availability. FAO's contribution to the achievement of the MDGs at global and country levels has been chiefly related to MDG1, eradicate poverty and hunger, and MDG7, ensure environmental sustainability.

The Organization monitors four indicators related to these two goals and reports on progress at the global level. On MDG1, while the poverty target for MDG1(a) was met by 2010 according to the World Bank, FAO's annual hunger report, the State of Food Insecurity in the World (better known as SOFI) launched at the end of May this year, reported that the hunger target, MDG1(c), of reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger had been missed by a small margin.

However, we have to acknowledge that we have fallen far short of the 1996 World Food Summit Goal of halving the number of hungry by the year 2015. About 795 million people are undernourished today, down by 167 million over the past decade and 216 million lower than in 1991.

The rate in developing countries fell from 23.3 percent in 1991 to 12.9 percent in 2014. While a small majority of developing countries achieved the MDG hunger target, progress has been uneven across regions. On MDG7 for which FAO reports on three indicators, forest coverage, renewable water resource use, and the proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels, none successfully hit their targets.

The MDGs are due to run their course at the end of the year. Many lessons have been learned with broad agreement that the new set of goals should firstly be far more inclusive and participatory, driven and owned by the Member States themselves, and secondly, be more integrated, addressing interconnected challenges in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

The Sustainable Development Goals or SDGs as agreed by the UNGA General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) are the outcome of a long process of stocktaking, consultation and negotiation.

The proposed SDGs are ambitious, transformative and universally applicable to all countries. They reaffirm the eradication of poverty and hunger in leading overarching priorities while playing greater attention to protection of the planet and sustainable use and management of natural resources.

The framework offers a comprehensive vision for poverty eradication, a stand-alone goal for food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, SDG2, a goal inspired by the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge and informed through strong collaboration of the Rome-based agencies, and for the sustainable use and management of natural resources, *inter alia* SDGs 6, 12, 14, and 15.

FAO's perspective on sustainable development, the centrality of sustainable natural resource use for rural livelihoods, and the critical role of small-scale food producers as agents of change and managers of natural resources are all strongly reflected throughout the OWG report.

Equally importantly, the link between food security and the environment has been well recognized with targets covering the three dimensions of sustainability. The post-2015 process is still ongoing and a number of key decisions lie ahead.

The OWG report which proposes a larger number of 17 goals and 169 targets represents a formidable challenge, not least in terms of the capacity needed to collect the requisite data for the indicators which have still not been determined.

The Post-2015 Agenda will also outline key financial and non-financial means of implementation including measures to support enhanced trade, technology transfer and capacity-building. Crucial to finalizing the means of implementation and indeed to achieving a truly ambitious agenda will be the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which will take place in Addis Ababa from 13 to 16 July this year.

FAO has been fully engaged in the Financing for Development (FFD) process since its outset. As more than three quarters of the poor are to be found in the countryside, investing in rural people and the rural sector is considered necessary to eradicating poverty and to effectively addressing hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

As has been highlighted in recent SOFI reports, promoting sustainable agriculture and food systems and ensuring access to social protection will be critical to achieving zero hunger.

At the global level, there is an urgent need to boost financial resources dedicated to food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture as these are among the most cost-effective development interventions.

In 2011, the additional net global investment needs required to eliminate hunger by 2025 were estimated at slightly over USD 50 billion per annum. FAO is currently updating this estimate ahead of the Addis Ababa Financing Conference in July with 2030 as the new target year, consistent with the time horizon envisaged for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, the UN system will need to be ready to effectively support countries in implementing the new development framework. The UN System has already begun to review its working methods in the context of the UN's fit-for-purpose process through the ECOSOC dialogues and the Chief Executive's Board or CEB.

ECOSOC will convene an inclusive dialogue involving all actors and stakeholders on the longer-term positioning of the UN development system. A United Nations Development Group (UNDG) sustainable development working group has been formed to support accelerated achievement of the MDGs while also advancing preparations for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

FAO is in good shape in both regards. The internal strategic thinking process launched by the Director-General in January 2012 has improved the delivery and impact of the Organization's work by effectively translating normative work at the country level into ensuring country-level impact.

Policy frameworks and other products are established at fora such as FAO's technical committees and the Committee on World Food Security or CFS which have been operationalized through FAO's strategic framework and strategic objectives.

Country Programming Frameworks now respond better to the needs and priorities of countries and help mobilize and optimize capacities and capabilities. FAO's contribution to the post-2015 process has been guided by the new Strategic Objectives as well as the Zero Hunger Challenge.

The comprehensive vision of FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework is well reflected in the formulation of the SDGs and their related targets.

For all of these reasons, I believe that FAO is well placed to support countries in successfully implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, recognizing its position as a leading organization for food security and sustainable development in the UN System.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**Sr. Juan F. HOLGUIN (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 2015/36 Rev.2 referente a los progresos realizados con respecto a las metas de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio de interés para la FAO y a la agenda para el desarrollo después de 2015 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible. La declaración de los objetivos del milenio fue suscrita por 189 países en el año 2000 y constituyó un primer paso mundial en el camino del desarrollo humano.

La región de América Latina y el Caribe ha sido la primera en el mundo en alcanzar las dos metas internacionales de reducción del hambre. El porcentaje de subalimentación cayó al 5,5 por ciento y el número total a 34,3 millones, logrando de esta manera, tanto la meta de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio número uno, como la de la Cumbre mundial de la alimentación. Sin embargo, América Latina y el Caribe aspiran a mucho más y tienen un firme compromiso político con la erradicación del hambre, la pobreza y las desigualdades en la región. Los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio establecieron objetivos mínimos y el compromiso del CELAC es establecer objetivos sociales máximos, es decir, la erradicación total del hambre 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, realizada en Costa Rica, en enero de 2015 el plan de seguridad alimentaria, nutrición y erradicación del hambre 2025, cuya preparación fue encomendada a la FAO. Este plan busca potenciar todas las acciones regionales y ha fijado el año 2025 como límite para acabar con el hambre. De esta manera, la voluntad y compromiso político de América Latina y el Caribe se direcciona a través de mecanismos efectivos para lograr este objetivo sobre la base de un enfoque de derechos humanos.

La Comunidad de estados latinoamericanos y caribeños reconocemos progresos alcanzados a nivel internacional con respecto a los ODM, sin embargo, estos son desiguales e insuficientes para alcanzar la erradicación del hambre y la pobreza. Queremos recordar que el documento final de la Conferencia



de las Naciones Unidas sobre desarrollo sostenible RIO+20 cita que “el futuro que queremos, reconoce que la erradicación de la pobreza constituye el mayor problema que afronta el mundo en la actualidad y es una condición indispensable del desarrollo sostenible”. Consideramos que la Agenda de Desarrollo post 2015 debe ser basada y orientada por un enfoque integrado y balanceado de las dimensiones económica, social y ambiental del desarrollo sostenible.

La región de América Latina y el Caribe resalta el rol central de los Estados en la formulación e implementación de un nuevo marco para el desarrollo y destaca la importancia de un esfuerzo intergubernamental fuerte e integral para construir una agenda de desarrollo 2015 transformativa y universalmente aplicable que permita superar las brechas de desarrollo existentes. Además, en el contexto internacional, deben tomarse en consideración las diferentes visiones, enfoques, modelos y herramientas para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible, además de las etapas de desarrollo, prioridades, circunstancias, y capacidades de los países en vías de desarrollo, los países de renta media y los pequeños estados insulares conjuntamente con la naturaleza multidimensional de la pobreza. Igualmente, el financiamiento para el desarrollo es crucial para alcanzar el objetivo de desarrollo sostenible.

En este sentido, la Tercera Conferencia sobre Financiamiento para el Desarrollo que se llevará a cabo en Adís Abeba, Etiopía del 13 al 16 de julio de 2015, está llamada a constituir un elemento central en la Agenda de Desarrollo post 2015.

Finalmente, será muy importante el rol del organismo de Naciones Unidas para apoyar la implementación del nuevo marco para el desarrollo. En ese sentido, el papel de la FAO es fundamental para prestar el apoyo técnico a países en la adaptación y aplicación de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible a escala nacional y regional, para lo cual el reforzamiento de la capacidad de las oficinas descentralizadas será un elemento importante, sobre la base de los marcos de programación por países y las iniciativas regionales.

**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, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We would like to thank FAO for the update in global progress towards those Millennium Development Goals that are relevant to the mandate of FAO and for setting out the links between these MDGs and the expected upcoming SDGs.

While 72 developing countries out of the 129 monitored have reached the MDG1 hunger target, we still have a long way to go. This is especially important as part of the purpose of the SDGs is to complete the job of the MDGs in tackling malnutrition and ending hunger and extreme poverty by promoting sustainable food systems.

The Open Working Group report on Sustainable Development Goals is the main basis for the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations leading to the adoption of the September Summit final document. At this stage, in the context of FAO, a discussion on the implementation of the SDGs can therefore only be tentative.

The same applies to the guidance that can be given to FAO as regards implementation of the new development agenda and the SDGs. However, preparatory work, particularly in terms of data collection, is important and we encourage FAO to continue its collaboration with IFAD and WFP.

Once the Post-2015 Agenda will be finally adopted, there will be no time to lose. While discussing the final document and preparing for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we consider that the Post-2015 Agenda has to be negotiated and agreed, taking into account a number of guiding principles including the rights-based approach.

The daunting tasks ahead of us to address all interconnected challenges require optimizing all synergies and partnerships. Therefore, in the specific setting of Rome, we call for close and coordinated collaboration between FAO, WFP and IFAD in the implementation of the Post-2015

Agenda in the areas of their mandate, particularly food security, nutrition, agriculture, rural poverty reduction and sustainable resource management.

We firmly encourage, as soon as the Post-2015 Agenda will be agreed, further strengthening collaboration between UN Agencies and other relevant organizations including the private sector and civil society to maximize synergies and successfully face challenges.

**Mr Khaled Mohamed EL TAWHEEL (Egypt)**

Thank you, Mr Sundaram, for that very good presentation. Egypt welcomes the Progress Report on MDGs Relevant to FAO and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. We acknowledge the significant role of FAO in contributing to the achievement of the MDGs at global and country levels; in particular, MDG1(c) of reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

We commend the contribution of FAO and the Rome-based Agencies to the new formulation of the Post-2015 Agenda. Having said that, we want to highlight that the Post-2015 Development Agenda should build on the MDGs in a way that fulfils the remaining unmet goals specifically, and tackles the global development goals in general.

We also want to stress the coherence between the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which will take place in Addis Ababa in July 2015.

Finally, we refer to paragraph 10 of this report and we acknowledge that the world is facing interconnected changes, but we also stress that when responding to global changes to take into account the common and shared responsibilities of Member Nations respecting national policies and priorities.

**Mr Antonio Otávio SA RICARTE (Brazil)**

First of all, Brazil associates itself with the statement delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the community of Latin American and Caribbean states, but we would like to add some remarks in our national capacity. Firstly, we fully recognize the important contribution of FAO to the progress achieved globally on the Millennium Development Goals relevant to the Organization, particularly on MDG1. FAO has been playing a central role in the fight against hunger, not only in accordance with Strategic Objective 1 of the Organization, but also through the other Strategic Objectives, thus contributing to an integrated approach on policies and impacts on food and nutrition security. Brazil has not only met the MDG1(c) target, we have also achieved the more ambitious World Food Summit target ahead of the deadline. With a strong political commitment, adequate financial resources and integrated public policies, Brazil has reduced the prevalence of hunger from nearly 15 percent in 1990 to less than 2 percent today; a reduction of more than 80 percent. Therefore, we appreciate the recognition by FAO of our sustained efforts over the last decades.

Brazil is no longer in the Hunger Map, as was stated by our Minister for Social Development: “We have the first generation of children adequately fed and attending school who will not follow the trajectory of their parents”. Nonetheless, at the global level, MDG1(c) was not met, and we are still far from the World Summit target. MDGs are unfinished business and we must step up our efforts to ensure that every person realizes his or her right to adequate food. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should renew our efforts collectively towards poverty eradication by achieving sustainable development in all its dimensions. The 17 Draft Sustainable Development Goals and the 169 targets reflect the universal nature of the new development agenda on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To translate these commitments into results, means of implementation of the Agenda must encompass not only financing but also a technology-facilitation mechanism and increased capacity-building.

One of the saddest lessons learned from the MDGs’ experience is that Goal 8 on the Global Partnership to Development is the most off track. Preliminary calculations have indicated that the gap in Official Development Assistance from 2002 to 2013 amounts to almost USD 2 trillion. We need to mobilize further financing. Means of implementation cannot be left behind in the Post-2015 Development Agenda scenario.

The High-Level Political Forum is the main platform to follow up and review the progress on implementation of our collective commitments at the global level in accordance with the Rio+20 Conference and subsequent mandates. The Forum allows for greater exchange of policy knowledge and mobilization of international support for building capacities, disseminating technologies, and channelling financial and non-financial resources to developing countries. FAO is well-positioned to respond to the challenges of the Post-2015 Development Agenda since the Strategic Objectives of the Organization already reflect a comprehensive vision and integrated approach to eradicate hunger and poverty.

The linkage of food and nutrition security, agriculture, biodiversity and the environment, can be further explored by FAO to contribute to the achievement of SDG2 as well as to other goals such as Goals 10, 12, 14 and 15. Although recognizing the primary responsibility of states on the implementation revealed at national level, FAO has a central role to play in supporting countries to build country-owned priorities and programmes and to monitor global progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. The decentralization process has enhanced the capacity of FAO to further provide technical support at regional and country level, especially to strengthen national policies and institutions and their capacity to collect data and produce statistical analysis. In this sense, we urge FAO to extend its full support to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

**Mr John TUMINARO (United States of America)**

Our thanks also to the FAO Secretariat for this very good presentation. The United States supports a dedicated goal in the Post-2015 Agenda that addresses hunger, nutrition and food security, which we believe reflects the multiple dimensions of the challenge to end hunger and eliminate extreme poverty. We are committed to promoting inclusive country-led agricultural-focused growth because it is proven to be an effective way to fight extreme poverty and hunger. FAO will clearly be an important contributor to achieving this growth.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda must also clearly recognize the critical role of nutrition, another issue in which FAO will be a key stakeholder. Good nutrition, particularly in the critical thousand days from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, contributes to economic growth and poverty reduction by helping to produce a robust, capable workforce. In addition, the United States supports a dedicated goal to healthy oceans and seas.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda represents a significant opportunity to strengthen the commitment of nations in addressing the serious challenges facing the ocean, particularly those related to problems of sustainable fisheries, marine pollution and ocean acidification. Healthy, productive and resilient oceans and coasts are critical for poverty eradication, access to safe and nutritious food, livelihoods, economic development and essential ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration. FAO will be an important contributor to implementing an oceans goal as well.

In conclusion, the United States wants to note that even though much of the world's attention will be focused on the formal negotiation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September, all stakeholders should continue to work to achieve the Millennium Development Goals as well.

**Ms Nina MOSSEBY (Norway)**

The year 2015 is indeed the target year for the Millennium Development Goals, a guiding Development Agenda for the last 15 years. And, as we are fully aware, the Development Framework Post-2015 will be a more comprehensive one encompassing all dimensions of sustainable development.

Chair, Norway is happy to note the progress made against the MDGs as reported in the document before us. FAO has made important contributions to the achievement of the MDGs globally and nationally. However, this report shows that although great progress has been achieved in parts of the world, the number of hungry and undernourished is still unacceptably high at around 800 million people. Children suffer from hunger and stunting, a fact that underlines why the SDGs and the broader development agenda, including food and nutrition security, makes good sense. We have to make sure that children grow up. They are, after all, the future in themselves.

The report also shows clearly how FAO has had at least two important roles in the follow up to the MDGs. On the one hand, the Organization has monitored the development in hunger and food security, providing us with a food picture. The overall figure of 800 million hungry on the global scale is enhanced and nuanced by FAO's reports and analysis of regional differences. However, equally important is the important technical assistance provided by FAO to countries needing it in the follow up to the MDGs.

Chair, on that note, my delegation wishes to underline three points on which FAO should base its follow up to the SDGs. Firstly, the new framework of Sustainable Development Goals must be a reference, an integral part of FAO's work in the years to come. Maybe even more so than what is the case with the MDGs. Secondly, FAO must prioritize the countries, regions that are in most need of assistance when setting up technical assistance at country level. Finally, it is important, as other delegations also have pointed out, that FAO cooperate actively with other organizations, first of all WFP and IFAD, but also the rest of the UN System. You should build upon the good cooperation leading up to the new strategies in which the three Rome-based Agencies cooperated actively to provide input to the negotiations in New York.

**Mr Deepak KUMAR (India)**

We are, as the whole world is, looking forward to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Being Membership-driven and determined, we earnestly hope the SDGs inspire Member Nations to work with all earnestness for ending hunger and ensuring nutrition for all humanity within this generation. Notwithstanding the adoption of SDGs, we feel greater mobilization and improvement in the location of resources for sustainable development across all relevant areas remain crucial. This must be made part and parcel of an effective framework for development cooperation for gender sufficient financing for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Furthermore, a universal Sustainable Development Agenda with transformative ambitions present unprecedented requirements to all UN bodies, including FAO. The UN Secretary-General's Synthesis Report rightly stated that the international community at large needs to be made fit for purpose. We have seen this transformative process take place in FAO over the last couple of years and are confident that FAO will not be found wanting in effectively spearheading the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

Before I conclude, my delegation would like to request that the progress report on FAO's work and the achievement of SDGs be made a standing item over the next couple of conferences to enable analysis and a fruitful discussion on SDGs and FAO's role therein every two years.

**Mr Francois PYTHOUD (Switzerland)**

Switzerland notes with satisfaction that the first target of MDG1 has been achieved on the global level. There are efforts needed to assist regions which lag behind. Switzerland is committed to support these efforts.

With regard to the third MDG1 target, the reduction by half of the proportion of people still suffering from hunger, we urge concerted and sustained commitment. As the document points out, an integrated approach for action is required. We are convinced that the new global framework for Sustainable Development will be instrumental in this regard.

Switzerland supports the new global framework of Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Other than the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals will be more comprehensive and universally applicable to all countries. The universality of the SDGs will have implications on the role of UN Agencies. We invite FAO to give due regard to these implications.

It will now be important to prepare the implementation of the SDGs that are relevant to sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition. FAO is well-positioned and has a key role to play in close cooperation with other Rome-based Agencies. We are also convinced that the new goals will only be achieved by including all stakeholders concerned. The instruments of multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as the Global Agenda for Sustainable Livestock or the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart

Agriculture, might become more important in the future. FAO plays an important role in such initiatives as members and as a facilitation unit to help manage these initiatives.

Switzerland recognizes and appreciates the engagement of FAO and encourages FAO to continue to engage while being clearer about the distinctive role the Organization has.

**Ms Liping SHEN (China) (Original language Chinese)**

We would like to thank the Secretariat for its report as well as the presentation. For many years now, FAO has been undertaking a good deal of work, focusing on helping its Members to achieve the goals, particularly the elimination of poverty and the achievement of food security. At this time, 72 countries have achieved the MDG1, and 29 have achieved the World Food Summit Goal, which is certainly one of the highest level goals. However, despite all these achievements, it seems that the eradication of hunger remains for many a real challenge.

Since 2012, the UN has launched a Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the Chinese delegation welcomes the work that has been done by FAO in the consultation and development of this Agenda. Recently, we provided a technical paper on this subject to the three Rome-based Agencies. We would like to call on all parties to further emphasize food security in ongoing consultations related to the Agenda and to see if it will be possible to increase productivity and promote agricultural development in developing countries so as to ensure the eradication of hunger.

**Ms Courtney HOOD (Canada)**

Thank you to FAO for this update. Canada welcomes the contribution of FAO to the development of a new set of Sustainable Development Goals, in particular on the development of targets and indicators on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. In integrating the new elements of the SDGs, FAO should maintain momentum on completing the unfinished business of the MDGs.

Canada believes the international development community needs to devote attention to leveraging private financial flows and developing innovative financial mechanisms to help implement this Agenda. We also favour a follow-up and review mechanism for Post-2015 that maximizes the use of existing processes, particularly those within the UN System. These processes will need to be adapted but without creating additional burden or bureaucracy.

**Mr Kirill ANTYUKHIN (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)**

We would like to thank the Secretariat for having presented this document under this item of the agenda and their oral presentation. We certainly give high marks to the progress made in achieving the MDGs, especially MDGs 1 and 7, and for globalizing the global efforts in this regard.

However, there are varying results among countries. We believe that within the Post-2015 Agenda, strategic guidelines will be determined for coordination of efforts during that period. We would like to indeed commend FAO's contributions to the development of this Agenda. We especially believe that it is important to take into account such themes as food security, nutrition, agriculture, improvement of welfare in rural areas, and here we would like to indeed commend what the Open Working Group of the United Nations have said on the SDGs in this regard and what they have set down for individual targets. We believe that we will have a good possibility to monitor progress made towards the goals and targets.

**Ms Monica ALLAMI (Australia)**

Australia appreciates FAO's role in supporting the Millennium Development Goals. Its monitoring of the number of food insecure has allowed the global community to monitor progress and target aid investments. Australia believes that FAO has a critical role in monitoring progress towards goals and targets relating to agriculture and food security, including through the annual State of Food Insecurity Report and in areas such as agriculture investment, productivity, crop diversity and food loss and waste. Australia will continue to prioritise our efforts in the Asia and the Pacific Region, home to 527 million people still experiencing hunger.

**Mr Winny Dian WIBAWA (Indonesia)**

Indonesia would like to express our sincere gratitude to FAO for its recognition on the notable and outstanding progress in the fight against hunger reached by 38 countries worldwide. We noticed that the Millennium Development Goals, or MDGs, agreed by world leaders over a decade ago, have achieved important results ahead of the deadline. Indonesia is grateful for its achievement in accomplishing the first target of the MDGs two years prior to the target in 2015.

We believe this achievement was due to shared commitment and the remarkable efforts of all stakeholders, including government at all levels, the United Nations family, the private sector and civil society. The success in achieving the MDGs, especially in Indonesia, were really all about the achievement of good governance, achievements at all levels of society, and the implementation of the Comprehensive Approach to Achieving Proper Growth in public offices along with coordination among stakeholders, improved allocation of resources, decentralized approaches to reducing disparities and empowering people in all parts of Indonesia. Indonesia showed significant progress in poverty reduction and this is in line with the MDGs as indicated by the decreasing proportion of the population living below the national poverty line, from 15.1 percent in 1990 to 11.6 percent in 2012.

Indonesia is of the view that a new global partnership is the basis for a single Post-2015 Agenda to report our efforts to end poverty through sustainable development within our generation.

**Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (Pakistan)**

We thank the Secretariat for this document and for the excellent presentation by Mr Sundaram. The MDGs framework helped to galvanize development efforts and guide global and national development priorities. Important progress has been achieved across all goals with some targets already having been met well ahead of the 2015 deadline.

However, despite significant efforts by countries, international organizations and development agencies, the overall achievement of the goals has been inadequate. Even for the goals that have been achieved, progress across countries has remained uneven. Much more needs to be done, for instance to address hunger, reduce chronic undernutrition among young children, reduce child mortality and improve access to sanitation.

Inadequacy of resources has been one of the causes for the sub-optimal performance of the MDGs. Therefore this time around it will be important to ensure that the United Nations and other agencies generate resources commensurate with intergovernmental mandates related to development.

In addition, there is a need for broad partnerships including with civil society and the private sector to achieve our goals.

FAO has made an important contribution in progress towards eradicating hunger and undernutrition. It has, along with other Rome-based and other UN agencies, played an important role in the development of the SDGs framework.

FAO's role will be vital in assisting countries in implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, for ensuring food security and nutrition, eradicating extreme poverty, as well as for addressing the challenge of climate change.

These multiple challenges require action-oriented programmes and monitoring by FAO in coordination with other UN agencies.

**Ms Akiko NAKANO (Japan)**

The government of Japan reviewed the progress on the Millennium Development Goals relevant to FAO's role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We would like to raise the contribution of the Organization in achieving MDGs at global and country levels and we thank Mr Sundaram for his excellent leadership.

We are taking this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all of the efforts exerted. We would like to lend our voice to the importance of deepening further partnership with other relevant

organizations of the United Nations as well as fostering cooperation between multiple actors across relevant areas and sectors.

Through each, we believe the Organization could take an advanced approach in an efficient manner to ensure successful implementation of MDG targets at national, sub-regional and regional levels.

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

Thank you very much for your excellent comments and guidance provided. I would like to emphasize the importance of your guidance, including your reminder that after the end of this year, we should not forget about the MDGs. There is still much left to be done on the MDGs and that guidance and reminders are very much appreciated.

I would like to particularly emphasize that the work of FAO in the Reviewed Strategic Framework is fully consistent with the SDGs as they have been elaborated so far. For example, the work on social protection is consistent with SDG1.3 which makes a specific reference to the importance of social protection.

I also want to emphasize that the work of the Organization is to be found in the vast majority of the SDGs. Many of you have highlighted specific SDGs where FAO's work is particularly prominent, but it is important to recognize that out of the 17 SDGs, probably the work of the Organization is to be found in about 14 of them. This means that our reporting responsibilities as proposed by India will be fairly considerable and significant.

The second point I would like to make in these concluding remarks is to thank you all for your support in ensuring that your representatives in New York ensured that almost all FAO priorities were well reflected in the SDGs. This would not have been achieved by FAO or even by the Rome-based agencies alone. Your support, your articulation of these priorities has made this possible and it will be very important for you to continue to articulate that.

When the SDGs are approved in September, and I do not believe there is going to be any doubt that they are going to be approved, there will still be much work to be done. The work on the indicators is not expected to be completed until the first quarter of next year when the UN Statistics Commission will meet to approve the indicators for the SDGs.

So your guidance will be extremely important and your ongoing involvement will be extremely important. As you know, there have been 17 goals and 169 targets. If you assume that there will be one indicator per target, this means that there will be tremendous amounts of monitoring to be done.

The UN system currently does not have the resources to do that kind of thorough monitoring of every single indicator which is now under discussion.

For your information, there have been over a thousand indicators proposed and now the shortened list is somewhere in the region of about 314 indicators.

The rough rule of thumb has been to suggest two indicators per target. This is still tremendous, and even if that is reduced to one indicator per target or even less, we will be talking about 120 indicators, which is still three times as many as measured during the MDG process.

Besides the resources involved, this will also mean that some of the major priorities of the international community may get diluted, or may get lost. The attention to poverty and hunger will get lost in many of these with so many indicators being monitored.

So your continued guidance on the process of determining the indicators, how the indicators are to be reported upon, the adequacy of resources for effective reporting of indicators is crucial. A rough estimate of financing of the proposed number of indicators suggested that the existing total aid budget would be inadequate.

So I think it is very important how we proceed in these last couple of laps. The first lap, which will be completed in the next few months, is what is called the means of implementation of which financing is very significant but not the only part.

Questions of technology and access to technology and a variety of other issues will also figure importantly in the discussion on means of implementation. That is still to be completed, so your guidance, your continued engagement in the discussion on the means of implementation, which should be completed before September this year, and the subsequent ongoing discussion on indicators, will be very crucial to ensure that the SDG process is a very useful, robust and feasible process which will bring us closer to realizing our development targets.

As all of you participated in the Second International Conference on Nutrition at the end of last year, the last point I would like to take advantage of at this meeting is to inform you that we had a very good outcome from that.

The General Assembly has recently welcomed the Declaration as well as the Framework for Action, but is silent on follow-up actions. This discussion has probably been postponed to October this year after the adoption of the SDGs.

How much progress we make on nutrition will depend very crucially again on your support in this follow up process and of course through colleagues informing counterparts in Geneva and in New York of the need to make progress.

We have looked very carefully at existing work. For example, USAID announced in 2014 a multi-sectorial nutrition strategy for the period 2014-25. That nicely coincides with the proposed decade for action on nutrition.

And so, in this way, we find that much of the existing work that is going on in nutrition can all come together. It is important to recognize that progress on nutrition depends very crucially on progress in a number of sectors, not just ensuring there is enough food. Much of the progress on nutrition has been hampered by lack of progress, for example, on sanitation which is responsible for the incidence of gastrointestinal diseases.

So I want to thank you all for your guidance. I want to thank you all for your active support in New York and to remind you of the ongoing challenges ahead.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

Thank you, Dr Sundaram. With these concluding remarks, I can read out the summary conclusions after this very rich discussion.

Before I read, I wish to make clear that the conclusions will be influenced by the fact that we are working three months before the actual SDGs come out.

The Conference: (a) welcomed the report presenting the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular MDG1(c) describing the process leading to the crafting of the new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and discussing issues related to the implementation of the new development agenda;

(b) called for greater efforts to achieve the MDGs globally and recognized FAO's support to Members' primary responsibility in this regard;

(c) commended FAO's role and contribution, guided by the Organization's Reviewed Strategic Framework and the Zero Hunger Challenge as well as the collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies in the post-2015 process;

(d) looked forward to the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa in July 2015 and to the endorsement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and SDGs at the UN Summit in September 2015, and encouraged all FAO Members to ensure that adequate financial and non-financial means of implementation are made available for the effectiveness of the new development framework.

Is everybody happy with this summary? Thank you. The item is closed and I thank Dr Sundaram and you all.



**Item 15. Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System**

**Point 15. Rapport sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement**

**Tema 15. Informe sobre la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales para el desarrollo del sistema de las Naciones Unidas**

(C 2015/29)

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

We now move to item 15, the *Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations system (QCPR)*.

I am very glad to give the floor to Laurent Thomas, Assistant Director-General of the Technical Cooperation Department. The reference document is C 2015/29.

#### **Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)**

I will introduce today the highlights regarding the progress made by the Organization in the implementation of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations system, the so-called QCPR, presented in Conference document C 2015/29.

The QCPR is a primary instrument of the UN General Assembly to define the way the UN development system operates to support programme countries in their development efforts. FAO Conference Resolutions 13/2005 and 2/2007 request the Director-General to take action for the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the QCPR.

This progress report on implementation of the QCPR covers the period 2013-15. It follows reports presented to the Conference in 2007, 2009, 2011 and 2013. What does it cover? First it covers the funding of operational activities for development. Second, the efficiency, effectiveness and FAO participation in UN System coordination mechanisms. Finally, it covers other areas of relevance to FAO I will mention in my intervention.

FAO's strategic vision, the Revised Strategic Framework and the strategic thinking process launched in 2012, were all of major relevance to FAO in making progress towards implementation of the QCPR resolutions.

They provided the conceptual and analytical framework for reorienting the strategic direction of FAO. They involved the wide participation of FAO staff and peer review and advice from external experts. They received substantive input from Members through the various FAO Governing Bodies and informal consultations.

FAO's strategic vision was complemented by a set of far-reaching transformational changes, making the Organization more efficient and fit for purpose in order to rise to the challenges outlined by the QCPR.

2014 was the first year of implementation under the Reviewed Strategic Framework, approved by the Conference in June 2013, of the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15.

It is the first time that results-based management principles are being systematically applied in FAO throughout the programme cycle from planning to monitoring and reporting on results and resources, although it is the first time that FAO has implemented a results framework that integrates global, regional, and country-level planning and monitoring of results with clear indicators that measure progress in the Organization's work.

Progress and achievements made by FAO in the QCPR areas during the period June 2013 to June 2015 are described in detail in the report.

Regarding better programming, FAO has now a Reviewed Strategic Framework with a clear chain of results from global to regional to country levels. FAO has refined the use of the Country Programming Frameworks to better align them with FAO's Reviewed Strategic Framework and country priorities.

It has also ensured, as part of the TCP process approved by governing bodies, that the Technical Cooperation Programme of FAO is better aligned to the Country Programming Framework.

Regarding increased resource mobilization, FAO diversified and improved its donor base as a result of renewed confidence in FAO's ability to deliver, with the Organization's image strengthened by its clear strategic direction and focus, through streamlining of business processes, and the reinforcement of management capacity in the field.

Concretely for 2012-13, FAO achieved USD 1.7 billion of resources mobilized against the target of USD 1.4 billion. In 2014, FAO mobilized USD 958 million and we consider that we are well on track in achieving the target of USD 1.6 billion for the biennium 2014 and 2015.

FAO has pursued work under its corporate resource mobilization and management strategy to achieve adequate, more predictable and sustainable voluntary contributions that fully support the achievement of FAO's Strategic Objectives.

The Director-General issued a bulletin to define clearly the alignment of resource mobilization to the Strategic Framework and the roles and responsibilities of managers of the Organization in all locations in this regard.

The Organization also engaged in a major exercise of prioritization where we defined, within the Strategic Framework, 11 corporate areas for resource mobilization, 15 regional initiatives, and obviously the focus on supporting the Country Programming Framework at country level.

FAO increased the synergy with other UN Agencies. For example, it implemented the agreement on the cost sharing of the resident coordinator system as requested by the Conference, but we remain concerned about cost escalation and the continued use of ad-hoc arrangements in some countries.

FAO integrated Delivering as One best practices in its policies and procedures in the QCPR context with which individual UN funds, programmes and agencies have specific experience and expertise derived from and in line with the mandate and strategic plans.

For example, we fully integrate UN joint programming in our new project cycle. We collaborated with those agencies at different levels on simplification and harmonization of business practices and we are actively participating in the High-Level Committee on Management Working Group, working on simplification and harmonization of business practices.

We co-led the preparation of the UN system contribution to the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals as Jomo Sundaram extensively explained just before me, so I will not elaborate on this. But you know that, as he mentioned, out of the 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals, 14 are particularly relevant to the work of FAO.

We will be working, and we are working actively, with partners to ensure a successful outcome of the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa which will be looking at the means, financial and non-financial, for achieving these Sustainable Development Goals.

Regarding enhanced partnership, FAO developed corporate strategies for partnering with the private sector, with the civil society organizations, and we enhanced the framework for collaboration with academia and research institutions.

FAO also scaled up, beefed up its partnership with south-south organizations. We have now a strong south-south cooperation policy and we are also engaged in partnership with parliamentarians.

We are doing improved cost recovery. We have a new, more transparent and equitable cost recovery policy that treats extra-budgetary resources as supporting FAO's integrated Programme of Work and Budget.

Improved focus on gender equality. Here again FAO continues to make progress. In 2013, we reported that FAO met or exceeded 12 performance standards out of 15 from the UN Chief Executive Board System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UNSWAP).

We are now able to report that the Organization now meets or exceeds most performance standards. We are in fact compliant or exceeding performance standards for 13 performance standards. So I can say that we are approaching the target of equality as per set timeframe.

The cross-cutting theme in the Strategic Framework on gender enables the Organization to mainstream gender issues in all aspects of the Strategic Objectives at global, regional and country level.

To conclude, we consider that the Organization has made good progress and is committed to implementing the principles and guidance set out by the UN General Assembly through the QCPR in support of UN operational activities for development and member countries.

Ongoing efforts will continue to make FAO better fit for purpose, especially in the transition by the old UN system to the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda.

**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, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We strongly support the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review as the primary policy instrument for guiding the entire UN Development System. We welcome the Report on FAO's steps to implement UNGA Resolution 67/226 and the information focusing on the funding of operational activities, efficiency, effectiveness, and FAO's participation in the UN System Coordination Mechanisms. We note that various FAO initiatives responded well to recommendations of the QCPR Resolution by broadening donor base and introducing a full cost recovery policy by aligning its Country Programming Frameworks and the UN Development Assistance Frameworks.

We call for the continued full engagement of FAO in the UN Development Group and other relevant coordinating mechanisms of the United Nations System, Chief Executives Board for Coordination. We are attaching greatest importance to a well-functioning Resident Coordinator System and call for a continued full engagement of FAO representatives at the country level in the UN country teams which we believe equally contributes to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of FAO's country-level activities. We welcome that FAO is implementing the agreement on the cost-sharing of the Resident Coordinator System.

We note the Secretariat's views and concerns about certain cost increases and would appreciate receiving further information on this. We take note of FAO's contribution to the development of several instruments of the Delivering as One Initiative such as the standard operating procedures and the guidelines on UN joint programmes which should respect the particular mandates and roles of different UN entities and the respective competence and specialized experience. We welcome FAO's collaboration in defining several goals of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and call for full engagement in the relevant interagency mechanisms during future efforts aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We note FAO's contribution to the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women as well as its participation in the relevant interagency mechanisms. We encourage the Organization to continue its efforts to contribute to the enhancement of gender equality.

In view of the importance of the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review for the direction of the operational activities and the overall functioning of the UN Development System, we request a further comprehensive report to the next FAO Conference.

**Mr Inge NORDANG (Norway)**

Norway attaches great importance to the UN Development System and contributes significantly to its funding. We therefore appreciate this interim report on FAO's follow-up on the QCPR Resolution from the UN General Assembly.

The objective of the QCPR is to improve the delivery of the UN System's delivery at country level. Effective and efficient delivery and achievements of results is important, both for receiving countries and for the donors to maintain the trust and funding of the system. Norway therefore appreciates that FAO takes the follow-up of the QCPR seriously as documented in the report in front of us. We find the efforts to enlarge the donor base encouraging and we are convinced that this will strengthen the results achieved by FAO.

At the last Conference, my delegation was among those asking FAO to make budget allocations for contributing its share to the funding of the UN Resident Coordinator System. We therefore appreciate that such funding was included in FAO's revision of the budget. This system is vital if the QCPR objective of having a Resident Coordinator System owned by all components of the UN Development System is to be achieved. Therefore, we are glad to see that this year's proposal for the Programme of Work and Budget has allocated funding of the Resident Coordinator System. We share FAO's concern that costs of such systems needs to be closely monitored. At the same time, it should be kept in mind that the system unfortunately is under-funded. We therefore call on FAO to release its contribution as early in the year as possible.

Regarding results-based management, FAO has made considerable moves over the last years. We appreciate these important steps. At the same time, changing to a results-based culture takes time and FAO needs to continue its efforts. We believe that the Programme Evaluation Report, discussed under Agenda item 22, clearly demonstrates that FAO still has a way to go.

Let me end by expressing our appreciation for FAO's achievements regarding the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The achievements on the performance standards set by SWAP are something FAO can be proud of and the Organization should aim to keep up this standard. However, we believe that FAO still has a challenge in demonstrating clearer to member countries how much resources are channeled to women and their empowerment on its Programme of Work. When discussing FAO's gender policy at the last FAO Conference, my delegation recommended FAO to follow the example of the two other Rome-based agencies in making reports on progress on specific SWAP targets available on its web pages. I want to reiterate this recommendation.

**Ms Abba OSMAN MALIK (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)**

I would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared this detailed report as well as welcoming the advance that has been made in the Organization's activities. The advances made are certainly laudable. We would like to emphasize, however, the following points. First of all, the reforms that have been undergone which have made the FAO more fit for purpose to face the challenges regarding poverty and climate change as well as the strengthening of field activities, are also quite laudable. We feel it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of the country offices as well because that is, we feel, the spearhead of all development activities. These offices must have everything necessary to allow them to take timely decisions. And we also praise the new forms of partnership between new partners because we feel that this is an option which will make it possible to strengthen FAO's presence and will make it possible for it to better undertake its activities.

As regard the country programmes, we feel that these have to be adapted to the needs of the countries concerned so that they are able to attain the goals established by the Organization and on the basis of their own priorities. The programme of South-South Cooperation should certainly help to contribute to agricultural development, of course, taking into consideration the differences in capacity which exist. This programme should continue to support and strengthen cooperation between these countries. This will strengthen our trust in this Organization, as well as enhancing regional development efforts, as well as development efforts at the country level. This Organization must extend partnerships as much as possible so as to promote and encourage South-South Cooperation, bearing in mind financial as well as non-financial means. Human resources existing in the countries have to be developed and used as much as possible.

As far as regional initiatives that have been encouraged by the Regional Conference are focused on the main concerns of each region, and that is the link that is necessary between national needs and regional objectives. The Organization has always tried to strengthen member countries organization

which has therefore strengthened indirectly regional capacities. Sudan welcomes the FAO's support and aid to our country in many technical sectors, particularly in the areas of the preparation of the National Sudanese Investment Programme. Now the role played by this Organization in the assessment of all activities of countries facing food difficulties is also praise-worthy.

As regards gender equality, we feel that the progress made is certainly most welcome. However, emphasis must continue to be placed on all activities to develop women's participation, whether it is in agricultural production or elsewhere, because women certainly contribute to ensuring food security. And we think in regions that are the object of conflict, women's participation is quite substantial.

As regards aid and support to preventive measures, as regards sources of revenue of these countries, they are also to be promoted. Food security and nutrition, all efforts focus on these sectors will certainly help to improve this situation of all countries facing food insecurity.

**Ms Courtney HOOD (Canada)**

We welcome this interim report and we also support strongly the QCPR. We are pleased to see overall progress, including on results-based management. Similar to Norway, we note progress on the UN SWAP and congratulate FAO for that, but we also note that this progress could be strengthened. In particular, similar to Norway, we urge FAO to begin tracking funds spent to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women through both its organizational and development objectives in line with the UN SWAP. We will leave it at these comments and thank you very much again.

**Mr Laurent THOMAS (Assistant Director-General, Technical Cooperation Department)**

Thank you very much, Excellencies, for your guidance and comments that will certainly help us accelerate the implementation of the relevant resolution of the QCPR. I will focus my intervention on a few points that came across in the interventions and I may ask Mr Boyd Haight, Director of Strategy, Planning and Resource Management, should he wish to add any comments to my intervention.

First of all, thank you for your encouragement. We indeed believe very firmly that, as Norway highlighted, QCPR is about improving the efficiency of the delivery of the UN System as a whole at country level and it is about improving the efficiency of the delivery of each part of the UN, like FAO, at country level.

So QCPR for us is a major instalment that can help us improve at all levels as described in my presentation from programming to implementation, monitoring, tracking results. FAO, as the Director-General often highlights, is a knowledge Organization which aims at having its feet firmly on the ground. We know how important it is, as Sudan highlighted, to have country offices well-capacitated, able to play a role within the UN country team, within the UN Resident Coordinator System.

In this regard, I would like to reassure all of you, if it is needed, that FAO is playing its full part in the operation of the Resident Coordinator System and is fully committed to strengthen and effectively collaborate at country level within the UN Resident Coordinator System. We will make sure that we continue to play a role to ensure that the UN System is fit for purpose to deliver on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The challenge we are facing and we are discussing in a cordial dialogue with the UNDP, within the UNDG discussion, is that we want to ensure that, like for FAO, the UN Resident Coordinator System has contained costs. We are all asked to do more and better with less. What we are calling for is for the UN Resident Coordinator System to be used cautious in the containment of the contribution of the agencies. As you are all aware, FAO got the budget approved by the Conference. At a certain level, we would expect that our contribution to the UN Resident Coordinator System be at the same level. I think it is important for the credibility of the whole UN System and we communicated this to Ms Clark, Director. So that is an important point. But I reaffirm that we are totally committed to the UN Resident Coordinator System.

Another important point that was mentioned is regarding resource mobilization, diversification of the funding base, to support our strategic priorities. Yes, FAO, I think, has made some progress over the past two years in diversifying the funding base and particularly tapping on the capacities increased

now of middle-income countries, be it through Unilateral Trust Funds or through contribution by middle-income countries to support South-South Cooperation.

In fact, since 2012, FAO has facilitated over 55 South-South Cooperation partnership projects of which 42 have been funded by middle-income countries for an amount of USD 83 million. If I speak of the Unilateral Trust Fund, projects that are entrusted by country for implementation by FAO in the country itself, since 2012, we approved more than USD 100 million of Unilateral Trust Fund in member countries; the top three providers being Brazil, Columbia, and Mexico. We will continue to diversify the results base.

We will continue to engage member countries in supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation as an important complement to the traditional North-South Cooperation. We will also encourage member countries, as we have been dialoguing with you informally over the past two years, in considering allocating more or less earmarked resources or possibly no earmarked resources to support the Strategic Priorities of FAO and the chains of results that you have approved within the Strategic Framework.

Another thing mentioned that was highlighted by several intervention is FAO's progress regarding the gender policy. I can once again confirm that FAO is progressing and our guidance comes directly from the SWAP, the UN Chief Executive Board System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, followed directly by the Chief Executive Board. As mentioned, we are progressing like other UN Agencies. We have not achieved all the targets but the progress is considered as satisfactory.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Conference of FAO in June 2013 approved the policy on gender equality and we are following the guidance provided by the Conference on this occasion to ensure that the Organization makes all efforts to achieve gender equality in all its work, including in the field programme and normative work. It is relevant to mention, in this regard, that in the Strategic Framework, 14 outcome level indicators and 22 output level indicators have qualifiers that are either gender specific or present some gender dimensions. At the end of 2014, at least 90 decentralized offices reported on gender-related activities implemented; these demonstrating the successful integration of gender issues in country programming and results. We are working also on capacitating, supporting member countries to formulate and implement gender-responsive policies where we ensure that their policies regarding gender are centered.

In 2014, a major result was the development of a comprehensive e-learning course on gender in food and nutrition security developed under the Strategic Objective 1 Work Plan. We have also, under the Strategic Objective 3 on Rural Poverty Reduction, developed or consolidated a gender and land rights database. We are also improving the availability of gender-sensitive statistics in various technical areas and we continue in this regard our participation in interagency coordination mechanism on gender equality and empowerment of women. For this, we have a strong partnership with IFAD, WFP, and UN Women, to support the development of general recommendations on rural empowerment of women and particularly in the framework of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

So these are examples of progress made in the gender area. I think the Organization is very seriously engaged and committed to progress in this regard. I think I have covered the main points. Taking advantage of my role as the Chief Resource Mobilization Officer of the Organization, I wish to remind all of you that we have embarked on an integrated budget where Regular Programme and voluntary contributions complement each other to support the achievement of the result under the Strategic Framework. We need the participation of all of you to ensure that we increase and diversify the volume of voluntary contributions mobilized and we ensure that these voluntary contributions are focused exclusively behind our strategic priorities agreed within the Strategic Framework. Thank you very much.

#### **CHAIRPERSON**

I will now read the summary conclusions for the item.

1. The Conference reviewed the interim report and took note of FAO's progress in the implementation of the UN General Assembly cumulative Resolutions on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of Operational Activities. It expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the quality and depth of the report, as well as progress made in implementation.

2. The Conference (a) recognized the far reaching transformational changes undergone by the Organization, making it more efficient and fit for purpose to rise to the challenges outlined by the QCPR, including the implementation of the UN Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women;

(b) expressed appreciation for FAO's consistent commitment in supporting Member Nations in their development efforts;

(c) supported FAO's application of results-based management principles to implement the Reviewed Strategic Framework approved by the Conference in June 2013 from planning to monitoring on resources and results for all sources of funds;

(d) acknowledged FAO's corporate resource mobilization strategy to achieve adequate voluntary contributions and diversified donor base to support the achievement of results under FAO's Strategic Objectives;

(e) noted FAO's efforts to integrate Delivering as One, best practices and its policies and procedures within the QCPR context in line with specific experience and expertise derived from and in line with its mandates and Strategic Framework;

(f) encouraged FAO to continue supporting increased UN system-wide coherence at country, regional and global levels also in view of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Does this satisfy the Commission? Thank you.

**Item 16. Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (19-23 January 2015)**

**Point 16. Rapport de la quinzième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture (19-23 janvier 2015)**

**Tema 16. Informe de la 15.<sup>a</sup> reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (19-23 de enero de 2015)**

(C 2015/27)

## **CHAIRPERSON**

We now move into item 16, *Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* which was held from 19 to 23 January this year. The relevant conference document is C 2015/27.

**Mr Dan LESKIEN (Senior Liaison Officer, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I have the pleasure of presenting to you the *Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* which was held in January of this year.

At the beginning of the session, the Commission welcomed Tajikistan, the 178<sup>th</sup> Member of the Commission who joined the Commission in June of last year.

109 Members and 19 observer organizations attended the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission and it was particularly successful and productive in many ways, including from an institutional perspective, as the Commission established a fourth Intergovernmental Technical Working Group. This is the working group which will deal with Aquatic Genetic Resources and will complement the work of the other working groups on plant, on animal and on forest genetic resources.

Before presenting some of the results of the 15<sup>th</sup> Session to you, let me thank, on behalf of the Commission, the Governments of Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland for their invaluable extra-budgetary support to the Commission's work.

The Commission's work is country driven. Countries report to the Commission on the state of the conservation and sustainable use of their genetic resources. FAO prepares global assessments on the basis of these country reports. The Commission considers and very often agrees on policy responses, such as global plans of action, codes of conduct, standards or guidelines.

Countries then implement the Commission's actions plans, guidelines, codes of conduct, standards and, finally, bringing the story to a full circle, countries monitor and report back to the Commission on the implementation of these policy responses and on the impact they had at country level. The Commission at its last session was very productive on each of these pillars.

The Commission welcomed *inter alia* country reports from 129 countries received in 2014 on the state of animal genetic resources. Based on these 129 country reports, FAO prepared and presented at the Commission's last session, the second report on the state of the world's animal genetic resources.

The Commission also took note and provided guidance on pending global assessment processes, the assessment of the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture and the assessment of the State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources. Both assessments are ongoing.

The Commission also considered important policy instruments and finally agreed on the Voluntary Guidelines to support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning, and it agreed on Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

These two documents aim to provide guidance and advice to governments which are either in the process of planning climate change adaptation measures or governments which wish to adopt access and benefit sharing legislation for genetic resources.

For example, because they have to implement the Nagoya Protocol adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Commission invited the Conference to approve and respectively welcome these instruments contained in the working document in front of you, C 2015/27, appendixes B and D.

The Commission also reviewed at its last session the report on the implementation by countries of the global plans of action on plant, on animal and on forest genetic resources which the Conference adopted in previous years.

It is fair to say that the awareness of genetic resources for food and agriculture has increased. No doubt, a lot remains to be done but policy-makers are increasingly aware of the essential role of these resources for food security and nutrition, particularly in times of climate change.

The Commission finally also reviewed FAO's global monitoring and reporting databases, that is for animal genetic resources, for forest genetic resources, and the new views, the monitoring system for plant genetic resources which has recently been reorganized, and the Commission also adopted at its last session, higher order composite indexes for plant genetic resources.

We recommend that the Conference endorse the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Commission and that it approve the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning, and that it welcome the Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

#### **Sr. Antonio Otávio SÁ RICARTE (Brasil)**

Tomo la palabra a nombre del Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe (GRULAC). En primer lugar, quisiéramos subrayar la importancia fundamental de la diversidad genética, al igual que los recursos naturales en general, para la lucha contra el hambre, la inseguridad alimentaria y la malnutrición y su papel central en el logro de la sostenibilidad, la resiliencia de los sistemas productivos y la adaptación al cambio del clima. En ese sentido, el GRULAC considera que los recursos genéticos ofrecen una contribución clave a todos los objetivos estratégicos de la FAO y en



particular los objetivos 1, 2 y 5. En vista de ello, el GRULAC respalda el trabajo realizado por la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura de la FAO y considera necesaria una mayor cooperación y coordinación dentro de dicha comisión y los demás órganos subsidiarios y divisiones temáticas de la Organización, así como con el Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

El GRULAC también considera importante una mayor cooperación entre la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos de la FAO y otros foros internacionales en los cuales los recursos genéticos y de la biodiversidad para la alimentación y la agricultura desempeñan un rol fundamental como en la formulación de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible para más allá de 2015, el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y su Protocolo de Nagoya sobre acceso a los recursos genéticos y participación justa y equitativa en los beneficios derivados de su utilización, el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y también la Plataforma intergubernamental científico-normativa sobre diversidad biológica y servicios de los ecosistemas entre otros.

Con respecto al Informe de la 15.<sup>a</sup> reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, el Grupo de Países de América Latina y el Caribe respalda sus resultados. Especialmente, la aprobación de las directrices voluntarias sobre la incorporación general de la biodiversidad en las políticas, los planes y los programas de acción nacionales y regionales sobre nutrición y de las directrices voluntarias en apoyo a la integración de la diversidad genética en la planificación nacional para la adaptación al plan cambio climático. También damos la bienvenida al documento que contiene los elementos para facilitar la aplicación nacional del acceso y distribución de beneficios en los diferentes subsectores de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura, lo cual consideramos un esfuerzo inicial de identificación de las características específicas del régimen de accesos y distribución de beneficios en diferentes de los recursos genéticos utilizados en la agricultura y la alimentación. En ese sentido, estamos de acuerdo con la invitación para que los países consideren, conforme apropiado, esos elementos en la elaboración de sus políticas nacionales y con la solicitud para que la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura de la FAO siga trabajando en la identificación de las especificidades de cada subsector.

Sobre los informes elaborados por la Comisión, llamamos la atención sobre la publicación del primer Estado de la diversidad para la alimentación y agricultura en el mundo, previsto para el segundo semestre de este año. Dicho informe, conjuntamente con aquellos más específicos sobre los recursos genéticos, animales, acuáticos, vegetales y forestales, constituye una importante fuente de información de las acciones desarrolladas por la FAO y por los estados miembros con relación no solo a la conservación y al uso sostenible de la diversidad genética, sino también al desarrollo de una agricultura más eficiente y sostenible.

Por último, el GRULAC destaca ser fundamental para la realización de actividades de fortalecimiento de capacidades nacionales y regionales en los países en desarrollo. Especialmente, en cuanto a la elaboración de informes nacionales, la implementación de los planes globales de acción para cada subsector de los recursos genéticos, el desarrollo de metas e indicadores de monitoreo y la utilización de biotecnologías apropiadas para la caracterización, la conservación y la utilización de los recursos genéticos para la alimentación y la agricultura. En ese sentido, GRULAC hace un llamado a los donantes a proporcionar fondos extra presupuestarios para apoyar las actividades de capacitación y que las mismas sigan siendo consideradas en el Programa de Trabajo de la Comisión.

#### **Mr Mmaphaka Ephraim TAU (South Africa)**

South Africa wishes to thank the Chairperson of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Mr Amar Tahiri of Morocco.

South Africa notes with appreciation that the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture addressed, amongst others, the State of World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture, targets and indicators for biodiversity for food and agriculture, access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture, application and integration of biotechnologies for the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for food and

agriculture, as well as animal, forest, plant, and aquatic and genetic resources. The session did not overlook the importance of micro-organisms and invertebrates.

Furthermore, South Africa notes and wishes to express its appreciation for the work of the Commission over the past decades as a key driver in the development and implementation of important policies, guiding country-driven global assessments of genetic resources for food and agriculture which has led to an increased awareness among policy-makers in the active pursuit of national policies.

South Africa has mechanisms in place to safeguard genetic resources for food and agriculture, which include measures such as compulsory registrations, respect for intellectual property rights and phytosanitary regulations for introductions.

South Africa welcomes the need for enhanced communication and strengthened partnerships to better promote the implementation of policy and instruments. The Commission's work has to reach the public space and drive home the importance of genetic diversity and natural resources in general to address food security.

It is opportune time for the Conference to consider and review the Second Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The discussion on the global assessment on aquatic genetic resources and the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, as well as the guidelines to support the implementation of global action plans in addressing plant, animal and forest genetic resources.

South Africa notes the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2014.

Finally, South Africa supports the endorsement of the report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

#### **M. Francois PYTHOUD (Suisse)**

Les ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture sont essentielles pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et le développement durable du secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture. La Suisse prend note avec satisfaction du rapport sur les travaux de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture et se félicite en particulier des trois contributions concrètes suivantes qui sont présentées à la Conférence.

Premièrement: changement climatique. Il est essentiel de maintenir la base de diversité génétique des plantes et des animaux la plus large possible pour assurer la résilience à long terme de tous les systèmes agricoles et garantir l'adaptation aux effets du changement climatique. Nous soutenons dès lors l'adoption des directives volontaires à l'appui de l'intégration de la diversité génétique dans les plans nationaux d'adaptation aux changements climatiques.

Deuxièmement: accès et partage des avantages et Protocole de Nagoya. Nous saluons avec satisfaction les éléments visant à faciliter la concrétisation au niveau national de l'accès et du partage des avantages dans les différents sous-secteurs des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture élaborés par la Commission. Il est important de noter que ces éléments représentent le premier outil pratique et concret élaboré à l'échelle internationale pour soutenir les gouvernements dans l'élaboration des mesures appropriées pour la mise en œuvre du Protocole de Nagoya. Nous invitons le Directeur général de la FAO à transmettre ces éléments à l'attention du Secrétaire de la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Nous demandons également à la FAO de poursuivre l'étroite collaboration avec la Convention sur la diversité biologique dans les activités de renforcement des capacités par l'entremise de la Commission et du Traité international sur les ressources phylogénétiques.

Troisièmement: suivi et examen de l'agenda post-2015 sur le développement durable. Les rapports sur l'état des ressources génétiques dans le monde, établis sur une base régulière par la Commission, sont des outils clés pour le suivi et l'examen de l'Objectif 2 du programme de développement pour l'après-

2015. En effet, la cible 5 fait spécifiquement référence au maintien de la diversité génétique des semences, des plantes cultivées et des animaux d'élevage.

Dans ce contexte, il est vital que la FAO prenne toutes les mesures nécessaires pour assurer la maintenance et le développement à long terme des bases de données développées par la Commission au cours des dernières années pour surveiller l'état des ressources génétiques en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture, comme par exemple DAD-IS.

**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, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing and presenting the document C 2015/27 containing the *Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*. We would also like to express our appreciation to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for all its hard work and for providing helpful advice on its Programme of Work to the Conference. We agree that this Commission, in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, once again proved to be an essential intergovernmental forum and that its decisions are helping to position genetic resources at the core of the Global Agenda.

The European Union and its Member States fully support the endorsement of the Report of the Commission's 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session. Genetic resources provide a key contribution to the Strategic Objectives of FAO and, for this reason, it has been essential to align the MYPOW to the FAO Reviewed Strategic Framework. The State of the World Report on subsectors plant, animal, forest and aquatic genetic resources provides sound information, consolidated data and, above all, a solid basis for policy development. The European Union and its Member States acknowledge the progress made in the preparation of the *State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture*, and reiterate the data collection has been often challenging for the countries that prepare the country reports.

During the compilation of country reports, it should be taken into account that the number of areas will be incomplete. Nevertheless, we hope that this report will eventually lead to a more integrated approach to the management of genetic resources for food and agriculture, and will also help the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture review the planning of its work on the conservation and sustainable use of micro-organisms and invertebrates, so as to better take into account this subsector.

Biodiversity is an essential basis for food security and nutrition, including the prevention and treatment of malnutrition. The European Union therefore welcomes the Commission's encouragement of governments and stakeholders to implement the *Voluntary Guidelines for Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Policies, Programmes and National and Regional Plans of Action on Nutrition* which help countries according to their needs and capabilities.

We note with satisfaction that the Commission endorsed the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning*. We recommend this document to the Conference for approval and we are looking forward to its implementation.

The European Union and its Member States welcome in particular the Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This work is very important in the context of the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya Protocol) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at region and country level in order to help countries understand and take into account the specificities of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

We hope that these Elements are taken into account when designing domestic laws for implementing the Nagoya Protocol to ensure that laws do not inadvertently impede access to genetic resources for food and agriculture in any way. We are convinced that the Commission is able to address the broader sustainable development issues and find synergies between agricultural and environmental policy-making.

**Ms Courtney HOOD (Canada)**

Canada endorses this report and the positive results achieved by the 15<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission. We encourage the Conference to recognize the merits of the elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the future work on this subject planned by the Commission.

Canada also supports the endorsement by the Commission of the model of higher-order composite indices for plant genetic resources. We emphasize the request for FAO to continue working on and developing these indicators.

**Sra. Andrea S. REPETTI (Argentina)**

En primer lugar, la Delegación argentina desea apoyar la intervención realizada por Brasil en nombre del GRULAC y expresar su aprecio a la Secretaría de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura por la labor realizada. La Argentina desea llamar la atención sobre el párrafo 13 del Informe de la 15.<sup>a</sup> reunión ordinaria de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos

para la Alimentación y la Agricultura y solicita a la FAO que preste apoyo técnico a los países mediante seminarios y capacitación, entre otras actividades y solicita que ello quede reflejado en el informe y en las recomendaciones de la conferencia.

**Mr Dan LESKIEN (Senior Liaison Officer, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)**

Not all information is available but this is not a reason not to submit the report. This is one of the reasons why this report is being prepared. We want to know where the knowledge gaps are and we want to know where information is available.

So therefore please even if you are not able to complete the full report and to provide all of the information, please submit the report as soon as possible.

**Ms Maria Elena SEMEDO (Deputy Director-General, Coordinator for Natural Resources)**

I have one comment on the issue raised by Switzerland. We are working very close with the CBD. We established to work at a different level. We are working at country level. As you know, FAO has a country network and the CBD is taking advantage of FAO's country network to facilitate the work with the different ministers. They are counterparts not only of the Ministers for Environment, but through FAO we can bring onboard the Ministers for Agriculture, for Forests, and other ministers.

We are working with Mexico. We received about two weeks ago the visit of the former Minister for Agriculture from Mexico who is preparing the next COP 13 in 2016 and FAO is fully engaged and fully contributing, bringing the agriculture and other challenges to the COP.

I can tell you that we have already started one of the recommendations, but sure after the discussion today we will be further established and reinforce our relationship with the CBD, especially at country level.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I will quickly read the summary conclusions hoping that this will satisfy Members.

The Conference: (a) welcomed and adopted the *Report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Session on the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;

(b) approved the *Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Integration of Genetic Diversity into National Climate Change Adaptation Planning* and invited countries to implement them;

(c) welcomed the *Elements to Facilitate Domestic Implementation of Access and Benefit-sharing for Different Subsectors of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* and invited countries to consider and make use of them, as appropriate;

(d) noted the complementarity between the work of the Commission and the Nagoya Protocol in regard to access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources; and

(e) called for increased cooperation between the Commission and relevant FAO technical bodies, as well as the Committee on World Food Security.

**Sra. Andrea S. REPETTI (Argentina)**

We would like to get some part of paragraph 13 of the Report that refers to the request to FAO to provide technical support to countries through seminars and capacity-building activities. We would like to have this reflected in the report of the Conference and the recommendations.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Provided it is within the mandate of Commission I and it is not the programme, the Secretariat will do this. 'Encourage' is okay. Any other comments?

**Ms Elina GRINPAUKA-PETETENA (Latvia)**

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States, we would like to add under point (e) also the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as it is not a technical body.

**CHAIRPERSON**

You are right. Point taken.

**Sra. Perla CARVALHO (México)**

No quiero dejar pasar esta oportunidad para agradecer a la Sra. Semedo el amplio apoyo que ha dado a los negociadores de México para la preparación de la COP 13, creo que las reuniones que han organizado con la dirección de la Sra. Semedo han permitido a los negociadores de México tener una amplia visión de cómo se puede realizar la transversalización de la biodiversidad en todos los temas que aborda bajo su dirección. Muy agradecidos estamos en México por este amplio apoyo y por esa demostración de las grandes capacidades que tiene la FAO en todos los temas que se van a abordar.

**SECRETARY OF COMMISSION I**

I would like to make an announcement on two side events. One on *Building Resilience in Africa's Drylands*, from 12:30 to 13:30, followed by another side event from 13:30 to 14:30 on Near East and North Africa's Water Scarcity. Both events are in the Sheikh Zayed Centre.

*The meeting rose at 12:41 hours*

*La séance est levée à 12 h 41*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 12.41*



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

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

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





- 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)**
- Tema 17. Segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN2) convocada conjuntamente por la FAO y la OMS (19-21 de noviembre de 2014)**
- (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 complementary 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 2016-17 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:

- i) 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.
- ii) At the 68<sup>th</sup> 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.
- iii) 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.
- iv) 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.
- v) 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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 68<sup>th</sup> 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.º período 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 2016-17 relacionadas con los

cinco 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 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 2016-17.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 2016-17 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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 programmes 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 participated 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 is 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 on 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 39<sup>th</sup> 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 2016-25 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 (República Bolivariana de 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 comparative advantages. Promoting agriculture and food industry to tackle malnutrition is such a typical area, as is highlighted in the Framework of Action in one of the recommended actions as sustainable food systems promoting healthy diet.

Secondly, we must review 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 problems which therefore require different solutions.

Nutrition issues include those on micronutrient deficiency which seriously affects specific population groups, such as infants and women, and need urgent action. On the other hand, they also include the issue of chronic macronutrient deficiency which affects wide population groups in a country and needs 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 in the developing countries. Recently, private food companies including Japanese firms started unique attempts to improve nutrition conditions of local people using its high quality of technologies in Asia and Africa. In this sense, promoting a public-private partnership would be an effective type of practice for solving nutrition issues and it is worth 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 cross-cutting issue, we welcome the inclusion of nutrition as a cross-cutting 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, built 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 150<sup>th</sup> 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 68<sup>th</sup> 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 appreciates 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 insecurity, yet surprisingly we do not 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 insecurity 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 Nations not only on the same stage but I think also 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 will 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 is 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 is 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 am 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 does not 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 should not 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 do not 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 do not 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 decir es solamente mencionar en cuanto a la referencia que hizo Canadá al tema de la Década de acción y de que no consideramos que estemos prejuzgando las negociaciones que tienen lugar en Nueva York. Lo único que estamos haciendo es citar 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 solamente 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 do not 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 does not 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 am not sure when that will be taken up again and adopted and I do not know if it will coincide with 2016-25.

**CHAIRPERSON**

My reading of New York is that there will not be a declaration of the Decade before or during the Summit. That does not mean that there will not 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 does not 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 do not 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 do not 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 (República Bolivariana de Venezuela)**

Al igual que Rusia y otras delegaciones 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 y, por lo tanto, 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 us 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 do not want it postponed to some other time. I do not 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 5:30 hours.

#### **Mr Khaled Mohamed EL Taweel (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 are 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 are 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 do not 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 yes 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.

**Item 18. *International Years and Days:***

**Point 18. *Années et journées internationales:***

**Tema 18. *Años y días internacionales:***

**18.1 *Evaluation of the International Year of Quinoa 2013***

**18.1 *Évaluation de l'Année internationale du quinoa (2013)***

**18.1 *Evaluación del Año Internacional de la Quinoa (2013)***

*(C 2015/32)*

**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 Raúl Benítez, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Sr. Raúl Osvaldo BENÍTEZ (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 diez 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 que ya es 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 hay 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 hemos abreviado por motivos de tiempo y también esta versión digital del libro de la cual 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, 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 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. 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 16 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 Nations, 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 a 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 Nations, civil society, private sector, representatives from other UN organizations, and it is being co-chaired by Turkey and Pakistan. It has 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 Quinua y con el Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar.

En relación con la quinua, 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 Quinua 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 quinua y su valor nutricional.

Actualmente, muchos conocen y han escuchado hablar de la quinua, 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 quinua: un futuro sembrado hace miles de años*». En cooperación con las partes interesadas y con la Sociedad civil, quedó demostrado que la quinua es un sistema alimentario saludable y sostenible a los fines de garantizar la seguridad alimentaria con soberanía. La realización del Año Internacional de la Quinua 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 quinua es el legado que deja para el mundo el año internacional, pues que ha demostrado que la quinua 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 Quinua 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 Villareal for her briefing.



According to the latest figures of the recently released SOFI 2015, 795 million people suffer from hunger and more than 200 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 62 million tons. Eleven 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 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 welcome the evaluation of the International Year of Quinoa 2013 and take note of the information provided in document C 2015/32. 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.

**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 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 dialogue 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 organizations 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.

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, 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 family farming.

Yet we recognize at the same time that we are still at the beginning of the road towards deep dialogue 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 do not 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 air 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 Yaquoob 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 Soils 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 Soils, 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 on 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. US participation is being coordinated by the United States Department of Agriculture with the 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 DC 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 a 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 are above and beyond activities currently within the mandate of the FAO, they 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 role 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 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 Nations of the G77 and 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: i) the promotion of enabling policies for agriculture and rural development; ii) securing access and use of land, water, and other natural resources for family farmers; iii) empowering women and achieving gender equality; iv) enhancing the quality of life in rural areas to make it more attractive and vibrant for young people; v) innovations adopted to family farming; and vi) 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 and 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, 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 nevertheless 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 a 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 dialogue 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 of the financial implications of the Years and there was an allusion 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 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, programmes 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 BENÍTEZ (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.

1. 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.

#### 2. Family Farming. The Conference:

a) acknowledged that the International Year of Family Farming was successfully celebrated through multi-stakeholder policy dialogues 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 dialogue created for the IYFF at national – at regional levels to continue their work beyond the year 2014.

#### 3. 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.

#### 4. 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 68<sup>th</sup> 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 welcomed 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 is 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 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 Nations 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 was 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. Achouri 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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, enhance 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 with our technical assistance agencies 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 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the FAO Conference that year. The revised Charter was adopted at the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Committee on Agriculture and the 150<sup>th</sup> 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 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 and 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 Nations. 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 on our common agenda.

**CHAIRPERSON**

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

1. The Conference noted and appreciated the comprehensive nature of the process that had been followed to update the text of the *World Soil Charter*.
2. The Conference endorsed the revised *World Soil Charter*.
3. The Conference adopted the Resolution presented in document C 2015/31.

Is this agreed?

## **SECRETARY OF COMMISSION I**

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.

*The meeting rose at 18.50 hours*

*La séance est levée à 18 h 50*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 18.50*



# CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

|                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Thirty-ninth Session<br/>Trente-neuvième session<br/>39.º período de sesiones</b>                             |
| <b>Rome, 6-13 June 2015<br/>Rome, 6-13 juin 2015<br/>Roma, 6-13 de junio de 2015</b>                             |
| <b>FIFTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I<br/>CINQUIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I<br/>QUINTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I</b> |
| <b>10 June 2015</b>                                                                                              |

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 9.45 hours  
Mr Luca Fratini,  
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45  
sous la présidence de M. Luca Fratini,  
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 9.45  
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Luca Fratini,  
Presidente de la Comisión I



**Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe  
(C 2015/I/REP)**

**CHAIRPERSON**

Dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I apologize for the delay. We were waiting for enough Members to have a quorum.

I am pleased to make an announcement first concerning the Drafting Committee. I had announced earlier, on Monday, that the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee would be Mr Mafizur Rahman of Bangladesh. This position has been instead taken by my colleague and friend, Mr Ahmad Farooq from Pakistan.

So I now invite Mr Farooq to present to us the results of the Drafting Committee.

**Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (CHAIRPERSON, DRAFTING COMMITTEE)**

I have the honour to present the Report on the work of the Drafting Committee for Commission I of the 39<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference.

The Drafting Committee met yesterday afternoon to consider the Draft Report of Commission I. The Drafting Committee discussed the Draft in detail and made necessary changes to streamline the language. The Draft Report before the Commission today represents the consensus view of the Drafting Committee.

I would like to thank all the Members of the Drafting Committee for their support and constructive contributions. I would also like to thank the Secretary of the Commission and other members of the Secretariat as well as the interpreters for their support.

I see the Russian Federation raising the flag. You have the floor.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

First and foremost, we wanted to express our appreciation for the great work done by the Drafting Committee and its Chairperson. As well, we wanted to congratulate this Commission on the excellent and wise management of the session by its current Chairperson, Mr Luca Fratini.

We are happy with the report. The only thing that we wanted to point out relates to agenda item 13 on the Report of the CFS Sessions. We wanted to make reference to the discussions that we had during the Plenary and which is duly reflected in the Verbatim records. We suggested, based on our intervention, to insert some positive phrase in the Chairperson's summary concerning the call for CFS to operate fully within its mandate. We remember the discussion that took place, but we also remember the Chairperson saying that this question will be dealt with in the Drafting Committee.

Looking at the Report, we feel that probably it has not been the case. So we wanted respectfully to ask you to consider the possibility of inserting such a phrase, since it was said in the Plenary and it was in our statement and we asked you to include it.

Also, I would like to address the point that I did not have the chance to address during the Plenary. That is to say that this phrase is self-explanatory, as many phrases in our report, but for our delegation it is actually a very crucial point. We raised our concerns, and we have been raising our concerns continuously during the CFS sessions and the inter-sessional meetings on this issue, and I think that there hardly can be a delegation that can, from our humble point of view, disagree with the statement.

The only thing for us is to put it in a positive way, so we would suggest having a paragraph 'h' for item 13.1. Something like "the Conference encouraged the CFS to continue its work within its mandate". If you could consider this, we would be very grateful.

**Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (CHAIRPERSON, DRAFTING COMMITTEE)**

I thank the Russian delegation for pointing this out. When I look at the Verbatim records, it is indeed mentioned by the Chairperson of the Commission that this matter is to be taken up by the Drafting

Committee. However, during the meeting of the Drafting Committee, no Member took this issue up and that is why you do not see any language to this effect.

It is my view that the work that we have done is representing the consensus of the Drafting Committee and we, at this stage, should not be reopening it. So I would request the Russian Federation to show some flexibility in this regard. If this issue had been taken up in the Drafting Committee, we would have definitely given consideration to it. But, at this stage, I think it will affect the report and I would request your flexibility.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

We absolutely understand your feelings and we can agree with them. However, I had the privilege to participate in some sessions of the Drafting Committee during the recent time and I witnessed how some delegations from different regions remembered something that was said during the Plenary and if there were particular requests, then they were looking at the Verbatim records and have them inserted.

I do not think it violates our rules of procedure and this period of the work in the Commissions. Also, might I refer to some other precedents that took place during the session when there were actually no requests at the Plenary that we see something or will see something in the Report? I think it is a standard procedure. I am not going to not show flexibility, but I would urge you, if possible, to consider our request.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I believe you made your point very clearly, but still I would not encourage reopening a drafting session. I think since your point will be reflected in the Verbatim records, maybe you can go along with the draft as it is. I am just asking you to consider this possibility.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

We will surely consider this possibility. If I may, I would like to ask if any delegation opposes that the CFS continues to operate within its mandate? Since we are gathered here, we can have a short discussion.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I am not comfortable with reopening this item because if I reopen this item, someone else will ask me to reopen other items and we will be spending the whole day here for drafting purposes.

I understand your position and I perceive also from my experience as Member of the CFS that you attach great importance to this position. However, I believe that the Report as such is not in contradiction with what you have expressed and that your statement, as a national statement which will be reproduced in the Verbatim records of this meeting, will, *per se*, explain the position of the Russian Federation. But I would really encourage you to help us bring this session to a positive conclusion.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

That is our very wish to put this session to a positive conclusion. We were trying not hard enough probably to convey this to the Plenary and to the podium. I am a bit confused because I see no opposition to what I suggest and I by no means suggest to reopen discussion on that paragraph, but since we have mentioned it and I am a little bit uncomfortable and confused with our work here, I would like to ask the Secretariat to kindly note that we expect both our statement here now and during the Plenary be duly reflected in the records, as well as the statements of our Chairperson on the rules and procedures that we follow in the Conference and the Commissions so that we could build on this precedent in the future.

**CHAIRPERSON**

I have not understood clearly in the reference to the Chair as the person setting the Rules of the Conference. I do not have this ambition, but, again, the only thing I can do is give you the feeling that



even if it is something which you consider very important, and I respect that, we might end up doing a drafting session because this is a precedent.

I mean, reopening a paragraph in a Drafting Committee which has already worked by consensus and reached consensus can also lead us to reopening other paragraphs. It is just a matter of coherence.

**Mr Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)**

I am taking the floor to support what the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, as well as you, the Chairperson of Commission I, have said.

We have the due respect of our colleague from the Russian Federation and so far we understand that what it was has been adopted. It was supposed to be raised by at least one of the Drafting Committee Members in the drafting session to include something, but it was raised here by the Russian Federation.

But in the Drafting Committee we have finished our task with consensus.

Now what you say right now that if we reopen any one paragraph in that case, even though we have come to a consensus in the Drafting Committee, in some cases we have some reservation but for the sake of coming to consensus, we would do that one in the Drafting Session. But if we can attest now, if you open any one issue, in that case it might come some other point to reopen.

In that case we humbly request, as one of the Members of the Drafting Committee, our Russian Federation colleague to accept what you, Chairperson, and also the Drafting Committee Chairperson, said.

We are not in agreement on reopening the Drafting Session here.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

Frankly, now I am a bit uncomfortable and I cannot understand what is going on because again, I can boast that I have also been here for years and years but I have seen precedents when the Drafting Committee's conclusions were amended.

Not wanting to prolong needless discussion and to reopen the text, I probably could, frankly. It is really unfortunate because we did point it out and it is in the records, but it was not discussed in the Drafting Committee and now we are saying that if the Drafting Committee did not discuss it, then our point is no longer valid for the Commission. But it was said. It was discussed and I see no opposition from other delegations.

I do not want to prolong the discussion. If we can see any delegation opposing, we will not insist.

**CHAIRPERSON**

Let us give it a try. So what is the wording you are proposing? Where and how?

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

Thank you sir for your flexibility. I would suggest to have a point 'h' under item 13 so that it would read "the Conference encouraged the CFS to continue its work within its mandate".

**CHAIRPERSON**

I now open the floor on the suggested paragraph proposed by the Russian Federation, 13(h) which I repeat: "the Conference encouraged the CFS to continue its work within its mandate".

Any comments? Is everyone in agreement with this paragraph?

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

Nos parece que este párrafo que presenta la Federación de Rusia y tomaba nota de que, en efecto, consta en el *verbatim*, consideramos que podríamos apoyar su inclusión y que además encuadra y está en línea con los párrafos anteriores, que no habría ningún inconveniente en apoyarlo.

**CHAIRPERSON**

So I understand that either delegation might be in favour and some are neutral. Nobody is against? So it is decided. Russian Federation.

**Mr Ivan KONSTANTINOPOLSKIY (Russian Federation)**

I just wanted to thank both the Plenary of the Commission and the Podium for their flexibility.

**Mr Ahmad FAROOQ (CHAIRPERSON, DRAFTING COMMITTEE)**

With this addition, I recommend now to the Commission to adopt the report.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

**SECRETARY OF COMMISSION I**

We would like to thank everybody for their collaboration and, on the part of the Secretariat, we really do hope that we have served the Commission I to the best of our abilities. Thank you very much.

**CHAIRPERSON**

In thanking the Secretariat once again on your behalf, I declare this session closed.

*Applause*

*Applaudissements*

*Aplausos*

*The meeting rose at 15:59 hours*

*La séance est levée à 15 h 59*

*Se levanta la sesión a las 15.59*



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