

conference

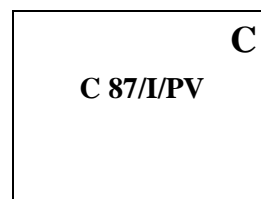
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



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**VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
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DE LA CONFÉRENCE ACTAS TAQUIGRAFICAS DE LAS SESIONES DE LA COMISION I
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conference

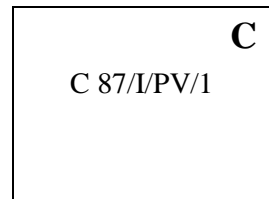
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIRST MEETING
PREMIERE SEANCE
PRIMERA SESION

(11 November 1987)

The First Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 09.55 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN: At the outset, may I thank Member Nations and delegates for having elected India and me to chair Commission I. While I myself am slightly new to the procedures of FAO, I am sure that with your help, advice and cooperation plus the advice of my colleagues here, we shall be able to complete the task assigned to us within the time schedule.

The names of the Vice-Chairmen are still being finalized and the moment we receive the information shall mention this to you. Similarly, I understand that the names of the Drafting Committee are in the process of being finalized and once these get through we shall announce the names here.

As far as our work is concerned, as you are aware, we have 17 meetings scheduled, out of which 15 sessions would be to discuss six substantive items and two sessions for adopting the report. As the documents which have been listed in document C 87/INF/11 give us the background material for discussions during the course of our deliberations. I would suggest that we have two sessions from 9.30 to 12.30 and 14.30 to 17.30. To see that we get the best return on the investment in the interpreters, may I request delegates to be on time so that we do not have to wait, for want of a quorum, as we had to do this morning.

Many of the subjects which are before us, including "Agriculture Toward 2000" and also the feasibility study on expanding the provision of agricultural inputs as aid-in-kind are items which are of importance to us, and more particularly the progress report on international agricultural adjustment. Agenda Item 8. These have special relevance because they place before us the progress on the Twel Guidelines which were issued by the Conference in 1975.

I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE

I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación

We now have before us item 6.1 on the State of Food and Agriculture, part of item 6, on the World Food and Agriculture Situation. I would request Mr Hjort to introduce the subject.

H.W. HJORT (Director, Policy Analysis Division): As in the past, the Secretariat has prepared two documents for discussion of this agenda item. The first, the State of Food and Agriculture, C 87/ is based on information available up to early August. The second document C 87/2 Sup.1 updates and supplements the earlier document, using information available up to early October.

As stated in the introduction to document C 87/2, an effort has been made by the Secretariat to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlapping with other documents which will be discussed later by this Commission. In particular, the World Review contains a less detailed analysis of longer-term trends and focuses more on recent events and current policy issues related to food and agriculture.

While many current problems of agricultural development and food security are linked to sectoral and country-constraints, of equally great importance are the overall economic environment and its effect on farm incomes, demand for agricultural products and hence on agricultural markets.

The economic and financial climate of the 1980s has been unfavourable to agriculture. Weak economic growth has meant weak demand for food and agricultural products and an increase in undernourishment. Slow economic growth combined with difficult financial problems has led to slow growth in trade. Weak demand and relatively strong growth in production has led to large excess supplies, export subsidies, and low and distorted international trade prices.

The documents before you indicate that the current economic conditions continue to be uncertain and adverse to agriculture. The rate of overall economic growth expected in 1987 is lower than in any year since 1983 and inadequate to significantly spur the growth of exports and output in the developing world and thereby alleviate debt servicing problems and reduce poverty. The sluggish and uncertain world economy has also been detrimental to the flow of capital to developing countries and has sustained support for more and deeper protectionist measures.

Although at the time of preparing the supplementary document in September and early October, expectations for economic activity in developing countries were more optimistic than those reported in document C 87/2, apart from Africa and the Near East, the recent stock market crash and renewed declines in the value of the dollar and their consequences, are likely to reduce developed country growth in the short term. In turn, this is likely to have a depressing spillover effect on developing countries, mainly through reduced import demand of developed market economies. Since mid-October, the world economy therefore seems to have taken a step backward into yet greater uncertainty. What is certain is that the current situation and prospects for middle-income indebted countries are less than encouraging. Those for sub-Saharan countries give cause for grave concern, as noted at the recent session of the UN General Assembly following up to the UN Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development.

Discussions to resolve problems of debt continue and proposals continue to be made, but the problem remains critical and a basic dichotomy of views has emerged on the issue of debt restructuring in lieu of rescheduling.

Against this background, the current world food situation continues to be characterized by ample supplies at the aggregate world level despite a slowdown in the growth of output in 1986 and a further deterioration this year. Declines in food and agricultural production in 1987 were widespread among developed countries reflecting weather and market factors as well as policy measures designed to curb excess supply. That food output also declined in many developing countries gives rise to concern. Floods and unfavourable monsoon conditions led to a serious widespread fall in per caput food production in the Far East in 1987, expected to be of the order of 4-5% for the region as a whole. After two successive years of encouraging performance, Africa's food output may decline nearly 1% this year, bringing several countries of the region, once again, to the forefront of our concern. In particular, several food supply problems are already threatening parts of Ethiopia. As foreseen by FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System last August, drought severely damaged the maize and sorghum crops now being harvested. The Early Warning System has recently reported below normal rainfall in September and October. This has seriously affected late planted wheat and barley. These events point to a sharp reduction in aggregate cereal production for consumption in 1988 and almost total crop failure in some areas. The Director-General has recently renewed appeals for additional food aid allocations to Ethiopia and support for prepositioning of stocks and distribution to avoid the re-opening of camps.

Grave food supply difficulties are also reported in Mozambique, aggravated by continued insurgencies and extensive damage to infrastructure. On a more encouraging note, Latin America and the Caribbean achieved a good recovery in food and agricultural production, especially cereals, in 1987.

As a result of the decline in world cereal production this year, stocks of cereals will fall during 1987/88 for the first time in four years, though at global level they will remain sufficient to safeguard food security. In the developing countries, however, cereal stocks will fall to their lowest level for a decade, and will be insufficient to provide a cushion against crop failures in 1988.

As regards the other major agricultural sub-sectors, the recovery in world production of forest products after the recession of 1981-82 continued in 1986, mainly fueled by the expansion of the wood-based construction industry in some developed countries. World fishery production also rose in 1986 to new record levels and, with high demand for food-fish products in major consuming markets trade in fisheries also expanded one-fifth in value.

The exploitation of fishery, forest and land resources, and its implications for the environment, resource conservation and sustainable development, are among the major issues covered in the report *Our Common Future* by the World Commission on Environment and Development. The document C 87/2 before you refers to this important report which reinforces ongoing and planned FAO activities aimed at integrating environmental issues into agricultural and rural development.

Mr Chairman, document C 87/2 also contains an assessment of the food and agricultural performances in the different developing and developed regions and a review of issues of specific relevance to each of them. For developing regions, the review generally focuses on the difficulties faced by policymakers to adjust to the challenges and constraints posed by a changing economic environment, and the role of agriculture in such adjustment. Within the wide disparity of situations observed, a number of common features stand out. In a period when increased exports are widely perceived as the only way out of the economic crisis, all regions have seen their export markets for agricultural products gravely affected by low demand and prices, restricted access to markets and protectionism. To counter these factors, a variety of macro-economic and sector-specific measures have been introduced. Currency devaluations have been implemented, particularly in Africa and Latin America and, more widely in the latter region, tax and subsidy incentives to substitute imports and boost exports. Major structural reforms have been introduced in an attempt to make trade more efficient, in particular the reform of marketing institutions, Mr Chairman, it is indeed disturbing to find that structural adjustment programmes in many instances have adversely affected the poor, but encouraging to learn that this effect is more widely recognized and therefore attention is increasingly being given to measures designed to prevent declines in social well being.

In the case of Asia, relatively less affected by external shocks, a number of factors now raise doubts on the region's ability to sustain in the years ahead its agricultural success story. In the Near East where both oil-exporting and non-oil exporting countries are embarked on a highly restrictive macro-economic course, efforts are being made to shield agriculture from the recessive effects of adjustment.

In the area of agricultural trade, document C 87/2 Sup.1 reports an increase in the value of world exports of crops, livestock and forest products and a continuing dynamic trading activity in fishery products in 1986. However, as was the case for merchandise trade as a whole, the increase in the value of agricultural exports was largely due to the depreciation of the US dollar and was mainly confined to industrial trading countries. In volume terms, world crop and livestock exports actually declined, and developing countries as a whole experienced a sluggish trading year, particularly in their food imports. Although improved domestic supply conditions explained some of this reduction in food imports by developing countries, an equally important factor was, in the case of many of them, the inability to overcome liquidity problems related to their current account imbalances and external debt.

The 3.5% growth in the value of agricultural exports from developing countries in 1986 may be considered a relatively good performance in the context of the 1980s. Also, the upsurge in agricultural exports by Africa was a major cause for satisfaction. The narrow base of this improvement should be noted, however. Higher prices for a few export products, notably coffee, accounted for most of the overall gain in developing country export earnings from agriculture. Indeed, agricultural export markets for most products continue to be characterized by instability and sluggishness; agricultural commodity prices have remained depressed despite some strengthening for a number of them during 1987. Agricultural terms of trade of developing countries sharply deteriorated even further this year.

Mr Chairman, the Committee on Commodity Problems met last month and addressed itself to the difficulties arising from this unsatisfactory situation in international agricultural markets. It also carried out an in-depth review of related policy developments. In particular, the Committee strongly deplored protectionism in agriculture. It regretted that agricultural protectionism and the problems resulting from it had seriously worsened in recent years, despite certain efforts by a number of countries to limit their budgetary expenditures and to take adjustment measures to curb excessive production of commodities in surplus supply. The Committee thus welcomed the major initiatives and proposals which have been set out recently concerning principles and approaches to guide agricultural policy reform. It agreed on the need for progressive elimination of protectionist policies and, *inter alia*, urged that the interests of developing countries should receive priority attention, as well as differential and more favourable treatment in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

In endorsing the Committee's report last week, the FAO Council underlined that the situation regarding agricultural commodity trade remained in a profound state of crisis, affecting both developed and developing countries.

Sluggish official and private flows of external financial resources to agriculture are another manifestation of the unfavourable environment for economic development. Between 1983-85, total official commitments have declined in constant prices. While more recent data is only available for multilateral commitments, these indicate a marked decline in concessional commitments in 1986, but an exceptionally high level of non-concessional lending to agriculture from official sources. These are expected to sharply fall back in 1987, however. Estimates of external private lending to agriculture up to 1985 also show a marked declining trend.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente, usted sabe cuan sincera es la satisfacción que los representantes de Colombia sentimos al verle ocupar la Presidencia de esta importante Comisión. Además de sus capacidades y experiencias bien conocidas para nosotros a través de una honrosa amistad personal, usted proviene de un gran país del tercer mundo al cual el nuestro, Colombia, está vinculado por gratos nexos de solidaridad y simpatía.

A los representantes de Colombia nos complace también participar por primera vez en esta Comisión al verle rodeado a usted de funcionarios muy competentes de nuestra Organización como el señor Hjort, Director de la División de Análisis Política, quien acaba de hacer una excelente presentación, el Dr. Dutía, Director de la División de Productos Básicos y Comercio, una de las Divisiones que mejor trabajan en esta casa y los señores Mulherin y Novoa conocidos por su competencia. Todo es propicio para intervenir con entusiasmo y buen ánimo en esta Sala verde.

El señor Hjort manifestó, al presentar el tema, que se había dado un paso atrás comparando los resultados del documento básico y del suplemento. Nosotros pensamos que se ha dado un primer paso atrás, que estamos retrocediendo kilómetros en esta difícil situación alimentaria y agrícola que hace víctimas impotentes a los países en desarrollo. Es lamentable el retraso agrícola que se ha producido en sólo tres meses, entre agosto de 1987, cuando se publicó el documento C 87/2, y noviembre de 1987, al distribuirnos el Suplemento 1.

Una primera y breve consideración sobre el Suplemento 1 confirma esto que estamos diciendo sobre el retroceso lamentable en la situación agrícola y alimentaria. En el documento básico, a mediados del año 1987, se había hecho la estimación de que posiblemente este año no fuera bueno. Ahora en el párrafo 2 del Suplemento 1 ya se afirma que fue un mal año. En ese mismo párrafo 2 se habla de nuevo de la situación potencial de hambre en Etiopía y en el sur del Sahara, según lo indicó el señor Hjort en su presentación.

Nosotros pensamos que esta Comisión debe adoptar una posición muy firme, concreta y específica en el sentido de pedir al Director General de la FAO que entre en estrecha cooperación con las demás organizaciones del sistema vinculadas en este problema grave de la crisis alimentaria en Africa para evitar que se repita la triste situación del año 1985.

En la reciente reunión de Comité de Política y Programa Mundial de Alimentos ya se hicieron las primeras referencias a esa nueva amenaza que se cierne sobre Etiopía y otros países del Sur del Sahara. ¡ Ojalá nosotros podamos contribuir al bien reconocido y permanente esfuerzo del Director General de la FAO en favor de los países de esa martirizada región africana !.

En el párrafo 10 del Suplemento 1 está reflejada también una afirmación inquietante. Las estimaciones para 1987 indican que la tasa de crecimiento en la producción de alimentos será la peor registrada desde 1982 y por eso dijimos antes que estamos retrocediendo no pasos sino kilómetros hacia atrás; esto es lamentable y deberemos consignarlo en nuestro informe.

En los párrafos 23 y 29 del Suplemento 1 se habla del comercio, al cual nos vamos a referir más ampliamente en nuestros comentarios sobre el documento básico, pero es importante destacar que estamos de nuevo en una disminución del 6% en cuanto a las exportaciones totales de mercancías en los países en desarrollo. En el párrafo 29 podrá observarse que esas exportaciones descendieron del 34% en el año 1985 al 32% en el año 1986, y cuando logramos los países en desarrollo hacer grandes esfuerzos para aumentar el volumen de nuestras exportaciones, esos esfuerzos se ven frustrados por la baja de los precios de los productos agrícolas de exportación, tal como lo informó el señor Hjort en su presentación.

Pasamos ahora, al documento básico C 87/2, cuyo contenido confirma el hecho de que en las últimas décadas, cada dos años, cuando en la Conferencia de la FAO consideramos este tema, la situación de la agricultura y la alimentación en el mundo sigue siendo profundamente preocupante y desfavorable y sin posibilidad de recuperación para los países en desarrollo. Este es un proceso que se repite sin interrupción y que confirma la falta de voluntad política de los Estados industrializados para ofrecer la asistencia técnica y financiera indispensables en términos, volúmenes, condiciones y oportunidades que permitan a los países del tercer mundo sentar las bases para el aumento de sus propias condiciones agropecuarias. Un análisis objetivo de este documento indica que el ambiente económico mundial sigue siendo desfavorable.

Los países en desarrollo, altamente endeudados, han pasado a ser exportadores netos de capital. Nuestros países se han visto forzados a limitar sus exportaciones de productos alimentarios, o sea, han tenido que condenar a sus poblaciones al hambre y la malnutrición, al tiempo que nuestros Estados no han podido aumentar sus exportaciones por el proteccionismo creciente y todas las demás barreras que obstaculizan el libre comercio internacional.

Como el Sr. Hjordt dijo, la relación de intercambio se deterioró nuevamente en el primer semestre de este año.

La producción ha crecido lentamente y la reducción del comercio mundial ha afectado notablemente a los países en desarrollo. Para 1987 se prevé otra disminución del crecimiento de la producción mundial, que pasaría del 2,9 al 2,7%, el más bajo desde 1983; es decir todo esto nos indica que estamos volviendo quince años atrás. Por lo menos la mitad de los países en desarrollo registraron crecimientos negativos en su producción en el año 1983 y ni siquiera alcanzaron una tercera parte de la media establecida para los años 69/79, particularmente los países gravemente afectados por la deuda externa y el servicio de otra deuda. Sobre todo en América Latina y el Caribe el aumento de su producción agrícola bajó del 4% a apenas poco más del 1% en 1986.

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que todas esas cifras negativas y desalentadoras para los países en desarrollo deberán ser incluidas en la parte de este informe sobre este tema porque todo ello confirma la grave e incorregible situación agrícola y alimentaria del tercer mundo. Justo es reconocer que en 1984 se produjo una leve recuperación, pero ya hemos vuelto a retrasos como lo estamos afirmando. En efecto, la tasa del aumento de la producción agrícola mundial disminuyó del 2,2% en 1985 al 1,3% en 1986, segundo año consecutivo de la desaceleración del crecimiento.

Naturalmente, dentro del contexto mundial, los países en desarrollo siempre sufren las peores consecuencias. En nuestros Estados la producción agraria en 1986 descendió al 1,6% después de haber alcanzado niveles entre el 3 y el 4% en los primeros cinco años de 1980.

Por otra parte, como lo indica el párrafo 18 del documento C 87/2, las exportaciones totales de los países en desarrollo disminuyeron en un 9% en 1986, pero lo que es más grave es que en 1985 logramos aumentar el volumen de nuestras exportaciones pero recibimos valores menores por la caída de los precios de nuestros productos, víctimas de los subsidios y de otras prácticas desleales aplicadas por algunos países desarrollados. En la sesión política de desarrollo, a partir del párrafo 24, se hace referencia a una serie de buenas intenciones y de santas promesas que vienen haciendo los más altos representantes de Estados industrializados. La reunión cumbre de Venecia, el comunicado de la reunión ministerial de la OCD de mayo de 1984 y el nuevo Reglamento de la Comunidad Económica Europea adoptan, en diciembre de 1986, las expresiones constructivas del Grupo Cairas al cual pertenece Colombia en asociación con otros países en desarrollo y desarrollados, y a todo ello se ha sumado la posición erguida de los países en desarrollo en su conjunto, como la del Grupo de los 77, Reunión Ministerial celebrada en La Habana (Cuba) en abril de 1987.

En nuestro informe deberemos consignar la esperanza de que todas esas declaraciones no sigan siendo letra muerta ni sean textos que apenas permitan concebir vanas ilusiones a los países en desarrollo, sino que todo ello se traduzca en hechos concretos y específicos que pongan fin a la actual e injusta situación del comercio internacional.

La delegación de Colombia piensa, como lo hemos afirmado en otros foros, que la Ronda de Uruguay es una ocasión excepcional y que los Estados desarrollados deben cumplir sus compromisos al tiempo que la FAO debe asistir a los países en desarrollo para que participen de manera adecuada en esas negociaciones en las cuales nuestra Organización afortunadamente ha sido aceptada a tomar parte como observador en los más importantes grupos de trabajo relacionados con el campo de la agricultura y alimentación.

Es evidente que muchos países en desarrollo carecen de los recursos y de los medios que les permitan participar debidamente en la Ronda Uruguay; y la FAO tiene experiencia, tiene conocimientos, tiene recursos, tiene personal, todo lo cual debe estar al servicio del tercer mundo.

Finalmente, Señor Presidente, unas breves consideraciones sobre la situación en la Región a la cual pertenece Colombia, América Latina y el Caribe. Este documento demuestra que la mayoría de los países de América Latina y el Caribe siguen padeciendo los efectos de la crisis más prolongada y profunda que se ha registrado en los últimos 50 años, o sea que, como podemos fácilmente comprobar, no se trata de un paso atrás, sino de 15 o 50 años por lo menos en la esperanza para nuestro desarrollo. El documento base afirma que el decenio de los ochenta fue completamente perdido para América Latina y el Caribe. La deuda externa de los países de nuestra Región llegará a la increíble suma de cerca de 400 mil millones de dólares en 1987.

Sin embargo, con base en indicadores obsoletos, a los países de nuestra Región se les ha venido excluyendo sistemáticamente de la asistencia técnica y financiera. La producción agrícola de América Latina y el Caribe que había aumentado en un 3,5 por ciento anual dentro del 6 por ciento del crecimiento de la economía en su conjunto en los años 80 descendió considerablemente en una lamentable inversión de tendencias. El Gobierno de Colombia reitera su confianza en que el estudio que está elaborando la FAO de América Latina y el Caribe, estudio que fue solicitado por la última Conferencia Regional celebrada en la Isla de Barbados en agosto del año pasado, que ese estudio podrá contribuir a presentar de manera escueta y clara, con unos indicadores actualizados, la difícil situación económica por que atraviesa América Latina y el Caribe, con repercusiones notables sobre el estado de la agricultura y de la alimentación en nuestra área.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, distinguished delegate from Colombia. Your intervention has given an indication of the depth and detail of your knowledge of SOFA.

Francis RINVILLE (France): Je voudrais d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellence des documents qui sont mis à notre disposition.

Comme elle a coutume de le faire à chacune de ses sessions, la Conférence commence ses travaux par l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

Il s'agit aux yeux de la délégation française d'un point essentiel de notre ordre du jour car c'est bien dans cette enceinte qu'il convient d'analyser les tendances et perspectives de la situation agricole et alimentaire et de répondre aux questions que posent gouvernements et opinion publique sur la capacité des économies agricoles à satisfaire les besoins alimentaires de tous.

Monsieur le Président, je ne chercherai pas à commenter dans les détails ces documents pour concentrer mon intervention sur quelques questions de fond qu'ils soulèvent.

En ce qui concerne tout d'abord le constat de la situation actuelle, je voudrais une fois de plus mettre l'accent sur le caractère inacceptable de la situation que nous connaissons depuis un certain nombre d'années:

d'une part, au niveau international, l'accroissement des disponibilités alimentaires n'a pas amélioré sensiblement le niveau d'approvisionnement des pays déficitaires. Au contraire, l'OAA constate que les importations de certains pays sont en diminution en raison de leur manque de moyens financiers; - D'autre part, dans certains pays les accroissements de production ont engendré des excédents sans pour autant éliminer les problèmes alimentaires.

Ces constatations mettent pleinement en évidence qu'au-delà des problèmes de production se pose la question complémentaire, tout aussi importante, de l'accès des consommateurs aux produits alimentaires et de l'organisation des marchés.

J'en tire pour ma part deux conclusions qui devraient orienter plus que dans le passé l'action de notre Organisation:

Au niveau national tout d'abord, il est fondamental que soit encouragée la mise en place de politiques et de mécanismes économiques organisant et renforçant les relations, entre l'offre des produits agricoles et la demande des consommateurs, en particulier des consommateurs urbains. Ceci implique que les politiques agricoles soient orientées non seulement vers la production mais aussi vers la transformation de produits et leur commercialisation. Pour cela, il importe d'organiser et de gérer les marchés afin d'assurer un débouché aux productions rurales et de reconquérir les marchés locaux au détriment des importations.

En second lieu, dans un contexte économique international très difficile mais qui cherche à se libéraliser dans le cadre de nouvelles négociations multilatérales, il est essentiel que les pays dans lesquels l'agriculture est fragile puissent la défendre et la protéger des aléas des marchés internationaux.

Les tensions actuelles sur les marchés internationaux des produits agricoles qui, je le rappelle, n'existent pas seulement entre pays développés, sont graves de conséquences pour toutes les économies mais encore plus pour les plus faibles. Les pays exportateurs voient leurs recettes d'exportation chuter de façon importante et les pays importateurs, malgré le bénéfice qu'ils tirent de prix internationaux anormalement bas, voient leur propre économie agricole soumise à une concurrence contre laquelle ils n'ont pas les moyens de lutter.

Pour ces raisons, il me paraît logique que les pays les plus pauvres aient la possibilité de défendre leurs économies agricoles des fluctuations erratiques des marchés internationaux.

C'est aussi pour ces raisons que la France, comme l'a expliqué hier son Ministre de l'agriculture, a proposé d'agir rapidement, sans attendre la fin du déroulement des négociations multilatérales pour soulager les tensions de certains marchés et accroître simultanément l'aide aux pays en développement.

J'en viens maintenant au second volet de mon intervention relatif aux perspectives de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation mondiale.

Sur un plan général, tout d'abord, je voudrais faire observer qu'il est bien difficile même aux meilleurs experts de prévoir à coup sûr dans quel sens évoluera la situation alimentaire mondiale. Sans remonter très loin, nous avons tous présentes à l'esprit les affirmations généralement admises, il y a dix ans, d'un risque élevé de déficit alimentaire à l'échelle de la planète. Aujourd'hui, l'opinion inverse a tendance à prévaloir lorsqu'on se préoccupe de l'ampleur des excédents agricoles. Qu'en sera-t-il dans dix ans? Sommes-nous à l'abri d'un renversement de tendances?

Assurément, la situation actuelle pose de multiples problèmes tels que la chute des cours et la gestion des excédents.

Force est de reconnaître que les mécanismes de stabilisation tant nationaux qu'internationaux - je pense notamment aux accords de produits en leur état actuel - sont loin d'apporter de véritables remèdes.

D'un autre côté, la gestion des excédents actuels par les pays producteurs est difficile et coûteuse, et j'ai rappelé tout à l'heure ses conséquences négatives sur la stabilité des marchés internationaux. Nul ne peut considérer une telle situation comme normale. Je note que la communauté internationale s'attache à corriger cette situation dans le cadre des négociations multilatérales.

De même, au niveau de la production, des mécanismes correcteurs sont mis en place sous formes diverses mais qui toutes, tendent à promouvoir un meilleur équilibre entre l'offre et la demande.

Il y a là un vaste domaine de réflexion et de concertation dans lequel l'OAA a, à l'évidence, un rôle central à jouer.

Enfin, Monsieur le Président, sans aucunement négliger les problèmes que connaissent les autres régions du monde et comme cela vient d'être dit, l'un des enjeux majeurs des vingt-cinq prochaines années, est l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire en Afrique au sud du Sahara.

L'étude réalisée par la FAO, à cet égard, montre combien les tendances dans cette région du monde, demeurent préoccupantes et rappelle le double défi auquel elle a à faire face:

celui de la nature qui lui pose des problèmes de disponibilité de terre, de productivité, de dégâts aux récoltes; - celui de la démographie ensuite, puisque les projections prévoient que dans 25 ans, cette partie de la planète aura un milliard d'habitants, dont plus de la moitié vivront en ville: la population urbaine va quintupler d'ici à 2010 et je compléterai par celui fondamental de la formation en général, complétée par le savoir-faire et la maîtrise de technologies d'autant plus sophistiquées qu'elles doivent être douces et économes d'intrants.

Si les tendances actuelles se poursuivent, cela signifie qu'à terme l'alimentation des grandes villes africaines dépendra pour l'essentiel d'importations. Si, au contraire, se met en oeuvre une mutation de grande ampleur de l'agriculture africaine afin de transformer une agriculture vivrière d'auto-consommation en une agriculture marchande susceptible de reconquérir le marché intérieur, on peut espérer voir cette région du monde faire un pas significatif vers la sécurité alimentaire.

Il serait hors de propos, Monsieur le Président, de se lancer ici dans l'examen des mesures nécessaires qui ont fait et feront l'objet d'autres débats. Mais il me paraît clair qu'il y a là un champ d'action privilégié pour notre Organisation: le Directeur général l'a à plusieurs reprises, sensibilisée sur cette question, en particulier à la suite de la Session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies en proposant un Plan d'action pour le relèvement de l'Afrique. La France est prête à participer aux actions qui seraient menées notamment pour appuyer les efforts des pays africains pour le relèvement de leurs économies.

Vaclav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): I would like to thank Mr Hjort for his introduction. Both documents, G 87/2 and its supplement 1, are elaborated in a qualified manner and give a good survey of the development of the situation.

The analysis of the status in food and agriculture for the 1986/87 period draws attention to some undoubtedly positive results but reveals, at the same time, some serious aspects concerning mainly the developing countries.

The unfavourable situation in the development of the world's economy, characteristic of the past period, has had, and continues to have, far-reaching implications for the sector of agriculture and food. This applies mainly to the indebted developing countries, with agriculture serving as a "major engine for growth" in many of them. It is generally known that more than half of the developing countries have had debt servicing problems in recent years. It must be stated, unfortunately, that the growth of agricultural production in these countries dropped from 4 per cent in 1985 to 1 per cent last year.

Though the current world output of food is considerably above the requirements it should be stated again that the production of foodstuffs is not in keeping with their redistribution. Agricultural production is not dynamic enough and the structures of agriculture in developing countries are mostly backward and one-sided: this has an adverse influence on the developing countries' overall economic development. Solutions should be sought in a profound democratic change of the international economic relationships which can only take place under a new established international economic order with all implications for the area of agriculture and food.

FAO statistics estimate grain production in 1987 at about 1800 million tones, which is 3 per cent less than the record crop last year. The world grain supply will be 443.9 million tones, as estimated, which is 26 per cent of the world grain consumption. The world grain stocks of the main producer countries will be high enough to meet the demand in the cases of catastrophes and prevent, in essence, the danger of hunger in some regions of the world.

As known from available data, almost half of the population of the developing world is exposed to the risk of crop failure, starvation, and malnutrition. The programme of the food aid with grain is estimated at 11.9 million tonnes for the 1986-87 period, whereas in the last biennium this aid was 10.7 million tonnes. More than half of this amount will go to the African continent. However, this

is a problem which can hardly be solved by merely sending grain to the places where it is needed: the solution should be sought in scientifically grounded programmes which can lead to a substantial change. This in turn requires rational use of material and human resources. Attention should be drawn to the fact that the reduction of the area of forests, the loss of land, slow spreading of irrigation, lack of commercial fertilizers in many developing countries, together with the insufficient numbers of agricultural experts are all serious warning indications.

We consider the situation now prevailing in food and agriculture as a very complex problem which has assumed a global dimension. This is why its solution can only be reached through our joint efforts. Czechoslovakia is interested in being actively involved in these efforts and offers its experience in the formation and work of agricultural co-operatives, research findings, experience in the use of modern cultural practices, and co-operation of its agricultural experts.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Peru): En primer lugar, nuestra delegación le hace llegar sus felicitaciones por su elección como Presidente de nuestra Comisión. El examen del documento, en la parte que se refiere al "Ambiente Económico Mundial" sobre el que me voy a ocupar y cuyo análisis está tan bien elaborado por la Secretaría, además de haber sido sintetizado con gran capacidad y expuesto con veracidad y franqueza, por cuyas virtudes mi delegación le hace llegar sus felicitaciones, nos muestra los indicadores de la economía mundial con serios y graves deterioros para el sector de la economía agrícola, y que no es sino el panorama de la erosión económica de los países del tercer mundo que se acentúa y prosigue aceleradamente.

Creo que siempre se hace necesario recordar en estas situaciones, algunos conceptos sobre la economía agrícola. Es bueno recordar, por ejemplo, que la agricultura ubicada en el sector primario de la economía, muestra una enorme debilidad frente a la industria. El producto industrial, dentro de la oferta y la demanda muestra su enorme ventaja sobre el producto agropecuario. Mientras el producto agrícola, por ejemplo, es por lo general de rápida perecibilidad, el producto manufacturado no tiene ese inconveniente. No es lo mismo, por ejemplo, comercializar leche susceptible a malograrse rápidamente y que requiere altos costos de almacenamiento, que comercializar acero que no se malogra.

Mientras que la demanda de alimentos es limitada, la de bienes industriales se comporta como altamente elástica. Si el ingreso familiar aumenta, nada impide que se puedan comprar cualquier cantidad de vestidos, por ejemplo, mientras que no se puede hacer lo mismo con los productos alimenticios debido a la capacidad del estómago, que tiene un límite.

Los productos industriales reaccionan rápidamente a la demanda, mientras que los productos agrícolas no lo pueden hacer sino en períodos relativamente largos, supeditados a su período vegetativo en las plantas y al tiempo en que el ganado este listo para su beneficio o puedan ofrecernos sus productos.

A estas desventajas intrínsecas de la economía agrícola, debemos añadir los riesgos en el sector de la producción que son enormes: sequías, heladas, inundaciones, plagas y enfermedades. Añadamos a éstos, los que se derivan de la baja productividad cuya responsabilidad radica principalmente en suelos pobres y degradados de los países pobres, en contraposición, a los recursos de suelos y aguas fértiles y abundantes con los que han sido dotados los países ricos, base de su prosperidad actual, una desventaja que no debemos dejar pasar por alto y valorarla en toda su dimensión.

Estas y muchísimas otras inelasticidades de la producción agrícola que se citan en cualquier curso de economía ya de hecho le están otorgando grandes ventajas a la industria, frente a la agricultura. En términos macroeconómicos, a los países industrializados o desarrollados, frente a los países agrícolas o subdesarrollados.

Como todos sabemos, estas diferencias fundamentales entre ambos bloques caracterizados por su propia economía son la causa principal, no la única, del deterioro de las llamadas "relaciones de intercambio". Este deterioro se agrava por el egoísmo del mundo desarrollado que compra las materias primas del tercer mundo pagando precios que suben en proporción aritmética, mientras que vende sus productos manufacturados a precios que suben en proporción casi geométrica.

En el párrafo 6 del documento, al referirse a las relaciones de intercambio señalan que, nuevamente, se deterioraron en el primer semestre del presente año. Basándonos siempre en los documentos nos preguntamos: ¿de qué sirve, por ejemplo, el esfuerzo de los agricultores asiáticos que han incrementado su producción agrícola en una "tasa anual de crecimiento acumulado del 4% y sin embargo -según los documentos- no han obtenido mayores beneficios?

Señor Presidente, nos volvemos a formular la misma pregunta que seguramente se han hecho multitud de veces en forum similares a éste: ¿es justa esta situación? ¿Puede continuar operando en un mundo que pregona la justicia social y la liquidación del hambre y la pobreza? ¿No creen ustedes, señores delegados, que los esfuerzos de la FAO y de todo el sistema de Naciones Unidas con fines de mejorar el ingreso campesino están mediatizados y frenados mientras éstos tengan que pagar altísimos precios por los insumos que se adquieren y que generalmente son importados, y que se les tenga que pagar precios ridículos por su esfuerzo? Mientras estos problemas de estructura económica mundial no sean resueltos, tengo la sensación de que todos nosotros no estamos haciendo sino aplicar, la política del sinapismo o de suministrar analgésicos a un enfermo que requiere un tratamiento serio.

Hace algunos años, los Estados Unidos de Norte América, con el propósito de atenuar las brechas creadas por las relaciones de intercambio entre sus sectores industrial y agrícola, establecieron los llamados "precios de paridad" -no sé si esa política continúa - y que consiste en ajustar los precios agrícolas en la misma proporción que subían los precios industriales. ¿No sería interesante que la FAO pudiera estudiar la posibilidad - si aún no lo hubiese hecho - de hacer algo parecido? Al menos, entre los productos de exportación de países subdesarrollados y los insumos que la agricultura requiere y que, en gran proporción, son importados.

El documento también hace énfasis en otro aspecto tan importante como el anterior, y que ha sido constante preocupación expresada por delegaciones de casi todos los países en desarrollo en diferentes reuniones de nuestra organización, y que constituye un tremendo freno que impide el desarrollo agrícola en los países del tercer mundo. Me refiero a la deuda externa.

Vale la pena comentar algunos párrafos de los que nos dice el documento. El párrafo.3 expresa que "los países en vía de desarrollo fuertemente endeudados siguieron efectuando grandes transferencias de capital a países que antes eran grandes exportadores de capital". Sí, señor Presidente la verdad es ésa; países que requieren de capitales para sus inversiones agrícolas o para implementar programas de desarrollo rural, tienen que renunciar a las perentorias necesidades de su pueblo para pagar su deuda. Dinero procedente de la producción, mayoritariamente agrícola, obtenido a pesar de los fenómenos adversos, a pesar de los insumos importados cada vez más caros, tiene que emigrar a un mundo, donde a veces, por ironía, son usados para producir alimentos para gatos y perros, con vitaminas y envases de lujo.

El mismo párrafo señala que dichos países endeudados "no lograron elevar sus ahorros y tasas de inversión". ¿Cómo podrán ahorrar, menos invertir, aquellos países que, esperanzados en recibir un nuevo préstamo -que los va a endeudar más- hacen sacrificios para tapar un hueco, conscientes aún que abrirán un forado más grande por la urgencia de recursos financieros?

Sobre el mismo tema de la deuda, el párrafo 5 señala que "los países en desarrollo con problemas de servicio de la deuda no lograrán aumentar sus importaciones". Si éstas consistieran tan sólo en bienes o servicios no necesarios, en buena hora, pero lamentablemente -como señala bien claro el documento- se reducen las importaciones de insumos, bienes intermedios y maquinarias necesarios para mantener la producción agrícola o incrementarla.

Más adelante el párrafo 9 nos dice que "en 1986 el valor de las exportaciones de mercaderías de países con problemas de la deuda, habría disminuido en 43 000 millones de dólares con respecto a 1980 y el de sus importaciones en 64 000 millones de dólares".

Las recetas del Fondo Monetario Internacional que imponen condiciones muy duras de política económica -tal como acertadamente- señala el documento- tales como obligar a los países a reducir gastos presupuestales, en aquellas naciones donde, con frecuencia, la inversión social en educación y salud es impostergable; o la creación de fuertes impuestos que no constituyen sino factores inflacionarios que van a influir en que los precios al consumidor continúen subiendo rápidamente, con el propósito -según el Fondo Monetario Internacional- de lograr la amortización de la deuda no han

dado resultados, por propia confesión de ese organismo; al contrario, según leemos en el párrafo 85, al referirse a la América Latina el documento dice que "a pesar del rigor y el coste de medidas de reajuste; el endeudamiento ha continuado aumentando hasta un total de 368 000 millones de dólares en 1983 y 382 000 millones de dólares en 1987".

En el párrafo 28 el documento señala que "según los datos del FMI el coeficiente del servicio de la deuda de los países con deuda ha empeorado considerablemente, situándose en cerca del 38% por ciento". En la página 316 del documento del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto al referirse a la América Latina dice: "al final de 1986 la deuda externa de la región era el doble de 1979. Los pagos del servicio de la deuda, que representaban por término medio la mitad del valor de todas las mercaderías y servicios exportados junto con el descenso de la relación de intercambio han reducido drásticamente los ahorros nacionales y la inversión interior". Si revisamos acuciosamente los diferentes proyectos de ayuda alimentaria que el Consejo ha aprobado, podremos encontrar que varios países, del Africa por ejemplo, tienen un servicio anual de la deuda que sobrepasa el 100 por cien del valor de sus exportaciones; quiero decir que todas sus ventas no alcanzarían siquiera para pagar el servicio de su deuda de un año. En este continente, según el documento del Programa de Labores y Presupuesto, además de los altos precios de los insumos "la falta de divisas no permite comprar piezas de repuestos o insumos de pesca esenciales", por cuya razón no pueden desarrollar su pesquería cuyos recursos son capaces de alimentar a toda su población.

Cada vez se va tomando más conciencia de que la labor de nuestro organismo no sólo consiste en incrementar la producción agrícola o pesquera; quien piense así, señor Presidente, no ha entendido a plenitud los fines de las Naciones Unidas y por ende de la FAO. El objetivo primordial consiste en la promoción del hombre, o sea del agricultor o del pescador; es decir, lograr que este ser humano, no sólo pueda comer lo que produce sino poder comercializar sus excedentes para comprar los otros alimentos que complementen su dieta y la de su familia y además, tener acceso al vestido, la educación, la cultura y las distracciones, situación que no podrá lograr si persisten los términos de intercambio, el proteccionismo, los insumos caros, o porque sus gobiernos no les pueden proporcionar la infraestructura de producción, comercialización y servicios, por tener que atender antes el servicio de la deuda externa que ni el plan Backer, ni otras recetas aplicadas podrán darle solución porque la deuda, en la forma como lo exige el FMI, para la mayor parte de los países deudores, es simplemente impagable, como es fácil comprobar por los mismos documentos de la FAO.

Por lo mencionado, mi delegación, reiterando lo expresado en algunos comités, cree que no se podrán resolver los problemas de la agricultura mundial, mientras no se resuelvan esos problemas, por más que sus 158 delegados nos quememos las pestañas y nos rompemos la cabeza buscando fórmulas que puedan prescindir de esos grandes obstáculos.

La FAO, señor Presidente, no es sino una parte, la más importante por supuesto, del sistema de las Naciones Unidas. Formamos parte de ese engranaje que debe marchar sincronizado. En consecuencia, los otros organismos que tienen que resolver los grandes problemas de la estructura económica mundial, deberán preparar el camino, pues de lo contrario, reitero que nuestra labor seguirá realizando solamente la política del parche y del analgésico ante un enfermo cuya salud va empeorando tal como nos lo hacen ver nuestros propios documentos.

El sistema de las Naciones Unidas es como un vehículo cuyas ruedas deben desplazarse a la misma velocidad, pero si la rueda agrícola se desplaza con menos velocidad, el vehículo se voltea y se sale del camino, y eso no es lo deseable.

CHAIRMAN: Before I request the delegate of Nicaragua to make his intervention, I would like to mention that the Observer from the OAU has also indicated his intention to intervene. I understand that the convention is that the observers are requested to speak after delegates have spoken. We have noticed that all four delegates who have spoken so far have made anxious references to the emerging situation in Africa. I would therefore request the Observer from the OAU to bear with us so that he can make his intervention a little later when he would have the advantage of knowing of the concern of other delegates who will be preceding him.

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): En nombre de la delegación de Nicaragua le expreso nuestro apoyo en el mejor éxito de la conducción de los debates de esta Comisión. Señor o Presidente, señores delegados, en el 23 período de sesiones de la conferencia de la FAO, nos tocó presentar las consideraciones sobre este mismo tema: "El estado mundial de la agricultura y de la alimentación".

El informe que se nos presenta en esta oportunidad, en su contenido analítico, es equilibrado e ilustrativo para nuestros países, en la medida que están insertados en el ámbito de la economía mundial y las previsiones y acciones que deben considerarse para seguir a flote con el desarrollo de la producción agrícola, la posibilidad concreta de recuperación económica para su reproducción, así como lo que se refiere a problemas de abastecimiento de alimentos.

La realidad es que el ambiente económico mundial sigue siendo desfavorable para el conjunto de actividades económicas y comerciales con alcances críticos para los países en desarrollo. Seguimos con la tendencia del endeudamiento externo, con acumulación de intereses, así como enfrentando una relación injusta de intercambio en el mercado internacional, que se traduce en una balanza comercial muy deficitaria, agudización del déficit fiscal, y alta escasez de divisas para el mantenimiento de la infraestructura productiva, acompañado de crecientes presiones inflacionarias que llevan a determinar problemas de carácter político y social. Los excedentes exportables de muchos productos agrícolas, las subvenciones a la exportación por los países desarrollados y los bajos precios del mercado mundial, así como los cambios de políticas en los países en desarrollo, para mantener su endeble capacidad de servicio de la deuda, han afectado negativamente la producción agrícola y, por ende, el comercio internacional de los productos. Esta situación es más crítica en aquellos países en desarrollo que basan su desarrollo económico y social en la agricultura.

La brecha de exportaciones e importaciones entre países desarrollados y países en desarrollo es verdaderamente un resultado de estas situaciones de desajuste mundial y, principalmente, en lo que se refiere a países con problemas crecientes de servicio de la deuda.

Tal como señala el informe, la diferencia entre los dos grupos de países en cuanto al valor de sus exportaciones, alcanzó 124 000 millones de dólares en 1966, y la diferencia del valor de sus importaciones llegó casi a 157 000 millones de dólares; las previsiones sobre este comportamiento se presentan desfavorables para el futuro. Por ello los países endeudados están cada día obligados a reducir sus volúmenes de importación de alimentos y de bienes de capital para la agricultura.

Las tendencias de producción presentadas en este informe reflejan que algunos países desarrollados tienden a disminuir los volúmenes de producción de cereales. Esto llama la atención y es una alerta porque significa un perjuicio de las reservas mundiales, para enfrentar el hambre y la desnutrición en los países pobres y con grandes restricciones agroecológicas.

Si bien es cierto que los movimientos y presiones políticas y sociales han llevado a algunos gobiernos de países industrializados a adoptar una actitud más positiva en relación a los desequilibrios del comercio internacional y a crear un mejoramiento en un ambiente comercial más abierto y liberal, es importante que los demás países desarrollados orienten sus pasos en este sentido positivo, buscando acuerdos justos que favorezcan a los países en desarrollo.

El fundamento económico para el desarrollo social de los países en desarrollo se concentra principalmente en su potencial agrícola. De hecho al interno de estos países se buscan medidas y políticas para incentivar la producción, así como los ajustes necesarios en el desarrollo estructural de las instituciones para atender el sector agrícola. Sin embargo, esta voluntad enfrenta realmente serias restricciones ante el incremento de la deuda externa y la situación económica comercial desfavorable en el ámbito mundial. Esta posición y otros factores conexos fueron el punto central de las deliberaciones de la sexta reunión ministerial del Grupo de los 77 celebrada en La Habana (Cuba) en abril de 1987.

En Nicaragua además de enfrentar los problemas anteriormente mencionados, se suma el bloqueo económico y la agresión político-militar constante del país más rico de la tierra. Esta actitud injusta contra un país pobre limita drásticamente nuestras posibilidades de desarrollarnos económicamente y vivir una paz estable y duradera. Durante siete años hemos emprendido un programa de reforma agraria, beneficiando 103 000 familias campesinas, con entrega de más de 2,9 millones de

hectáreas de tierra (casi un 51% del total de la tierra en fincas) y hemos organizado 3 000 cooperativas agrícolas. A la par de este esfuerzo se han venido aplicando medidas y políticas en términos de precios, financiamientos y suministros de insumos y maquinarias agrícolas, con aplicación de subsidios para incentivar a los diferentes sectores sociales en las actividades productivas.

La economía nicaragüense ha sufrido grandes estragos por el bloqueo económico y la agresión político-militar. Enfrentamos una balanza comercial altamente deficitaria que se ha traducido en una escasez de divisas para la producción agrícola y en crecientes presiones inflacionarias. Las divisas líquidas se han visto restringidas, para el sector agropecuario, de 64,0 millones de dólares en 1984 a 46,0 millones de dólares en 1986, de los cuales el 41% se destina para la importación de insumos y bienes de capital. El resto de divisas para la actividad agrícola del país se cubre con diferentes formas de financiamiento externo, el cual también presenta una reducción de un 18% con respecto a 1984.

Nuestras exportaciones, por efecto de los bajos precios en el mercado internacional y por la guerra de agresión, se han reducido en 280 millones de dólares, o sea un 62%.

El pueblo nicaragüense es un pueblo amante de la paz; nuestro deseo es vivir en paz, vivir en armonía y solidaridad con todos los pueblos y países del mundo; por ello defendemos con dignidad nuestra soberana patria y luchamos por defender las reivindicaciones económicas y sociales de nuestro pueblo.

Para concluir, deseamos expresar nuestro acuerdo con el contenido del informe de la Comisión Mundial para el Medio Ambiente, y que la FAO también ha considerado asumirlo como acuerdo. La integración de los aspectos ambientales en los procesos de desarrollo agrícola y rural son fundamentales para los países en desarrollo. De hecho ya que la FAO ha tomado medidas e iniciativas al respecto, proporcionando marcos de amplia aceptación mundial para hacer frente a estos problemas.

Luka RADOJICIC (Yugoslavia): Mr Chairman, may I first of all congratulate you on behalf of the Yugoslav delegation on your election to this high office.

The FAO Conference is taking place under extremely complex conditions. The world economy continues to be characterized by recession, inflation, unemployment, monetary instability, the growth of trade protectionism by the developed countries and the continuing crisis in the developing countries because of their over-indebtedness.

The revival of economic growth registered in the developed countries at the time of the Twenty-third FAO Conference was short-lived, and by 1968 the rate of production growth dropped to 2.5 percent. According to the latest OECD and IMF estimates the growth of GNP in the developed countries should remain at the level of 2.5 percent. Expectations that the revived growth in the developed countries would trigger off the economic growth of the developing countries have proved to be unfounded. There is still less chance of the relative stagnation of the developed countries' economies which, according to estimates, will persist until the end of the decade, encouraging the economic development of the developing nations.

In the first half of this decade the developing countries fared worst (with the exception of some in the Far East and South Asia) as the secondary effects of the economic recovery did not reach them. A large majority of the developing countries found themselves in an even worse position with persistent stagnation and even declining production, partly due to internal difficulties and weaknesses but mostly to a significant worsening of international conditions, reduced demand for their products, commodities in the first place, of which the prices virtually collapsed, increasing protectionism of the developed countries in relation to the developing countries' industrial and agricultural products, a general worsening of the terms of trade, currency instability, a vast drain on funds for payment of high interest on debts, the repatriation of the profits of the transnational companies, the transfer of private domestic capital from the developing to the developed countries and a major cut-back of development assistance, influx of private capital and direct investment by the developed in the developing countries. Such an adverse trend resulted in the developing countries' debts soaring to US\$1,184 billion and a net outflow of capital from the developing to the developed countries of about US\$30 billion in 1987.

At the same time, within the framework of a reduction of budgetary expenditures, the developed countries also reduced their development assistance to the developing countries. For the developing countries to achieve the planned rates of agricultural growth, about 60 percent of the required resources should be provided as development assistance. Some developed countries have increased their bilateral aid linking its use to the purchase of goods and equipment from manufacturers in the donor countries. Though this measure is understandable from the standpoint of the attempts to revive the economy in some developed countries, it is adversely affecting agriculture and food production in the developing countries which, as a rule, are required to invest in infrastructure which can only produce effects in the long run. All this inevitably reflects upon the situation with respect to world food security.

We are witnessing continuing adverse international economic conditions and a steady worsening of the position of the developing countries so that the gap between the developed countries and the developing ones has already acquired alarming proportions. In that context, we should like to stress in particular the problem of the developing countries' external debts and their servicing, their limited access to the developed countries' markets and the latter's protectionist policies as well as the need for external financial support for reviving the economic growth of the developing countries. With respect to external debts, practice has shown that for many indebted developing countries it is a question of insolvency rather than temporary illiquidity that is at stake. In view of the current crisis in the international financial system and in international development cooperation in general, and in agriculture in particular, it is imperative that the international community extend greater financial and other assistance to the developing countries and ease the external debt-servicing burden while limiting protectionism and ensuring improved access to the developed countries' markets. The experience of the past decade has proven without any doubt that without such an approach on the part of the international community the efforts of the developing countries, particularly the low income and food deficient ones to revive their socio-economic development and promote their food security cannot be expected to bear fruit. This is illustrated by the fact that the number of developing countries with a negative rate of per capita growth of agricultural production has increased from 46 in the previous decade to 56 in this decade.

Encouraging in that context is a certain evolution in the positions of the developed countries which publicly acknowledge that the problem of debts can be successfully overcome only if the economic development and increased exports of the debtor countries are ensured. A certain change in the developed countries' approach to the problem of debts has been intimated by the resolution on the developing countries' debts adopted by consensus by the UN General Assembly though in practice they have not confirmed their readiness to actually change their approach to this problem.

Food is increasingly gaining in significance as a strategic factor in ensuring and safeguarding the independence and equality of states, but also as a means of achieving political and economic objectives as a decisive element of internal stability. The problem of hunger which is still outstanding constitutes a constant threat to peace and security. The absence of political will to increase food production in the regions deficient in food with the help of the available means and technology has resulted in the "ghost of famine" looming large in a number of the least developed countries. The World Food Conference held in 1974 set the goal of eradicating hunger by the end of the century. Whether this goal will be achieved or not depends on the rate of growth of food production in the developing countries. The target growth rate of 4 percent was not achieved in the past decade though it should be noted that a number of countries, particularly in Asia, have managed to approach this target and achieve a rate that is higher than the rate of population growth. The situation, however, is still worsening, mostly in Africa and potentially in Latin America as well, where the rate of growth of food production has been unsatisfactory for more than ten years and the population has been growing at a much faster pace than agricultural production.

A solution to the problem of hunger depends primarily on the national policies of every country but on international circumstances as well. The developing countries are aware of the fact that the problem of food has to be tackled primarily by measures at the national level, that is by giving priority to agriculture within the framework of overall national development policies. Precisely for that reason a number of countries have revised their development concepts recently and shifted priority to food production. However, the adverse international political and economic circumstances in particular are hampering the developing countries' efforts to achieve their development objectives in the food and agriculture sector. Political instability and local conflicts impose on the developing countries the need to keep increasing expenditure on arms, which has a highly adverse effect on those countries' efforts to eradicate hunger.

In view of the aforementioned, the Yugoslav delegation would like to urge that the official documents of this session place emphasis on the need for reducing protectionism in the developed part of the world and for supporting efforts in that direction, as well as on the need to reduce the burden of debts weighing heavily on the developing countries, as those are the basic prerequisites for the recovery and renewed prosperity of the world economy.

Hasim OGUT (Turkey) : I should like to join previous delegates in expressing our pleasure at seeing you in the Chair.

The Turkish delegation commends the FAO Secretariat on its preparation of two informative documents on the state of food and agriculture which I am sure will provide useful inputs to our debates.

I should first like to offer our general comments on the world economic and trade environment and its effects on the current state of world food and agriculture. My delegation agrees to the Secretariat's assessment that the world is still undergoing a slow growth period following the recession experienced in the beginning of the 1980's, despite some major economic breakthroughs achieved by a certain number of countries. The rate of growth, especially in developed countries, has been lower than the level which was expected in view of the low interest and inflation rates and oil prices. As a result, progress in solving international financial problems and achieving greater liberalization in trade appeared to be insignificant in recent years. More importantly, slow growth led developed countries to implement more severe protectionist policies hampering the efforts of developing countries, in this interdependent world economic system, to implement their adjustment policies and programmes. It therefore seems that a world economic agenda in the future will be dominated by the same issues as in the recent past. We hope that the past efforts and their unsatisfactory yields will guide us to a more productive period of national and international measures.

In this context, my delegation wishes to make some general remarks. First of all, major industrial countries should give more emphasis to their adjustment programmes that aim to improve production structures, in order that they can produce goods for export which can compete in a free trading environment. At the same time, they should implement more liberal import regimes. This is particularly important for agricultural commodities.

There are, in fact, certain agricultural commodities which are grown at low cost in the developing countries and which provide much needed income to these countries. Falls in this income can certainly deteriorate the food and nutrition situation of their people who already lack a balanced diet.. Similarly their reduced income makes it difficult to implement plans for the import of industrial goods from developed countries thus bringing difficulties to the performances of industry in the latter countries. Therefore, developing countries also need to contribute more effectively to the functioning of the world food and agriculture economy. In other words, their agricultural policies should also provide appropriate support for measures to improve the world trading system. There are, however, several factors to consider in determining policies of this kind. First of all, developing countries and especially those with high potential for production should continue to implement support programmes for their producers who have mostly small plots and do not supply products to the markets. Secondly, developing countries should be allowed and encouraged to undertake programmes aimed at establishing collective food self-sufficiency on a regional basis.

Turkey with its favourable agro-ecological conditions, is eager to assume responsibility in this respect in the Near East. Let me repeat and underline one viewpoint in this connection. The success of these collective efforts largely depends on international market conditions, as well. In fact, our past efforts have not resulted in satisfactory successes due to the subsidized prices prevailing in world food markets.

I now wish to comment on the contribution required from the international organizations, mainly FAO, in support of these national programmes and policies.

We believe that FAO's role in supporting global trade negotiations agreed upon in Uruguay to be a key one in view of the fact that agricultural trade issues were included in those negotiations. FAO, being a unique reservoir of technical information and statistical data on production, consumption, stocks and prices of agricultural commodities is well placed to contribute to success in these efforts.

My Government gives special importance to FAO's role in promoting the harmonization of national agricultural policies in such fields as plant protection and quarantine, food standards, distribution and use of pesticides, etc. National responsibilities in these fields are assumed mostly by the Ministries of Agriculture in our countries, with which FAO has close contacts. Thus, it is most properly placed to advise GATT and other international organizations concerned on the nature of these policies in the individual countries and their impacts on world agricultural trade. International conventions, food standards and codes of conduct, for which FAO is the depositary or has the promotion and monitoring responsibility, have already been proved useful and of value in contributing to world agricultural trade and agricultural development.

In this connection my delegation highly appreciated the timely initiative of the Director-General following the Chernobyl events to convene an expert consultation with a view to preparing standards on the safe levels of radionuclide contamination of foodstuffs.

Turkey as one of the countries that suffered most from the consequences for trade due to radionuclide contamination from the Chernobyl event and from the absence of international standards, wishes to see a greater cooperation among all international agencies concerned in this respect so that international standards can be prepared in the nearest possible future.

In the implementation of agricultural programmes required by the targeted world economic and trade system, developing countries are in need of greater international financial assistance. My delegation is well aware of the contribution expected from FAO toward efforts to mobilize international financial resources to agriculture. We would particularly refer to the useful work carried out by the Investment Centre of FAO and its programme of promoting financial resources from private banks to agricultural development programmes. We, therefore, wish that FAO's current work in this field will continue to be of high priority.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to stress the importance of FAO's efforts to promote economic cooperation among developing countries. As we have stated on previous occasions, Turkey firmly believes that an expanded trade among developing countries has a significant contribution to make to the improvement of world trade in agricultural commodities.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate our belief that the world food situation cannot be remedied in a sustained manner without the elimination of adverse economic factors. We, therefore, hope that a better discipline of commercial practices will be introduced by all concerned countries and particularly by developed countries.

In addition, I also hope that negative effects on the world market of national agricultural policies and programmes will receive proper attention and that these policies will be formulated with greater recognition to their possible adverse effects on the world market.

Mustapha LASRAM (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Je voudrais, au nom de la délégation tunisienne, rendre hommage à la FAO pour l'excellent rapport qu'elle nous a présenté sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1987. Je voudrais aussi la remercier de préparer des plans de développement régionaux ou nationaux pour de nombreux pays et particulièrement pour la République de la Tunisie car, en dernier lieu, nous avons complété l'élaboration d'un plan pour stocker des céréales en l'an 2000 et nous sommes en train de préparer un plan similaire pour la production des fourrages. Nous espérons arriver ensemble à trouver les finances nécessaires pour mettre en oeuvre tous ces plans.

Nous pourrions dire que cette coopération avec la FAO a été pour nous une occasion nouvelle qui a permis aux experts tunisiens d'acquérir de nouvelles expériences en matière de planification technologique et économique. Nous serons heureux de former ces experts qui pourraient comprendre les problèmes des pays en voie de développement et qui pourraient aider les pays en voie de développement qui voudraient élaborer de tels plans ou de telles études.

Dans le rapport, il est dit que le développement enregistré par l'agriculture en Afrique pendant les deux années 1985-86 était un développement et une croissance dus à l'amélioration des conditions climatiques et que le Programme de développement de la production n'a pas bénéficié des apports financiers extérieurs qui lui sont nécessaires. Bien entendu, cela prive le Programme de redressement économique en Afrique d'une bonne partie de son efficacité. Il nous faut élaborer des propositions claires pour remédier à cette situation.

La délégation tunisienne estime que la FAO peut jouer un rôle important pour remédier à cette situation et elle souligne la nécessité de résoudre les problèmes relatifs au budget, à savoir que tous les pays membres doivent verser leurs contributions et leurs arriérés.

En dernier lieu, il convient de souligner l'importance de la coopération bilatérale dans ce domaine car les pays en voie de développement peuvent ainsi profiter des résultats des recherches technologiques. Nous soulignons aussi la nécessité d'établir une coopération entre les paysans eux-mêmes pour que le dialogue ne se limite pas aux seuls gouvernements.

Ainsi la FAO peut jouer aussi dans ce domaine un rôle important en réduisant l'écart et en rationalisant ce dialogue dans le monde.

La politique de production de l'alimentation dans les pays développés n'est pas conforme à la politique suivie par la FAO. Nous savons qu'il y a des excédents dans les pays développés et les politiques de réduction de la production auront des incidences négatives sur le niveau alimentaire dans le monde, plus particulièrement dans les pays en voie de développement.

La délégation tunisienne recommande à la FAO de dialoguer avec les pays développés pour trouver une équation qui pourrait prendre en ligne de compte les intérêts de toutes les parties.

Khamsing SAYAKONE (Laos): Notre délégation a examiné attentivement le document G 87/2 intitulé "la Situation Mondiale de l'Alimentation et de l'Agriculture en 1987" que nous trouvons clair, précis et bien présenté. Aussi voudrais-je féliciter la FAO et tous ceux qui ont participé à l'élaboration de ce document utile et intéressant.

Cependant, qu'il nous soit permis de souligner certains problèmes qui nous semblent prioritaires.

D'abord en ce qui concerne l'environnement économique:

1 - Nous sommes d'avis que la situation économique des dernières années est restée défavorable à la production et aux échanges. En effet le taux de croissance annuelle de la production mondiale de biens et de services qui était de 2,9% en 1986, tomberait à 2,7% pendant le premier semestre de 1987 et pourrait être plus bas encore d'ici à la fin de l'année. D'autre part les prix des produits alimentaires et agricoles ont tendance à baisser, le revenu des agriculteurs à diminuer, le nombre des pauvres et des affamés à augmenter.

Ces déconvenues appellent des solutions efficaces et urgentes afin de mettre en place un environnement économique plus ouvert et plus serein.

Nous notons avec satisfaction que la situation économique et politique mondiale est en train d'évoluer au profit de la détente et de la négociation. Cette situation devrait être améliorée encore davantage afin de garantir la coopération internationale et le développement.

Ensuite, dans le domaine de la production agricole en 1987-88, il est écrit au paragraphe 22 de la page 9 de ce document que "Si la mousson est normale ou presque normale, la croissance de la production agricole en Asie, y compris la Chine, devrait au moins avoisiner le taux tendanciel (plus de 4%)".

Nous pensons pour notre part qu'il est difficile d'atteindre ce taux tendanciel à cause de la calamité qui a sévi dans plusieurs régions à travers le monde: inondation par-ci, sécheresse par-là.

Pour illustrer ce que je viens de dire, je me permets de vous citer un exemple. C'est le cas de notre pays, la RDP lao. Pendant la dernière campagne rizicole, la sécheresse a fortement affecté 10 provinces sur 17 y causant la perte d'une grande partie des récoltes. En même temps, les grosses pluies ont provoqué les inondations endommageant bon nombre de cultures au centre et au sud du pays. Selon les premières estimations, la production de paddy en 1987 va être de l'ordre de 237° inférieure à celle de 1986 et le déficit en paddy serait d'environ 157 300 tonnes soit approximativement 94 400 tonnes de riz blanc.

Dans le domaine des forêts et de l'environnement:

Nous partageons l'idée qui consiste à dire que dans les pays en développement, les forêts disparaissent chaque année d'une manière trop rapide et cela entraîne des conséquences désastreuses: inondations, sécheresse, pénurie de bois de construction, pénurie de bois de chauffage, dégradation des sols et des eaux, baisse de la production agricole.

La disparition rapide des forêts tropicales est ainsi un grave sujet de préoccupation.

Notre pays n'est malheureusement pas épargné de cette situation. Chaque année plus de 300 000 ha de forêts ont été détruites du fait des cultures itinérantes de riz sur brûlis.

Les quelque 400 000 tonnes de paddy que nous tirons de cette pratique de culture ne représentent qu'un intérêt minime par rapport à ce que la forêt peut produire. Il faut freiner le déboisement et stimuler les initiatives qui visent à maximiser la contribution des forêts au développement économique. C'est dans cet esprit que notre gouvernement s'engage à résoudre ce problème. Actuellement nous sommes en train de mettre en place un grand programme dont l'un des objectifs principaux est de réduire la pratique des cultures itinérantes sur brûlis, de conserver les ressources naturelles et de protéger l'environnement.

Il va sans dire que ce problème n'est pas simple car il n'existe pas de formules ni de modèles établis l'avance.

Ces formules ou modèles diffèrent d'une région à une autre, d'un pays à un autre. Ce qui est commun, à notre avis, c'est qu'il faut résoudre ce problème d'une manière globale c'est-à-dire que la foresterie et les autres secteurs, par exemple le commerce, le transport, l'éducation, la santé publique, doivent conjuguer leurs efforts dans la recherche des solutions appropriées.

Devant l'urgence, la communauté internationale ainsi que la FAO ont lancé divers plans d'action forestiers. Parmi les nouvelles initiatives dans ce domaine, on peut citer la publication du Rapport Brundland, de la Commission Mondiale de l'environnement et du développement. Si nous pouvions avoir accès à ce document, il appuierait utilement les efforts que nous faisons pour promouvoir des programmes équilibrés en matière d'agriculture et de ressources naturelles.

En ce qui concerne la production alimentaire et agricole en Asie et dans le Pacifique: nous avons noté non sans satisfaction qu'elle a positivement évolué durant ces dernières années, en particulier entre 1971 et 1980, période pendant laquelle la production agricole et vivrière a augmenté en moyenne d'environ 4% par an. Elle serait plus importante si l'environnement politique et économique était plus favorable car les différentes ressources aussi bien humaines que naturelles y sont abondantes.

D'autre part, les Organisations internationales qui s'occupent des problèmes liés à l'Agriculture au sens large du terme, y sont nombreuses, par exemple: IRRI, CIMMYT, CIP, CIRDAP, etc.. pour ne citer que quelques unes de ces organisations. Si nous exploitons au maximum les immenses possibilités de ces institutions au profit de l'Agriculture et du développement rural dans chacun de nos pays, le développement économique et la coopération internationale dans cette partie du monde se renforceraient sûrement davantage.

Nous soutenons l'idée que, dans les années à venir, il faut diversifier les cultures en vue de produire une gamme plus vaste de produits afin d'améliorer le régime alimentaire. En outre, il faudrait développer l'emploi extra-agricole en vue d'accroître le revenu des travailleurs ruraux. Ces orientations correspondent tout à fait aux efforts de notre Gouvernement dans le domaine du développement agricole et rural.

Oscar PETINGA (Portugal): Ma délégation désire tout d'abord féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui vont nous permettre de faire une analyse globale de ce sujet important.

Nous devons reconnaître que l'analyse de la situation alimentaire mondiale présente des facteurs franchement positifs en ce qui concerne la disponibilité globale des aliments qui se maintient en croissance depuis ces dernières années, ce dont nous nous félicitons.

Nous savons tous cependant que le monde n'est pas uniforme dans ses potentialités agricoles et dans son degré de développement, que la croissance de la production agricole est loin d'être homogène, et nous pouvons dire de même en ce qui concerne la production per capita .

Les pays développés qui utilisent une haute technologie augmentent constamment leur production agricole de même que leurs rendements unitaires. Ainsi la production unitaire de céréales a doublé en Europe pendant les derniers cinquante ans.

Les pays en développement traversent de grandes difficultés et n'ont pas l'investissement suffisant pour augmenter les productions unitaires. Il est difficile que chaque agriculteur des pays les plus pauvres puisse augmenter la surface qu'il cultive déjà. Avec les ustensiles actuels, les rendements unitaires de la plupart des pays de ce groupe se maintiennent pratiquement stationnaires depuis plus de vingt-cinq ans.

En ce qui concerne l'évolution de la démographie, la population mondiale a augmenté de près de 45 pour cent entre 1965 et 1975; dans les pays développés cette augmentation atteint 22 pour cent, alors que dans le monde en développement ces chiffres sont beaucoup plus élevés.

Je dois souligner le cas spécial de l'Afrique, où l'on assiste à une augmentation accentuée de la population. Entre 1965 et 1985, la population de ce continent a augmenté en moyenne de 75 pour cent, et dans beaucoup de pays en ce continent, elle a doublé pendant la même période.

En comparant la production d'aliments et l'augmentation de la population, on constate que la production per capita a augmenté de façon significative dans les pays développés alors qu'elle augmentait dans tous les continents, exception faite de l'Afrique où ce chiffre a diminué de 12,4 pour cent entre 1974 et 1985. Cela revient à affirmer que le continent africain traverse une situation difficile, ce qui justifie les mesures prioritaires d'appui que la FAO a destinées à ce continent, et que nous appuyons entièrement.

Il est largement démontré que la résolution des problèmes alimentaires du monde en développement ne peut être réalisée qu'au moyen de grands investissements. Cependant, ces derniers ne peuvent être effectués que par les pays en développement; or beaucoup d'entre eux sont déjà affligés d'une lourde dette externe.

Dans beaucoup de ces pays, il n'est pas possible d'augmenter dans un court délai les productions unitaires qui sont généralement très basses, si l'utilisation d'engrais et de pesticides n'est pas améliorée dans ces pays qui les emploient en quantités dérisoires faute d'argent pour les acheter ou parce qu'ils poursuivent des politiques erronées, comme l'affirme l'étude sur la situation alimentaire en Afrique qui nous a été présentée l'année dernière par le Directeur général.

Finalement, les pertes après récolte atteignent des valeurs fantastiques qui doivent être réduites à l'aide d'un schéma amélioré de transports et d'installations de conservation et transformation.

Pour ces raisons, mon pays appuiera les actions réalisées par la FAO et l'orientation prise en vue de résoudre le problème de la faim, dans le cas où ce fléau atteint des situations catastrophiques, et pour permettre aux pays en développement, à partir de leurs propres ressources, de cheminer en direction de leur auto-provisionnement, bien que tous ne disposent pas d'un secteur agricole permettant une exportation raisonnable, sans laquelle l'entrée de devises est difficile et le développement retardé.

Pour cela, les aides en argent sont fondamentales, mais plus importantes sont celles apportées par des techniciens spécialisés qui doivent constamment être plus préparés pour faire face aux problèmes agricoles tropicaux très différents de ceux rencontrés dans les pays tempérés.

Monsieur le Président, mon pays dispose de techniciens hautement spécialisés dans le domaine de l'agriculture tropicale qu'il est disposé à placer au service du développement. Pour cela, nous verrions avec beaucoup d'intérêt leur placement en plus grand nombre dans les projets de la FAO ou d'autres organisations disposant de ressources matérielles.

Rainer PRESTIEN (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): We should like to express our thanks to the Secretariat of FAO for the excellent Report. My delegation is in agreement with this document. It offers Conference participants a comprehensive, regionally differentiated overview regarding the not particularly favourable overall economic and agricultural policy conditions, as well as the unfortunately little gratifying development of world agriculture over the past few years.

The analysis of the recent development in Africa south of the Sahara impressively illustrates how vulnerable this region remains in spite of good harvests in 1985 and 1986. It spells out once again the approaches to political measures of the countries concerned and of the rest of the world.

The text of the document refers time and time again to the different developments in the oil exporting and oil importing developing countries. I should like to suggest that in Table 1 and Table 3 one could perhaps introduce an additional differentiation according to these two categories.

We also share the concerns of FAO with regard to the continuation of deforestation for ecological and economic reasons. This trend must be reversed, given that the export prospects for developing countries in the fields of forestry and fisheries are rather favourable.

In the report, the decline of agricultural exports in value terms is touched upon, which is determined above all by prices. It should only be a very small comfort for developing countries, that, as pointed out in the document, the value of agricultural exports of industrialized countries since 1981 has dropped even more. For the Federal Republic of Germany overall and agricultural trade in 1986 and in the first six months of 1987 have been declining; in volume terms exports and above all imports were increasing. These developments in our foreign trade also affected the developing countries. They achieved in 1986 with their agricultural exports to the Federal Republic of Germany of DM 13.5 billion and agricultural imports from my country of only DM 2.6 billion, a significant export surplus in the agricultural trade with the Federal Republic of Germany of almost DM 11 billion. With this surplus the developing countries were able to cover almost 80 percent of their trade balance deficit in industrial goods. For the first six months of 1987 the developing countries showed an export surplus in agricultural trade of DM 4.3 billion.

May I add a last word regarding the section on policy developments. In order to avoid repetition, my delegation will express its views on that under agenda item 8, since these questions are dealt with in even greater detail in the Progress Report.

Enrique MONTERO CONTARDO (Chile): En primer lugar en representación de mi delegación quisiera felicitarle por su designación como Presidente de esta Comisión. La delegación de Chile es de opinión que la decisión que adoptemos respecto a este documento que actualmente estamos analizando, debe contener un mensaje de los gobiernos para detener el proteccionismo y procurar la liberalización del comercio, problema que ha sido mencionado ya por otros países en esta Comisión, pero además, consideramos que es trascendental que este esfuerzo sea de cooperación internacional y no de estéril confrontación.

El sistema de comercio nos ha servido eficazmente en el pasado, y, sería demagógico desconocer los beneficios que se han derivado de un sistema que ha impulsado durante mucho tiempo la liberalización y la no discriminación; pero a la vez, forzoso es admitir que dicho sistema presenta hoy en día graves vacíos y limitaciones que conspiran contra sus objetivos y principios. Por ello creemos indispensable preservar y consolidar los logros alcanzados y profundizar en la liberación, especialmente en aquellos sectores más atrasados en este proceso, como es la agricultura, así como reducir el escalonamiento arancelario particularmente en los productos derivados de los recursos naturales.

Debemos, asimismo, reforzar y aclarar las disciplinas existentes procurando que todos los sectores de la producción y todos los instrumentos y medida de política comercial queden sometidos a disciplinas eficaces en el GATT.

Debe prestarse especial atención a las necesidades urgentes y actuales de acceso a los mercados de los países en desarrollo fuertemente endeudados, facilitando el acceso para sus exportaciones.

En adición a lo anterior deberán continuarse los esfuerzos para mejorar el nivel de competitividad de los precios de nuestros productos de exportaciones frente al deterioro agudo de la relación de precio de intercambio, preservando el rol orientador del mercado.

La agricultura es de máxima prioridad para Chile como lo es también para numerosos países, como así lo atestiguan importantes pronunciamientos como los de Latinoamérica y el Caribe reunidos en el SELA, las declaraciones surgidas en el marco del grupo Cairns en el cual Chile participa muy activamente, y ahora, en esta conferencia de la FAO.

Chile, al confiar con mayor amplitud la asignación de los recursos al mercado, ha dado lugar a una profunda transformación en su estructura productiva, que hoy se caracteriza por el dinamismo y creciente contribución al producto de la agricultura, de los productos forestales y de la pesca, así como de ciertos sectores industriales. A pesar de nuestra enorme carga de deuda externa y de los innumerables problemas que hemos enfrentado, entre ellos grandes catástrofes naturales, se ha mantenido y perfeccionado la política de apertura del sector externo. Pero este propósito puede frustrarse si nuestros socios comerciales aplican nuevas restricciones y reducen o eliminan las existentes. Todas las partes contratantes, tanto desarrolladas como en desarrollo, deben contribuir a la liberalización. Algunos países por su dimensión y gravitación en el comercio internacional tienen, sin embargo mayor responsabilidad. Es legítimo, por lo tanto, que ahora reclamemos de las grandes potencias comerciales el liderazgo conjugado con políticas comerciales y monetarias consecuentes. Sólo así se podrá superar el inmovilismo y resultar una efectiva liberalización en la definición de un sistema multilateral de comercio más justo y dinámico con mutuo beneficio para nuestros pueblos.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I should like to join my colleagues in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chair of this august body and I should like to register my appreciation to the Secretariat for the production of the two documents which highlight the major issues affecting global food security.

The two documents reflect certain key issues, and I should like to address just a few of them. The first relates to something with which we are all familiar and most of the previous speakers have mentioned it: the world-economic environment and its effects on Third World Countries, especially African countries. Those highlighted include the rise in interest rates, decline in value of the dollar, falling Stock Market prices, protectionism and export subsidies. All these elements have direct impact on the performance of the economies of developing countries. For instance, they lead to decline in primary commodity prices; they result in reduced export earnings, a development which makes it almost impossible for us to generate enough investable resources on our own; they lead to rises in prices of industrial goods which in turn induce inflation in developing countries and reduce access of consumers to their basic needs. They also lead to crushing debt payments and debt service obligations, a factor which also eats substantially into our ability to generate our own resources.

Aside from the world economy situation, a factor we have to recognize is the weather. It seems to me that in Africa the weather has become a crucial factor that is destabilizing our economies. I can cite an example of my own country where recently instead of having two rainy seasons a year we had one. Consequently, most of the farmers had to plant their farms three or four times. They kept on planting to avoid the uncertain rains. It seems to me that, unless drastic efforts are made to deal with this, our objective of addressing those elements identified in the Secretariat's papers, in as much as they affect the food situation in Africa, will not achieve much success.

The weather apart, and the world environment conditions affecting us, my delegation would like to stress one important fact. The poor performance of agriculture seems to lie in our errors of omission and commission. What is it that I speak of? We tended to adopt certain policies resulting in institutions which did not augur well for the performance of agriculture. What are some of these? In some countries, including Ghana over-valued currency affected the resource allocation environment, distorted demand levels and substitution elasticities between different crops thus subverting the achievement of socially desirable product mix. By creating a wide disparity between domestic and external prices it led to a substantial diversion of crops and imported imports across national boundaries. That was also a development which created a mass flow of goods across national borders in unofficial channels. We tended to give too much attention to the public sector instead of allowing the private sector to play a major role in our production efforts. We resorted to deficit financing which created an immense burden on the budget. For these reasons it is very necessary that the issues which we are addressing should also relate to specific reform measures which have to be put in place in all developing countries to ensure better performance of agriculture.

Having said that, I should like briefly to address one issue which the distinguished delegate of China mentioned yesterday: that is, the importance of market reforms in helping to increase circulation of food to those in need or to increase people's access to food production. Often in our development efforts we tend to over-emphasise production. We tend to neglect the fact that marketing is as important as production. We should like to see in place market reform measures which will foster better integration between production and distribution to ensure increased food availability. In this regard, we should like to see some drastic measures taken in areas of transportation and storage to prevent post-harvest losses and processing which would also increase the shelf life of products which the poor have to spend their money on. Thus a case can be made for market reform programmes that are immediately targeted improvements for rural assembly markets. Improvement in physical facilities for transporting, storing and processing of agricultural produce can reduce food marketing costs and stimulate economic growth and result in lower prices to consumers.

There are other issues, especially structural adjustments, which we shall speak of later on: I should like to reserve this for the discussion later on.

Lastly, it is my contention that the FAO budget, which is being discussed in another Commission, has implications for what we are speaking of here.

In particular, the fact that in recent years Africa has had to deal with specific crisis situations, the record of grasshoppers, locusts, the drought situation, etc.

So this calls for urgent measures or some more money to the TCP to enable it to assist immediately, instead of awaiting feasibility studies, evaluation, appraisal, etc.

In this regard, I would like on behalf of my delegation to stress the importance not only of maintaining the level of the TCP allocation in the Regular Budget, but of impressing upon member countries the importance of increasing the allocation so that FAO can effectively deal with the crisis situations which have been frustrating our efforts to achieve increased food security.

Idris M. NUR (Observer for the Organization of African Unity): Paragraphs 3, 8 and 28 of document C 87/2 deal with an important issue. These paragraphs need more meat and I have the following suggested points to be amalgamated in these paragraphs.

First, Africa has since 1985 been trying to persuade the international community to agree to the convening of an international conference on Africa's external indebtedness. The external debt problem of the African countries has become so serious that the OAU heads of state and governments decided at their 23rd session in July 1987 to discuss this problem in an extraordinary session, scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 30 November to 1 December 1987, so as to adopt a common African position on the matter.

Some donor countries have taken action to cancel official bilateral debts owed to them by African countries. Others have announced their intention of doing so. This is highly appreciated and should be emulated by all creditor countries. It is important to stress that in order to have the full impact, such debt cancellation should not be linked to the implementation of Fund/Bank-supported adjustment programmes which are themselves accompanied by several restrictive conditions and are directed at achieving short-term balance of payments equilibrium.

With respect to recent developments, some initiatives have been announced, proposed or taken by some countries which are designed to address Africa's external debt problems and the related problem of resource flows. Nevertheless, the international community has failed to demonstrate the needed political will to implement the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and UNCTAD on debt relief and the transfer of resources, and to provide effective support and positive response to Africa's economic recovery effort, as agreed in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD).

The debt burden has engulfed practically all African countries in recent years. It is not only its magnitude that has been disturbing, but it is the rate of increase and the debt service burden on the economy as a whole that has become worrisome. The Economic Commission for Africa has estimated conservatively that the total external debt of Africa was US\$ 200 billion by the end of 1986. This constitutes 44 percent of GDP. At the same time, debt service obligations were estimated to range between 100 and 300 percent. On the average, debt service ratios have exceeded 38 percent and are much higher for low income African countries.

According to the IMF statistics, Africa paid out US\$. 20.5 billion in 1985, while Africa received only US\$ 0.8 billion in 1985 new loans and IMF credits.

Going back to the document, paragraph 40 on forestry needs more qualification. I suggest the following sentence to be endorsed at the end of paragraph 40: "At the present time, 450 million people in Africa burn about 300 million cubic metres of firewood each year".

From there we move to paragraph 54, line 8, of the English text. Please delete "more than" because according to the document UN-PAAERD or the international community should contribute one third of the financial resources.

Going on to paragraph 57, I think this paragraph is out of place because this part of the document deals with the implementation of the UN-PAAERD which started in 1986, whereas this paragraph refers to the situation in 1982 and the years before 1986.

In this part of the document, on the implementation of UN-PAAERD, although the subject matter contain in paragraphs 54 to 75 is informative, more details should be reflected in this part of the document. When someone talks about the implementation of UN-PAAERD, one starts thinking about a number of issues: what have African countries done to implement UN-PAAERD during 1986-87? First, at the national level, reports reaching the OAU and ECA Secretariats have pointed out that policy reforms are taking place all over Africa. In terms of sectoral priorities, the food and agricultural sector has been accorded the highest priority in practically all African countries. In a recent survey conducted by the ECA and OAU Secretariats, of the 38 countries responding to the questionnaires, practically all of them had instituted measures for food security, emergency preparedness and early warning systems. Eighty-nine percent of the responding countries have instituted measures for the development, dissemination and encouragement of the use of modern inputs and methods; 36 percent had adopted price incentives of agricultural products, while 85 percent have started reforestation programmes.

Other programmes initiated include controlling deforestation (75 percent), protection of the environment (67 percent), and the introduction of agricultural mechanization (67 percent).

In the field of industry, measures have been taken to rehabilitate and upgrade the existing industrial plant manufacture and maintain the agricultural tools and implements and repair and maintain irrigatic equipment .

In the field of transport and communications, activities undertaken have concentrated on the development and maintenance of feeder and access roads.

At the sub-regional, regional and continental levels, efforts have included the following:

First, at its last meeting in June 1987, ECOWAS, that is the Economic Community of West African State pledged to undertake a West African-wide Joint Programme to bring about the economic recovery of the region.

Secondly, the Preferential Trade Area (PTA), has promulgated its programme along the lines aimed at promoting the implementation of the recovery programme.

Thirdly, in January 1986, Heads of State and Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda met in Djibouti and established an Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development in East Africa (IGADD). That body is already functioning and has adopted an elaborate programme of work to combat drought and desertification, as well as to promote development for the region.

Fourthly, in the area of technical cooperation amongst developing countries, a project preparatory meeting was held in Tunis in April 1987 which resulted in the adoption of 213 projects benefiting 17 African countries. A similar meeting is expected to take place in Cairo.

Fifthly, international conferences, regional seminars and congresses were held in Africa in 1987 to make a critical review of the efforts undertaken by African countries in the implementation of UN-PAAERD. Among these were the International Conference held in Abuja, Nigeria, the First Congress of African Scientists held in Brazzaville, Congo, and the Regional Seminar held in Mombasa, Kenya.

Another part which should be included also is the action envisaged from the international community to implement its commitments under the UN-PAAERD. It is envisaged that the international community would provide substantial and concrete assistance and support for Africa's effort to implement the programme in the following areas, namely: first, improving the quality and modality of external assistance and cooperation, in particular with greater emphasis on programme support in the priority areas. Secondly, improvement in the external environment, especially the formulation and implementation of policies for sustained and equitable growth and dealing with commodity issues. Thirdly, supporting Africa's policy reforms, especially through greater programme lending from both bilateral and multilateral sources and increasing the resources of multilateral institutions such as IDA and IFAD. Fourthly, taking measures to alleviate Africa's debt burden in order to enable the African countries to concentrate on the implementation of their priorities. In that connection, the existing debt mechanisms should respond flexibly and be improved as appropriate.

Part III of the UN-PAAERD is devoted to the follow-up and evaluation machinery. It is recognized that the effective implementation of the UN-PAAERD will require a continuous process of follow-up, evaluation and coordination at all levels.

It is also emphasized that whatever new mechanism is put in place should be simple, operational and not involving substantial additional expenditure.

At the national level governments are expected to set up national follow-up mechanisms. Most African countries have already identified such mechanisms, and a number of them are already operational.

At the regional level, the OAU Heads of State and Government have already designed the OAU Permanent Steering Committee as the appropriate organ for the follow-up and evaluation exercise at the regional level. During the last year the OAU Permanent Steering Committee has been seized with this assignment and has appropriately reported to the OAU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The OAU Permanent Steering Committee is currently composed of 18 member countries with Zambia as chairman and Congo as rapporteur.

At the global level it is therefore imperative that the OAU Permanent Steering Committee and the United Nations Steering Committee keep in close touch and consultation in the evaluation exercise. There is absolute need for a machinery that can bring Africa and the international community together.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

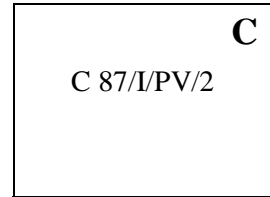
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24° período de sesiones
COMISION II

SECOND MEETING
DEUXIEME SEANCE
SEGUNDA SESION

(11 November 1987)

The Second Meeting was opened at 14.55 hours,
C. S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14 h 55
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14.55 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (cont'd)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLÍTICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (cont'd)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (cont'd)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Ante todo quiero felicitarle por su Presidencia, por haber sido elegido y por la forma en que está llevando el desarrollo de esta sesión.

La situación alimentaria mundial sigue siendo preocupante a pesar de que, al mismo tiempo, los excedentes de productos agrarios son cada vez mayores. Sin embargo, la solución no está, como muchas veces se ha dicho con un criterio quizás excesivamente simplista, en transferir los excedentes a los países deficitarios.

Como ha indicado el representante de Portugal, el mundo es muy heterogéneo y en consecuencia son muy heterogéneas las culturas y las agriculturas, los hábitos alimenticios y las capacidades productivas, los elementos climáticos y los regímenes políticos. Las soluciones generales tienden a ser demasiado dogmáticas y con frecuencia poco prácticas- tomadas muchas veces sobre el papel y sin conocimiento o, lo que es más grave, con desprecio del medio en que se han de aplicar. Cada país, cada región tiene su tratamiento específico para solucionar sus específicos problemas y con medios, si no diferentes, sí aplicados en función de las circunstancias que concurren en cada caso.

Los grandes proyectos, los magníficos estudios que se han realizado, se realizan y se realizarán, deben ser una base de donde deben surgir, tras las adaptaciones oportunas, las líneas de actuación o al menos -no siempre- la ejecución lineal, sin tener en cuenta las verdaderas necesidades.

Consideramos que en cada país hay técnicos que conocen mejor que nadie lo que en cada caso se necesita y con esos técnicos es con los que hay que contar en la ejecución de las soluciones a introducir, pero no como asesores o consultantes, sino como auténticos protagonistas. Esta línea que afortunadamente es cada vez más aceptada, consideramos que debe ser prioritaria en todos los casos. Los proyectos de cooperación deben tener contenido nacional.

No estoy, ni mucho menos, propugnando la autarquía; no pretendo que cada país se autoabastezca ni que se produzca de todo en todos los países, pero sí creo que las políticas agrarias y alimentarias a seguir por cada país deben ir dirigidas precisamente a solucionar en cada caso los problemas específicos.

Son muchos los problemas que pesan sobre la situación alimentaria de determinadas regiones y en algunos casos problemas muy lejanos a la agricultura y la alimentación en sentido estricto.

El delegado de Colombia ha llamado la atención sobre los indicadores obsoletos que han hecho que problemas de América Latina no hayan podido resolverse todavía. Nos preocupa esta circunstancia. Varias veces hemos insistido ante la FAO sobre las previsiones que consideran que el fantasma del hambre, en su viaje de Oriente a Occidente, pueda posarse, tras haber visitado grandes regiones de Asia y Africa, en América Latina.

Reiteramos nuestra preocupación por este problema y pedimos a la FAO que determine la situación actual y futura en este continente, que se tomen las medidas oportunas para que se eviten situaciones tan dolorosas como las que en este momento padece Africa y antes padeció Asia.

Creemos que deben tomarse medidas con visión de futuro, que deben preverse las situaciones que puedan plantearse a final de siglo, ya que los problemas cambian, que las deficiencias de hace unos años en determinadas producciones se han convertido en excedentes y que quizás pueda pasar lo contrario en un determinado plazo.

Proponemos potenciar el trabajo del Centro de Inversiones, apoyamos los programas de FAO para evitar las pérdidas post-cosechas, pedimos que FAO tenga un papel asesor importante en los foros en los que se discuten los problemas de comercio alimentario y, en concreto, en el GATT.

Apoyamos la petición de la OUA, de que la FAO dedique especial atención a los programas de asistencia técnica mediante asesoramientos.

ZHU PEIRONG (China) (original language Chinese): Mr Chairman, first of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, to extend to you our congratulations on your election as Chairman of this Commission, and we hope that, under your chairmanship, this Commission will hold fruitful meetings through thorough discussions in the spirit of friendship and cooperation.

As is shown by the Conference documents and the FAO data on cereal production, over the past two years, world production of cereals remained at a standstill, and 1987 may well witness a reduction. In particular, the harvest this year is not good in many Asian developing countries with a large population and some African developing countries. This has led to further instability in the already unbalanced state of world food security. There has been no turn for the better in the trend of continued decline in international trade of agricultural produce since the early 1980s, which has already brought adverse effects to the development of agricultural production and the prosperity of national economies. In addition, the developing countries find themselves with heavy debts and economic difficulties. Their financial resources, essential for their development, are on the decline, while their limited agricultural land resources are still faced with the danger of erosion due to abuse and mismanagement. We cannot remain indifferent in the face of such a serious world food and agricultural situation. It is hoped that while discussing the question of reform of the Organization, the current session will give more attention to the fundamental issues, such as the development of production, the promotion of trade and the expansion of international cooperation in agriculture.

We wish to reiterate that to improve self-sufficiency in the developing countries in food by developing production is an important solution to the world food problem and to the eradication of hunger. In this respect, many countries have had good experience, and the international community has set forth many strategies and plans, yet so far there has been little action. Some resolutions and plans are still being talked about only. What is most urgently needed is action - that is, to organize hundreds of millions of farmers to participate in development and for all governments to take concerted action for the elimination of hunger. For this purpose, we should work jointly to create an economic and political environment in the world which is conducive to development. The developed countries should cooperate and speed up the transfer of funds and technology to developing countries. The developing countries should strengthen economic and technical cooperation among themselves. I believe that, under the leadership of the re-elected Director-General, Dr Saouma, the Organization will be able to make its due contribution.

The world population has exceeded 5 billion by mid-1987. World agriculture will have to feed more and more people and steadily improve their living. Undoubtedly this is a glorious and difficult task for us agricultural workers. Yet the agricultural resources on our planet are limited. Now, in some areas, there is worsening soil erosion, decline in soil fertility, salinity and desertification. Tropical forests are disappearing rapidly. The aquatic resources are gradually diminishing and some exploitable resources badly need to be renewed and protected. The urgency of this problem began to be felt by countries with large populations and limited land. We have noted that the FAO and other related international organizations have done a lot in this respect. However, what has been done is mostly intended to solve specific problems without an integrated and strategic approach being taken. For the plans and proposals, no adequate funds and manpower have been arranged for the implementation. Therefore, we consider that, in order to maintain sustained growth of agriculture for the benefit of future generations, we ought to have a long-term strategy for the protection and renewal of agricultural resources.

I should now like to give a brief account of the situation in China. The Chinese Government attaches great importance to agricultural development. Over the past two years the deepening rural reforms in China have experienced sustained growth. As a result, the farmers' income and living standards

have been further improved. This year though hit frequently by natural calamities, the summer crops dropped slightly but the sown area of autumn crops increased compared with last year and the area for high-yielding crops and improved varieties was expanded. According to estimates, the output of major crops will be higher than that of last year.

The growth of China's economy is still at the primary stage of socialism, with a very weak agricultural basis. At present China's per capita grain consumption is still at a low level. The rural population in 10 percent of the country's territory has not yet rid itself of poverty. We are now still faced with the difficult task of further developing agriculture and improving people's living standard. For this purpose we shall in the coming years concentrate on the following areas: first, continue to give priority to cereal production, step up the construction of bases for commercial grain production, guarantee the land area for grain production and strive to raise the per unit area yield; second, increase agricultural investment, improve the self-cumulative capacity in agriculture so as to ensure the sustained and steady growth of agriculture; third, improve agricultural productive forces in the remote and poor regions by providing them with assistance in order to promote planned and balanced agricultural development.

M. R. MULELE (Zambia): - Mr. Chairman, please allow me to join other distinguished delegates who have spoken before me in congratulating you on your election as Chairman. By the same token, my delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the high quality documents placed before us for discussion this afternoon.

My delegation wishes to make a few general remarks as a contribution to this important debate. As we all know, the state of food and agricultural production in the world is indeed worrisome and should be a cause of concern for all mankind. It is in this regard that we should like to urge that this problem be treated globally and that solutions be found through joint and collaborative efforts.

Turning to FAO, my delegation would like to commend the Organization for its tireless efforts in the sphere of food and agricultural production in developing countries. It is our sincere hope that, as a technical body, FAO will spare no efforts in rendering assistance to the needy countries, especially those in the so-called Third World where the food and agriculture situation appears to show no real signs of improvement.

Besides the vagaries of weather and climatic conditions in developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa, these countries find themselves in a weak position vis-à-vis the terms of trade.

The mounting or growing debts of developing countries give little, if any, hope for significant strides in the development of agricultural sectors in these countries.

We do not think it would be asking too much to request those who are owed to write off these debts as a gesture of goodwill. This, we believe, will go a long way towards enabling countries saddled with debt problems to adopt and implement strategies and programmes designed to improve food and agricultural production.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Quisiera en primer término, felicitarle a nombre de la delegación cubana por su elección para dirigir nuestros debates. Es para Cuba un placer que un ilustre hijo de la India presida los trabajos de esta importante Comisión.

Asimismo, agradecemos a la Secretaría los esfuerzos hechos para que este tema de la Situación Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación pueda ser analizado con documentos actualizados, lo cual ha sido complementado con la excelente presentación de este tema hecha por el Sr. Hjort.

A pesar de las grandes existencias de alimentos a nivel mundial, volvemos a encontrarnos, desafortunadamente, en una situación de escasez dentro de la abundancia.

Ya en la presentación del documento se nos indica que se ha dado un paso atrás. Consideramos nosotros, como han hecho otros oradores, que son varios pasos atrás.

El suplemento 1 del documento que analizamos, nos asevera esta situación. El hecho de que se acentúe nuevamente la crisis alimentaria en África y nos encontremos al borde de una amenaza de hambruna como la que considerábamos superada, y que han sufrido especialmente los países africanos, es altamente preocupante.

En las reuniones anteriores donde se ha discutido este tema, se ha descrito el dramático panorama que caracteriza al mundo subdesarrollado y las sombrías perspectivas a que se enfrenta la humanidad en el caso de que persistan las actuales condiciones que generan esta situación.

Como bien expresara nuestro Ministro de Agricultura en su intervención de ayer, en la Plenaria de esta Conferencia, y cito: "Si los problemas que debatimos hoy no encuentran una solución urgente, si continúan ahondándose las diferencias entre países desarrollados y subdesarrollados, si se persiste en políticas torpes que abren más esas distancias, se planteará entonces un enfrentamiento de las sociedades hambrientas y los que medran a su costa". Fin de la cita.

En el caso específico de la Región de América Latina y el Caribe, nuestros países enfrentan un período de dificultades sin precedentes, debido a la persistencia de una profunda crisis económica de carácter estructural que tiene su origen fundamental en factores externos, haciendo evidente la vulnerabilidad y dependencia de nuestros países en sus relaciones comerciales y financieras internacionales.

Mi delegación considera, y así lo han expresado otras delegaciones, que en ninguna otra etapa de su historia, las economías latinoamericanas y caribeñas han experimentado mayores desajustes, y desafortunadamente, las perspectivas que se nos presentan son desalentadoras.

Efectivamente, como expresa la documentación que analizamos, el decenio de los ochenta ha sido perdido para América Latina y el Caribe. La disminución del ritmo de crecimiento, el deterioro del ingreso y el incremento del desempleo y la inflación son elementos críticos que sólo podrán ser superados con enormes y deliberados esfuerzos a lo largo de los próximos años.

La deuda externa se ha convertido en uno de los más graves obstáculos al desarrollo regional. El alto costo de su servicio y la pérdida de acceso a los mercados internacionales de capital han transformado a nuestra Región en exportadora neta de recursos financieros.

Esta es una situación insostenible, pues de mantenerse, prevalecerán las condiciones recesivas a la que también se refiere el suplemento 2 que analizamos, y continuarán precarias las posibilidades de recuperación de nuestra Región. En tal sentido, apoyamos los comentarios sobre el efecto nocivo de la deuda externa en nuestros países, que han hecho las delegaciones de Perú y Colombia, entre otras.

Desafortunadamente, esta situación es similar en todos los países subdesarrollados, ya que somos víctimas de la aplicación de medidas económicas coercitivas como la aplicación del embargo y del bloqueo económico, la congelación de fondos, la suspensión de préstamos y créditos, y el entorpecimiento y el boicot a la obtención de financiamiento internacional con fines políticos.

A todo esto hay que añadir el efecto nefasto del proteccionismo sobre el comercio de los productos agrícolas de nuestros países. Tenemos la esperanza de que el desarrollo de la Ronda Uruguay, pueda mejorar esta situación. En tal sentido, mi delegación reitera la necesidad de que la FAO brinde sus valiosas experiencias y conocimientos al GATT en lo que se refiere a los aspectos de la agricultura y la alimentación.

Para terminar, quisiera expresar la opinión de la delegación de Cuba en el sentido de que consideramos imprescindible para los países desarrollados que se aplique, de una vez, un Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional más justo y equitativo y en lo cual la FAO puede jugar un papel preponderante en lo que se refiere a la aplicación de aspectos ya aprobados por su Conferencia General.

Para nosotros, lo esencial de ese Nuevo Orden Económico Internacional, como expresó nuestro Ministro de Agricultura, sería poner a nuestros países en condiciones de alcanzar la independencia económica, real y crear las condiciones materiales y espirituales para llevar el nivel de vida de la población a la altura de las conquistas contemporáneas de la Ciencia y la Técnica.

Todo esto, daría posibilidades de mejorar la situación económica de nuestros países, y daría garantía estable a la seguridad alimentaria. Estos son reclamos de los países subdesarrollados que son los más afectados en medio de esta difícil situación internacional, y la delegación de Cuba considera que sin el respeto a la dignidad de los países subdesarrollados, no podrán encontrarse salidas honrosas y efectivas.

René LONCAN (Brazil): Mr Chairman, allow me first of all to congratulate you on your election to preside over this Commission and to thank the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the document on the State of Food and Agriculture which we have before us.

Document C 87/2 presents an accurate analysis of the world economic situation in the biennium 1986-87, and of the performance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in developing countries. We appreciate that the document rightly points out the seriousness of the problem of foreign debt for many of these countries and deals, in a balanced manner, with the falling international prices of agricultural products and the growing protectionism of industrialized countries, making opportune references to the current initiatives aiming at the review of national agricultural policies, such as the Uruguay Round within GATT. The document fails, however, from our point of view, to highlight the need for preservation of the principle of preferential and more favoured treatment for developing countries and the need for the adoption of a system of proportional dismantling of the support given by each country to its agriculture. This should be in accordance with the level of support to agriculture given by each country and should not involve support resulting from social and developmental considerations.

The Brazilian Delegation is, therefore, willing to endorse the document. We wish, however, the data concerning Brazil to be updated and statement to be clarified.

Paragraph 92 of document C 87/2 informs that agriculture kept on being benefited by preferential rates of interest, increasingly negative, in certain countries, including Brazil. Indeed it was so, to a certain extent, but for reasons I shall presently explain, the financing of Brazilian production, at a given period, was based upon preferential rates which, since they operated within a trend of high inflation, were meant to allow a more stable and realistic planning of production. One might say that the flaw of the analysis, if any, is to disregard the peculiar traits of a developing economy, deprived of resources and plagued by high rates of inflation. One could thus be led to the erroneous conclusion of applying increasingly negative rates in favour of Brazilian agriculture.

Anyway, as of the first half of 1987, Brazil began a wide process of elimination of subsidies to agriculture, by linking the interest rate and the minimum granted prices to the National Treasure Obligation-OTN variation, an index that reflects without distortions the level of inflation identified within the period in exam. As for interest rates, an index of real interests must be added to the OTN rate, which varies according to the size of the producing unit.

Within this framework, we clarify that the interest rates for 1987-88, however, are as follows, besides the aforementioned correction of the variation of National Treasure Obligations: firstly for cost financing: 7% for mini and small farmers, as well as for cooperatives having a minimum of their membership among mini and small producers and 9% for the others; secondly for investment: 7 % for all drawers; thirdly, for trade purposes: 7% for producers, cooperatives and processors, and 12 % for industries.

CHAIRMAN: I would like to mention, regarding formation of the drafting group, that it has been customary for the Commission to have a group of this nature, so that, based on the discussions which are held here, the draft proceedings are prepared in the group and placed before the Commission for approval. If we follow the same convention, I would suggest that the leaders of the Group of 77, the Chairman and the OECD group might have a consultation. On that basis, preferably by this evening, perhaps an agreed list could be given which could be placed before the Commission for approval and ratification.

Masuhla Humphrey LETEKA (Lesotho): My delegation wishes to make a few remarks on the agenda item before us.

Mr Chairman, since this is the first time that the Lesotho delegation is taking the floor, we should like to join other delegates in expressing our pleasure at your assuming the chairmanship of this important Commission.

At the same time, we wish to commend the Secretariat on their preparation of the two documents before us which in our opinion correctly highlight and address the problems of food and agriculture currently facing the majority poor. The magnitude of the problem is quite disturbing.

Lesotho is a food-deficit and low-income country with little arable land because of the growing population with which our agricultural outputs cannot cope. At the same time, Lesotho in the recent past has consistently faced natural disasters like drought which have paralysed the productive capacity of our agricultural sector, thereby forcing the Government to rely more on imported foodstuffs.

Recently Lesotho suffered unprecedented storms which destroyed their promising harvests and livestock, and also claimed human lives. We should like to thank those governments, international organizations and non-governmental bodies which contributed towards the reversal of this situation.

The Lesotho delegation would at this juncture like to address itself to the chronic debt problem faced by many if not all developing countries. This has resulted in those countries' failure to address themselves seriously to the field of agriculture which forms the largest sector of their economies. It has become increasingly impossible to invest in a more serious manner because of the lack of foreign currency to get the required relevant agricultural input and machinery.

The role that FAO has played and continues to play towards solving the food problems in recipient Member States is highly appreciated. We also take note of the Director-General's initiative on the future increase of Africa's food and agricultural output.

Finally, it is our sincere hope that the developed countries will implement as soon as possible agreements reached in several fora on liberalizing international trade, removing trade barriers and protectionism, which have resulted in severe competition in the world markets where agricultural products from developing countries have failed to make any impact.

We believe that the prevailing trade imbalances deserve priority in the deliberations of developed countries, and speedy implementation of strategies which will help boost food security on a global scale.

Thomas Madubeng TAUkobong (Botswana): Mr Chairman, allow me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

The work of the Commission is very important to us. The review of the world food situation is very important, especially to those of us from the developing countries. We are greatly concerned about the apparent declining trends that are occurring.

The problems of food are not only those of production. The recent break in the drought cycle in some of the African countries, which resulted in increased production of cereals, is a clear indication of the fact that given the proper climatic, economic and financial conditions the developing countries are capable of reversing the current trend of food deficits.

At present, it seems that the solutions we are employing to redress the declining food situation are piecemeal solutions. We address the problems of production while we ignore other problems which involve marketing, economic factors and other related problems.

We are all aware that due to the persistent unfavourable world economic climate many developing countries, including most African countries, are faced with a severe shortage of foreign reserves and huge indebtedness. The net result has been the stagnation of economies of most of the developing countries. They not only find themselves unable to procure capital goods necessary for development but also find themselves unable to service their huge debts.

In our view, therefore, in order to succeed in solving the current food crisis situation there is a need to adopt a more integrated package. The problems of production, marketing, trade adjustment, world finance and economic and work politics should all be addressed at the same time. All these problems are interrelated, and if one is out of tune it will disrupt everything else.

We would therefore urge members of FAO and the world at large to ensure that problems affecting food are solved on a global basis rather than on a national or regional basis, as has been the tendency up to the present time. We hope, therefore, that FAO will take a leading role in trying to encourage the world to use a better integrated approach which will be successful in the long term.

Abdul Aziz YAACOB (Malaysia): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Malaysian delegation allow me to join other delegates in offering you our congratulations on your election to the Chair, and to congratulate the Secretariat on the comprehensive study of the State of Food and Agriculture 1987 which was so well summarized by Mr Hjort.

We are generally in agreement with the findings of the study and in agreement also with the various comments made by those who have preceded me. I do not wish to repeat the findings of the study except to highlight a few findings.

As we see it, the problem in 1987 and before that is that of slow growth in agriculture and in the food situation. The progress that has been achieved following the food crisis years of 1983 and 1984 appears to be stultified by protectionist policies in the developed countries. These policies have led to surplus production which is now flooding the markets for cereals, oils and fats, and which have led to a reduction in prices which are affecting the incomes which developing countries can reap from production.

Another highlight which I can see from the study is that the debt problems of developing countries appear to be more than just a liquidity issue. It appears that it is more of a solvency problem, and here structural adjustment policies which have been instituted may have to be carried out on a gradual basis to prevent any recessive implications in the undertaking of structural adjustment measures.

I should like to touch more on the directions in which FAO can lead nations towards solving the problems that they are facing. We feel that the solving of the problem of agriculture and food production to meet world needs lies in the freeing of the markets. There must be a commitment by developed countries to open up these markets. Only through these measures can developing countries hope to reap some measure of success from their agricultural policies. Developing countries cannot produce and then face problems in marketing their produce.

One aspect that has not been highlighted perhaps by the Report has been some tendencies by developing countries to undertake smear campaigns against vegetable oils and fats. This practice is hurting countries like Malaysia which produce palm oil for export.

I should also like to touch on the need to lay stress on capital participation that should break away from being based on interest. The problem of debts faced by developing countries is because of fixed interest obligations regardless of performance. Perhaps it is time that FAO undertook a study on the implications of venture capital or risk sharing between developed and developing nations.

It is also important that FAO stress on Member Nations the need for efficiency criteria in their production. The mixing of income and price policies has led towards inefficiencies in agricultural production in Member Nations. National policies need to be examined and harmonized, and this must be in line with the guidelines that FAO has set. As such, I suggest that national studies be undertaken as soon as possible. FAO may also need to stress the factor-requirements of the agricultural sector, particularly investments.

S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand): Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to make a few remarks at this point. I do not propose at this stage to dwell at great length on the proceedings of Commission I save to make some brief remarks on the overall perceptions of what this particular Commission's work would seem to be from our point of view.

We would generally concur with the analysis of the international agricultural situation as presented in the relevant FAO documents. It is certainly heartening to note the enormous improvements in the global food and agriculture situation at the aggregate level.

Having said that, we feel that the greatly improved food supply situation concealed some fundamental problems facing global agriculture today. Some of these points were addressed by our Minister during his intervention at the Conference yesterday.

There is a problem of excessive production in some regions and from our perspective for the products with which New Zealand is particularly concerned a number of the developed countries have pursued highly protectionist policies, and the deficient levels in others can largely be traced to the distorted policy environment and excessive government intervention. Needless to say, this is true of both the developed and developing countries. While the developing countries have had to contend with surplus production in the face of declining domestic demand, the reverse has often been the case, at least in many of the developing countries.

Increased domestic production and higher levels of self-sufficiency have been ostensible development objectives no doubt in a number of countries, but I think it is appropriate for us to question some of the background and fundamental bases for some of the policies. In the developed countries, if we take specific instances, governments have treated agriculture often as a special case and have often put in place various support measures that have virtually isolated producers from the impact of the international market and domestic realities. The results of these policies have been nothing short of catastrophic from the point of view of the international agricultural economy and monstrously wasteful in the context of the domestic economic efficiency arguments.

Since the early 1980s the world has had to contend with huge surpluses of grain and livestock products, to mention a few, that have seriously overhung the international commodity markets and depressed market prices. Numerous not merely on countries like New Zealand but on a whole range of countries, including a number of developing countries, I presume, and have reinforced the case for major agricultural adjustments in the policy area. We certainly intend to raise these in the context of discussions on international agricultural adjustment sections.

At this stage I would briefly point out the critical need for us to focus on the policy changes that are required both in the developing and developed countries if we are going to improve the overall conditions of supply and demand.

At this point I would also make a brief point to the efforts that New Zealand and other countries have made in trying to bring about a coalition of interests among the developed and developing countries. It will be known that the CAIRNS group of countries have brought together the developed and developing countries with the objective of trying to promote international agricultural adjustments and improve the conditions governing agricultural trade. I believe there is considerable interest and that this Conference should seek to focus on both the short-term problems of agricultural production and trade, as well as seek to identify and further promote the solutions governing agricultural trade.

Carlos VIDALI CARBAJAL (México): Sr. Presidente, antes que nada deseo felicitarle por su elección y hacerle algunos comentarios sobre el tema que se está tratando en estos momentos, que seguramente debe haber sido abordado por muchos otros colegas en esta reunión. En términos generales, podemos decir que estamos de acuerdo con el documento que se está realizando y que la mayor parte de sus conclusiones son compartidas por nuestra delegación porque expresan con precisión los problemas que acogen las políticas y las tendencias de la agricultura y la alimentación en los últimos años. Tenemos que destacar que el problema fundamental, en nuestro concepto, que se está enfrentando en estos momentos, y al que hacía mención nuestro Ministro en el discurso que pronunció en el día de ayer - quiero destacar que nuestro Ministro hablaba también como Presidente del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación - es el de la paradoja que existe en estos momentos entre el hambre en muchas regiones del mundo en desarrollo y la abundancia y los enormes excedentes que existen fundamentalmente en los países desarrollados. Esta paradoja, que creo preocupa a la comunidad internacionales uno de los problemas más acuciantes y más preocupantes de la situación agrícola mundial. Precisamente en los foros internacionales se ha venido destacando esta preocupación y se están haciendo esfuerzos de análisis y propósitos para buscar la forma de resolver el problema de estos enormes excedentes que evidentemente afectan a la situación de la agricultura en el mundo porque son producto de políticas que precisamente se desarrollaron para que hubiera una producción agrícola importante, situación que ahora se ha revertido porque los bajos precios de las materias primas agrarias básicas hacen que en muchos de nuestros países ya la agricultura no sea negocio.

Evidentemente notamos, como lo decían algunos de nuestros colegas hace un momento, un deterioro notable en los términos de intercambio y que el panorama mundial, si bien oía yo a uno de mis colegas hace un momento decir que muestra señales de recuperación, nosotros pensamos que no es así, que estas señales no muestran que exista una recuperación económica en el comercio mundial de alimentos. Esto se ha reflejado en la caída de los ingresos de exportación de los bienes agrícolas de los países en desarrollo y el resultado de este fenómeno, junto con la integración creciente de la agricultura al conjunto de la economía mundial, ha agudizado los desequilibrios entre la producción y la demanda de alimentos y materias primas.

Las medidas que han adoptado los países desarrollados en el campo de la agricultura y la alimentación como son las políticas proteccionistas y los subsidios a los productos de exportación en sus diversas formas, han significado importantes obstáculos para los países en desarrollo que, de esta manera, se ven afectados frente a un mercado mundial desventajoso y totalmente inestable.

También se mencionaba hace un momento que el problema del endeudamiento ha impactado mayormente a las economías de los países en desarrollo, en términos de una disminución real de los recursos internos como externos, y reportes recientes de la FAO han indicado que en América Latina - y es el dato que tenemos a nuestra disposición - los índices nutricionales han disminuido, la ingesta calórico-proteica ha disminuido en América Latina que, de las regiones en desarrollo, era la que menores problemas tenía en este sentido y que ha comenzado a sentir los efectos de esta crisis financiera que, evidentemente, está teniendo un efecto en el acrecentamiento de los índices de desnutrición y subnutrición que hay en nuestra región. Si esto es así en América Latina, evidentemente el problema es mucho más grave en Asia y Africa, donde se está produciendo también este fenómeno.

Tal como lo señala el documento que estamos analizando, el inestable entorno financiero agrega elementos negativos al panorama, caracterizados por una reducción de las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo y por el descenso persistente de los precios internacionales de los productos básicos. Todo ello constituye una pesada carga que obliga a muchos países a aplazar su recuperación económica para cubrir el pago de su deuda.

Nuestro país, en la reunión de Punta del Este, en donde se lanzó la Ronda Uruguay, planteó en ese foro la liga que tiene que existir entre comercio y endeudamiento, y creo que esto es muy importante destacarlo porque esa liga evidentemente tiene un efecto en el sector agrícola y en el nivel de alimentación de nuestros países. Por otra parte, pensamos ya en la fase final de las negociaciones del primer año de la Ronda Uruguay. En la Ronda Uruguay se han presentado diversas posiciones. Se presentó hace algunos días la posición del Grupo de Cairns; también se presentó la posición de la Comunidad Económica Europea, ya se había presentado la posición de los Estados Unidos, y todas estas posiciones evidentemente dan una base para iniciar las negociaciones formalmente el año próximo en productos agrícolas. Pero en estas posiciones no se han considerado de una manera relevante algunos aspectos que nuestro país, en conjunción con otros, está planteando en lo que podríamos llamar una cuarta posición, una posición que atiende a los intereses de países que, como México, son importantes importadores de productos agrícolas básicos, que tienen que seguir manejando, por razones de su estructura política y social, por razones de su tenencia de la tierra, políticas de desarrollo agropecuario especial dado que nosotros hicimos una reforma agraria que hace que millones de mexicanos sean propietarios de parcelas y sean pequeños productores con problemas muy específicos, y convierte el problema de la producción agrícola en un problema de seguridad política y de seguridad alimentaria que nosotros, en algunos casos, hemos denominado la soberanía alimentaria de nuestro país.

También hemos insistido - y esto ya lo dijo nuestro Ministro en el día de ayer - en que se tiene que considerar un trato especial y diferenciado a los países en desarrollo en el seno de estas negociaciones, y que se tiene que considerar el papel relevante que juegan los importadores - que podríamos decir netos de productos agropecuarios - en la negociación comercial.

Posiblemente no sea del conocimiento de esta Comisión que se está constituyendo en el GATT un grupo un tanto de símbolo y heterogéneo en el cual países en desarrollo y países desarrollados estamos planteando la necesidad de que se considere el papel que juegan estos países en el comercio internacional y que se tome en cuenta su posición.

Curiosamente hay países como Japon, Corea, Egipto, Jamaica, como los países nórdicos, como Austria, Suiza y Perú con los que estamos considerando, entre otras cosas, la estructuración de una posición común que se presentará el día 7 de diciembre, último día de la fase inicial de negociaciones para plantear una posición de los puntos que realmente nos unen y que están representados por nuestra necesidad de importar alimentos y de seguir impulsando políticas nacionales de desarrollo agropecuario que muchas veces no tiene efecto en el mercado mundial sino que afectan fundamentalmente a esquemas de desarrollo nacional.

Creo que es muy importante que esto se considere porque, hasta la fecha, este problema de estos países no se había considerado y la negociación en el seno del GATT y diversos foros se había manejado como una negociación entre las grandes potencias exportadoras de productos y cereales básicos y sin la consideración de las necesidades de muchos países en desarrollo y de algunos países desarrollados en este sentido.

Señor Presidente, evidentemente somos un grupo de países conscientes y suscribimos la declaración de Punta del Este, por lo que estamos dispuestos a seguir buscando formas que resuelvan los problemas del proteccionismo y de los enormes subsidios que existen en el comercio mundial de alimentos, pero aquí son muy importantes los tiempos en los cuales se va a dar este proceso de liberalización y de eliminación de barreras.

Quiero informarles a ustedes que nuestro país ha avanzado mucho en materia de liberalización comercial de su comercio agropecuario, que se han eliminado muchas de las barreras no cuantitativas que existían en el pasado y que en la inserción moderna de nuestro país al comercio mundial de productos agrícolas estamos en la mejor disposición de avanzar tanto como avancen los demás países en materia de la negociación comercial. Por ejemplo - lo dijimos también en el foro del GATT - nos preocupa el hecho de que se hagan proposiciones que planteen una liberalización comercial en un plazo de diez años para el comercio agropecuario, que se plantee eliminar subsidios y barreras proteccionistas y barreras no arancelarias o fitosanitarias, y que, por otra parte, con nuestro principal socio comercial, en el seno de su cuerpo legislativo, se están discutiendo medidas de proteccionismo, o una ley proteccionista, que, relamente, daría al traste con toda la negociación comercial que se está dando en materia de productos agrícolas. Esto lo manifestamos allá y creo que este es un foro importante para hacerlo aquí en este momento. Es decir, pretendemos que exista congruencia entre las posiciones que se manejan a nivel internacional y las acciones que se están planteando a nivel interno para resolver el problema del comercio mundial de alimentos.

Evidentemente nuestro país en este caso ha aprovechado la coyuntura que existe de precios bajos a nivel internacional, de precios subsidiados, pero también somos conscientes de que estos precios bajos y subsidiados están afectando el nivel de ingresos de nuestros agricultores porque la tasa de costo de los beneficios que existen entre la producción interna de alimentos y los precios internacionales hacen que en un momento determinado sea más barato importar que producir en nuestros países. Nosotros pensamos que si esto se resuelve en términos graduales, tendremos un mejor entorno internacional que permita un mejor desarrollo del comercio mundial de alimentos.

Finalmente creo que el Comité tendría que tomar cartas y hacer proposiciones concretas sobre esta paradoja que existe entre el hambre y la abundancia y podemos decir que en el seno del Consejo Mundial de Alimentación hemos estado estudiando este problema sin que todavía existan proposiciones interesantes para resolver el problema de los enormes excedentes.

Alguien por allí decía en broma que se podían echar al mar todos estos enormes excedentes y que se podría resolver el problema de esa manera. No creo que ése sea el mecanismo, pero sí tendrá que buscarse una solución enérgica para que la agricultura vuelva a ser un buen negocio.

Steen SØNDERGAARD (Denmark): First, I should like to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, on your election. Secondly, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the two very instructive documents.

The state of food and agricultural production and trade gives rise to very serious concern. There is general agreement among all the speakers that the situation is very unsatisfactory. Also, there is, more or less, consensus about the reasons for the present situation. Many factors are influencing the food and agricultural production, and the trade for these products. It is the economic situation

in the world, the agricultural policy in regions and individual countries, changes in the production structures in some countries and the debt problems in some developing countries. The worsened economic situation in the world is, for the time being, a matter of concern. It has the effect that developing countries in some regions are net capital exporters. This means that investment in agricultural production has decreased to a low level. The lack of input such as fertilizers, pesticides management and expertise in agricultural production will, of course, lead to a decrease in production, as we have seen, and paradoxically, in some cases a growing pressure on the environment and the semi-arid land.

The agricultural policy in the different countries and regions is of great importance to the development of agricultural production. Especially in Africa there is a tremendous need for increasing local food production. I want to stress "local food production". We believe FAO has a very important role to play, not only in providing knowledge, technical knowledge, at all levels, but also in supporting the efforts to create agricultural policies which encourage especially the small farmers to increase their production. We believe in policy advice connected with technical assistance of a substantive nature.

With regard to the trade in food and agricultural products, certain international events of great importance have taken place, in particular the Declaration from the OECD, Ministerial Council in May this year, the Venice Economic Summit in June and above all the launching of the GATT trade negotiations, the Uruguay Round. This gives the institutional framework to comprehensive discussions on how to solve basic international issues. We should certainly not miss the opportunity to prepare lasting solutions in the agricultural field, and to reach agreements which will ensure a better global market balance.

For our part, we, as members of the EEC, are prepared to take part in this process. Basic elements in the agreements we are looking for should include stability on the international market, food security, fair treatment of the producers, and, of course, not least, the assurance of a better food supply for people in all countries.

On the question of stability, we would like to see international agreements put into force. In this context we would, in particular, refer to the International Dairy Agreement, and we would express the hope that all important exporters would join the Agreement. Further, we would like to see a revision of certain elements of this Agreement. We agree that there is a need to look at the support: measures for agricultural production in developed countries. At the same time it is important to keep in mind the effect on individual producers to include in the consideration human and social respect of the adjustment process. The rural social structures are vastly different in different parts of the world, and due account should be given to this fact. We believe that protection of consumer interests in all countries is essential; not least the consumers should be assured of the quality of the products offered to them. The agricultural sector has a great responsibility in this respect, as is the case with the question of conservation of the environment. There are many markets in this area. Therefore, we urge that a short-term solution should be found as soon as possible, while at the same time longer-term solutions are being prepared.

What kind of contribution can FAO and this Conference offer to promote the important discussions and negotiations in GATT and other fora, apart from the important analytical work carried out by this Organization? We think that this Conference should send very clear signals to the international community that we are deeply concerned about many elements in the present state of affairs, and that we wish meaningful and realistic negotiations to move ahead and be concluded with a view to bringing stability to international markets.

Mme Cristina Isabel DUARTE (Cap-Vert): Tout d'abord, ma délégation voudrait vous féliciter de votre élection à la Présidence de notre commission.

Les documents C 87/2 et Sup. 1 qui sont soumis à notre examen traitent de la situation de crise de surproduction des pays industrialisés et de ses conséquences.

Cette crise présente les caractéristiques suivantes:

- excédents de production et accumulation de stocks;
- stagflation;
- chômage.

Toutes ces caractéristiques reflètent un excédent relatif de capacité installée.

Etant donné le degré élevé d'internationalisation des économies, la crise qui a explosé dès le début dans les pays industrialisés s'est propagée partout comme une tache d'huile.

Le fardeau de la crise pour les pays en développement, en particulier ceux d'Afrique, n'est pas du tout facile à supporter. La quasi-stagnation du PIB, la diminution de plus de 12 pour cent du revenu par habitant, la détérioration des termes de l'échange, l'aggravation croissante de la dette extérieure, tout ceci nous donne à penser que le redressement recherché de la croissance économique implique aussi un assainissement de l'économie mondiale.

Dans ce contexte, on a conscience que la situation actuelle du continent africain, caractérisée par une économie d'autosuffisance, constitue un obstacle important à la sortie de la crise. Ceci pourrait entraîner éventuellement la destruction du capital installé, mais impliquerait nécessairement l'élargissement du marché international.

Dans ce cadre, s'inscrivent la mercantilisation des économies africaines souvent défendue et la monétisation de l'agriculture. En d'autres termes, cela signifie le passage à une agriculture tournée vers le marché. Ceci mènera tout simplement à une augmentation de la demande en biens de consommation et, sans aucun doute, provoquera le déblocage de la situation en faveur des pays développés et industrialisés.

Une éventuelle solution de fond devrait mener à une Afrique utilisatrice de biens d'équipement en libérant les pays africains de la situation d'exportateurs de matières premières et d'importateurs de biens manufacturés.

Dans ce sens, les pays en développement se battent non seulement pour l'augmentation de l'aide, mais également pour une révision du concept et des pratiques de cette même aide. Pour que celle-ci permette la réduction effective de la dépendance, elle devrait être orientée vers la construction d'une base d'accumulation, ce qui signifie donc la monétisation de l'aide alimentaire, les flux financiers à des conditions de bonification intéressantes, etc., encadrés par une vraie pratique de la planification économique. Il s'agit d'une mesure indispensable si l'on veut sortir de la crise dans un cadre de plus grande justice.

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Having reviewed paragraphs 3 to 6 of this document, we should like to express our concern at the prevailing economic situation at the world level. The negative trends witnessed influenced agricultural and economic performances, as has been mentioned in paragraphs 7 to 23. We all agree that the main cause for these negative trends is the problem of foreign debt, from which all developing countries suffer. It is now like an avalanche sweeping all before it. Therefore we need both coordination and solidarity in order to do away with this problem. We should concentrate on the best way out instead of confining ourselves to parochial interests. We are gratified to see that the developing countries understand better the importance of the agricultural sector and all the serious efforts that have been undertaken to improve agricultural policy. This is mentioned in paragraph 36. We are looking forward to more efforts in order to put an end to the problem of protective policies so as to enable economic growth to regain its force. Here, since we are talking about negative trends for the debt problem and the service of the debt, we can but hail the countries which agreed to rediscuss the debt problem, because both developing and developed countries are in the same boat.

My country's delegation has looked at paragraphs 45 to 53 on fisheries and we have noticed that a substantial increase in total world fishery production was reported in 1986. The same trend may be true for 1987.

Mention was made in paragraph 54 of the first year of the UN-PAAERD, and we are satisfied to see what was mentioned in paragraph 58 as regards the revival of the agricultural sector in Africa. We hope that the tendency will continue, and this can only be achieved through depending on our own forces through the formation of appropriate cadres and agreeing on appropriate programmes. In fact, what was mentioned as far as resource flows are concerned is something very encouraging.

This document discussed the economic condition in the Near East region, and we agree with the review prepared by the Organization. We should like to express our appreciation for the effort in preparing this review.

After looking very closely at paragraph 139, which mentions the agricultural policy in my country, I am gratified to mention that we have achieved a certain measure of self-sufficiency in food crops. We are even exporting some of them. We are also trying to implement one of the executive programmes under our agricultural plan with the aim of achieving a greater measure of self-sufficiency and implementing vertical development programmes in order to increase production, as well as attaching more importance to small farmers.

CHAIRMAN: I find that in the schedule for the Commission's work four sessions have been earmarked for this item, 6.1. Out of the 158 members, 26 have so far spoken. There are roughly twenty more speakers. I would suggest to the Secretariat, with your approval, that possibly we could complete discussion on SOFA, 6.1., in the morning session and take the other items in the afternoon session.

I adjourn this session.

The meeting rose at 16.20 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.20 horas

conference

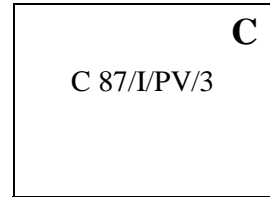
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24° período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRD MEETING
TROISIEME SEANCE
TERCERA SESION

(12 November 1987)

The Third Meeting was opened at 09.55 hours,
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 09.55 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.1 State of Food and Agriculture (continued)
- 6.1 Situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6.1 El estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We have the names of 15 nations here as speakers for this morning. Before I call upon the delegate of Kenya to make his presentation, I should like to mention that the discussions for finalizing the membership of the Drafting Committee are in progress and it is to be hoped that by this evening we shall know the composition.

Dedan Robinson KAMAU (Kenya): Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Kenya delegation, permit me to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Commission.

The documents before us, C 87/2 and C 87/2-Sup.1, with other references made, have attempted to analyse the situation and trends in both food and agriculture, and to some extent economic development globally, regionally and nationally, by referring to specific member countries or groups of countries. We commend the Secretariat for the strenuous efforts they have made to produce such well researched and informative documents.

In our view, the conclusions drawn indicate a gloomy situation for areas in developing countries where those living under the absolute minimum poverty line continue to increase in number.

The list of those requiring food imports is also increasing. As we talk of the food crisis, other dimensions such as the energy crisis, population growth, desertification and other vagaries of nature become imminent and threaten further to impoverish the target groups. The sum total points to increased stress on the environment and continued reduction in food production by units. These areas will be discussed later under the appropriate agenda items.

This spiral occurrence of events is partly due to the policies pursued in each country as well as to those emanating from outside, such as general agricultural commodity trade and terms of trade. The situation is further compounded by the occurrence of natural disasters such as droughts and floods. The problem of external debts and debt servicing remains a nightmare for developing countries, thus discouraging investment in agriculture.

Kenya belongs to the Eastern Africa sub-region where a number of countries are facing food problems. Through our statement at the Plenary we appealed for assistance to be provided internationally to avoid a repeat of the catastrophic events in this sub-region in the years 1983 and 1984.

At paragraph 65 of document C 87/2, and also at paragraph 30 of C 87/2-Sup.1, our country is among those mentioned as having food surpluses. Our major concern is how to sustain the surpluses in the face of unabated post-harvest losses and rising population. Kenya has had to take another look into the long-term policy implications in relation to socio-economic development for which agriculture must play a leading role. Agriculture changes and adjustments are taking place through improvement in the delivery system to farmers and ranchers. Great emphasis is placed on research, extension and marketing by providing the infrastructure, institutions, inputs and the incentives which favour increased agricultural production.

The concept of what is referred to as "District Focus for Rural Development" encourages grass root participation in decision-making and implementation of projects and programmes.

As we intensify our food production and agriculture as a whole, land-use farming systems must be incorporated to foster development without destruction. We believe that the nation's food requirements must be met from domestic production to enable the country to be self-sufficient in the basic foodstuffs, to carry a calculated food security in each area of the country and to ensure proper distribution of food supplies to all areas of our country.

We would like to make a few comments on commodity trade in areas that affect Kenya. Our major foreign exchange earners are coffee and tea, and their performance is related to changes in the international commodity prices. At the moment both tea and coffee prices are declining and this affects net earnings by producers. Kenya is seeking and encouraging commodity diversification to avoid reliance on the two major crops of coffee and tea. We have in mind the development of horticulture, pyrethrum, sisal and various livestock production areas. However, the present situation entails discrimination of commodities produced in the Third World regions through various legislations and other restrictions which remain a barrier to increased trade and our efforts towards diversification. Therefore, we look forward to trade negotiations that would liberalize trade and other measures that would enhance international cooperation and development, particularly in regions that have been disadvantaged during the past decades.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We have read with great care the documents C 87/2 and C 87/2-Sup.1 on the State of Food and Agriculture, and we have listened intensively to the contributions to the debate and heard much with which we can agree. A number of speakers, including the Director of Policy Analysis Division in his introductory remarks, have referred to the general economic environment, and it is on this aspect of the papers that I would like to make a few observations.

We feel that the paper veers a little towards the gloomy side in describing the economic environment faced by debtors. Of course there have been difficulties and uncertainties, but on the positive side there has been steady, if unspectacular, growth in world output and world trade in every year since 1982; inflation and interest rates have come down; oil prices have fallen to the benefit of most debtors; and other commodity prices have this year shown signs of a modest recovery.

The new element since the report was written is, of course, the turmoil in recent days in world stock markets and, to a lesser extent, currency markets. Whether this is the onset of the financial crisis that some have predicted is too early to say. The outlook for economic growth will now be weaker, but the impact depends in part on confidence effects and on the policy response. Debtors can take comfort from the fact that the financial disturbance has so far been accompanied by falling interest rates rather than the increases some had predicted.

The causes of debt problems and their solutions do not lie solely in the hands of creditor countries, as the report in places implies. In many debtor countries, inappropriate structural policies, distortions in prices, interest rates and exchange rates, overexpansionary fiscal policies and runaway inflation have been an important cause of debt difficulties, not least through capital flight. Many debtors are now courageously tackling these problems but they have to persevere with reforms and others have to join them if a lasting solution to the debt problem is to be found.

In these circumstances we feel it is unjust to accuse creditor countries of not addressing the debt problem with sufficient urgency. There have been a considerable number of initiatives to help the poorest, most indebted countries. Ways are being explored of expanding the menu of options and instruments available for debt restructuring in middle income debtors, provided satisfactory adjustment efforts are being made, but we feel that paragraph 31 goes too far in suggesting that there is support for a generalized, officially-financed scheme of debt relief.

Paragraph 20 of document C 87/2 touches on the subject of subsidies, and I would draw the attention of this Commission to the statement made by my Minister in Plenary yesterday. He pointed out that subsidies not only overload our own budgets and create food mountains but also deprive efficient producers, often in poorer countries, of their export markets.

Food aid all too often means dumping surpluses thereby inducing dependence on imports which the recipient countries cannot then afford to buy. This is why the United Kingdom is so anxious that the GATT Uruguay Round on agriculture should succeed and why we have already worked hard and successfully to achieve major reforms in the Community's own food aid policies.

Amadou M. KAMARA (Sénégal): Monsieur le Président, ma délégation souhaiterait se joindre aux délégations qui l'ont précédée pour vous adresser ses félicitations pour votre élection. Mes félicitations vont également au Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité du document C 87/2 et du document C 87/2 Sup 1.

Je voudrais souligner la pertinence du diagnostic établi sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, qui fait que ma délégation souscrit évidemment entièrement au contenu des documents soumis à notre examen.

Il y a cependant deux questions qui préoccupent ma délégation et qui ont trait à la situation décrite en Afrique et, bien sûr, à la situation dans mon pays.

La première a trait à la politique des prix. Il y a quelques années, toutes les analyses effectuées sur les politiques agricoles en vigueur dans les Etats africains mettaient l'accent sur l'inadéquation de la politique des prix. A l'époque, l'on trouvait que cette politique des prix était trop peu incitative pour les producteurs ruraux. Ce diagnostic, de l'avis de ma délégation, était alors exact, ce qui a conduit la plupart des Etats africains à augmenter les prix aux producteurs. Une telle politique, qui s'est avérée adéquate pour redresser le niveau de production des principaux produits en Afrique, a eu comme conséquence de donner un coup de fouet à la production.

Je voudrais illustrer ce que je viens de dire par le cas de l'arachide qui, dans mon pays, en répondant aux effets d'une telle politique, a trouvé depuis trois ans des niveaux de production de plus en plus élevés. Paradoxalement, la situation des cours mondiaux pour l'huile, donc les oléagineux, n'a cessé de se détériorer, ce qui fait que le Sénégal, à l'instar de beaucoup de pays africains, se trouve confronté à des déficits extrêmement importants au niveau d'une filière qui est essentielle dans notre économie. Je ne m'étends pas plus sur cette première question.

La deuxième question qui nous préoccupe a trait au bilan qui est établi dans le document sur la mise en oeuvre du Programme des Nations Unies pour le Redressement Economique et Social de l'Afrique. Le bilan qui est fait nous montre qu'au terme d'une année d'application l'on peut conclure que les flux financiers qui sous-tendaient les programmes d'investissements qui sont présentés dans ce Programme couvrent difficilement le niveau de financement que l'on avait escompté. Il semble que de ce côté également il faille que notre commission rediscute et réapprécie la situation qui en résulte.

C'étaient les deux questions que ma délégation voulait soulever et les deux points qu'elle souhaitait examiner au cours de nos travaux.

Ms. Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): The Secretariat has presented a useful and generally well balanced review of the world economic situation and the state of world food and agriculture in the point of view of the United States. We appreciate the emphasis on macro-economic factors since they can both affect agricultural performance and the success of agricultural policy reforms.

The United States shares the Secretariat's concern about distortions in the world economic environment. Our concern about agricultural trade problems in particular lead the United States to call for their inclusion in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations where we hope to achieve substantial trade liberalization. Resolution of trade problems requires reduction of obstructions to world trade.

The United States remains firmly anti-protectionist and President Reagan recently reaffirmed his opposition to protectionist legislation. However, others must also commit themselves to fair trade policies in order to generate public support for an open trading system.

We also share the Secretariat's distress about the influence of unfavourable macro-economic factors, in particular foreign debt, and how they can undermine a country's ability to sustain policy reform. We recognize the difficulty incurred by structural adjustments, especially in an uncertain and fluctuating world economic environment. We endorsed in general at the Venice Summit the proposal for a new structural adjustment facility. We also support a general capital increase for the World Bank. Further, Treasury Secretary Baker recently announced a US proposal for a fund within the IMF to help cushion the adverse effects on IMF stand-by programmes of external, unforeseen developments such as weaker commodity prices, lower export volumes, natural disasters and sustained higher interest rates.

Countries themselves, however, also have an important role to play in helping to strengthen their own food and agricultural sectors. In many countries macro-economic policy, as well as agricultural policy reform is first and foremost among the actions that are needed to be undertaken. Many delegations here have stressed the need for policy reform in the developed countries, the need for countries to reduce agricultural subsidies and to liberalize their agricultural trade. United States agrees with this, but a renewed commitment to sound economic policies and programmes in many of the developing countries is also necessary if they are to increase their own agricultural production, improve access to food and alleviate malnutrition.

We believe that FAO has a role to play in the current economic situation, particularly by developing countries to improve their analysis and formulation of agricultural policies. Assisting countries improve their information and food production, food consumption and other statistics so that they have a better basis for evaluating the current food and agricultural situation in their countries and evaluating alternative policy options, is another area in which FAO can be of great assistance. Unfortunately often such data improvement efforts, because they seem less glamorous, are neglected to the detriment of improved policy formulation. As far as detailed exchanges of views and external debt issues, the United States feel that these are more appropriately handled in other bodies such as the IMF Interim Committee and the IMF World Bank Development Committee.

I also have available with me other detailed information on recent events in US agriculture, but in the interest of brevity I will avoid going into details on this at this time.

Ernst ZIMMERL (Austria) (original language German): I would first like to congratulate the Chairman, on behalf of the Austrian delegation, on his election.

I would also like to thank the Secretariat for the very comprehensive and clear documentation with which we have been provided.

From the very beginning of mankind the main concern has been reflected in the work and action of the FAO which was founded in 1946. These things have since then been discussed by the concert of nations. A number of years ago the World Food Conference decided that world hunger would have to be discontinued and done away with and solved within a decade, but unfortunately we have now found that this ambitious target is one that has not been achieved. It would seem that the problem has not become larger since 1974 according to provisions given by FAO. If we compare with the figures of ten years ago, one billion more people are being fed by farming. What is actually behind these figures though is really indicated if you look at trends in world population. Over the last thirteen years it has not been possible to get rid of hunger and under nutrition within a decade because the number of hungry has not actually gone up in real terms, but as there are more people being fed it has been made clear that mankind has taken up this great challenge and achieved some of its targets. The worldwide trend, greater hunger in developing countries, has been broken but we cannot yet say whether it has been broken for ever.

Further great efforts are required by all countries to make sure that we do not only maintain the current situation, but so that we can build on the successes over the past decade, the idea here being that we can actually remove hunger by the end of this century. Problems in developing countries are of diverse causes depending on the areas. These causes can be within agriculture or outside agriculture. There might be large population growth, there are bad distribution systems, a lot of money is being spent on arms, lack of jobs, unemployment, a bad infrastructure, loss of harvest, low purchasing power and low earnings for the farmers and their inability, therefore, to buy food. It would appear that food has to be given priority in the policies of individual countries, so that the farmers can get a fair price for their goods which would induce them to produce more. This would give them better inputs as well and this would also lead to an improvement in infrastructure.

We should also mention here that the question of unemployment is of prime importance. In the short term it is important to make sure that all measures for rehabilitation of agriculture will be taken,

particularly in Africa. As part of this, the African farmer has to get the necessary inducements so that he can produce more food and this can be done over a sustained period. There are certain examples here which show that this is a promising way forward. Lasting solutions will only be achieved, however, if food and agricultural policies are framed not in isolation, but as part of an integrated development policy. If we can actually solve these problems, it would really be up to FAO to play a role as prime mover. This could be done through technical aid projects, it could be done in all areas of food and agriculture. Such projects would strengthen domestic efforts and they would support training and development. These would also be a means of new technologies being made available to farmers.

Ms. Barbara MARTIN (Canada): The report and debate under this item provides the backdrop against which the more detailed discussions under other agenda items take place. In the Canadian view the debate under this item is an opportunity to review global and regional trends, to determine issues of concern and to set directions for the future. As such, the report and debate should provide the basis from which to develop the broad policy guidelines for FAO programmes. It is within this context that I wish, first, to comment on the reports tabled under this item and the importance my delegation attaches to them. We appreciate the up-dated information found in the supplement which provides a brief survey of most recent developments that are cause for grave concern. However, Canada is disappointed with the structure of this year's Report on the State of food and Agriculture. We recognize that the documents under items 8, 9 and 10 are directly related to the substance of the debate under this item and that, in order to avoid duplication, the range of issues raised in the report were reduced. We applaud the attempt to rationalize the documentation of the FAO conference. However, in this case the Report falls short of the quality of the Report produced for the 23rd Session. We, therefore, encourage the Secretariat to return to the format developed in 1985 which included a substantial analysis of current trends in agriculture, the inter-relationships of different economic, financial and natural factors and the effect of these on agriculture.

Further, a summary and conclusions section should be reintroduced. This section should relate directly to the process of setting priorities and policy directions for FAO programming. Despite global food surpluses, there are still people who are not only hungry, but who are dying of hunger. This tragic irony is at the heart of our debate. The problem is related to production and the natural and economic factors which affect it, but more significantly it is related to distribution and purchasing power. Obviously, these are complex matters.

Agricultural production and trade has an impact on the overall economic well-being of almost every country and vice versa. Canada too is affected. Our farming sector has been adversely affected by the global economic environment. But not only are we concerned about our domestic situation, Canadians are also deeply concerned about the plight of people who feel the impact of the current environment much more profoundly, as an issue of life and death. As a result, Canada seeks to balance our approach to food and agriculture issues, to take into account our own concerns while, at the same time, working towards solutions to the problems faced by many developing countries. We believe that by working together our countries can overcome these problems.

There are three pillars to agricultural development: first, appropriate domestic policies; secondly, a fair trade environment for agriculture; and thirdly, effective resources transfer mechanisms, bilateral as well as multilateral.

The basis for agricultural development is of course national policies which ensure adequate access to the necessary infrastructure, technology and inputs such as fertilizer, as well as incentives to producers. It is critical to note in this context that there is a need for a balanced approach to rural development taking into account the growth of rural populations. Not all can be employed in agricultural production: many will need to be absorbed in agro-industrial development efforts. The WCARRD Report provides a number of valuable insights in this regard. It is in this area of policy development and support for programme implementation that FAO has a critical role to play.

The second pillar of agricultural development is a fair agricultural trade environment. Agricultural trade reform is a trade priority issue for Canada. Trade tensions pose serious risks to the broader trading environment that affect us all. Our farm sector is suffering. We too are adversely affected by depressed commodity prices, by subsidies and by low international demand.

But also Canada appreciates that the impact of agricultural trade distortions on developing countries has been particularly severe. We have therefore been working actively in the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters to seek solutions.

Over the past year, notably with the launching of the Uruguay Round and the landmark agreements at the Venice Summit and in the OECD, there has been a growing consensus on the need for fundamental reform in the agricultural sector. This is encouraging, but this momentum needs to be maintained and cultivated in the new round of multi-lateral trade negotiations. In these negotiations Canada is seeking more secure and predictable access to markets and a significant reduction in all agricultural subsidies that distort trade.

The debt crisis has seriously affected the availability in many countries of resources for agricultural development. In Africa the crisis is acute. Clearly, external financial support plays a crucial function in the implementation of national policies. The international economic environment has had a negative impact on many countries' ability to contribute to ODA and other resource flows. It is nonetheless important that the international community continue to seek solutions to the debt crisis and continue to support the efforts of developing countries. Already there has been some movement: at the IMF to triple the Structural Adjustment Facility; in the Paris Club, where special arrangements are being made for the poorest debtors; and at the World Bank, where there is a consensus on the need to negotiate a general capital increase with the IDA Eighth Replenishment.

For our part, Canada has contributed significantly in multilateral fora: at the Venice Summit, where our Prime Minister presented ideas on how to relieve the debt burden of the poorest countries and urged undertakings to reform agricultural trade; in the Uruguay Round, where Canada has begun a programme of consultations and training designed to enable developing countries better to pursue and protect their trading interests in the MTN and in the Paris Club, where we have supported longer re-scheduling periods and concessional interest rates for the poorest. We are also providing resources to bilateral channels and have taken steps to forgive the ODA debts of thirteen countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, a measure worth \$ 672 million.

Clearly there is much that must be done to address the serious food shortages in the current international economic environment which has had such a serious effect on agricultural production and trade. This underlines the crucial role which the FAO and its subsidiary organs must play in the immediate future to alleviate basic need and in the long term to overcome the root causes of food shortages and hunger. It must coordinate with other agencies within the UN system which have mandates to handle agricultural trade and resource flow issues. It must focus sharply its own programmes and activities on the priority issues which are within its realm of competence, and it must ensure that these priorities, as they are identified by Member States in the course of this debate, are reflected in the Programme of Work and Budget.

Jean BANTSIMBA (Congo): La delegation de mon pays tient d'abord à vous présenter ses félicitations à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de notre commission que vous dirigez avec compétence depuis le début de ses travaux. Nos félicitations vont également à l'endroit du Secrétariat pour l'excellente qualité des documents présentés sur la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1987, une situation peu brillante caractérisée par une crise dont la persistance réserverait un avenir plus sombre aux pays en développement et dont les faits saillants se manifestent à travers la dégradation des termes de l'échange des pays en voie de développement, notamment la concurrence féroce entre exportateurs qui est exacerbée par les subventions pratiquées par certains pays développés et qui réduit considérablement les chances des pays en développement qui ont les coûts de production généralement les plus élevés; l'état d'endettement de ces derniers les déséquilibre et renforce les déséquilibres dans la production et la distribution des aliments.

Cette situation de crise qui se maintient depuis quelques années ne pourrait qu'assombrir de plus belle la situation des pays en voie de développement si la communauté internationale ne prend pas des mesures tendant à réduire les disparités existant entre les deux groupes de pays, les pays développés et les pays sous-développés. Cette tendance entraînerait un blocage plus ou moins sérieux de l'économie mondiale compte tenu du fait que la circulation des produits et des biens entre les deux groupes des deux sphères ne se ferait plus de manière correcte.

Aussi, l'appel que nous lançons s'adresse aux pays des deux grands groupes, le groupe du Nord et le groupe du Sud, de telle sorte qu'ils trouvent des mécanismes susceptibles d'harmoniser les politiques en matière de commerce des produits agricoles et de commerce de produits manufacturés parce que les intrants dont dépendent pour la plupart les pays sous-développés vis-à-vis des pays développés contribuent dans une certaine mesure à accroître l'endettement des pays sous-développés.

Ainsi donc, notre appel que nous réitérons doit tendre vers la mise sur pied des mécanismes de concertation qui tendront à réaliser un équilibre grâce auquel l'économie mondiale puisse se relancer afin que les investissements qui pourraient se dégager de l'économie au travers des mécanismes mis en place puissent être réinvestis dans l'agriculture des pays en développement.

Mme Malika SACI (Algérie): La délégation algérienne s'associe aux félicitations qui vous ont été adressées pour votre accession à la présidence de la commission et exprime sa satisfaction pour la qualité du travail fourni par le Secrétariat.

Tout a été dit dans cette enceinte sur la situation mondiale de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation. Permettez-moi de présenter quelques réflexions sur ce sujet.

Les documents C 87/2 et C 87/2-Sup.1 sont lucides et dans l'ensemble sans complaisance aucune. Leur contenu nous interpelle.

C'est un constat d'échec, non pas de la FAO, mais de la communauté internationale qui n'a pas pu ou pas assez voulu conduire un développement solidaire.

La situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture en 1987 est inquiétante à plus d'un titre. C'est une crise structurelle et, par ailleurs, elle perdure. Elle s'inscrit dans un contexte de tension économique internationale dont les caractéristiques sont décrites dans les documents que nous examinons et qui ont été exposées par les honorables délégués qui m'ont précédée.

Rappelons ces caractéristiques: le déficit de la balance des paiements, la récession, le protectionnisme et surtout la dette extérieure dont le poids ne cesse de peser sur les économies fragiles des pays en voie de développement.

La situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture a régressé au cours de la décennie écoulée. En 1976 déjà, la FAO signalait la détérioration de cette situation en Afrique; en 1983, la famine et la sécheresse s'y installaient.

Or, déjà en 1974, la Conférence mondiale de l'alimentation fixait à la communauté internationale l'objectif de l'élimination de la faim dans le monde avant 1985. En 1980, la stratégie internationale pour la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement repoussait cette échéance à la fin du siècle. C'était là, déjà, le signe de l'incapacité de la communauté internationale à se mobiliser pour réaliser l'objectif prioritaire entre tous: vaincre la faim et assurer la sécurité alimentaire à tous.

Nous arrivons à la situation actuelle: dans certaines régions du monde, il faut parler de dégradation de la qualité de la vie, d'appauvrissement et même de pauvreté absolue.

Nous vivons une situation paradoxale: malgré l'existence de stocks dont le volume pose problème, 350 à 510 millions d'êtres humains sont gravement sous-alimentés.

Qu'avons-nous fait pour faire face à cette catastrophe? Une aide alimentaire en augmentation de 11 pour cent; des contributions à la réserve alimentaire internationale d'urgence en augmentation de 28 pour cent, ceci dans le registre des actions ponctuelles.

A long terme, que proposons-nous? Des mesures d'ajustement structurel qui ont conduit à une dégradation des niveaux nutritionnels dont pâtiront les adultes de demain par millions et par ailleurs, des décisions qui, de sommets en sessions extraordinaires ne finissent pas d'alimenter le chapitre des bonnes intentions.

Aussi, la délégation algérienne estime que les paragraphes 24 et 25 du document C 87/2, pour ne citer que ceux-ci, sont par trop optimistes. L'évolution des politiques n'est pas des plus encourageantes et l'Accord du Louvre, le Sommet de Venise et la réunion ministérielle de l'OCDE n'ont apparemment pas encore modifié le paysage économique international.

Et pourtant, l'aide existe, bilatérale ou multilatérale. Son volume n'est pas négligeable et ses formes sont multiples. Laissons de côté ses modalités d'attribution ou ses moyens d'acheminement. Essayons seulement de trouver ici le meilleur moyen pour éviter sa dispersion afin de renforcer son efficacité, d'optimiser ses résultats et de mieux l'insérer dans le processus de développement. Nous pourrions par exemple envisager de concentrer les institutions spécialisées qui gèrent cette aide.

Dans le cas précis de l'Afrique, à nouveau menacée par la famine, et dans une optique d'intégration régionale il serait peut-être utile que ces institutions spécialisées oeuvrent de concert et plus étroitement avec l'OUA afin de réaliser le Plan d'action des Nations Unies pour le redressement économique et le développement de l'Afrique, par une utilisation optimale de toutes les ressources disponibles.

Ce programme connaît actuellement quelques difficultés à sa première année d'existence.

Devant les résultats décevants de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, il est vain de croire qu'une action sur le seul secteur agricole apportera des résultats durables si le climat économique international n'est pas assaini. Ce serait, comme l'a si bien dit un délégué, mettre un plâtre sur une jambe de bois.

Seul un nouvel ordre économique international pourra arrêter la dégradation des conditions économiques que subissent les pays en voie de développement et les ancrer au processus de développement mondial.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair and to compliment the Secretariat on the preparation of the documentation before us on this item.

As so often has occurred in the recent past when the subject of international agricultural trade has been under discussion in this forum, the view of the Australian Government has been largely identical with that expressed by the Secretariat. We agree fully with the analysis provided by Mr Hjort in his introduction on the causes of the current critical situation facing international agricultural trade. Australia realizes that while the causes of the present problems are very complex, there are five fundamental imbalances in national and international economic, agricultural and trade policies. These imbalances are: large domestic budget deficits; big imbalances in trade flows; a continuing rise in domestic protectionism; massive domestic agricultural subsidies; and, finally, unbalanced policies within the developing countries themselves. We recognise that in focusing on agricultural trade and agricultural policy, we are dealing only with one part of a complex and inter-related, international and humanitarian problem.

We have now reached a situation where countries must be prepared to impose political discipline in seeking a solution. We believe several strategies need to be deployed to bolster and reinforce political discipline, especially by leading Western industrialised nations. I refer here to the United States, the EEC and Japan not because these nations are the only ones who have contributed to this problem, and who must indeed resolve it - after all they account for over 80 percent of OECD agricultural protectionism - but recognizing that we all have a part to play in the process of world agricultural reform.

The problem of world food policy failure in the 1980s is very largely a creature of the economic, agricultural and trade policies of the Western industrial world. If there is any issue on which world leadership is desperately needed, it is in agricultural policy. However, exhortation will not change the level of political discipline. We also need to take cognizance of realpolitik. It must be shown that there are distinct political benefits to be gained by change.

The Australian Government believes that four steps are necessary to strengthen the political discipline needed to address this critical world problem. First, we should dramatize the costs to key political constituencies. Secondly, we must show that there are indeed logical, effective and politically palatable ways out of our difficulties. Thirdly, we must multilateralize the solution so that the adjustment costs to individual nations will be substantially offset by the benefits of international reform. Lastly, we must reinforce the positive developments, as I shall indicate in a moment, which are indeed taking place in a number of the countries involved.

I would just like briefly to comment on the dramatization of the problem. It is necessary to demonstrate that there is indeed a crisis, a crisis looming in world hunger and malnutrition, a burgeoning crisis in the international economic order and particularly in the distorted and chaotic international commodity markets.

For instance, the costs of farm programmes have escalated dramatically to US\$ 56 billion or in that order in the United States. The direct costs in the European Community are somewhere around US\$ 23 billion, the cost of the common agricultural policy having doubled in the last five years. In Japan and in other countries, the costs of farm programmes are rising quite dramatically.

It is not sufficient simply to point out the nature of the problem to demonstrate that there is indeed a crisis and to show that the costs of the crisis are rising dramatically. It is not even enough to point to the Thai rice farmers or the Philippines sugar producers who have been deprived of any means of earning income. Nor the African country which has worked hard to generate a small exportable maize surplus, only to find that there is no market left for its product. It is not sufficient to emphasize the loss of export income in debt-ridden Latin American economies. Of course, it is not sufficient to talk of the damage being done to Australia and Australian farmers.

It is also important to point out to domestic constituencies the kind of problems and costs that they are facing. It is a lamentable fact that in the final analysis political discipline will come primarily from domestic concerns.

Delegates will recall that Australia has referred, on several occasions this year in this forum, to the initiative launched by the Australian Prime Minister in Davos last January. Some of the points made in that statement have been overtaken to some extent by events, indeed some welcome progress has been made. But the fundamental policy prescriptions contained in the initiative remain relevant if a solution is to be found to our current problems. Some of those points which we believe are still very, very relevant are: first, a commitment to halt subsidy escalation and freeze and progressively reduce administered internal agricultural farm prices; the narrowing of the gap between international and domestic prices which we believe should be expedited by measures aimed at containing supplies. That is in the short-term. Then farm income support measures should be separated as far as possible from producer prices for farm output. The development of an accepted set of principles to liberalize world agricultural trade, through reform of the domestic agricultural policies of national governments is a point. Finally, there is the negotiation within the Uruguay Round of effective disciplines on the operation of direct and indirect agricultural subsidies and price support programmes and increased market access.

The first of these steps relates to a commitment to halt subsidy escalation and to freeze and progressively reduce administrative prices. We are happy to say that this took place in Punta del Este in Uruguay at the launching of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

Since that launch, that commitment has been reinforced, most noticeably in the communiqué from the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in Paris and, of course, at the Venice Summit. A number of countries have individually committed themselves to work very hard to achieve these objectives.

So I believe that we have made some small progress in recent times. I think we can see some good signs happening in modest progress, some turning points in some countries, but there is still a lot: of worry on our part on the mood in the United States. It is in the United States that we see less optimistic signs of change than in any other country. Certainly the mood of Congress at the present time is not conducive to further moderation of the international agricultural price war.

If we look at Japan, we have seen from the Japanese Government), a constructive report by the Japan Agricultural Policy Council, which contains a firm commitment to reducing internal prices in order to move them in the direction of the international market price. We have seen some signs of that in practice in the decision last year to freeze the rice price and the decision marginally to reduce internal support prices for beef. So we are seeing some early progress, as I said.

We have also seen an agreement amongst the OECD countries on a set of principles to liberalize world agricultural trade through the reform of domestic agricultural policies by member countries. Those important principles are a set of principles with which I think few of us would have any cause to quibble.

Australia has twin goals to pursue in this matter: the reform of domestic agricultural policies; and the cementing of the process of reform into an international agreement under the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations.

As delegates will be aware, the United States tabled its negotiating proposals for agriculture in July, the European Community did so last month and, like previous GATT rounds, these major powers have now been engaged by a new group, the Cairns Group of agricultural fair trading countries. This group accounts for one-quarter of world agricultural exports and its membership embraces countries from the east, the west, the north and the south. Three weeks ago in Geneva the group presented its negotiating proposals for the Uruguay Round. Very simply, the aims or the proposals contain three elements: long-term objectives of the elimination of subsidies and market barriers within ten years at the most; a framework for the rules and parameters necessary during the phase-down period and a set of priorities for change; finally, an immediate relief from the worst subsidies and market distortions.

Unlike the proposals of the United States and the Community, the Cairns Group proposal focuses in detail on the reform period and the mechanisms required to achieve a free and open agricultural trading system. It gives priority to phasing out those measures which most disrupt trade and provides for the greatest distorters to make the greatest contributions to reform.

We have made some progress but it is most important to reinforce the direction of change and to encourage to the utmost its acceleration. This process will not just benefit farmers in general, Australian farmers or farmers from the Third World but it will benefit citizens of all countries. It will in fact benefit citizens of all member countries of FAO.

CHAIRMAN: I would thank the Australian delegate particularly for what he mentioned about the objectives and functions of the Cairns Group.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): On behalf of my delegation I shall use this opportunity to congratulate the Chairman on his election as chairman of this Commission. My delegation also welcomes the documents which we are presently discussing, we find them very informative and useful.

Let me first briefly comment on the trade in agricultural commodities. I think there is no reason for me to describe the present situation in world food markets. Like other countries we feel that improvement in these markets is a question of the utmost concern to the agricultural sector and to world society as a whole. In her statement to the Conference, the Norwegian Minister of Agriculture mentioned that the UNCTAD Session this summer gave some positive results and that the new GATT Round offers hope for improvements. We intend to take an active part in these negotiations and hope among other things that additional preferences for the least developed countries will be achieved.

I would like to draw your attention then to paragraph 32 of the document. It is pointed out there that the report, Our Common Future by the World Commission on Environment and Development has wide implications for agricultural and natural resource policies.

We note with satisfaction that FAO in general concurs with the main thrust of the report and the analysis it contains. It is even more satisfactory that FAO considers the Commission's report

useful in its efforts to consolidate and further expand environmentally conscious programmes promoting sustainable development.

Norway truly values the recent FAO initiatives relating to the environment, the conservation of natural resources, and development, inter-alia, the World Soil Charter, the WCARRD Programme of Action, the International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, the Strategy for Fisheries Management and Development, and the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.

However, having expressed our acknowledgement of the initiatives taken by FAO, it is nevertheless appropriate to underline that these initiatives can just be considered as a first step in making FAO an even more effective instrument in securing sustainable development.

One should note that the report of the World Commission implies much more fundamental and far-reaching effects for world agriculture and for FAO.

In this perspective I wish to draw attention to some of the Report's main conclusions and the recommendations for follow-up action. The Commission suggests that a first step is the recognition that most of the problems of ecology and economy which until now we have dealt with separately are in fact closely linked and require integrated action on a global scale. The World Commission calls for an integration of environment policies and development strategies. A framework for this integration may be found in the concept of sustainable development. Although pursued differently in different countries, sustainable development should be a global objective. It will require far-reaching changes making the pattern of trade, capital investment, technological development and management of natural resources more equitable and better synchronized to environmental imperatives. This in turn makes a functioning multilateral system essential.

Agriculture is in crisis in both north and south through soil erosion and water pollution in all continents, and with soil acidification in Europe and desertification in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The World Commission points out several specific signs of this crisis.

First, farm subsidies in the north cost large sums and result in over-use of land. These subsidies are adversely affecting the agricultural segment in developing countries in several ways. Second, an increasing population in the developing countries is forced to move to and utilize marginal land, giving it little time to recover. Third, poor planning and management of irrigation systems often leads to salinization and water-logging of soils, and the use or mis-use of fertilizers and pesticides damages water resources and affects human health.

The goal is to preserve the resource base while providing livelihood security for the poor. Wiser land use, alternatives to chemicals, improved methods of water management, the safeguarding of forests, and increased attention to fisheries and aquaculture - all must be addressed by governments and producers alike.

Ecological security must be central to the work of FAO and all other appropriate international agencies. The application of the concept of sustainable development to the effort to ensure food security requires systematic attention to the renewal of natural resources. It requires a holistic approach focused on eco-systems at national, regional and global levels with coordinated land use and careful planning of water usage and forest exploitation.

The goal of ecological security should be embedded firmly in the mandates of FAO and other UN organizations that deal with agriculture, as well as all other appropriate international agencies. It will also require an enhancement and re-orientation of international assistance.

To achieve the needed change in attitudes and reorientation of policies and institutions, the World Commission on Environment and Development believes that an active follow-up of the report is imperative. With this in mind the Commission calls for the UN General Assembly upon due consideration to transform the report into a UN Programme of Action on Sustainable Development.

At the national level governments should take appropriate responsibility for environmental protection and sustainable development in the key ministries and legislative committees where priority decisions are made. Regional institutions and the UN system are warned to reform their fragmented sectorial biases and to cooperate closely to ensure that their programmes promote sustainable development.

In my opinion, it is necessary that FAO and its Member Nations should seriously consider what consequences the World Commission's recommendations will have. In this respect, I think we should consider the effect on FAO's work, the effect on the Organization as such, and FAO's role in the UN system in general. The World Commission represents a challenge for FAO. The report calls for a re-orientation and restructuring of FAO's work in the coming years.

Nguen SRISURUKSA (Thailand): Mr Chairman, this is the first time that I take the floor so I should like first of all to associate myself with the previous speakers in expressing my congratulations to you on your election. I am fully confident that with your able guidance our deliberations will produce a fruitful outcome.

I should also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive and clear documents before us.

We have all recognized the food and agricultural problems facing us at the present time due mainly to the low world price of commodities, accompanied by low purchasing power, together with rising debt, trade protectionism and subsidies. Moreover, some countries have suffered serious setbacks with floods and droughts.

It appears to me that the world economy, especially food production, has shown some improvement in terms of growth rate which is still relatively low, even though the growth rate in some countries is negative.

It is clear that the decline in oil prices, real interest rates and rates of inflation failed to stimulate world economic growth to a satisfactory level. The world food and agricultural production showed a marginal improvement in 1986 and 1987 compared with that of the previous year.

The question may be raised as to how we can solve the above problems which all of us have acknowledged. In many aspects of agricultural policy time is an important but often neglected factor. The longer we wait to move decisively to increased stabilization of food and agricultural production and towards freer world trade, the more obstacles there will be and the more difficult it will be to remove them. I believe that with the Organization's capacity it is necessary to form or establish a small group of experts or an agricultural development policy group who, based on national and regional needs, would review, monitor and evaluate agricultural development policies for the benefit of the members of the Organization.

My delegation also believes that one of the major causes of the difficulties facing world agriculture, both production and trade, is the lack of willingness on the part of some developing countries and some industrialized nations to restructure their food and agriculture policies and their domestic industries in the face of changing comparative advantage.

I wish to draw your attention to the trade problems facing us. For example, textiles and clothing are classic examples of developed countries which try to induce forced competitiveness in this industry, in which case these should have been allowed, even encouraged, to phase out.

Another example is subsidization. Agricultural subsidization is another classic example of certain major countries trying to induce distortion, competitiveness, in the world agricultural markets and to generate additional pressure for additional protectionist measures. A particular concern of Thailand is subsidies and other protectionist measures given to rice, cassava, maize, soybean, and cotton which are our principal export items and the main income source of farmers, especially of the small and poorer farmers.

Allow me to address this meeting on my country's agricultural situation and our agricultural development policy. 1986 was considered to be the year of recovery for Thailand. The Thai economy showed strong signs of improvement. Her gross domestic product grew at 3.8 percent in 1986 compared with 3.2 percent in 1985, while this year it was estimated at 5.3 percent. This has been due to the shift in the economic structure which moves further away from agriculture towards industry, especially export-oriented industries. The Thai Government will continue to introduce a number of measures with a view to boosting the economy and upgrading farm products, while remaining, cautious

with regard to budget deficits. These measures will coincide with our continuing efforts to increase productivity, expand and diversify, and use a higher degree of processing, better systems of marketing and distribution, to promote exports, mobilize domestic savings and nationalize its industries and government enterprises.

Above all, the Thai Government has made it clear that the private sector should play a major role in steering the country's economy, especially on agricultural and rural development, as well as job creation for the poor, called Joint Public and Private Sector Development Programme. The Thai Government will limit its role to that of a facilitator which, among other things, will try to provide better incentives to the private sector.

Erland CARLSSON (Sweden): I would like to commend the Secretariat for having prepared two excellent background papers. The document on the "State of Food and Agriculture" concentrates on a number of very important aspects and seems to provide the key facts necessary to get a picture of the agricultural situation in the world. Since the documentation in our opinion is so complete, I just want to make a few brief remarks.

My delegation would like particularly to underline the need to discuss the agricultural problems within and not in isolation from the context of the general economy. One aspect of this that is very well covered in the documents concerns the debt servicing problems in several countries. In this connection, that is, when we are discussing the state of food and agriculture in the world, one has to realize the negative effects of the debt problem, first of all, of course, on the economies and the people of the countries concerned, but also on efforts to restore the balance on the world market. Here I refer, *inter alia*, to paragraphs 9,10 and 29 in the document concerning the effects of non-realized imports. This aspect certainly adds to the already strong arguments in favour of relief measures, especially as regards the most vulnerable countries.

The part of the paper that deals with policy developments in our opinion is written in a skillful and balanced way. The need for policy change is apparent. At the same time, we recognize the fact that some corrective action has already been taken, not only in the form of internationally agreed principles, but also by way of concrete unilateral adjustment measures in both developing and developed countries, including Sweden. As concerns developed countries, in addition to the long-term objectives of a progressive and concerted reduction of agricultural support, as stated by the OECD ministers in May this year, it is important to take immediate steps to deal with the present surplus situation as regards several agricultural products. Concrete progress towards resolving this fundamental problem in our opinion is a necessary first step in order to reach the negotiating objectives in the GATT Uruguay Round with respect to market access and export competition.

Tsutomu TAKAHASHI (Japan): To begin with let me join with other delegates in congratulating you on your appointment as Chairman of this important Committee. I also thank the Secretariat for presenting the documents, which are very lucid and instructive.

Looking at document C 87/2 and others, you see a number of discouraging facts in the state of food and agriculture. For example, while the world stock of cereals is ample, the stock level in developing countries is reported to be at a record low this year. World trade of agricultural commodities remains stagnated, and it has negative economic effects not only on developing countries, but also on some developed countries. As to developing countries, populations suffering from hunger have increased in recent years and are forecast to grow by the year 2000. Furthermore, rural poverty has hardly been eradicated, and agrarian reform has shown little progress. Thus, many problems remain to be solved with regard to world food and agriculture.

Given these situations, my country is of the view that various measures should be continually taken towards solving the world food and agricultural problems. In this connection, I appreciate the efforts which have been made so far by FAO and which I expect will be continued in the future.

A number of countries called for the adjustment of policy in developed countries so that it will contribute to the development of world food and agriculture.

My country is of the view that in making an adjustment in world food and agriculture and in promoting agricultural reform concrete measures should be decided on and implemented under the responsibility of each country in the light of the natural, economic and social conditions affecting its agriculture, and that measures should be carried out in a manner that is both flexible and balanced.

The principal objective of Japan's agricultural policy is to assure a basic food supply capacity within the country with appropriate planning for the combination of domestic production with imports. In implementing this policy Japan intends to improve the productivity of its agriculture to the greatest extent possible and also to reduce price differences between domestic and foreign agricultural products. To this end, my Government in principle, has, not raised the government support prices of the major agricultural products for ten years and, especially since last year, has, in fact, lowered them. In this connection, Japan has cut the agricultural budget by seventeen per cent over the last six years.

As for trade, too, Japan has been striving to improve market access to the greatest extent possible by such means as the easing of import restrictions and reduction of tariff rates. In particular, recognizing that expansion of exports of agricultural products is of great importance to the economies of developing countries, Japan has reduced or abolished the tariffs on a substantial number of agricultural products that are imported from developing countries.

Japan, being the world's largest net importer of agricultural products, has been striving to expand and develop agricultural trade thereby, I believe, contributing greatly to the development of world trade of these products. Moreover, Japan intends to continue to participate positively in the negotiations of the GATT Uruguay Round so as to contribute to the promotion of agricultural trade and to the harmonious development of agriculture in every country. In this regard, Japan is of the view that we should not limit our discussions of the scope of negotiations to the current surplus problem and its solution only, we should expand the discussion to cover the reverse supply-demand imbalance in food which could occur on a long-term basis. Therefore, it is essential to formulate fair and balanced GATT rules and disciplines which can cope with situations both of surplus and of shortage.

With regard to the problems involved in the developing countries, while Japan is of the view that the problems of those countries should primarily be solved by their own efforts, we also recognize the importance of the support of the international community. With this in mind, my Government has been promoting technical as well as financial cooperation bilaterally and multilaterally. Accordingly, our official development assistance related to agriculture, forestry and fisheries expanded by more than ten times between 1976 and 1985, reaching 762 million. Along with this Japan has also been providing food aid as, in principle, transnational or emergency measure.

In view of further contributing to the assistance of developing countries, my Government established the Third Medium-Term ODA Target in 1985, calling for the doubling of ODA in seven years, and has been implementing that plan on a steady basis. For example, the amount of ODA in 1986 was 5 billion 634 million US dollars against the 3 billion 797 million US dollars in previous years, accounting for a 50 percent increase. Japan recently decided to advance its implementation by at least two years. In addition, especially for Sub-Saharan African countries and other least developed countries, Japan is resolved to provide non-project-type grant assistance amounting to approximately 500 million US dollars over the next three years.

In its ODA expansion, my Government will continuously give priority to cooperation for agricultural and rural development. While continuing to cooperate, with greater emphasis, for the increase of food production particularly for food-deficit countries, Japan intends to undertake cooperation with regard to other sectors such as up-land farming, animal husbandry and horticulture for countries in particular, cooperation for integrated development of agriculture and rural areas is required, giving due regard to respective long-term development plans, etc. of each country. In addition, Japan intends to extend cooperation to further raise agricultural productivity, to improve marketing and processing technique, and so on. In doing so, my Government, prior to the implementation of this cooperation, intends to keep up close policy dialogue with the counter-developing countries so as to maximize the effect of cooperation.

N.V.K. Keerthiratne WEKAGODA (Sri Lanka): Mr Chairman, first of all on behalf of the delegation of Sri Lanka let me congratulate you on being elected Chairman of this Commission and state how happy and pleased we are to see you occupy that esteemed position. We are quite confident that with your ability and experience you can steer this Commission's discussions to a very fruitful and useful conclusion.

The delegation of Sri Lanka would also like to place on record its appreciation for the high quality of the documents prepared by the FAO Secretariat for discussion under this item, "State of Food and Agriculture ."

In brief, the state of food and agriculture for 1987 is not very encouraging. According to the most recent estimate of FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, the world cereal output will decline by about 4 percent in 1987. This is partly due to deliberate cutbacks in some developed countries in order to overcome surplus stocks and low prices, and partly due to sharp deteriorations in weather conditions, which have widely curtailed production in Asia and Africa.

It is also estimated that as a result of decline in production, world cereal stocks will fall by over 10 percent during 1987-88 for the first time in four years. This is all the more important for our region because the stocks of rice held by developing countries will fall to their lowest level for a decade and will be insufficient to provide a security buffer stock against any crop failures in 1988.

It is against this rather gloomy background of the world food and agriculture situation that we in this forum have to deliberate and arrive at some constructive conclusions.

In this context it will be necessary to channel more and effective assistance from the developed countries to meet the needs of the developing countries. Assistance in the form of food aid should be carefully programmed to serve only as a catalyst to result in further development on its own in the recipient country lest it generates more of dependency than self-reliance.

Debt and aid should be considered as two components of the same equation. The debt service ratio of countries with debt servicing problems, according to IMF data, has deteriorated sharply to nearly 38 percent, the worst figure since the debt crisis in 1982. It is heartening to note that some positive steps to resolve this problem have been taken, but much more needs to be done to bring adequate relief to those countries that are really suffering under the debt burden.

Tied to this is agricultural trade. The developing countries should be provided with an encouraging environmental trade, in order to build, generate employment and therefore income, and then repay its debts.

Turning to the more specifics of the food production situation in the Asia Pacific region where Sri Lanka belongs, it is heartening to note that the region as a whole has done extremely well with regard to food production.

Let me state briefly how Sri Lanka has fared as a member of this region. During the last decade bur yield in rice production has increased by 38 percent and total production has increased by 55 percent This is due to several reasons. Some of them are the increase in the extent of irrigated land, better water management practices and, of course, the use of improved technology coupled with the increased use of inputs such as fertilizer. However, in 1987 we have had our dose of misfortune of drought which has affected the region. Our crop production has gone down to the pre-1979 level.

I have gone into some detail on Sri Lanka since there is no reference to Sri Lanka and the Asia Pacific region in the document prepared by the FAO Secretariat.

We would also like to highlight the reference in the FAO document that the challenge lies not only on the supply side, but also on demand; that is, to generate sufficient income growth to sustain a changing pattern of demand for a higher quality diet.

Sri Lanka has embarked upon several off-farm income generating employment activities based on agricultural raw materials to meet this requirement.

With regard to increasing agricultural production, I would also like to refer to some of the policy recommendations such as a reduction in subsidies on inputs like fertilizer. This type of recommendation in the name of structural adjustments is offered, but it is prudent to study whether this is advisable in situations where we expect to generate food production through the means of the small farmer. This type of policy may be self-defeating.

CHA CHOL MA (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): Mr Chairman, I should first of all like to express my thanks to you on your unanimous election as Chairman of Commission I of the 24th Conference

I have the honour to speak at this Commission of the great significance where the problem of world food and agriculture which is related to the fate of mankind is being discussed. We are satisfied with the excellent document which has been prepared by the Conference Secretariat.

The problems of agriculture and food are vital to peoples' lives, and constitute a major part in the building of a civilized and new society, which is the unanimous aspiration of mankind.

Today the problem of agriculture poses a more urgent and important problem to developing countries which were under Colonial subjugation in the past. Food and agricultural problems are highly important and urgent problems which developing countries should solve without fail when building a new society. Unless the food problem is solved through agricultural development, developing countries can neither consolidate their national independence, nor attain their independent development. In the solution of the food problem, the problem of agriculture poses a more urgent problem in the light of an ever-increasing global food crisis. Today a large number of people in the world are starving, and about fifteen million children die of the disease of malnutrition in developing countries every year. This situation demands that developing countries put the main stress on the solution of the food problem, the problem of agriculture.

The Extraordinary Ministerial Conference of non-aligned countries on South-South cooperation, held in Pyongyang, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, on 9-13 June 1987 has approved unanimously the necessity and task of South-South cooperation. The Ministers reaffirmed their full and unwavering commitment to economic cooperation among the developing countries and the principle of collective self-reliance. We deem it necessary to develop South-South cooperation in agriculture so that self-sufficiency in food can be attained. A large number of developing countries are not yet free of hunger and poverty. Some countries are trying to subordinate these countries economically and to dominate them politically by using food as a weapon. Therefore, developing countries must improve agriculture and solve the problem of food. This is important in delivering their peoples from hunger and poverty and in defending their independence.

Developing countries must set the inspiring objective of achieving complete self-sufficiency in food as soon as possible, and of achieving it by undertaking joint ventures in agriculture in various forms and means, and in close cooperation with each other in the construction of irrigation systems, in the improvement of farming techniques, in research on agricultural science and in the production of farm machinery. This is a most suitable type of cooperation for them.

My delegation is of the view that these items are of urgent need in the solution of the world food programme and are in full conformity with the desire and aspirations of the developing countries. My delegation maintains that these should be fully supported and the Programme of Work and Budget approved by developing countries.

A.H. Mofazzal KARIM (Bangladesh): At the outset I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Bangladesh delegation, congratulate you warmly, Mr Chairman, on your assumption of the office of Chairman of this Commission, a responsibility which I am sure you are quite capable of shouldering with your experience, wisdom, sagacity and dynamism. I also take this opportunity to thank the FAO Secretariat for presenting a well-written Working Paper which covers the whole gamut of the issues involved.

This Conference is being held at a time when my country is still struggling hard to come out of the morass of economic stagnation caused by this year's catastrophic floods, when the incidence of another famine looms large over Ethiopia and most of the Third World countries are facing starvation and malnutrition of an ever-increasing magnitude. In such a situation the only redeeming feature is that the food stock is not bad at aggregate level. This phenomenon propels us to solve the food problem globally. This phenomenon once again reminds us that as members of a family of nations we have a duty and a responsibility to each other. The primary concern, therefore, is to save Ethiopia in particular, and other countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America in general, from the jaws of an impending famine.

How can we do that? By pursuing policies of trade protectionism and trade barriers? By high-rise tariff walls and unfavourable terms of trade? By continuously reducing the flow of aid? Certainly not. Aid worth thousands of billions of dollars for agricultural development is likely to go waste unless an integrated approach is adopted to face all issues responsible for, and resulting from, slow growth. We say this because we strongly believe that agriculture - or any economic activity for that matter - is not an exercise in isolation independent of all other forces acting for and against this progress.

In this regard, FAO in its turn I believe has a pioneering role to play. It is gratifying to note that FAO has already taken cognizance of the situation and responded sharply in helping the developing countries to come out of it.

We hope that FAO will continue such efforts in all relevant international fora. Coupled with such multilateral and bilateral problems as protectionism and debt servicing, there are other serious problems typical of agriculture that have been hindering and will continue to stagnate agricultural development. From our experience, for example, I may talk about floods. Perhaps one cannot imagine the plight of a farmer or the peril befalling a nation unless one has experienced the all-pervading destruction wrought by floods. This year, for instance, Bangladesh had planned to produce food grains that would have enabled the country to achieve near self-sufficiency. However, unfortunately the colossal damage done by this year's unprecedented floods has resulted in a food gap to the tune of nearly 3.5 million tons. Thus, unless long-term measures are taken to solve these perennial problems facing agriculture, no country, I am afraid, can make any real headway in agriculture, and food autarky is bound to remain a dream. These measures are not necessarily unilateral. There are programmes that demand joint action by countries in a neighbourhood. For all this, policy advice needs to be framed and steps taken by such august bodies as the FAO.

From the long-term may I turn to the short-term measures in respect of floods and such other natural calamities. Needless to say, the developing countries all of a sudden are caught in an endemic situation when disasters befall them. They are then forced to cut their development budgets and galvanize all their resources to provide instantaneous succour and relief to the distressed areas. It might therefore be considered whether disaster-preparedness programmes could be funded by international agencies and other donors on a priority basis. At the same time, such "save the soul" programmes as the Vulnerable Group Feeding Programmes should continue to receive priority in order to save millions from malnutrition and emaciation.

This year FAO has brought the small farmer into the limelight during the observance of the World Food Day. Thanks to FAO, on behalf of the small farmers, none of whom, incidentally, are present in the Conference for obvious reasons. The small farmers will expect that the focus remains at least for some time to come, at least until such time as they learn to stand on their own two feet. This esteemed body may adopt policy decisions not only to protect the interests of the small farmers but also with a view to ameliorating their condition. After all, small farmers are small in ability but not in number in the developing countries - nay, in the whole world.

Mention has already been made of storage, transportation and marketing problems. You know, Mr Chairman, how acute these problems are in the developing countries. It is only befitting that these problems receive due attention along with the problems of production.

May I say a last word about research in agriculture? This is one area where Bangladesh and many other developing countries have some achievements. Nobody can deny that success in agriculture depends on progress in the agricultural research system. The research institutes are beset with

problems, not so much of manpower but of financial resources. I can assure you, Sir, that, given adequate resources, many of these research institutes can do wonders, and have been doing wonders, in plant genetics, plant protection and so on. It is a pity that quite often we lose sight of this lifeblood in the manner that we overlook such ancillary issues as pricing, marketing, storage, etc.

Jae Ok LEE (Korea, Republic of): Mr Chairman, the delegation of the Republic of Korea would like to express sincere congratulations on your election as Chairman of Commission I.

On behalf of the Korean Government I should like to express some comments on the world food and agricultural situation which we are all faced with now. First, the most serious problem involved in agriculture yet remaining to be solved may be specified as the imbalance of food supply among regions. It is regrettable for us to note that many developing countries, especially in the African region, are now suffering from shortage of food and malnutrition, while some developed countries are trying to deal with excess food supply.

To solve such an imbalance of food supply, my Government firmly believes that the FAO Conference discussions should concentrate on detailed cooperation schemes for the transfer of advanced technology and capital from developed countries. In this context, the Korean Government has established ESCAP cooperation funds for the transfers of capital and technology aiming at increases in the rate of food self-sufficiency in developing countries. The Korean Government also has invited many foreign trainees every year, while Korean experts actively participate in the agricultural development of other countries under TCDC programmes initiated by the FAO.

Even though the efforts of the FAO have gradually improved the world food situation, the results are not evenly reflected in all member countries, making our collaboration of utmost importance. The Korean Government believes that the FAO must continue to play an important role in improving the world food situation and in developing the rural sector through the exchange of valuable experiences and views with each other.

Asefa WOLDEGIORGIS (Ethiopia): The Ethiopian delegation has examined this background document before us this morning, document C 87/2, with the addition of Supplement 1. The Ethiopian delegation fully agrees with the contents of the document. Although there remains much to be done to address the world food problem, and, while not intending to go into the details at this stage, we appreciate also the special emphasis placed on parts of the African region with regard to the current food situation.

Despite our numerous activities in the past to meet successfully the challenge of agricultural development and food security, particularly in developing countries, we are still confronted with critical constraints which require our concerted regional and global efforts. These constraints in agricultural developments, which are strongly linked to several social, economic and political factors, are not unknown to many of us here. In order to assess the regional and particularly national problems in Ethiopia I would simply call to mind the major constraints upon which our efforts have focused to mitigate the problems. The impediments to productive rural economy in Ethiopia have caused declines in agricultural yields, occasioning cyclical famine, particularly in the course of the past decade. In the event, many people were placed directly at risk. Many lost their means of production and were forced to abandon their homes.

The constraints which have caused widening food gaps and massive food imports into the country and which eroded the comparatively favourable physical agricultural environment are largely man-made and also a legacy of the past. The major root causes which have greatly contributed to the present agricultural problems in the country are well documented. These include, to name a few: the vagaries of climate; low-technology agriculture, decimating the favourable production environment; illiteracy, which stood at some 97 percent in 1974; the nature of the traditional settlements in very widely scattered and isolated homesteads and overpopulation in degraded, drought-prone areas; and injudicious use of natural resources. Concurrently, one may allude here to population policy, locust swarms and other migrant pests.

Within the context I have just mentioned, and giving top priority to reversing the decline in the agricultural sector by attacking and removing the major root causes, the Government has spared no effort to adopt the necessary policies and take some bold measures accordingly to ensure a degree of food security for its people. The country's agriculture, which is now given the highest priority, has its policies and strategies very clearly identified and formulated in the national Ten-year Perspective Development Plan and in the Three-year Food Self-sufficiency Programme, launched in 1984 and 1987 respectively, with emphasis on irrigated agriculture and improved dry-land farming management techniques, intensifying the farming practices in both existing and new farm land.

In connection with irrigated agriculture, Ethiopia has water resource potential capable of harnessing over three million hectares of land, but what prevails in the country currently is almost exclusive reliance on the rains, with irrigated farming very minimal, or about 100 000 hectares.

Besides our successful land reform programme, an important point and a laudable achievement in the course of the past decade, which we feel duty bound to report to this body, is our literacy campaign. Illiteracy, one of the impediments to increasing output, and which stood at the high level of some 97 percent in 1974, has now dropped to less than 30 percent. Under our agricultural development programme, some 18 percent of our rural population - or about 6.5 million people - are now "villagised", enjoying all sorts of social and economic services.

With regard to population policy, this has also increasingly and rightly come to the forefront nowadays in the minds of policymakers. In order to feed the projected growing population and to expand income in developing countries, it is understandable to conceive that local food production rates must satisfy adequately the growing demands for agricultural products over time.

In this connection, we must understand that a planned population policy cannot be viewed in isolation from a general development policy. Development itself is the basis for an effective solution to the population problems. Particularly in the Third World countries, well-established mass organizations in both urban centres and rural communities, with the active participation of the people in the social, economic and political functions, have a significant power base in facilitating effective implementation of population policies.

In this regard Ethiopia has responded to the challenge by laying down the social base to tackle the problem effectively. In order to get out of the current food gap, the Government of Ethiopia is not under the illusion that this problem should be left to the assistance of the international donor community. Outside assistance is supplementary to our national efforts and we shall continue our efforts to overcome the problem.

In this connection, despite the favourable rain during our cropping season of the past autumn, the main rains during the following cropping season last summer have been below normal, both in intensity and coverage in most parts of the Central and Northern Highlands.

With this in view and with the threats from locust swarms, we have undertaken to increase the national food security reserve from 50 000 tonnes to a total of 92 000 tonnes and the commercial purchase of 100 000 tonnes of food grains put through for emergencies. The Government estimate of the food aid requirement for 1988 remains unchanged at 950 000 tonnes. So far, firm food aid pledges against the 1988 emergency amount to 347 000 tonnes.

In the face of the present agricultural constraints in developing countries and the difficult problems ahead of us, I should like to stress here that we should give more of what we have given to this Organization and other similar organizations in the past to help grow more food and improve food security situations at all levels and have a better fed world.

Emile DETRAUX (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, la Belgique se réjouit de votre élection à la présidence de cette commission, et vous présente à cette occasion ses plus vives félicitations.

A cette date, notre intervention sera très brève, se faisant en quelque sorte à titre conservatoire. En effet, compte tenu que, selon nous, des liens évidents existent entre les trois sujets étudiés au sein de cette commission, à savoir: la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, l'ajustement agricole international, l'agriculture "Horizon 2000", dans le but d'éviter des redites, nous souhaiterions intervenir d'une manière plus élaborée plus tard dans le débat.

Roberto NICOLAI (Italie): Nous avons le plaisir de vous féliciter pour votre élection et la façon dont vous conduisez le débat.

La délégation italienne a examiné avec beaucoup d'intérêt les documents rédigés par le Secrétariat et désire exprimer son appréciation pour leur clarté et la façon exhaustive avec laquelle a été maîtrisée cette matière délicate. Nous sommes conscients de la complexité de l'ensemble des données qui doivent être étudiées, mais comme il ressort du document même, nous devons tenir compte des aspects essentiels pour l'évolution future de la situation générale de l'agriculture et des problèmes auxquels l'humanité doit faire face pour surmonter les problèmes de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Dans ses grandes lignes, l'analyse internationale examine, de la part des pays industrialisés et grands producteurs, les mesures destinées au soutien des productions respectives aussi bien qu'à l'emplacement sur le marché international, l'opinion qui en découle est que l'état de crise structurelle qui altère aujourd'hui le système agro-alimentaire mondial doit être attribué à ces politiques qui conditionnent entre autres le volume des échanges et le niveau des prix."

Certes, la poussée productive a déterminé un déséquilibre croissant entre la demande et l'offre et, par conséquent, la formation de surplus, surtout dans le secteur des céréales, des produits laitiers, des viandes bovines et du sucre. Toutefois, comme l'analyse internationale le démontre, la situation actuelle voit aussi le changement des rapports entre pays *en voie* de développement et pays industrialisés en ce qui concerne les produits agricoles. Le schéma classique sur la base duquel certains pays fournissaient des technologies et des machines, et les pays en voie de développement étaient fournisseurs de produits agricoles et de matières premières a enregistré des changements profonds qui ont caractérisé l'évolution des pays en voie de développement. En outre, le processus de la croissance démographique considérable et la migration dans les villes des populations rurales a provoqué une augmentation importante de la demande de produits alimentaires et contribué par ailleurs à une réduction de la production agricole.

Ce n'est pas le lieu ici d'évoquer le cercle vicieux de l'endettement progressif de ces pays. Aujourd'hui, on assiste au phénomène de diminution de la production des matières premières agricoles en provenance de certains pays en voie de développement et, par ailleurs, aux besoins de débouchés de la part d'autres pays. Cette série de facteurs rend la solution de ces problèmes difficile. Nous sommes conscients de la bonne volonté et de la compréhension mutuelle. Nous ne doutons pas que des solutions adéquates nous permettront d'atteindre les objectifs qui sont communs à tous.

Plus particulièrement, en ce qui concerne le secteur céréalier, l'Italie en tant que membre de la CEE, dans son effort pour limiter les excédents, a connu depuis 1981 jusqu'à nos jours une diminution d'environ 500 000 hectares, avec une réduction des productions malgré les augmentations de rendement, de plus de 8 millions de quintaux.

De l'analyse objective des données disponibles, nous croyons que ressort très clairement le rôle incommensurable qui est dévolu à la FAO pour l'aide qu'elle peut apporter aux gouvernements dans la mise en place des politiques agricoles en ce qui concerne l'exploitation de toutes possibilités locales d'agriculture; en outre, nous désirons rappeler l'effort poursuivi par exemple dans le secteur des tubercules-racines et du plantain dans l'analyse des besoins et dans la formulation des suggestions dans les différents secteurs agricoles ainsi que pour l'aide à la formation et à la recherche.

V.K. SIBAL (India): At the outset we would like to express our appreciation for the quality of the documents under discussion, C 87/2 and C 87/2-Sup.1, and also, the very clear presentations. The picture which emerges from this document arouses a certain amount of concern and disquiet. The provisional estimates of food and agricultural production show that 1987 was a poor year, although it is heartening to note that Asia will be able to accommodate the worst monsoon season for some years without major difficulty. Although prospects for world economic growth are somewhat better than envisaged earlier, nevertheless the resolution of the problems of debt faced by many developing countries is nowhere in sight. The picture of economic growth, particularly in the middle-income indebted countries and sub-Saharan Africa is a matter of anxiety. The need for debt restructuring rather than debt rescheduling cannot be overstated in this context. The slow growth in import demand together with rising and increasing protectionism and import substitutions are retarding attempts of the indebted countries to service their external debts.

There is a dire need for increasing the flows of ODA in this situation to achieve the targeted level of 0.7 percent of GNP for donor countries, increases in the capital of the World Bank and IMF's structural adjustment facilities.

The regional overview of food and agricultural production in 1987 has brought into focus the current worsening situation in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Angola. We hope that FAO and the international community will rise to the occasion and provide the requisite assistance effectively and expeditiously.

India is suffering from an unprecedented drought because of a serious failure of the monsoons. We have geared ourselves to meet the situation under a well-planned strategy and are confident that with this plan and the comfortable level of stocks we shall be able to meet the situation, though there will be serious pressure on our stocks and losses in milk production will have to be compensated for.

There are increases in the value of agricultural trade, but these increases are somewhat illusory because they have to be balanced in the light of the dollar depreciation and greater trading activities in the developed and industrial countries. However, the problems of the developing countries in trade continue unabated. The exports of developing countries have declined by 6 percent, while imports have increased by 2.7 percent. It is a stark reality that the share of developing countries in world trade continues to decline from 34 percent of total exports in 1980 to, as the document says, 29 percent in 1985 and 25 percent in 1986. The terms of trade continue to be adverse.

We recognize with a degree of satisfaction some promising policy developments. The Louvre Accord, the OECD Ministerial meeting in May, the Venice Summit and the Uruaguay Round at GATT negotiations are positive developments, but the Indian delegation is concerned that the continuing problems of debt protectionism and the need to restore economic growth have not been addressed with sufficient urgency.

The regional economic growth in Asia and the Pacific has been well maintained during recent years. The main factors of growth have been: improved technology, the greater use of inputs, incentives for production, and the opening up of export markets. The Indian delegation is concerned over the prevailing world economic trends, the slow growth of output and international trade, increasing interest rates and intensified protectionist pressure. The worsening global debt situation dominated the deliberations of the Finance Ministers of developing countries who met in Washington in September 1987. At that meeting India emphasized the need for liberalization of the World Bank's lending policies, along with a substantial increase in the Bank's capital. The Ministers demanded that all debts of developing countries be restructured and not merely rescheduled since rescheduling had not helped the problems of developing countries and had only postponed them.

It is in the common interest of all countries to reactivate economic negotiations and broaden cooperation in the economic field for the benefit of all countries. At the non-Summit meeting in Harare in September 1986 it was felt it was necessary to continue and intensify efforts to revive the dialogue with the developed countries and to re-invigorate international economic cooperation. There is an urgent need for developed and developing countries to work together and examine the various options available for the revival of north-south dialogues for sustained global economic development and growth especially in the developing countries. The non-Summit was of the view that this initiative would provide a good basis for agreement at the political level between the developed and the developing countries regarding actions and mechanisms which would promote balanced and sustained world economic growth and development. The Summit reiterated the need for an early convening of the International Conference on Money and Finance for Development. The initiatives indicated in the Declaration of the Summit need serious pursuit.

SAMBA MOOMI-TE-AVELELA (Zaire): C'est de tout coeur que la délégation du Zaïre vous félicite à l'occasion de votre élection à la tête de la première commission de notre Conférence. Nos félicitations sont liées à nos remerciements pour les documents que le Secrétariat nous a présentés. Aussi la délégation du Zaïre approuve les principales conclusions des documents C 87/2 et Sup. 1 qui sont soumis à notre examen.

Le Zaïre; à l'instar des précédents orateurs, soutient que l'environnement économique actuel freine la croissance de la production agricole. Vivement conscient de l'interdépendance entre la croissance économique, la production vivrière et l'amélioration de l'alimentation, le Zaïre insiste sur la mise en place d'un nouvel ordre économique et d'un programme de coopération régionale et Sud-Sud en matière d'alimentation et d'agriculture qui contribueraient à rendre nos pays auto-suffisants du point de vue de la production vivrière.

Ce programme de coopération régionale et Sud-Sud doit à notre humble avis faire progresser la coopération technique entre pays en développement, au sens large du terme, c'est-à-dire encourager les échanges et le partage des capacités entre toutes les parties, dans un intérêt commun. Bref, ce programme doit permettre à nos pays d'asseoir leurs économies sur des bases plus solides.

Jean-Jacques RATEAU (CEE): Je vous remercie de bien vouloir me donner la parole pour me permettre de vous présenter le point de vue de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres sur l'évolution de la politique agricole en Europe. Mais auparavant permettez-moi de vous féliciter pour votre élection et pour votre façon de conduire les travaux de cette Commission.

Comme vous le savez, la politique agricole commune est, en quelque sorte, la pierre angulaire de la construction européenne. Ceci vous explique les efforts qui ont été consentis, depuis 30 ans, pour assurer son succès mais aussi les précautions qu'il convient de prendre pour l'adapter aux situations nouvelles. Voilà pourquoi, depuis plusieurs années et plus particulièrement depuis 1984, la Communauté a engagé une réforme de la politique agricole commune pour assurer la maîtrise de la production agricole et de la dépense budgétaire.

Les aménagements apportés à la PAC au cours de ces dernières années l'ont été autour des trois objectifs suivants: la maîtrise de la production et des dépenses; la préservation du modèle européen de l'agriculture et la définition des perspectives pour cette agriculture; la concertation internationale.

En ce qui concerne la maîtrise de la production et des dépenses, les mesures proposées depuis 1980 vont dans le sens: d'une politique de prix plus restrictive; d'une intervention moins permanente et plus limitée; et d'une limitation du soutien par la fixation de quotas et de seuils de garantie contraignants, renforçant la coresponsabilité des producteurs. Jusqu'à présent, cette réforme a été appliquée en priorité dans les secteurs des céréales, du lait, des oléagineux et de la viande bovine. Elle a déjà donné lieu à des résultats et permis la limitation des dépenses de soutien. Malheureusement, ceux-ci ont été occultés en partie par la présence sur les marchés communautaires de stocks agricoles accumulés depuis plusieurs années.

Ces mesures se sont d'ores et déjà traduites: a) par la baisse des prix de soutien d'environ 10 pour cent en termes réels au cours des 4 dernières campagnes. Cette baisse est même de 17 pour cent en termes réels si l'on tient compte de l'incidence des mesures connexes. Des mesures spéciales ont d'ailleurs dû être prises par la Communauté pour alléger la charge des producteurs et éviter ainsi que cette baisse n'ait des effets trop négatifs sur leurs revenus; b) ces mesures se sont traduites aussi par une maîtrise accrue de la production des produits laitiers depuis 1984, maîtrise qui permettra d'équilibrer le marché à partir de 1989. Dès la première campagne, l'application des quotas a permis d'inverser la courbe ascendante de la production de lait et comparée à celle de 1983, la production a diminué de 3,5 pour cent en 1986-87; c) par une responsabilité accrue des exploitants agricoles à l'égard de la production et du marché. En-effet, à la notion de "coresponsabilité" introduite depuis plus de 10 ans et qui a permis d'obtenir une autonomie financière complète dans le secteur du sucre, s'est ajoutée depuis 1981 celle de "stabilisateur budgétaire" avec l'introduction de seuils de garantie et de production dans le secteur laitier et les secteurs de productions végétales .

A la lumière des premiers résultats obtenus, la Communauté étudie actuellement une proposition qui vise, selon les cas, à renforcer les stabilisateurs existants et/ou d'en introduire d'autres dans les secteurs où les mécanismes de marché ne suffisent pas à assurer la maîtrise de la production. C'est le cas pour les secteurs des protéagineux, de la viande ovine, du vin, de certains fruits et légumes et du tabac. Pour les secteurs de la viande bovine et des céréales, les mécanismes actuels devraient être renforcés.

En ce qui concerne la préservation du modèle européen d'agriculture, il est de l'intérêt même de l'agriculture et des agriculteurs d'assurer la maîtrise de la production et de la dépense agricoles. Ces objectifs sont donc poursuivis par une politique cohérente où l'on retrouve des préoccupations liées: au revenu agricole; au maintien du modèle d'exploitation familiale; à la cohérence de la Communauté et à l'insertion de l'agriculture européenne dans le contexte mondial.

A cet effet, des mesures d'accompagnement appropriées ont déjà été adoptées. Elles concernent en particulier le renforcement de la politique sociostructurelle et l'avenir du monde rural au sujet duquel un rapport assorti de propositions sera présenté dans les prochaines semaines.

En ce qui concerne la concertation internationale, celle-ci s'impose naturellement à la Communauté. En effet, étant le premier importateur mondial et le deuxième exportateur de produits agricoles, la Communauté ne pourra poursuivre, ni parachever le processus d'adaptation de la PAC que si, d'une part, les partenaires de la communauté empruntent aussi résolument la même voie et si, d'autre part, un effort commun de tous les producteurs est fait pour stabiliser les marchés internationaux. Cela implique que les autres pays producteurs prennent également des mesures pour maîtriser leur production et adapter, de manière concertée, leur offre à la demande en réduisant leur soutien à l'agriculture. Conformément aux engagements pris à Punta del Este en septembre 1986, à l'OCDE en mai dernier et au Sommet des pays industrialisés en juin à Venise, la Communauté a présenté au GATT, il y a quelques jours, la position qu'elle entendait défendre dans les négociations de l'Uruguay Round.

La déclaration qui sera faite au nom de la Communauté, mardi prochain, dans le cadre du débat général de la Conférence, expliquera certains aspects de la proposition que la Communauté a présentée au GATT dans le secteur de l'agriculture et des produits de base. Ainsi, malgré les difficultés considérables, notamment au niveau des petits agriculteurs, qu'entraîne la réforme mise en oeuvre, la Communauté poursuit celle-ci dans le respect de ses engagements internationaux avec le ferme espoir que ces efforts permettront d'assainir durablement la situation des marchés agricoles tant à l'intérieur de la Communauté que sur les marchés internationaux.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et développement économiques): D'abord, je voudrais vous féliciter pour votre élection et pour votre façon de conduire les travaux de cette commission. Je félicite aussi le Secrétariat pour son excellente documentation.

Je me suis permis de demander la parole pour éviter que le silence de la part de l'OCDE soit mal interprété. Plusieurs délégués ont parlé de la réunion des ministres de l'OCDE de mai dernier et plusieurs ont manifesté leur espoir que les promesses des ministres de l'OCDE, les résultats de l'Uruguay Round et du Sommet de Venise puissent donner des résultats valables. A ce sujet, je me permets d'observer que la question du protectionnisme des agriculteurs et exportateurs mérite un examen très sérieux. Si un train passe à une certaine allure, il est certes impossible de l'arrêter avec un fort coup de frein, cette façon de procéder pourrait causer des désastres très graves. Il faut donc procéder avec beaucoup de prudence.

Je me suis permis de dire cela mais je vous annonce aussi que le Directeur de l'agriculture de l'OCDE viendra prochainement présenter une intervention plus précise et détaillée sur ces graves problèmes.

H.W. HJORT (Director, Policy Analysis Division): First of all I would like to express appreciation for the very many positive comments on the content and format of the documents.

There have been a few matters brought to our attention that need change. In particular, we have noted that one Member Nation has been named incorrectly in paragraph 5 of document C 87/2, and we apologize for that.

We have had discussions to emphasize that, in paragraph 31, we were referring to a proposal, not an actual call on the part of the United Nations. With respect to paragraph 73, we have also had a suggestion to make a minor editing change, and some updated information has been provided by Japan with respect to the area of diversified rice fields in paragraph 174. We appreciate those modifications and changes.

I also recall the intervention on the part of the observer for the Organization of African Unity and the additional information that was provided with respect to events surrounding the United Nations Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, those events that he brought to our attention having taken place after the time of the writing and dispatch of the basic documents for printing.

There also were two suggestions, or a specific request in one case from the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany, with respect to the information on oil exporting and non-oil exporting countries, and a query as to whether information could be added to tables such as 1 and 3. Yes, that point can be taken into account and in the full SOFA document we can so reflect that.

Incidentally, the documents before you are augmented, corrections made, and will finally become the so-called full SOFA document.

The delegate from Canada suggested that an alternative format be used specifically, that we go back to the format used in 1985, as she recognized that the reason for the particular format this time was to minimize duplication and overlapping with this document and those that are to follow. Before the Conference, in fact before this Commission, our proposals to change the reporting frequency for some of the other documents that you will be discussing later and the decision on the format for reporting at the next Conference will in part be influenced by that. We certainly have no desire to be duplicative in our documentation.

I was particularly appreciative of the intervention by the delegate of Mexico in giving us a briefing on recent developments among selected importing countries with respect to trade liberalization negotiations. We have noted that at least two countries have made some suggestions for possible study. I refer specifically to those from Peru and Malaysia, which will be taken under consideration.

Finally, there was the point of the delegate from the United Kingdom that we were a little too gloomy with respect to the debt situation. There were views expressed on the other side, particularly with respect to the delegate from Algeria, suggesting that we were perhaps too optimistic. In general, looking at the magnitude and the consequences of the debt situation on the prospects of food and agriculture and recognizing that there has been some progress, the overall conclusion in my view is that in these documents we certainly are not too gloomy. It is a very difficult problem, which is having a fundamental impact on a large number of countries, at least half of which are struggling with debt servicing problems, and those consequences are extremely severe. That is not, however, to say that one should not give credit and probably we are remiss in not including in our supplement an update that recognizes that some of the most recent initiatives being taken, including, as we are reminded by the delegate of Canada, certain write-offs of debts by Canada and some other countries.

I believe that covers the main points and comments.

CHAIRMAN: We have had an interesting and business-like discussion on agenda item 6.1, "State of Food and Agriculture", yesterday afternoon and this morning. In all, 47 countries and three observers participated in the discussions.

During the discussions a number of points have been raised by the participants. Widespread concern was expressed by Member Nations on four specific aspects: first, about the importance of trade in relation to the food and agricultural scene in the world as brought out in the documentation placed before the Commission; second, the emerging situation in relation to food and agriculture, particularly in Africa and Latin America; third, the crippling effect that the external debt burden is imposing especially on the developing countries; and, lastly, the deleterious effects of the agricultural subsidies in the richer countries and the effects of their protectionism and non-tariff trade barriers on food trade.

Generally, the consensus was that the initiatives that have been launched in the Uruguay Round in Punta Del Este and also the ongoing discussions in different fora were welcomed by the participants, and there was unanimity that FAO with its information and expertise should play a bigger and more positive role in the ongoing trade negotiations.

There was also a reference to the Brundtland Commission Report and the need for giving greater attention to ecology and forestry.

Another factor that emerged from the discussions was the role that the monsoons and the rains seem to play in the quantum world agricultural production. In the long term, the FAO was the first in this area to have directed efforts toward devising and implementing, with the active collaboration of Member Nations, schemes, programmes and projects for better weather forecasting and, wherever possible, for providing protective irrigation for servicing standing crops at critical stages, for directing research efforts to develop moisture stress resistance on drought-resistant varieties of cultivars and for evolving location-specific packages of practices for dryland or rainfed farming on a watershed basis in order to optimize the available rainwater and to ensure that these packages win widespread adoption at ground level.

I am grateful to all Member Nations for their participation and cooperation, which has helped us to save one session in completing agenda item 6.1. When we reassemble we will take up item 6.2, the locust menace, and that will enable us to partly make up time in order to adjourn tomorrow morning when many of the distinguished delegates will be attending the audience with the Pope.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I wish to announce that the consultations regarding the formulation of the Drafting Group have been concluded, and I shall read out the list of the members of the Drafting Group in alphabetical order: Algeria, Cyprus, Denmark, Iraq, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Panama, Peru, Spain, Sweden, United States of America, Yugoslavia and Zambia. I might add that it was our intention to convene the first session of the drafting group tomorrow evening immediately after the conclusion of the discussion in this Commission. It is hoped that we will be considering the draft report on the item just concluded, SOFA. The drafting group will elect its own Chairman.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La seance est levée à 12 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

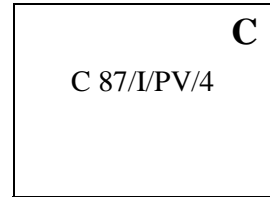
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTH MEETING
QUATRIEME SEANCE
CUARTA SESION

(12 November 1987)

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième seance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (cont'd)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (cont'd)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.2 Progress of the Campaign against Locusts and Grasshoppers
- 6.2 at d'avancement de la campagne antiacridienne
- 6.2 rogresos de la campana contra langostas y saltamontes

CHAIRMAN: Session 3 of Commission I is called to order. On our agenda is Item 6.2, Progress of the Campaign against Locusts and Grasshoppers. May I request Mr Brader to introduce the subject?

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): The subject is presented to you in C 87/22. In introducing the report on the 1986/87 control campaigns against locusts and grasshoppers, I should like first to draw a clear distinction between the two pests.

The grasshopper species in the Sahel, against which most of the campaign was directed, are basically national pests, and a chronic problem. They do not migrate great distances, only following the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone north and south with the progress of the season. The Sahel has huge uncultivated areas: the biggest danger grasshoppers pose is when climatic conditions result in large numbers of insects in the bush invading the crops.

On the other hand, the Desert Locust (the most dangerous migratory locust species), is an international threat in a belt from the Indian sub-continent to the Atlantic coast of West Africa. In times of recession, small numbers of insects live scattered over the deserts of the region. When rain falls and vegetation appears in an area where there are locusts, their numbers can increase extremely rapidly. They then become gregarious and ultimately migrate in swarms down the prevailing winds, sometimes great distances, into agricultural areas where they can do immense damage. Favourable conditions in the areas they invade then maintain the plague.

There are, of course, many similarities between grasshoppers and locusts. For both, rains, especially good rains after long drought (as in 1974 and 1985), are the key factor setting off an upsurge, probably because the populations increase faster than their natural parasites and predators. The same pesticides and equipment are used against both, but the control strategies are very different.

Grasshoppers are combatted at national level, by national crop protection services, and the strategy is to protect crops, not overall population reduction. This means equipping farmers in early season to control hoppers in their crops, and intervening with greater means against migrating winged adults with rapidly-acting pesticides later in the season when they threaten crops. Whether control is worthwhile is a function of the crops at risk: often it is not.

The strategy against the Desert Locust is survey and preventive control, that is to permanently monitor the vast recession area for rainfall and vegetation which might favour reproduction and to intervene to destroy populations which have become gregarious. The strategy is international and aims at preventing plagues, not at protecting crops. In spite of the vast areas which must be covered, preventive control of the Desert Locust therefore costs much less than grasshopper control.

The fact that grasshopper upsurges follow droughts made the task easier in 1985/86, as in 1974/75, as donors were already mobilized for the drought and were able to re-programme funds to meet the new threat.

There were a number of difficulties. One concerns pesticides. With a growing international consensus on the need to use less, and less persistent pesticides, to which the FAO International Code of Conduct has contributed, the most potent weapons for locust control are no longer available.

In a nutshell, without relatively persistent pesticides, which can be sprayed at very low dosages in strips in largely desert areas away from crops and left to do their work slowly, it becomes more

difficult to destroy a widespread population of Desert Locust hoppers. With the ephemeral pesticides currently used, it is logistically almost impossible to rapidly mount either massive blanket spraying operations, or piecemeal, targeted interventions over large areas. It is also vastly more expensive and probably ecologically more destructive, because larger areas must be sprayed and resprayed as further hatching or migration occurs, with potentially disastrous effects on non-target organisms. The international community must be aware that, without persistent pesticides, the job will be much more costly, and perhaps impossible.

Another difficulty is that, in the period since the last plague, trained personnel has grown old and retired, without younger people having gained enough experience. Due to recent events, we can now say that we have begun training a new generation.

With economic conditions as parlous as they are in Africa, regional pest control organizations had in the meantime decayed, and national capacities were overwhelmed by events. Because of a lack of funds for day-to-day activities, countries are almost condemned to wait for a disaster and for receipt of assistance before acting against it.

In the event, the donors were most generous: some US\$ 100 million were mobilized in 1986 and 1987, of which some \$ 60 million were for the Sahel, and both bilateral and multilateral aid was given within the framework of the plans established by the FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations (ECLC). A meeting to evaluate this year's campaign in the Sahel will be held in Rome on 8 and 9 December. Without wanting to prejudge its conclusions, I think we can account it a success. On behalf of FAO, I thank all involved, the African countries themselves, and the donors, for the excellent cooperation we received.

The structures developed to coordinate the campaign were simple, but effective. In each country, a National Steering Committee was established with the participation of the Government, the Donors and FAO. Where needed, ECLC recruited technicians to advise these Committees. This meant that the process of identifying and meeting evolving needs could largely be carried out locally.

A major role for the FAO Emergency Centre was the analysis and dissemination of information on biological and climatic developments and on assistance needed and provided. There were two main information tools, a widely distributed periodic telex, and the series of meetings you see detailed in the report before you, which provided a forum in which plans could be discussed and agreed. Information was crucial to the success of the effort. It was expensive, and time-consuming, but essential.

ECLC also implemented perhaps a quarter of the assistance provided. For this to be possible, the Director General granted the Centre a waiver of certain administrative rules, which simplified procedures for contracts and purchases. Important funds, made available through FAO by various donors, allowed us to move in a flexible manner and, when required, very rapidly. For speed, too, FAO prefinanced multilateral aid. We often had overspent about US\$ 1 million while awaiting transfers from donors.

In terms of staffing ECLC meant adding one professional and an average, at any one time, of three, general service staff to FAO's regular Migratory Pest Group in AGP.

This structure was deliberately light, and not intended to be permanent, as FAO does not believe that there is need for a permanent international effort against grasshoppers in the Sahel. These are national pests. International intervention is only indicated only where there is a major danger to crops which goes far beyond national capabilities, that is, where there is a real emergency.

One lesson from the current campaign is that, for this type of emergency, one should not plan ad hoc activities too long beforehand, and that to try and do so may be wasteful. In 1986, for example, under the pressure of events, over US\$ 30 million was provided to the Sahel, largely channelled through FAO, almost all after August, mainly for pesticides and spray-planes. Although it has often been said that action was taken late, it proved possible to find and field aircraft rapidly, and to deliver pesticides by air at shipping costs of only about US\$ 1.20 per kilogramme in bulk. In 1986, one tonne of pesticide, costing about US\$ 7,500, and sufficient to treat 4,000 hectares, was delivered to the field for about US\$ 1, 200.

At the evaluation meeting of December 1986, - that is, after the season - a decision was taken to plan for the early delivery of assistance worth about US\$ 32 million for 1987. Following this plan, about US\$ 29 million had already been committed and largely delivered by June. Donors, had, for example, already pledged no less than 35 aircraft to the campaign in the Sahel, almost the total number used in 1986. The pesticides needed had likewise been largely pledged and delivered.

In 1987, however, drought in June and July severely curtailed the early season infestations. If the campaign had been organized on the ad hoc basis of 1986, there is no doubt but that considerably fewer resources would have been committed. There is an inevitable trade-off between planning early and getting cheaper prices at the risk of providing what is not, in the event, needed or waiting to the last minute and acquiring only what is needed though at somewhat higher prices. The lesson to be drawn from this is that one should wait for this type of emergency until data from the field justifies action.

Now, at the end of two years of emergency, Plant Protection Services in Africa have probably received more supplies and equipment than they have in the previous 20 years. This is an enormous capital, to which must be added the human capital, the tens of thousands of farmers trained, particularly in the Sahel, and the national plant protection technicians trained on the job and at special seminars in the region and abroad. The task now, and the role of donors, is to build on what has been gained, to reintegrate grasshopper control into general plant protection, and to strengthen and support national plant protection services. If this is done, any future upsurge will be much more easily combatted.

The latest reports from the field suggest that the grasshopper situation in the Sahel is very variable. There are still large populations in Chad, northern Nigeria, central Niger, and the Mauritania-Mali border area, but in other areas the situation is relatively calm. Good rains in late September resulted in a late final generation and the number of females which have laid eggs is not yet known. Egg-pod surveys to be undertaken in the next months will provide a pointer to the scale of the infestations in 1988 but the major factor will be the amount and distribution of the 1988 rains.

The situation with regard to the Desert Locust continues to be very preoccupying. Following two generations of summer breeding in Western Sudan, Chad and Niger, swarms crossed the Sahara on a broad front in October of this year. Some reached the Mediterranean coastal plain in Algeria and others the southern foothills of the Anti-Atlas mountains in Morocco. Swarms have also been seen in eastern Algeria and these may reach southern Tunisia and western Libya. High density breeding spread westwards to Mali in September and any swarm produced may move to Morocco in December. There are increasing numbers of adults in Mauritania and breeding is taking place. By contrast, the situation in eastern Africa is relatively calm, although some winter breeding will almost certainly occur in the Red Sea coast of Sudan and northern Ethiopia.

The outlook for 1988 will be crucially dependent on the effectiveness of the control measures being launched against the swarms now in north west Africa and of the donor supported campaigns under way against the desert locust populations in West Africa.

The current situation has already been discussed during the last few days with the countries concerned. An emergency plan has been adopted and a proposal for medium-term assistance has been agreed upon. The implementation of these activities will very much depend on the support they will receive from the donor community.

The current crisis has unfortunately not resulted in strengthening the regional capacity in West Africa for the preventive control of the Desert Locust. The regional body charged with this task, OCLALAV, has great financial and organizational problems, and it is now very unclear how preventive control will be assured in future. There appears to be a move towards the establishment of national desert locust control units in the Sahel countries in which gregarization areas are found, and it will probably be necessary to build upon such a formula. The active involvement of the Maghreb countries in actual surveillance and control in the Sahel is a very hopeful development. Nonetheless, at this dangerous moment, no adequate structure is in place.

I shall not review the situation of the other locust species, where the upsurge seems to have been contained, nor of the desert locust in East Africa and Arabia, where the latest threat appears to have diminished. FAO will continue to bring to the notice of the international community any further developments likely to necessitate further invention.

On current information, then, it appears that the grasshopper problem in the Sahel has declined considerably during 1987. The countries involved are also now much better equipped and prepared to face local upsurges during the 1988 season. But the situation with the desert locust remains very worrying and emergency assistance will continue to be required in the near future. When the picture becomes clearer and the threat from the desert locust recedes, it would then be possible to wind up the FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr Brader, for your lucid presentation in which you updated the information contained in the document. You also made clear the distinction between the grasshopper which tends normally to be national but becomes intermittently international, and the locust which seems to be by nature always international.

The general picture and prospects have been vividly brought out by you, along with the three major problems, namely in terms first of the plant protection chemicals; secondly, the speed and scale of donor response; and thirdly, recruitment, training and positioning of staff for tackling the menace when it appears. The subject is now open for discussion.

Magelela NGWENYA (Swaziland): My delegation is very satisfied with the manner in which you have conducted the affairs of this Commission. I wish to put on record our appreciation for the excellent brief by Dr Brader. In our view the document summarizes adequately the real situation with respect to locusts and grasshoppers in Sub-Saharan Africa; the situation pertaining to red and brown locusts in our view is still serious and requires further attention.

I want to record also that the current locust outbreak in southern Africa particularly caught us with our pants down. Had it not been for the swift FAO action, the emergency control programme, we would be in a very serious situation indeed. This is why we believe strongly that the TCP programme is very important.

We wanted to thank FAO for their role in the current control programme and the international community for their financial and material support. We wish to make the following recommendations. Firstly, that this Commission recommend to the Conference an increased allocation of financial resources to the TCP programme in order that the threat of locusts in our region can be contained. Secondly, that FAO should continue to mobilize resources for the strengthening of regional and national plant protection services. Thirdly, FAO should initiate research programmes on efficient locust control measures. Fourthly, the design and implementation of a regional training programme is important. That is very important and I was very pleased that Dr Brader emphasized the same point.

It is very important, in our view, that national specialists be trained and should acquire the necessary experience for us to contain the continual threat of locusts in the region. Also, attention must be paid to the dissemination of information and coordination between the affected member countries.

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): Gracias, señor Presidente. Señores, las campañas contra langostas y saltamontes son acciones que deben fortalecerse tanto en su dinámica de implementación como en el contenido técnico y científico.

La FAO debe atender este problema en Africa con mayor tenacidad en los próximos años. También es fundamental que la FAO disponga acciones para mantener un sistema de vigilancia y control sobre dichas plagas en otras regiones donde ya se presentan situaciones de emergencia por saltamontes, como las ocurridas en Centroamérica en el presente año especialmente en Honduras, Costa Rica y Nicaragua.

Señor Presidente, estamos de acuerdo con la evaluación contenida en el informe. La lucha contra estas plagas debe tener carácter regional, estableciéndose vínculos activos y ágiles de apoyo y cooperación técnica fitosanitaria entre los diferentes países. De igual manera se requiere establecer o reforzar los servicios nacionales de vigilancia y control de dicha plaga.

La acción de capacitación a técnicos y productores es fundamental para el desarrollo adecuado de este tipo de campañas.

La cooperación internacional deberá crecer en cantidad y calidad para que la logística y el flujo oportuno de recursos garanticen el éxito de las campañas contra langostas y saltamontes. Gracias señor Presidente.

M.R. MULELE (Zambia): Mr Chairman, allow me in the first instance to thank you for giving my delegation this opportunity to make some observations on the paper under discussion, that is document C 87/22.

I wish also to thank the Director of the Plant Protection Division for his lucid introduction to the paper under discussion.

As usual, the Secretariat has produced an excellent document highlighting the progress made in the campaign against locusts and grasshoppers. I am sure that we all know how much serious damage can be caused to crops and food production by ravaging swarms of locusts and grasshoppers. There is no doubt, therefore, that the control of these menacing pests would directly enhance efforts by threatened member countries to promote agricultural production in order to ensure food security.

In our view, the FAO Technical Cooperation Programme should be fully supported to enable the Organization to respond to emergency situations, as experience has already shown. In that regard I should like to associate myself with the remarks made by the delegate of Swaziland.

In the light of that, my delegation wishes to plead for the continuation of the Technical Cooperation Programme. In fact, we would certainly welcome any move to increase the budgetary allocation to the TCP.

As locusts and grasshoppers know no boundaries or borders it is imperative that countries under threat join hands to plan strategies and actions for the control of these pests. It is thus gratifying to note that several organizations have already been formed for this and other purposes. Nevertheless, we know that financial, material and technical assistance to these bodies is still required. My delegation would thus appreciate any form of support to be given to these organizations from all quarters of the world.

Although the locust situation in Zambia appears to be under control, at least for the time being, there is no doubt that further threats are looming signalling the urgency of the need for preparedness on our part. It is in this vein that I once again call for more support to our regional locust organizations by FAO and international donor agencies.

I wish to end my remarks by expressing our appreciation to FAO, to donor agencies and donor countries for the assistance given to Zambia in her efforts to contain the locust outbreaks in the recent past.

Milan KARIC (Yugoslavia): First of all allow me to thank Dr Brader for his excellent introduction.

Though we appreciate the progress achieved in the 1986-87 campaign against locusts and grasshoppers in Africa as it greatly contributed to reducing harvest losses in many countries, my delegation cannot but mention that the action was rather late and expensive owing to the fact that more than half of the area treated in 1986 was sprayed after the sowing and after the locusts and grasshoppers had already laid their eggs due to which the achieved results in checking their population were unsatisfactory.

The 1986 and 1987 campaigns showed that large-scale emergency operations for the control of locusts and grasshoppers in Africa can be organized, but that they require considerable external financial resources. In the mobilization of these resources as well as in the coordination of all the relevant activities, the role and importance of FAO merits special emphasis. It is, therefore, essential that the acquired experiences be more fully taken advantage of in the forthcoming campaigns against locusts and grasshoppers.

Finally, I wish also to remind delegates that Yugoslavia also joined the 1986 campaign by delivering 100 motor sprayers to the countries of the Sahel region.

DONG OING SONG (China) (original language Chinese): In document C 87/22 we find a short statement regarding the campaign against desert locusts and grasshoppers, a campaign undertaken in Africa over the past two years.

After three consecutive drought years the African continent in 1985 had to endure attacks by desert locusts and grasshoppers, very seriously threatening agricultural production and the life of the inhabitants of many regions of Africa. In this respect the Chinese Government expressed to the African people its concern and sympathy. Three times through FAO it offered 150 tonnes of pesticides to African countries to assist them in their fight against this scourge, and to secure agricultural output. This was a modest contribution which my country was able to offer to the African countries and people within the limits of its capabilities.

We have noted with satisfaction that over the past two years the infestations of desert locusts and grasshoppers have been controlled efficiently thanks to the efforts deployed by the African people, and also thanks to the timely support of the international community. In this struggle the FAO has made a laudable effort in the field of monitoring these infestations, the provision of information and in the coordination of international aid operations.

We have also noted that the African continent might well again be threatened this year. We very much hope that the countries concerned and the international community will continue to attribute great importance to this problem, and that FAO, whilst following very closely the level of infestations, will take the necessary steps to control this calamity in time and as efficiently as possible.

Thomas Madubeng TAUkobong (Botswana): We should also like to thank Dr Brader for his introduction to this subject.

My delegation would like to make a few remarks in connection with the document now before us entitled "Progress of the Campaign against Locusts and Grasshoppers".

The Botswana delegation would like to thank the Director-General of FAO for the quick response he made to our call for assistance during the invasion of the brown locusts in 1986. We also wish to thank all the donor countries who responded very quickly to provide equipment, pesticides and financial assistance. The quick intervention by the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa with equipment, especially aircraft, and experts was also very much appreciated.

It was mainly due to that quick and timely response that we were able to control the invasion and thus avoid damage to crops and pastures in the invasion areas.

The 1986 locust invasion was the first significant locust occurrence in Botswana in about forty years. As the delegate from Swaziland has rightly said, we were therefore caught unprepared and there was no local expertise on how to handle the situation. We were therefore totally dependent on outside assistance to help control the menace. Therefore, through the assistance of FAO we have begun to strengthen our plant protection service and to implement a permanent surveillance system within the country.

We are in total agreement with the conclusions of the document before us of the need for strengthening national and regional plant protection services and of the need to train locals in pesticide use and handling. We also support the need for continuous testing of new pesticides to identify the most efficient ones.

Another important area that we think should be followed up is that of exchanging information on effective ground spraying equipment, because we believe that for national purposes this is the best method to employ. We believe that FAO could be of great assistance in taking a leading role in identification and exchange of information on this type of equipment.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): I should like to thank Dr Brader for his useful and informative up-date to document C 87/22. First of all, I should like to pick up some of the points made in the report and then offer some comments and suggestions.

The report concludes that large-scale pest control campaigns can be mounted very rapidly in Africa given very extensive and expensive inputs by donors. In addition, these inputs can be effectively coordinated by emergency centres for locust operations in Rome with the support of the network of national coordinating committees in affected countries. It also concludes that the 1986/87 campaigns costing some US\$ 93 million prevented major crop damage in all, the countries involved.

The report also recognized that the campaigns were generally late, and in 1986 in over half of the treated areas in West Africa crops had already been harvested and grasshoppers had already laid their eggs. The campaigns were wasteful in many areas. Areas were sprayed which did not need to be sprayed. It also recognizes that by far the largest single campaign against grasshoppers in the Sahel probably had little overall effect on the level of grasshopper populations or on the level of crop damage.

The report emphasizes that the present pest intelligence and forecasting systems are inadequate; that communications systems are inadequate; that there is a need for extensive training at all levels in pest control techniques; that there is a need for new pesticides; and that there is a need to strengthen national and regional pest control organizations.

It must be acknowledged that the campaigns referred to in this report were responses to sudden unexpected emergencies in which some tardiness and wasteful exercises, inefficiencies and ineffective practices were only to be expected. The results in terms of crop protection were perhaps about as good as could be expected in such emergency situations.

What the emergencies and campaigns they evoked have shown is that in Africa generally, and in West Africa in particular, pest control operations on this scale can only be mounted rapidly given very large and costly inputs by donors. West Africa in particular has little or no inherent capacity to counter the threat of migrant pests. It also shows that, extensive as these operations were, they were still parochial and remedial and not on a scale or not of a nature that could provide more permanent relief and prevent further upsurges and plagues. The threat remains.

It also shows a critical element of unpreparedness with the inadequacy of pest intelligence networks and forecasting systems resulting from a parochial, individual country approach rather than united regional reaction to the persistent problems of migrant pests.

The successful campaigns against locusts in southern, central and eastern Africa were instantly remedial but have also served to reduce the future threat of these pests throughout the region. Upsurges were reduced and plagues were prevented by region-wide campaigns involving all countries that centred on regional pest control organizations capable of monitoring, forecasting and addressing gregarious populations at their source and chasing and destroying any forms which escaped.

The report acknowledges the vital role of existing regional bodies and documents their successes but it fails to recognize the need for such a regional organization in the Sahel where as yet nothing has been done to reduce the future threat of either grasshoppers or locusts.

In our view some regional standing capacity is urgently needed in West Africa that can serve as the centre of the intelligence and forecasting, and serve as the preemptive strike force against the pests at their point of origin outside crop areas thus reducing the level of the pest population at large.

Finally, I should like to reaffirm the view of the United Kingdom that the FAO as the international centre for locusts forecasting has a central role to play in the strategic control of these and other migrant pests.

Arzouma KOUSSOUBE (Burkina Faso): Je voudrais joindre ma voix à celles des nombreux orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter de la manière dont vous menez les débats et de votre nomination à la tête de cette commission.

Je voudrais également remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellent travail qu'il a accompli. En effet, le document C 87/22 situe exactement le sujet. La délégation du Burkina Faso n'a pas d'observation particulière à faire. Cependant, je voudrais indiquer la situation que nous connaissons dans notre pays.

Contrairement à la campagne agricole 1986-87 qui a été dominée par une âpre lutte anti-acridienne la campagne 1987-88, marquée par une installation tardive des pluies n'a pas été particulièrement favorable au développement généralisé et à une pullulation importante des différentes espèces de sauteriaux, notamment le criquet sénégalais. Par contre, les conditions écologiques caractérisées par les poches et trous de sécheresse ont beaucoup favorisé l'explosion de chenilles processionnaires.

Pour juguler ce fléau et redonner confiance aux producteurs une stratégie de lutte anti-acridienne qui repose essentiellement sur les populations organisées en cellules d'intervention phytosanitaires villageoises a été mise en place. Cette stratégie de lutte découpe la campagne agricole en deux phases dont la première s'est déroulée du 15 juin au 15 août 1987.

Elle a vu la mise en place de huit équipes terrestres et trois unités aériennes. Ce dispositif a permis de couvrir toute la zone sous menace acridienne et de suivre avec efficacité l'évolution du phénomène acridien. La clarté dans la définition des tâches dévolues à chacun a permis de rendre le dispositif opérationnel. La forte mobilisation des producteurs, formés et équipés de sacs poudreux et d'atomiseurs a donné des résultats satisfaisants, donc témoignent les traitements collectifs pour enrayer les foyers d'infestation.

Aussi au cours de cette première phase, 124 121 hectares ont été attaqués par les sauteriaux et

10 410 hectares par les chenilles; les superficies traitées ont été respectivement de 8 358 hectares et 10 410 hectares. Le faible niveau de surfaces traitées contre les sauteriaux s'explique par la faiblesse des densités observées.

Cependant il convient de noter que cela augmentait les risques d'infestation pendant la seconde phase (septembre - novembre).

Au cours de cette deuxième phase le dispositif de traitement de la première phase a été reconduit. Cependant il convient de préciser que si lors de la première phase, la stratégie a été basée surtout sur la participation des producteurs, la deuxième phase est plutôt axée sur les interventions aériennes avec cependant une participation des équipes de traitement terrestre.

Il est prévu durant cette phase le traitement de 25 000 ha par voie terrestre et 275 000 ha par voie aérienne, avec cependant une participation des équipes terrestres.

La fléau acridien ne peut être jugulé que grâce à la solidarité internationale, et le rôle des institutions comme la FAO demeure très important.

De même, les campagnes ponctuelles sont d'un résultat temporaire. Nous pensons que des actions jugulées, menées concomitamment dans les pays voisins peuvent venir à bout de ce fléau.

Nous profitons de la tribune pour également attirer l'attention de notre commission sur l'état de l'OCLAVAV. Cette filiale de la FAO connaît à l'heure actuelle des difficultés; nous voudrions que la commission puisse se pencher sur cette institution.

Mohamed EL Bashir MUFARAH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate you very warmly on your election because you represent the countries of the Third World in this Commission.

I should like to talk about locusts and grasshoppers at this stage, although there is another type of locust that I will discuss later. In 1986 a locust infestation took place. Nevertheless, the

effects were fairly limited because of the very swift reaction of the anti-locust organization in spite of the scarcity of resources, and we should like to thank FAO for having supplied that assistance to us.

In 1987 the lack of rainfall during June and July meant that the grasshoppers were present in northern Sudan in the western region of Kordofan and north of Darfur and caused considerable damage before the plant protection sector was able to intervene. If there had been the physical means, that is, manual system, available to local organizations and services or available to farmers, as happened in northern Nigeria in 1974 in the anti-locust campaign, the damage would have been less.

As to the locusts themselves, the nocturnal or night-flying grasshopper is a grasshopper that is known as the tree-eating locust, which causes great damage to trees that produce gum arabic, mango trees and other fruit trees. There are no modern methods for controlling this particular pest. The only means available to farmers is to burn the pests on the tree which, obviously, results in much more serious damage than that caused by the actual grasshoppers. We recommend that FAO should take suitable measures against that type of grasshopper.

Our second recommendation is that manual systems should be included in the methods used for controlling grasshoppers. It should be possible to use manual labour in these campaigns with knapsack sprayers for farmers, and also to supply pesticides to the farmer in order that he will be able to control this type of grasshopper before it spreads.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure that Mr Brader and his colleagues have taken note of the type of grasshopper you have mentioned and will take appropriate action.

Malek BEN SALAH (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Nous intervenons sur le contenu de ce document qui nous est présenté par le Secrétariat général de la FAO et l'exposé de M. BRADER, responsable de ce secteur, contenu relatif au développement du criquet pèlerin, développement que la République tunisienne est en train de suivre depuis 1985, notamment par l'intermédiaire du Comité de lutte anti-acridienne de l'Afrique du nord-ouest qui fait partie de la FAO. Tout cela est susceptible de nous confirmer la gravité de la situation et doit nous inciter à être préparés au maximum.

La situation actuelle découle du fait que la résistance est insuffisante, pour plusieurs raisons, car, dans de nombreux pays de l'est et de l'ouest de l'Afrique cette faiblesse de résistance a fait que des essaims sont arrivés en Algérie et au Maroc et pourraient s'étendre à d'autres pays de l'Afrique du nord ainsi qu'à certains pays d'Europe riverains de la Méditerranée.

Cette situation doit préoccuper nos gouvernements et doit nous inciter à intervenir devant une situation d'urgence afin de protéger nos cultures et nos programmes de développement. Devant cette menace immédiate nous ne pouvons que recommander à tous les pays de resserrer les rangs et de mener la lutte selon un plan global permettant de lutter contre les criquets pèlerins là où l'infestation est la plus dense.

A cet effet, la délégation de la Tunisie propose une résolution à la Conférence générale pour que les pays concernés adoptent cette résistance le plus rapidement possible, dans le cadre d'une stratégie unique et intégrée, qui puisse rendre la situation comme elle était au cours des deux dernières décennies.

Nous pourrions demander au Secrétariat général de la FAO d'organiser et de superviser les préparatifs pour cette résistance et pour exécuter le plan y afférent. Et, comme cela est souligné dans le document C 87/22, on peut trouver que parmi les conclusions auxquelles on était parvenu après les évaluations de 1986, il est nécessaire de mettre au point un réseau de contrôle plus dense permettant de découvrir les premières manifestations du criquet pèlerin dès le début de la campagne agricole. La délégation tunisienne appuie cette proposition afin que soit intensifié le réseau de contrôle aérien dans les régions du Sahel et les régions désertiques de l'Afrique du nord ainsi que dans les pays riverains de la Mer Rouge, et la nécessité d'échanger les informations sur les climats entre les pays, afin de pouvoir découvrir immédiatement la menace et le danger.

Pour faciliter la tâche du Secrétariat général, nous proposons ce qui suit:

- primo: la convocation d'un groupe d'experts et cela le plus rapidement possible, pour analyser la situation et mettre au point les mesures à prendre sur le plan national, régional et international afin que nous puissions avoir une stratégie unique et commune dans ce domaine;
- en deuxième lieu, il est nécessaire de convoquer une session extraordinaire du Comité de lutte anti-acridienne de la FAO pour examiner le rapport de ce groupe d'experts et pour rechercher les moyens financiers en vue de mettre en oeuvre le plan d'action qui sera établi par ce groupe de travail, ceci pour compléter l'effort considérable toujours déployé par la FAO.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure that so far as the resolution you want to propose is concerned, you will ensure that the formalities are completed by the Resolutions Committee, etc. so that it will come before the Commission for consideration and recommendation.

The Secretary suggests that I clarify the position: when the draft resolution is ready a copy of it may be handed over to the Secretary so that he can put it to the Resolutions Committee for appropriate consideration. Is the position clear? Thank you.

R. LALANDE (Canada): I should first of all like to thank Dr Brader for his introduction to this subject.

My comments under this item will be brief and will serve only to highlight the concern which Canada shares with others in the international community for the recurring problem of locust and grasshopper infestations. The current resurgence of locust and grasshopper swarms in some parts of Africa has come at a time when every effort is being made to rebuild and further to develop African agriculture. My delegation is, therefore, listening carefully to the comments of countries affected on the repercussions which the infestations have. Canada's concern at the most recent outbreak was the reason for our providing 4 million dollars on a bilateral basis to spray approximately 500 000 hectares in a number of affected countries.

However, the emergency efforts such as these to address sporadic, but yet predictable and cyclical events are no substitute for the ongoing monitoring and action by the regional organizations set up many years ago to control such outbreaks on a sustained basis. Canada is thus disappointed that in many cases these organizations have been allowed to atrophy. This happened at a time when the technical and expert resources these organizations should have are needed most. This has in large part made necessary the emergency efforts seen over the last two years. Emergency efforts of such magnitude are costly and can be damaging to the environment. Although the past campaign was generally successful, spraying operations mounted early in the hatching cycle, as identified by the regional organizations, would be less expensive, more efficient and more effective. We recognize and acknowledge the effort FAO is now making to improve and coordinate surveillance and control measures. However, these are no substitute for the maintenance and improvement of national plant protection services and regional organizations.

My delegation believes that medium- to long-term solutions such as institution building, training programmes and improvement in communication and maintenance are needed. We support FAO in monitoring this problem and in taking appropriate steps to support the revitalization and improvement of the regional organizations. We also support the strengthening of national plant protection services.

We believe that it is important to support the different national plant protection services, because it is at this level that the different training programmes of agricultural producers are the more efficient. We also believe that the regional organization has in the past, and will continue to be, required to face situations reaching over different national boundaries.

Guy FRADIN (France): En 1987, comme en 1986, la situation acridienne a fait l'objet d'un suivi attentif de la part des principaux bailleurs de fonds. La FAO a, cette année encore, joué un rôle particulier sur lequel je reviendrai un peu plus loin dans mon intervention.

En ce qui concerne la campagne 1987, ma délégation ne souhaite pas faire un historique de cette campagne mais souligner quelques aspects qui pourraient nous aider dans les années ultérieures.

C'est ainsi que, à nos yeux, la campagne de lutte contre le criquet pèlerin et les sautériaux en Afrique et plus particulièrement au Sahel menée au cours de l'hivernage 1987, a été marquée par 3 aspects particulièrement d'ignes d'intérêt:

- la mobilisation des donateurs
- la participation des gouvernements, des services nationaux et des agriculteurs
- l'organisation de la lutte sur le terrain.

Pour ce qui est de la coordination entre les donateurs, nous pouvons souligner le rôle joué par la FAO qui, à plusieurs reprises, a donné une impulsion déterminante à cette coordination lors de réunions des représentants des différentes aides à Rome ou sur place par l'organisation de missions conjointes de supervision et d'évaluation.

De ce fait, un consensus a pu s'établir d'une part sur la méthodologie d'intervention et d'autre part sur les moyens à mettre en oeuvre, tant en ce qui concerne le type de lutte que l'importance des traitements à effectuer.

S'agissant de la participation locale:

Bien que la pullulation des criquets (et donc le danger pour les cultures) ait été moins importante cette année qu'en 1986, la mobilisation au niveau local est restée forte.

Je crois nécessaire de souligner également que la formation des techniciens et des agriculteurs a été menée correctement dans plusieurs pays, ce qui est un élément important pour les futures campagnes.

Enfin, pour ce qui est du troisième aspect positif de cette campagne, l'organisation de la lutte sur le terrain, celle-ci a bénéficié de l'appui d'experts logisticiens. La FAO a, en effet, soit sur ses fonds propres, soit sur un financement accordé par les autres aides, mis ses experts à la disposition des comités locaux de coordination donateurs/services nationaux qui ont joué un rôle important. Dans le même ordre d'idées, doit être souligné l'apport des systèmes de surveillance et d'alerte mis en place par la FAO mais aussi par l'aide française, je pense à l'antenne du PRIFAS/CIRAD à Niamey.

Ma délégation souhaite également, pour préparer les campagnes ultérieures, relever quelques dysfonctionnements dont nous pourrions tirer des enseignements pour les années à venir.

Tout d'abord, la répartition des produits insecticides et des aéronefs entre les différents Etats est un exercice délicat qui exigerait une concertation préalable plus approfondie car, dès lors que les moyens sont arrivés dans un pays, celui-ci répugne à les voir affecter dans un autre Etat, même si la situation y est plus difficile.

Ensuite, je soulignerai les difficultés pour proportionner les moyens aériens prévus en début de campagne à la menace réelle constatée: sur ce point les informations obtenues par les experts itinérants et l'antenne du CIRAD/PRIFAS de Niamey ont été prépondérantes et devraient nous aider à améliorer les dispositifs pour les années ultérieures.

Un autre élément contestable, que le rapport que nous examinons met d'ailleurs en avant, est le coût excessif de cette campagne. Cela se ressent d'autant plus cette année que les risques pour les récoltes ont été plus faibles du fait des conditions atmosphériques peu favorables pour le criquet sénégalaise.

Pour terminer, je souhaiterais revenir sur le rôle de la FAO et nous pensons que celui-ci peut être encore renforcé.

La FAO, soit à l'E.C.L.O à Rome, soit par les représentations locales, devrait renforcer son rôle d'informateur et de coordonnateur que la plupart des bailleurs, et en particulier ma délégation, souhaitent lui voir jouer et pour lequel d'ailleurs des experts avaient été mis à sa disposition, notamment par la France.

La FAO pourrait en particulier intervenir auprès des principaux donateurs pour leur demander de modifier leurs prévisions d'aides de façon à les rapprocher des besoins effectifs.

En effet, aux yeux de ma délégation, si pour la lutte contre les sauteriaux il importe de renforcer les services nationaux de protection de végétaux, comme cela a été entrepris en 1986 et 1987, pour ce qui est de la lutte contre les criquets pèlerins, l'assistance extérieure, et à ce titre celle de la FAO, doit jouer un rôle majeur car elle a une longue expérience dans la lutte contre ce ravageur. De plus, elle entretient des liens avec les différentes zones menacées aussi bien l'Afrique de l'Ouest, dont nous avons parlé, que l'Afrique de l'Est, que le Maghreb, au sein de la Commission FAO/Afrique du Nord sur le criquet pèlerin.

La FAO dispose donc, selon nous, de nombreux atouts lui permettant d'accroître son rôle.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I should like to say from the outset that Australia supports the idea of FAO being involved in containing and eradicating the plague locust problem in large areas of Africa. I say this because I have several comments to make which could be construed as adverse on this subject and I wish to ensure that the Secretariat is aware that my comments are being offered in a spirit of constructive criticism with a view to improving the effectiveness of the campaign.

Australia has built up considerable expertise and a great deal of experience through an organization called the Australian Plague Locust Commission. It is our belief that there is a need to review the effectiveness and the environmental effects of the grasshopper control programmes currently being run in Africa. We look at the FAO figures, and it seems to us that the economic benefits of grasshopper control are rather marginal. Secondly, we have some serious reservations on environmental grounds about blanket aerial spraying of large areas of the countryside. This blanket spraying has a tendency to be indiscriminate, and we could expect the environmental effects to be much more severe than with locust control, where the areas to be covered are generally smaller and more controlled.

On locust control, we understand that it is FAO policy to strengthen the national and regional organizations undertaking locust control. Over the past two or three years considerable inputs have been made to these organizations. We believe that they are not working as effectively as they could do, as they should be. For example, the Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa, while having laudable and necessary aims, needs, we feel, to be restructured to operate effectively. As locust control is a highly variable activity and difficult to predict, it may be better to investigate alternative approaches rather than invest in training and equipping a large number of national services which may not have an opportunity to be involved in locust control for many years. For example, it may be opportune to investigate the feasibility of an African locust commission which would be responsible for all species of locust in Africa and could provide technical and training expertise to all countries. A restructured and expanded DLCO, merged with the International Red Locust Control Organization, could provide the basis for such an organization. The proposed organization would cooperate directly with national authorities and conduct joint survey and control operations. The organization would be capable of undertaking substantial control on behalf of Member States and would, on the surface at least, present several advantages over the existing policy.

While we see FAO's role in this area as essentially that of coordination, we feel that the FAO Emergency Centre for Locust Operations here in Rome does not appear to have sufficient experienced technical personnel to service the large number of locust projects that have been implemented over the last two or three years.

We feel that an essential prerequisite for effective locust control is a reliable communications system, yet to our knowledge no consultant has been appointed to advise on the most appropriate communications systems with which the relevant organizations should be equipped. This suggests to us that there is a need for greater contingency planning in FAO in this area, and we would suggest that the FAO review its overall response to locust emergencies and develop policy options and contingency plans in cooperation with donors.

Sind Ahmed CHENTOUF (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, tout en remerciant l'éminent orateur qui nous a expliqué avec certainement plus de précisions que dans le document C 87/22 la situation sur l'état d'avancement de la campagne contre le criquet et les sauteriaux, je voudrais insister sur la gravité de la situation présente et encore plus sur ses conséquences à court terme.

En effet, la menace d'invasion acridienne mentionnée au paragraphe 23 du document C 87/22 s'est concrétisée, et il y a quelques semaines les essaims étaient signalés en Algérie.

Une campagne de lutte a été immédiatement engagée pour répondre à cette situation d'urgence. Mais le plus grand péril est encore à venir et risque de survenir au printemps prochain sur le nord de l'Algérie avec les conséquences que l'on sait sur l'agriculture.

L'infestation actuelle de centaines de milliers d'hectares dans tout le Maghreb risque en effet, selon les informations de la FAO, de se répandre sur l'ensemble du Maghreb à partir du mois de janvier prochain, tout comme elle pourrait se répandre sur le sud de l'Europe. S'il en était ainsi, les dégâts seraient plus grands.

Mon pays a déjà participé et participe aujourd'hui encore à des campagnes de lutte anti-acridienne dans les pays limitrophes par l'envoi d'équipes spécialisées et de matériel divers. Il est prêt à répondre à toute demande en ce sens dans la mesure de ses moyens. Ces actions sont en effet coûteuses.

En raison du regain d'activité du criquet pèlerin et de la poursuite de la formation d'essaims, il serait souhaitable que l'Organisation mette en place et coordonne un plan d'urgence de lutte anti-acridienne.

Nous lançons un appel à la communauté internationale pour se joindre à l'effort des pays concernés pour lutter dans l'immédiat contre ce fléau et nous incitons la FAO et son Directeur général à oeuvrer dans ce sens tout comme nous "proposons de demander à la FAO de revoir et d'actualiser en quelque sorte le Programme d'action mis en oeuvre depuis quelques années et de concevoir un nouveau programme ou un plan d'action à moyen terme qui tendrait à renforcer les moyens nationaux des pays intéressés.

Nils Ragnar KAMSVAG (Norway): Having ourselves participated in the campaign through bilateral aid of a couple of million US dollars, I will deal with just one aspect of this campaign, namely the environmental aspect.

The use of pesticides will always have to be balanced between limiting the pest threat to the harvest and the threat to the environment that pesticides can represent. This campaign has indeed also shown that we may not always be able to agree on how to find this balance.

The World Commission on Environment has shown the threat to our environment that we are facing today and hopefully represents a growing international recognition of this global threat. We therefore hope that in future we can avoid the position where donor countries offer pesticides which they themselves have forbidden the use of in their own countries, as happened in this campaign.

We further hope, that, through the experience gained in this campaign, we may be able to find methods to reduce the threat to the environment that the widespread use of pesticides can represent. In this connection, I should like to mention that a Norwegian NGO working in Mali has, through experimenting with different concentrations of pesticides in helicopter spraying, achieved impressive results with only a third of the concentration recommended by FAO. We think that this is very interesting and important.

We are therefore glad to learn that FAO is to arrange a meeting where, as we understand it, these experiences, among others, will be discussed. Hopefully, this indicates that FAO intends to strengthen its activity in this field, thus giving environmental concerns a more prominent place in its plant protection activities.

Fritz-Otto HAASE (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): We welcome what is stated in the document C 87/22 regarding the progress report on the international support with regard to locust control. Generally speaking, this document gives us a short, and succinct overview as to the measures which have been taken so far to support locust control in Africa. The international community has, in fact, supported locust control in several African countries effectively, quickly and with large funds.

Special thanks should be addressed to FAO for the timely and comprehensive information which was provided regarding the locust control in the different countries, the immediate information regarding the needs of control means and transport capacities as well as the regular information regarding the individual pledges of the international donors.

My Government has supported this important activity of FAO with the means available to it. The German Agency for Technical Cooperation, our implementive organization, is in constant and direct contact with FAO. The experience based on the control measures in 1986 and 1987 encourages my Government that the coordination of measures should be carried out in the field with the assistance of the already existing instruments. We welcome the fact that the local FAO representatives have taken an active part in these coordination efforts in the field - as far as necessary.

In future, too, my Government feels that the effective coordination of all donors is ensured thanks to the relevant national organizations in very close cooperation with the international organizations represented in the individual countries.

May I go into some of the points on the document itself. Paragraph 12 on page 4 of the document has two subparagraphs in which there are contradictory statements. Paragraph 12 a) states the locust control campaign has been successful, whereas in paragraph 12 b), it is stated that the so far largest grasshopper campaign in Africa only had little effect on the grasshopper population at large. My delegation would therefore be very grateful if we could receive additional information and certain clarification on these two points.

As regards paragraph 12 e), also in connection with paragraph 28, my delegation would like to draw attention once again to the fact that we feel that an increased participation of the farmers in locust control at an early stage is more useful than spraying actions.

As regards the large-scale testing of new control substances my Government tends to feel that this is a dangerous approach since the effects on human beings and animals are hardly predictable. In order to avoid greater environmental damage, we advise to refrain from such steps, even if the substances used should only have a limited long-term effect; new substances therefore should only be used after extensive tests.

Our scientists are considering two new methods of locust control which are harmless to vertebrates. To conclude, I would like to give you a very short overview as to what the Federal Republic of Germany has done so far for locust control in Africa. As a direct support of locust control in 1985, up to the middle of 1987, DM 7.6 million were provided. Add to this DM 13.5 million which has already been made available in addition for locust control within the framework of already existing bilateral plant protection projects in African countries. Part of the material made available was transported by air to the individual countries. In addition to that, we envisage sending a coordinator for the Desert Locust Control Organization to Sudan, further supplies of insecticides, protective equipment, vehicles, spraying equipment to the countries concerned; the training of control and monitoring staff and the assessment of the ecological effects of the chemical locust control within the framework of a bilateral special programme.

Abdelatif RAMI YAHYAOU (Maroc): Monsieur le Président, je voudrais vous féliciter à l'occasion de votre nomination à la tête des travaux de la Commission. Je voudrais également féliciter le Secrétariat pour le travail qui apparaît à travers le document qui synthétise la situation des criquets et des sauteriaux.

Le chef de la délégation marocaine a axé son intervention en séance plénière sur la situation que subit le Maroc en matière d'invasions acridiennes et sur les risques énormes qui existent et qui menacent l'avenir immédiat des pays de la région du nord de l'Afrique et même des pays du sud de l'Europe.

Je voudrais encore une fois rendre hommage à la FAO et aux pays donateurs pour la célérité et l'efficacité de leurs interventions.

L'intervention du délégué marocain a permis de contribuer à mieux sensibiliser la communauté internationale à l'importance des impacts actuels et des risques certains qui existent pour l'avenir immédiat.

A la demande de mon pays et en marge de la Conférence, des réunions ont été tenues entre les pays les plus concernés, sous l'égide de la FAO, pour mieux coordonner les activités de prospection et de lutte. Je voudrais cependant insister sur le rôle fondamental de la FAO dans la mobilisation des fonds et la coordination des activités de lutte anti-acridienne.

Je me permets également de suggérer qu'en cas d'insuffisance de l'effort financier, notre Conférence puisse demander au Directeur Général de l'Organisation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture de mobiliser d'autres fonds au titre des programmes d'urgence et ceci eu égard aux menaces qui pèsent sur l'économie de toute la région du nord-ouest africain et du Maghreb.

Moisés TELIZ ORTIZ (Mexico): Como mis antecesores, mi país le expresa sus parabienes por su nominación en la conducción de estas sesiones confiando en su habilidad, que ha mostrado siempre, para llegar a las conclusiones procedentes de esta mesa. Expreso también mi felicitación al detallado documento c 87/22 que goza de varios privilegios como ser completo, breve y honesto. En casos como éste surge en forma muy significativa la ventaja, los beneficios de un organismo como la FAO ante problemas tan serios como pueden ser los de las langostas y los saltamontes.

Se indican en este documento los enormes esfuerzos y los recursos dedicados al problema de las plagas de langostas y saltamontes, en las cuales considero sería prolijo, en esta oportunidad, entrar a analizar individualmente las diferentes especies de insectos o los diferentes lugares atacados. Para mencionar simplemente aquellos puntos en los que encontramos similitudes en estas plagas, quisiera hacer referencia a la ardua labor que representa el atacar plagas como éstas, por su gran prolificidad, por sus hábitos voladores que los hacen a veces inalcanzables por su habilidad para esconderse, su gran voracidad, su característica polífaga que hace que puedan entrar a diferentes cultivos y a plantas silvestres a la vez, su gran organización y todo esto complicado por contingencias como las climáticas, los accidentes topográficos, las grandes extensiones afectadas que, repito, incluyen tanto áreas cultivadas como silvestres. Complementando esa complejidad tenemos también las restricciones existentes en el uso de plaguicidas que serían los adecuados para esto por su persistencia pero que, visto de otro modo, representa también una gran inconveniencia.

Ante problemas como éste, se requiere de la máxima capacidad, de la máxima ingeniosidad para atacarlos, para conocer los hábitos de estas plagas; conocer y establecer, organizar y ejecutar las campañas correspondientes que radican en mucho su éxito en la oportunidad y la precisión de las aplicaciones de medidas, especialmente las de control químico, en el lugar y tiempo adecuados, que requieren de inspecciones frecuentes, y que requieren también de un factor muy importante como es la disponibilidad de recursos en forma oportuna.

El documento señala también, en forma reiterada, la dificultad que encontró ante diferentes circunstancias que deben constituir una interesante enseñanza para el futuro, como las que señala el documento en diferentes incisos en los que hace referencia a la falta de estudios de campo con que

se encontró, la falta de oportunidad para su aplicación, la insuficiencia de medios y la aplicación necesariamente en áreas extensas, pero muy reducidas en proporción con el área afectada. En algunos casos se menciona que no llegaban ni al 1 por ciento del área en que podría estar la plaga localizada, y en situaciones también que representaron gastos innecesarios como aquellas que se mencionan en que se hizo la aplicación cuando ya se había recogido, inclusive, la cosecha.

Nuestra delegación, señor Presidente, expresa su acuerdo con las medidas que cita este interesante documento en sus párrafos 13, secciones a), b), c) y d) contra los saltamontes, aquellos que establecen que debe crearse una red de seguimiento mucho más densa que permita localizar las infestaciones al comienzo de la campaña, que se precisan programas de capacitación en gran escala para enseñar a los agricultores las formas de identificación de los saltamontes y las técnicas de espolvoreo, que deben establecerse sistemas internos de comunicación, y también disponer el equipo y los suministros para distribuir en el interior de cada país antes del comienzo de la estación de lluvias.

Sin embargo, también coincido totalmente con la proposición que hace el Delegado de Australia, cuando indica la conveniencia de crear una comisión que, cita "contra la langosta africana" -yo diría contra las diferentes langostas-, que asesorara a este continente y a otros, cuando el problema surgiera, en aspectos que pudieran estar en contacto permanente con la FAO para movilizarse según las circunstancias lo indicaran.

Señor Presidente, quisiera hacer referencia a alguna experiencia que a este respecto hemos tenido en nuestro país México, y que constituye un caso exitoso, ya histórico, contra una importante plaga agrícola que, como tal, no reconoce límites internacionales. La plaga de langosta en México causó verdaderos desastres a la agricultura hasta antes de 1948, cuando se formaban grandes mangas sobre la vegetación de los países centroamericanos y la parte sureste de México. A consecuencia de ello, se abordó el problema en forma multilateral, y así en 1947 se estableció un convenio entre México y los Países centroamericanos para combatir la langosta y se abordó el problema en forma conjunta y oportuna de manera que se tiene prácticamente controlada el área y los problemas no son comparables, en su magnitud y en sus daños, con los de años anteriores. Asimismo, los esfuerzos y costos se han reducido al mínimo.

Desde 1947 se estableció en México una campaña permanente contra la langosta, ubicando en cada entidad con problema real o potencial una brigada que se encarga de realizar, año tras año, exploraciones y muestreos atendiendo al ciclo biológico y a los hábitos del insecto, seguido de la aplicación de medidas de control químico, cuando el caso lo merita, en aquellos lugares donde se reproduce el insecto, conocidos como los sitios de gregarígenos, y que se tienen bien determinados en cada una de las entidades. De esta manera, el problema de la langosta se ha mantenido bajo control. Esporádicamente se presentan pequeños brotes, para cuyo combate se organizan campañas para evitar su dispersión y daños a los cultivos. El presupuesto requerido se programa con un año de anticipación.

En cuanto al financiamiento de la campaña permanente, el Gobierno Federal y los Gobiernos Estatales de las entidades afectadas aportan parte de los recursos requeridos. Nuestros agricultores aportan el faltante a través de sus organizaciones y contribuyen directamente con su mano de obra en la localización y combate de pequeñas mangas.

La referencia que estoy haciendo a la langosta incluye también a esas otras especies de saltamontes que en mucho comparten su peligrosidad con la langosta. La mayor parte del combate se hace en forma terrestre con aspersoras motorizadas y en una mínima superficie se requiere aplicaciones aéreas

con aviones y helicópteros para evitar las deposiciones del insecto y su dispersión. Con las acciones señaladas, la plaga de la langosta y de otros optócteros en México, aunque no ha dejado de ser el problema potencial, no ha causado daños económicos a nuestra agricultura desde hace 40 años.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España): La delegación española estima que la presentación de la Secretaría ante este tema ha sido de gran precisión, y también queremos apreciar y reconocer el trabajo de la FAO en la materia.

Oímos con gran interés la declaración del Reino de Marruecos en el debate general poniendo de manifiesto la importancia de la plaga que está asolando a cerca de 100 000 hectáreas de este país.

Agradecemos a la FAO la eficacia de los sistemas de información en esta coyuntura.

España, así como lo hizo en las donaciones en la lucha contra las plagas de la langosta y el saltamontes en la región del El Sahel y colindantes, ha contribuido en la actual situación al combate de la plaga recién declarada mediante la donación de insecticidas, equipos y medios para la fumigación.

Estamos de acuerdo con la Secretaría en la ineficiencia, dados los actuales conocimientos existentes, de combatir las plagas con mucha anticipación, teniendo en cuenta los daños ecológicos que se producirían. La investigación, en lo que se refiere a mejorar los medios de lucha preventiva, debería incrementarse. Los efectos climatológicos son determinantes y pueden hacer inútil una reacción anticipada por sus efectos negativos desde el punto de vista económico. Estimamos que deben reforzarse los sistemas de información y los servicios nacionales de control, sin olvidar los medios para la detección precoz de las plagas.

La capacitación del personal de los países más amenazados debe incrementarse. El establecimiento de una red de control relacionada con el paso de las nubes de insectos, nos parece importante. España manifiesta su preferente atención a los futuros planes de emergencia.

Mohamed Mahmoud DESSOUKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My first remark is that regional cooperation among the countries concerned and the countries menaced by the locusts needs to be consolidated and coordinated. The FAO can play an important role in this respect.

The second remark is that in spite of the fact that the FAO and some of the donor countries provide assistance to the countries affected by locusts, they do not in fact give enough importance to the countries which are menaced by locusts or which might be considered as the first line of defence against locusts. Therefore, we appeal to FAO and to the donor countries to take the right actions so that instead of fighting the fire after it has broken out we first of all provide the means to prevent the fire.

We approve the draft proposal presented by Tunisia, that is to say to set up a committee of experts and to convene a meeting to discuss its report:

Abdesslam ABURAWI (Libya) (original language Arabic): First of all I would like to congratulate you on your election to chair this Commission. I should also like to thank you for the way in which you are running this debate which has enabled us to understand the statements made by the various delegates.

As for the subject under discussion, that is to say the campaign against grasshoppers and locusts, I should like to thank the Secretariat for their preparation of the subject.

Although locusts do not threaten my country according to the statement of the Secretariat, my country has taken the necessary measures, according to the means available to it, to fight this pest if these insects reach my country.

Our work should not be separated from the collective work which we do together with the countries concerned. We should coordinate our efforts with the countries concerned so that we can fight this pest. Therefore, I request the FAO to focus its efforts on information on the upsurge of this infestation so that we can take the right measures at the right time.

I should also like to express my approval of the Tunisian proposal to set up a committee of experts, so that this committee can prepare a programme of action in the right way. We also approve the setting up of a network to have early information about locust infestations.

Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): When the return of near normal rain in 1985 resulted in widespread infestation of grasshoppers in West Africa and locusts in eastern, central and southern Africa, the donor community and FAO mobilized to mount a campaign for locust control and plant protection services. As a result of this campaign major crop damage has been prevented in all countries with the exception of desert locusts threats to parts of Africa and grasshopper threats in Sahel countries.

We appreciate the introduction provided by the Secretariat, the very candid document and the up-dated statement which we heard this afternoon.

The United States recognizes that the international campaign to control locust and grasshopper infestations in 1985-86, although it was ad hoc, was generally successful. We believe the problem has been brought under control only temporarily and that 1987 infestations could well exceed previous levels. Unless control activities in 1987 are mounted early and effectively the cyclical nature of this problem could well cause major infestations in 1988 and beyond.

The United States recognizes the extraordinarily difficult task confronted by ECLO these last two years and the sizeable accomplishments in centrally coordinating between African governments and the entire donor community. Dr Brader and his colleagues deserve everyone's warm thanks.

We believe that paragraph 15 on page 6 of the document omits mention of a number of successful efforts, for example, at prepositioning chemicals, fuel and equipment, training and public information. Also, the countries mentioned are limited to those funded through FAO. As many have noted here this afternoon, this was a broad effort which included, for example, bilateral efforts of the German GTZ in Mali and elsewhere.

As regards the main conclusions and overall appraisal of the Progress of the Campaign against Locusts and Grasshoppers document, we view the results of the campaign to date as preliminary, as opposed to a final appraisal of the campaign efforts.

The United States generally agrees with the main operational lessons learned from the 1986 campaign. Specifically, the need to develop stronger monitoring networks, training programmes, better internal communications systems and equipment and supply distribution networks, all parallel to the United States strategy for dealing with the locusts and grasshopper problem over the short, medium and long-term.

It may be appropriate here to note that experience has demonstrated that defining action thresholds by farmers, government planners and donor agencies is essential for successful locust and grasshopper control. This implies the availability of large amounts of biological, economic, environmental and physical information, and a system to process the information for decision making.

While data inadequacies are likely to continue long into the future, work must be started on the development of a management system which will enable government agencies and donor planners to anticipate major grasshopper and locust infestations and develop, implement and monitor plans for their control.

We do disagree with several of the report's conclusions, however. For example, we believe that data on crop losses are incomplete and inconclusive and as such do not yet accurately reflect actual crop losses. We take exception also to the negative tone of the report's conclusions relating to overall cost and effect. We take exception as well to FAO's statement regarding the use of helicopters as a valuable means for spraying pesticides. Our delegation instead recommends a stronger emphasis on ground surveys as a means for detecting infestations.

We also believe that additional pesticide testing should be a high priority concern. Furthermore, in budgeting for application of pesticides, funds must be set aside to assure safety in handling from initial unloading to transport, to final use and clean-up. Recipient countries should clearly take responsibility for disposal of containers and unused over-age pesticides.

My delegation has several more detailed comments regarding factual errors and omissions that we found in the report, which we will be happy to provide to the Secretariat.

Finally, we have noted calls this afternoon for the allocation of additional resources to this problem. My delegation would only note that priorities must be chosen. We cannot do more of everything: resources are finite and there is always a limit to the size of the TCP and to the size of FAO's overall budget. It will be uncumbent upon all of us as members of FAO's governing body to ask ourselves what the priorities should be.

Tomofumi KUME (Japan): The efforts of FAO to collect and disseminate information promptly throughout the world through the emergency centre for locust operations, to mobilize resources and coordinate international assistance, is highly appreciated. It goes without saying that the quick response of the developed countries to provide technical as well as financial assistance is critically necessary.

Japan has positively contributed funds amounting to US\$ 700 000 in 1987 to the locust control project through the FAO/Japan government cooperation programme that has been undertaken since 1982. Also, we provide pesticides through the bilateral cooperation programme, which amounted to about US\$ 5 million in 1986. My country intends to continue to make these contributions and we hope that the FAO continues to play an important role in monitoring infestation during early stages and in coordinating the implementation of comprehensive control measures on a regional scale.

The delegates of Norway and the Federal Republic of Germany presented very informative suggestions, namely, control measures that would not have a harmful effect on the environment. Japan fully agrees with this proposal. I would like to call the attention of FAO donors and recipient countries to the need to promote control measures that take full account of the protection of the environment, including the health of people and animals.

Nguen SRISURUKSA (Thailand): The problem of grasshoppers and locusts is one that causes very important damage to food and agricultural products throughout producing countries, especially in the African nations. We all acknowledge this serious situation. However, it seems to us that the operation mode is costly. We should find appropriate ways and means to minimize its cost. My delegation believes that there is a need to monitor and evaluate the operation in this area.

However, my delegation supports the ideas being carried out in this campaign, especially as described in paragraphs 13 and 28, taking into account the financial constraints of the Organization and donor support. We are happy to see any solution along this line.

René LONCAN (Brésil): Le Brésil est aussi aux prises avec la croissance de la population de criquets sauteriaux, notamment dans les Etats du Randonie et du Mato Grosso. Depuis 1986, par conséquent, la FAO a promu, en collaboration avec notre Ministère de l'Agriculture, l'entraînement de techniciens brésiliens dans le combat de la plaie.

La délégation du Brésil voudrait donc se joindre aux conclusions et propositions du document C 87/22, en se permettant d'ajouter que, à son avis, la connaissance du cycle biologique du sauteriau, son étiologie et etologie sont plus importants que le combat chimique de l'espèce.

Gerard A. M. VAN DER GRIND (Netherlands): As this is the first time that the delegation has taken the floor in this Commission we want to congratulate you on your election as Chairman.

Document C 87/22, gives a good overview of the progress of the campaign against locust and grasshoppers, and the Dutch government has supported that campaign in recent years.

The document emphasizes the campaign in the Sahelian countries. On page 4, paragraph 12 the conclusion is drawn that because of the fact that the needed infrastructure and management were not available, the results of the campaign could not be optimum.

This brings us to the overall appraisal as written in paragraph 28 where it is mentioned that assistance is still required. In our view it is rightly stated that the campaign should continue and should pay more attention to the strengthening of national and regional plant protection services, the need for training in pesticide application techniques at all levels, and the need for large-scale testing of new pesticides.

We very much welcome FAO's initiatives and we hope to be able to cooperate with FAO in this field in the future, as well.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Mi país no tiene mucha experiencia en el control de langostas; no tiene este problema pero cree que puede aportar algunas ideas acerca de este tema.

En primer lugar, debo felicitar a la FAO porque además de los documentos que se nos han presentado, constantemente se nota el interés de nuestra Organización para realizar una acción positiva sobre el control de esta plaga en Africa. Asimismo, los países donantes a los que a algunos de ellos acabamos de escuchar, y que han demostrado su gran interés de ayudar al Africa en la lucha contra esta plaga.

Estoy de acuerdo con lo que ha manifestado el Sr. delegado de México así como el de Estados Unidos en cuanto a la necesidad que hay, en el control de estas plagas, de la oportunidad y la constancia que debe hacerse de estos controles, así como también en la acción global.

Yo tengo algunos ejemplos sucedidos en mi país; claro que no es el ejemplo de los saltamontes cuyo control es más difícil. En algunas comarcas de la Sierra peruana se presentó una plaga de ratas. El control que hacía el Ministerio de Agricultura se reducía a controles locales y las ratas se pasaban de una comarca a otra y, por consiguiente, nunca terminaban de controlarse. Hasta que un día todas estas comarcas se pusieron de acuerdo en hacer un control simultáneo un día específico, ese día que lo llamaremos el día "D", todos los campesinos de esa comarca aplicaron los raticidas y las ratas desaparecieron por lo menos por un tiempo largo. Es por eso, que considero interesantes las propuestas de México y Estados Unidos de que estos ataques sean globales y oportunos.

Yo creo que si hay suficientes recursos económicos, ésta debiera ser una de las formas de controlar la langosta. Estoy de acuerdo también con Australia sobre el problema de que el uso intensivo de plaguicidas pueden afectar el medio ambiente, haciéndose peligroso a los seres humanos y a los animales; y no solamente esto, sino que puede liquidar a enemigos naturales de la langosta.

Según tengo informaciones, la langosta como muchas plagas, también tienen enemigos naturales que pueden desarrollarse y después ser un control biológico, constituirse en un control gratuito para estas plagas.

Sobre este aspecto, me permitiré sugerir que la FAO, su departamento de Investigación, pudiera ver la posibilidad de encontrar estos enemigos naturales de las langostas en algunos lugares del mundo donde existen langostas en situaciones que no ofrecen peligro, estudiarlos en laboratorio y propagarlos.

Quisiera contar un caso que sucedió en mi país, que podría servir de ejemplo. En Estados Unidos, en Luisiana creo, se presentaba La plaga del barrenado de la caña producido por un insecto. Pero resultó que en el Perú, los investigadores americanos descubrieron que esto se debía a que el barrenado en el Perú tenía un enemigo natural, una avispa. El Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos envió a sus investigadores que criaron en laboratorio miles, millones de huevos de esta avispa y la trasladaron a Luisiana, y realizaron un control biológico sin necesidad de plaguicidas.

Esto puede constituir, especulando un poco, pero basados en cierta experiencia un ejemplo que los investigadores descubran estos enemigos naturales de las langostas y puedan desarrollarlos. La ciencia es capaz de todo. Me permito lanzar esta propuesta aventurada quizás, pero que puede dar resultados positivos en la lucha contra la langosta.

Estoy también de acuerdo con las delegaciones de Túnez y de Australia de crear un Comité Especial para África contra la Langosta. Esto sería muy útil. Así como hace pocos días, en el Consejo se ha propuesto la creación de un Comité de Ganadería para América Latina y el Caribe, ¿por qué no puede existir un Comité de Lucha contra la Langosta para África?, que creo que sería efectivo, que podría unir a países donantes y países que sufren esta plaga, y sobre todo, tener técnicos de alta calidad, entomólogos que además no sólo combatan la plaga sino hagan investigaciones sobre un posible control biológico.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the distinguished delegate of Peru. I am sure that other delegates will have heard with as much interest as I did about experience in rodent control. We are happy to note that Peru has been able to kill most of the rats, although I am sure that if rats were able to fly like grasshoppers the problem possibly would have been more difficult.

Lutf AL-ANSY (Yemen Arab Republic) (original language Arabic): I should like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this Commission and also for the way in which you have organized our work. I should also like to thank the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the documents supplied to us.

I would like to join my voice to those of the delegates who have preceded me as to the desirability of outlining the steps to be taken against the desert locust and grasshopper, the proper use of insecticides, the exchange of information and experience, and the desirability of training supervisory staff in this field.

On behalf of my delegation I should like to reaffirm the desirability of coordinating activities between countries which are threatened by desert locusts and grasshoppers and the global action. I should also like to stress the importance of the role of FAO in this field.

I should also like to mention the necessity of undertaking a very intensive campaign in the traditionally infested regions so as to avoid an endemic problem, because it is a danger which constantly threatens agricultural production.

Our country is sometimes confronted with swarms of desert locusts and grasshoppers which come from neighbouring regions, and which of course leads to considerable difficulties, financial difficulties which we could well do without. Also the damage is enormous in terms of destroyed agricultural output, and the losses are very important indeed for the farmers. We have farmers who do not have enough food at their disposal.

Hans RAMEL (Sweden): My delegation wants to thank Dr Brader for the interesting information we have been given about the campaign against locusts and grasshoppers. I can assure you that we are very much aware of the great problems that face the affected countries. We congratulate FAO on its very fast and efficient action when Sweden was one of the donors. We want to underline the need for continuous control of development. We think that the natural services for plant protection must be built in the different countries, and that cooperation between the countries must be even more lively than before.

We want to recommend more intensive research aimed at finding insecticides and methods which are both more efficient and less dangerous to the environment.

Mabayo SANGHANTA (Mali): Permettez-moi de m'associer aux autres délégués qui m'ont précédé pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la Présidence de notre commission et de la manière dont vous dirigez nos débats. Je voudrais également remercier et féliciter le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité des documents qui sont soumis à notre analyse.

Si nous n'avons pas cru devoir intervenir sur les premiers points de notre ordre du jour, c'est parce que nous avons estimé que les points essentiels qui nous préoccupaient à l'heure actuelle concernant le sujet, ont été suffisamment mis en exergue et que les premiers intervenants ont souligné les problèmes ayant retenu notre attention notamment la question de la dette africaine, de la commercialisation et des débouchés et de l'avènement d'un nouvel ordre économique entre autres.

Dans les documents C 87/2 paragraphe 58, il est dit que sept pays d'Afrique dont le Mali avaient des excédents exportables de céréales secondaires sur la récolte de 1985-86. Si ceci a été rendu possible et ce malgré une attaque acridienne sans précédent dans mon pays, c'est surtout grâce à une intervention concertée et diligente de la Communauté internationale et des autorités de mon pays, action coordonnée par la FAO. Nous saisissons donc cette occasion solennelle pour exprimer notre profonde reconnaissance à tous les bailleurs de fonds et à tous les organismes qui nous ont apporté aide et assistance dans les domaines de la protection des végétaux.

J'ai l'honneur également de porter à votre connaissance que face à cette situation mon pays vient d'ériger un Service National de Protection des Végétaux. Nous voudrions cependant attirer l'attention de notre forum sur le fait que l'organisme de lutte contre les criquets, l'OCLALAV, traverse actuellement une période critique de son existence et en conséquence, nous lançons un cri d'alarme pour que cet organisme soit soutenu afin de pouvoir faire face à sa mission dont l'importance et l'enjeu ont été suffisamment soulignés par les délégués qui m'ont précédé.

Adama SY (Mauritanie): Permettez à la Mauritanie de s'associer à tous ceux qui vous ont félicité pour votre nomination à la tête de cette commission, mais également de féliciter la FAO pour les actions décisives qu'elle a entreprises en ce qui concerne les problèmes qui nous préoccupent.

La FAO nous a fait part d'une situation alarmante à plus d'un titre dans la mesure où, si nos espoirs jusqu'à présent étaient maintenus pour ce qui est de la production soutenue et croissante, il se peut très bien qu'ils soient anihilés par ces calamités qui ne sont plus à identifier.

Comme la FAO l'a fait remarquer, la situation en ce moment est extrêmement grave dans la région ouest-africaine et principalement dans les pays tels que la Mauritanie et le Niger. Mais encore faut-il ajouter les invasions qui ont été observées en Afrique du Nord et tout ceci nous conduit à dire qu'il faudrait une solution immédiate à ce problème.

La Mauritanie, par notre voix, remercie sincèrement tous les pays et organismes qui jusqu'à présent ont déployé une volonté commune pour aider ces pays face à cette situation et renouvelle également ces félicitations à la FAO qui ne cesse de mobiliser l'opinion internationale.

Les délégations qui nous ont précédés ont suffisamment souligné la gravité du problème actuel qui se pose au niveau de ce cas bien précis et l'on ne saurait oublier tous ces paysans qui par delà des diversités, les différences, les contraintes s'efforcent quotidiennement de rechercher une production de qualité.

Masuhla Humphrey LETEKA (Lesotho): Much has already been said on the subject but it is the wish of my delegation to make a few positive remarks on the subject. First, allow me to thank Dr Brader for his introduction of the document before us. At the same time we wish to congratulate the Secretariat for its preparation of this high-quality report.

Lesotho has not as yet suffered any serious outbreak of locusts and grasshoppers, but it takes seriously into account the possibility of this threat, considering that our neighbours in Southern Africa have in the recent past experienced the attack.

At the same time we are faced with the threat of the Karroo Desert in South Africa encroaching into the southern parts of Lesotho. The swarms of 1985/86 from the Darroo reached the Orange Free State, a province in RSA which is nearest to Lesotho. As it was, we were lucky that the problem was arrested before it could reach Lesotho.

In this regard we strongly appeal to FAO for its technical assistance in policy formulation and the drawing of contingency plans to counter any possible outbreak in Lesotho.

Secondly, my delegation would also like to take this opportunity to support the delegate of Zambia on his proposal for possible budget increases on the TCP for emergency purposes. TCP is very important to us, not only with regard to these menacing pests, but also for other emergencies of a natural character.

We should like to commend the donor countries, international organizations and NGO's for their tireless efforts for giving the necessary assistance in times of need to affected countries. FAO 's role in this regard cannot be over-emphasized. The establishment of the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa, and the creation of other emergency centres for locust operations in other areas, will go a long way to curbing the adverse effects which can be caused by these pests on global food security.

Finally, my delegation wishes to endorse the conclusions drawn by the Document on the need for the strengthening of national and regional plant protection services, the need for training in pesticides application techniques at all levels and the need for large-scale testing of new pesticides within the context of the needs of countries affected. These measures would certainly help control the spread of these swarms on a more sustainable basis.

L. BRADER (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division): I would certainly like to thank all the delegates for their strong interest shown in this matter, which I would almost say is in prolongation of the effective and strong cooperation we have had with everybody concerned in this campaign, the countries affected and the donor community. We certainly welcome your critique; I think it will help us in improving the work. We also accept your praise because we see it as a signal that we are on the right track in trying to control the locusts and the grasshoppers in the various countries.

I should like to make some general comments which would more or less summarize a number of the questions or remarks that have been made. First, let me say that we have put before you document C 87/22 with the purpose of giving you some of the practical aspects of the campaigns which everybody has undertaken. We did not intend to show that everything was right, but we wanted to have a rather pragmatic look at the matter, particularly to see what lessons could be learned from it. In that sense, it may have disappointed some people that we were quite critical of certain activities. Various comments have been made that there should be more working groups, more studies etc. In this working document we have listed the number of meetings that we have held. In this whole activity we - when I say "we" I really mean the donors, the countries concerned and FAO -have continuously consulted with the technicians, with those who had knowledge of the matter and who could assist in the effective implementation of the various activities.

In fact, we have even had in the last two days further expert meetings to appraise the current desert locust situation and draw up action plans in order to put them forward to the countries and to the donor community. I can assure those that have expressed concern about these expert meetings that we shall hold them as and when needed. I think that if one thing was easy in the last two years it was that everybody was quite willing to collaborate on this matter and that sometimes, at two weeks' notice, we could bring the experts in order to discuss matters or even provide direct assistance.

There has also been quite a discussion and quite a number of remarks about the further establishment of global commissions, regional commissions, in order better to coordinate the work. I must be careful what I say. I am tempted to say that may be there are too many committees and that is why sometimes there were difficulties in coordination. But one should not take that remark too seriously.

I want to remind the Commission that there is a Desert Locust Control Commission, which is an overall commission looking at desert locusts and other locust problems. It is an FAO Commission. Under this commission there are various regional bodies, regional FAO commissions or regional control organizations and, as it stands now, these structures and commissions cover the whole of Africa and Asia as far as locust problems are concerned, and we are continuously working closely with them.

We have also heard remarks that the regional organizations were not always capable of doing their work. I can inform the Commission that we are closely cooperating with the three existing regional organizations in Africa, to evaluate their structures, to analyse what best form they should have in order to provide the most effective assistance to the countries, and to ensure that the necessary collaborative action is taken with respect to those pests which are typical of a regional or even African inter-regional nature. The task is not easy. Each of these regional bodies, be it OCLALAV, DLCOEA or the International Red Locust Control Organization, encounters financial difficulties and it is against that background that we try to develop the most pragmatic approach, which ensures that the work is done at the field level with the necessary regional coordination.

We have already noted in the report that we are also very strongly emphasizing and developing plans - outline proposals are available and will be published soon - on strengthening national structures. There is no doubt, as has been clearly proved in the past, that the regional organizations on their own cannot carry out their work when there are not national structures which can effectively interact with these regional bodies. We have thus prepared plans for medium-term action which we hope soon to submit to donors. Incidentally, in that respect, and also with respect to the earlier remarks I made, we shall have another evaluation meeting-of the campaign in the Sahel in the second week of December. We shall probably have to extend the discussion at that meeting to cover the desert locust situation.

The problem of pesticides is a major concern. I should like to stress at the outset that I consider that FAO can be proud of its record with respect to promoting the safe and effective use of pesticides and paying particular concern to environmental problems. The examples of this work are there. I need only refer to the total work on the Codex Alimentarius, the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and the pioneering work that FAO has undertaken on integrated pest management and biological control. With respect to the environmental impact of work on the control of locusts, for about a ten-year period from 1965-1975 we carried out a whole series of experiments particularly to evaluate the potential environmental impact of the chemicals used for control of these insects. We only to happy to report that the environmental impact was extremely limited and certainly did not warrant the use of other chemicals to control these locusts. Nevertheless, in view of the overall decisions taken by other countries on banning certain of these pesticides, we have moved to others, and I discussed this matter, which causes us some concern, in my introduction. As technicians, we are not sure the environmental problems that we are creating now by replacing those former pesticides by new ones are not worse that they were before and that the work cannot be done effectively.

I should also like to emphasize that we continuously seek new pesticides with particularly in mind that we need safer ones, ones that are less damaging to the environment, and that in addition in this campaign donors have provided considerable assistance in the provision of protective clothing in order to avoid any incidents with the use of these pesticides. The reports we have received are favourable. We have not received any report of human intoxication. We may see some minimal effect on the environment, but I think that everybody who is familiar with pest control will know that it is impossible to avoid any effect, but this information that we have collected will further serve to improve the methodology in order to try to reduce further these potential impacts.

I should also like to inform the Commission that the current campaign we are undertaking is continuously monitored with respect to the potential effects on the environment, and the lessons learned from that will be put into practice.

Some remarks were made on wide-scale control. I should like to say very strongly here that in our approach to these activities, be it grasshoppers or desert locusts, we advocate the use of small planes, limited control, just in those areas which are under threat, and that we are in principle against widespread application of pesticides. To give one example, if we had tried to eradicate in total the grasshoppers in the Sahel area, we should probably have sprayed 200 millions hectares. That would be impossible from a logistic point of view. I think we would then really have environmental problems, and it would be completely unjustified. That was also the reason why we have not even attempted to eliminate these grasshoppers, because they were not there all the time and did not pose a continuous threat to agricultural land.

I will quickly round up some specific comments that were made. I think I have already dealt with most of them. Swaziland insisted on training. I am happy to inform them that next week a regional training course will be starting in Kenya for eastern and southern Africa on safe application of pesticides for the control of locusts and birds and involving further testing of the most appropriate equipment.

With respect to Nicaragua and the problems in Central America, a regional technical cooperation programme has been prepared to face the current problem. This has been done jointly with the regional organization OIRSA. We are waiting for the approval of the various countries concerned to put that project into motion.

I think I addressed in my introduction the question of the cost of the campaign. The delegate of Yugoslavia remarked that it was started too late and it was too costly. In addition to what I said in my introduction on planning and whether it should be at an early or late stage, we drew the conclusion that a late stage would be probably more cost effective. Let me remind the Commission that the cost of the campaigns in the Sahel of this year and last year were about the same. They were each about \$ 30 million. Last year we sprayed 3.5 million hectares and this year 800 000 hectares. Although we were all very proud that we had prepared it well, at the end that early preparedness was certainly not more cost-effective than the hoc arrangements we made last year, and there we were also successful in controlling the grasshoppers.

The UK delegate made a number of remarks on the regional organizations and on strengthening the infrastructures. I "address that in my general comments. We fully agree with him that we are concerned about the West African situation with respect to the regional capability of addressing the problems. That also covers the question raised by Burkina Faso with respect to OCLALAV. We have taken good notice of the tree locust in Sudan. We know this insect. It is a typical problem that has to be dealt with locally and we hope that, through the new project, the locust control capability of Sudan will be strengthened in the coming three to five years and that this problem can be properly addressed.

The matter of information exchange was highlighted and emphasized. We have done a lot during this campaign to improve communications through the provision of equipment, radios, etc. the sending of consultants to help the people properly to use this equipment, and we are currently also analysing, with the help of consultants, how we can strengthen our own system. We have already invited a consultant for that. Further work will be done with the help of consultants in the coming months in order better to service from the FAO side the whole community with respect to information needed.

I think I addressed Norway's question with respect to environmental pesticides. The German Federal Republic specifically made a remark on paragraphs 12 a) and b). I agree with him, and I must admit that when I read the report again after it was printed I was almost tempted to put forward an erratum. I feel that as it stands it is almost a contradiction. In paragraph 12 b) there should be a full stop after "grasshopper population levels". The end of the sentence should be dropped because it is not correct.

The American delegate addressed the need for better monitoring and communications networks. I have addressed that in general terms.

The delegate of Peru brought up the question of biological control. We are very interested in the matter. We have done a lot on it with respect to other pest problems. As I said earlier, we are very proud of the fact that we have had some very successful projects. We are well aware of the success in Peru, which has been an inspiration to do work elsewhere. The delegate referred to the works with trichogramma, which is now used in many other countries on cotton and other pests, but all the researches we have undertaken so far in order to have effective biological control of grasshoppers and locusts have failed to the extent that they have not led us to a quick, practical and effective solution to face the problem when there is an upsurge, when there are large populations. I regret to say that in that case we have to fall back on pesticides, and, as I said earlier, every attempt is currently being made to test new pesticides that are safer to humans, to the applicators and to the environment. We hope in that respect further to improve the work.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director General, Agriculture Department): I would like to make only three remarks. First of all, on behalf of FAO I would like to thank not only those who spoke here today but especially who during the last two years and who hopefully and perhaps unfortunately also in the future will share the resources with the countries who are affected; the human resources, the financial resources and the experience. Those who have talked today with some experience from the other regions will, I think, be very welcome to cooperate closely with FAO and other donors in trying to fight the new emergency in Africa.

My second point is that the Secretariat will follow up matters with a number of delegations who have raised individual points which need some follow-up. We shall be only too happy to discuss some of the interesting points which have been made this afternoon.

My third point is a request to the Chairman please not to close the discussion because there is the outstanding issue of the proposal for a resolution which we would like to discuss with the Tunisian delegation first. If you will permit it, we would like to come back tomorrow morning after some discussion on this resolution and report to you, Mr Chairman, and to Commission I on the results of the discussion with the Tunisian delegation.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Bonte-Friedheim. The only outstanding issue from the procedural point of view is the resolution to which reference has been made by the delegate of Tunisia.

If delegates will wait for a few minutes, we shall be clear. My suggestion would be that we leave that portion open because even if a resolution is to be tabled, there are a number of procedural steps through which it has to go before it comes before us formally for consideration.

Since all the delegates who wished to speak on the subject have already spoken, with the Commission's permission I shall sum up the discussion, leaving open only the resolution aspect.

We have had 32 participants in all, it was a mix of the donor countries and also the countries which have actually fought the locusts and the grasshoppers, and a few others who have had experience in related and connected areas, though not directly connected with grasshoppers and locusts.

The discussion generally agreed with the consensus that the work done by the FAO and with the help of the FAO in the affected areas and different nations, mainly in Africa, has won general acclaim. The discussion has also been critical and there was a feeling that the results achieved are noted with approval and with critical acclaim.

While taking note of the activities which have been launched and the results which have been achieved, there was a feeling that in certain areas there is scope for improving the general performance in tackling the grasshopper and locust menace. These areas cover firstly the wide variations which seem to be occurring now in terms of the costs of spraying and also in terms of the cost-benefit analysis, granted that the data about the crops saved and their value is not subject to verification.

Secondly, there was a feeling that there is scope for planning a better mix of the spraying methodology. This could be in terms of a plane versus a helicopter, a large plane or a small plane, or airborne spraying versus land-based operations.

The third area was that there is scope for planning a better mix of pesticides to take care of the environmental aspects and also to ensure that the spraying operations are timed in a better manner before the crops are harvested and are carried out more effectively.

There is clearly recognition in the discussions that there is a need for strengthening the role and operations of the FAO in locust control and in donor liaison, in training of staff, in technical backstopping, in terms of the coordination of information exchange, surveillance data and the training of field operators, and also of monitoring their effectiveness and evaluation. Along with those there is the concomitant requirement for technical staff and support personnel.

Lastly, the discussion has brought into focus and emphasized the need for strengthening the national and the regional organizations, as specified, in an agreed time frame, so that the lead time for eliciting a response from this mission to an emergency which arises at very short notice, and also for ensuring the timely and effective tackling of the pest menace could be improved over a period of time.

With your permission, I shall conclude the discussion for this evening at this stage with the caveat that depending on what happens to the draft resolution which the delegate from Tunisia wanted to table, we may revert to this subject if the need arises. Subject to these observations we shall be meeting tomorrow at 9.30. We are running slightly ahead of time. We shall be breaking at 10.30 to go to the Papal Audience. My solution, therefore, would be that if delegates could make sure that the quorum is established at 9.30, we could possibly have the introduction and initial discussion on item 6.3, the World Food Day. Depending on how lengthy the discussion on the World Food Day turns out to be, hopefully tomorrow afternoon we could take up for consideration item 7, Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind. We would request the Secretariat to keep that eventuality in sight so that if the discussion on agenda item 6.3 comes to an early conclusion, we can straight away go to agenda item 7.

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours

La seance est levée à 17 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.35 horas

conference

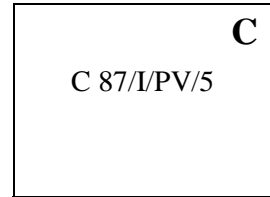
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24° período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTH MEETING
CINQUIEME SEANCE
QUINTA SESION

(13 November 1987)

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours,
C. S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 9 h 45
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta sesión a las 09.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.2 Progress of the Campaign against Locusts and Grasshoppers (cont'd)
- 6.2 Etat d'avancement de la campagne antiacridienne (suite)
- 6.2 Progresos de la campana contra langostas y saltamontes ('continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The fifth session of Commission I is called to order. Yesterday when we concluded I mentioned that the delegate from Tunisia had indicated his intention to move a resolution. This was discussed in detail with the delegate from Tunisia, and agreement has now been reached that the Tunisian delegation will not press for a formal resolution but will insist on a strong mention of the need for strengthening the grasshopper and locust control operations in the resolution to be passed by the Commission. This suggestion has been accepted. The matter will be referred to the Drafting Committee.

Malek BEN SALAH (Tunisie): C'est juste une précision: il s'agit de lutte contre le criquet et les sauteriaux, mais essentiellement le criquet pèlerin, parce que vous avez dit "contre les sauteriaux".

Jalaladdin HABIBI (Iran, Islamic Republic of) In the name of God, the Beneficent and the Merciful.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran and myself I would like to express my sincere desire for the proper success of this Commission. I would also like to express my thanks and gratitude to the Secretariat for the preparation and presentation of the valuable document C 87/22.

With regard to the subject of locusts, since it can be a hazardous pest in most of the regions of the world and sometimes can create havoc, it is worth paying more attention to finding solutions for combating it. If the information concerning the situation of this pest in each country were released that would be of great help in controlling disastrous damage well in advance, particularly in cases where the pest appears in a gregarious form.

I should like to explain very briefly about the situation and the economic importance of locusts in Iran.

Locusts in their various native and non-native species have a special place among the insects present in Iran. The very rich flora, different climatic conditions, a long history of cultivation activities, and desert conditions in parts of the country all have joined hands to foster the release and bustle of the locusts at a vast level in Iran. The damage by locusts in Iran is mainly economic in nature and thus every year the scourge by the locusts is being fought over a surface of 100 000 hectares.

The locusts existing in Iranian fauna bear varied economic significance. Their number over the past years has not been the same. Species which in the past had no significance were transformed gradually into economic pests under the influence of various factors. Below some of the important types of these species are described.

Shistocerca gregaria (desert locust): One of the most dangerous migratory locusts, having short antenna, belonging to the family Acrididae, having dangerous presence over 20 percent of the earth's surface, i.e. 28 million Km every year. Its dangers have been noted since early historical times in the vast areas of Africa and the Middle East and it still remains one of the most serious agricultural problems of this region. The locust is omnivorous, winged, voracious and each of them feeds on an amount equal to its weight every day. Thus the havoc caused through the feeding of millions of locusts could assume catastrophic proportions. Although this pest is not of the native type, every few years the southern parts of Iran come under invasion. In July and early August of this year this locust was observed in a relatively aggressive mood in the southeast provinces (Sistan-Baluchistan) where control action was taken over a surface of 4 000 hectares.

Continuous vigilance is being undertaken in the southern parts of the country to inform in advance of the invasion of these locusts so that the measures for fighting them are set up. Apart from this, the importance of establishing contacts and co-ordinating with the relevant international centres is being recognized. The fight against these locusts is chemical in nature. The best method of fighting them is the prevention of the emergence of swarms and the fight against the young locusts. In the fight against desert locusts observance of an economic threshold is not necessary and the fight must be carried out on all the existing swarms so that fresh ones are not created. Also bigger swarms should be fought first. The important factor of the fight against locusts is the creation of a well-planned organization that has enough facilities and necessary information on the locust situation. The method adopted in our country is to a large extent co-ordinated with those in other parts of the world. Dust spraying has no application because of its operational problems. The best means of fighting is the exhaust system. The pesticides used in this method are the persistent chlorinated insecticides such as dieldrin (15-20) percent, which is now being replaced due to its persisting and polluting characteristics.

Dociostaurus maroccanus. This locust is also from the family Acrididae. It is found in almost all parts of Iran and bears grave economic significance, and we have to control them in breeding areas by chemical means.

If this action is not taken on time, agricultural production and pastures would be badly damaged through the feeding of these locusts. Wheat, barley, maize, citrus, dates, fruit and olive trees, forage crops, vegetables, cotton, and vineyards are attacked by this locust.

The other species of this locust are Dociostaurus crossinsculus (found in the northern regions : Gorgan, Moghan; damages barley, wheat, alfalfa and pastures) and Dociostaurus hauensteini (also present in the northern regions; attacks cereals and forage plants).

Calliptamus italicus. This is another important locust which is found in most provinces. This locust is a pest of vegetables and summer crops, and if it becomes aggressive it could cause damage to grains and forage crops. The fight against these locusts is carried out over a vast area. In 1975, hordes of these locusts were observed in the central regions of the country (Qazvin). Investigations show that destruction and the farming activities taking place on dry farms in recent years have led to an annual increase in the population of these locusts, and the changes in the ecosystems have been the reason for the transformation of these locusts from the solitary phase to the migratory phase.

Another species is Calliptamus barbarus. This locust resembles Calliptamus italicus. It is found in the northern regions of the country (Mazandaran, Azarbaijan) normally living in grasslands. Their colour is grey and they are more resistant to dry conditions than Calliptamus italicus. They live mainly in the area with Poa bulbosa and Salsola vegetation, and they are omnivorous. They have an affinity for the Artemisia plant and attack crops such as wheat, corn, barley, millet, alfalfa, and fruit trees such as apple, almond and quince.

Locusta migratoria. This locust is found in the sugarcane plantations in Khuzestan, the southern part of the country. They are generally large and they emerge in two distinct phases, individual and collective, and they are active in hot and semi-hot areas. The area infested by these locusts is the largest amongst the Acrididae family. They mainly prefer the humid areas and banks of swamps and feed mainly from the Graminae family. If they are not fought in time, the damage will increase. The plants coming under their scourge other than sugarcane, are sorghum, millet, cotton, watermelon and weeds.

Genus sphingonotus, sub-family oedipodinae, family Acrididae, with two species, Sphingonotus satrapes and Sphingonotus savignig. They are active in the south of Khorassan province and due to their migratory nature, undertake collective flights. They were reported about 30 years ago, but their aggressive mood in Iran and other countries has not been reported. Thus, the study of these locusts would be important. External characteristics: reddish-grey body with dark spots. They fly over dry and desert regions and attack forest trees such as Halozylon and lay their eggs in arid and remote areas. This locust reproduces every year and the adults emerge in the summertime. The reason for the aggressive mood of these locusts, apart from the existence of favourable climatic conditions, is the agricultural activities that cause changes in the environment. Apart from Iran, these locusts have been reported in Iraq, Afghanistan, Soviet Union and Kuwait.

Genus Dericorys, family Acrididae : there are two species, Dericorys annulata and Dericorys albidula. These locusts are present in desert areas of sparse grassland in the north and south-east of the country (Khorassan, Kerman and the central provinces), where the vegetation is comprised of plants such as Tamaris and Alhagi and bushes such as Haloxylon and Salsola. Apart from Iran these locusts have been reported in Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Somalia, northern Yemen, Kuwait, Oman, Afghanistan, southern Soviet Union; They reproduce every year. Hatching takes place in the beginning of spring with five immature stages.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Iran for the detailed account of the situation in Iran regarding the various types of locust, their distribution, habitat and life cycles. You are the twenty-third speaker from the floor on the subject.

As mentioned, in view of the agreement reached on the proposal by the delegate from Tunisia I will now close the discussion on Agenda item 6.2, which is "Progress of the Campaign Against Locusts and Grasshoppers".

We now come to agenda item 6.3, namely World Food Day.

6.3 World Food Day

6.3 Journée Mondiale de l'alimentation

6.3 Día Mundial de la Alimentación

The subject is before us for an in-depth review of the effective use of World Food Day and its achievements, what new ideas there should be and the approaches we should adopt.

I would now request Mr. Moreno, Acting Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Policy Department, to introduce the subject.

R. MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): El Consejo de la FAO, en su 91° período de sesiones, aprobó que se introdujera el Día Mundial de la Alimentación como un punto a ser tratado durante la actual Conferencia de nuestra Organización. Cumpliendo dicho mandato, la Secretaría ha preparado el documento C 87/29, titulado "Evaluación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación (1981-1987)", a fin de orientar la discusión del tema que ahora nos ocupa.

El 16 de Octubre recién pasado, se realizó en todo el mundo la séptima celebración del' Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Como es de vuestro conocimiento, el tema en torno al cual se organizaron actividades alusivas en más de 140 países miembros de la FAO fue el tema de "Los pequeños agricultores"

Este tema propuesto por el Director General de la FAO recibió la inmediata respuesta favorable de parte de la inmensa mayoría de los Gobiernos aquí representados, que adoptaron medidas para celebrar este Día a través de una cantidad de eventos que tuvieron por objeto destacar, premiar y reconocer los esfuerzos realizados por los pequeños agricultores en todas las regiones para producir los alimentos que diariamente consumimos.

Es un sentimiento extendido en todas las regiones en desarrollo que los pequeños agricultores -hombres y mujeres; propietarios o arrendatarios de pequeñas tierras; aparceros o simples asalariados agrícolas- representan el símbolo de la pobreza en el Tercer Mundo. Son ellos quienes paradójicamente dan una contribución muy significativa a la producción mundial de alimentos, y quienes a cambio de su esfuerzo reciben una retribución económica escasamente suficiente para asegurar su propia sub-sistencia. De allí, entonces, que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación quiso transformarse en una oportunidad única y valiosa para llamar la atención de Gobiernos, de organismos no gubernamentales y de la opinión pública en general sobre la situación que enfrentan los pequeños agricultores.

Es interesante hacer notar el nivel alcanzado este año en la celebración de este Día en los diversos países. En naciones tan diversas como México, Somalia, Panamá, Filipinas, República Dominicana, Uganda, Indonesia, República Centroafricana y Pakistán, los actos centrales del Día Mundial de la Alimentación fueron encabezados por los Presidentes o los Primeros Ministros de dichos países. Los Ministros de Agricultura de la inmensa mayoría de los países miembros de la FAO jugaron un papel de primera importancia en la organización de los eventos realizados este año. El contenido cada vez más sustantivo, más orientado hacia la acción y hacia la educación de vastos sectores de población, es una tendencia positiva que se ha puesto en particular evidencia en el curso del presente año.

A este notable esfuerzo realizado por parte de los Gobiernos, se ha asociado también un número muy significativo de organizaciones no gubernamentales, organismos religiosos, universidades y escuelas, partidos políticos y movimientos de opinión, intelectuales y artistas, medios de comunicación televisivos, orales y escritos, y simples individuos, quienes han unido sus voces y sus fuerzas en este empeño internacional por otorgar a los campesinos pobres de todo el mundo la dignidad que se merecen y por fortalecer la acción solidaria de toda la comunidad internacional para ayudar a poner fin al problema del hambre en el mundo. Según la información que hasta ahora hemos recibido, lo realizado en países como los Estados Unidos de Norteamérica, Canadá, Perú, Laos, Arabia Saudita, Togo, Brasil, Italia, Portugal, Sri Lanka, Comoras y República Federal de Alemania, para mencionar sólo unos pocos, es altamente indicativo del salto de calidad dado en 1987 por esta celebración en todo el mundo.

En realidad, muchos son los ejemplos que en estos momentos se podrían mencionar de importantes actividades concretas que fueron desarrolladas este año a nivel nacional. Estoy consciente de que la mención de algunos ejemplos comportaban siempre la injusticia de no mencionar algunos otros que pueden haber sido tan valiosos y significativos como los mencionados. Precisamente para evitar caer en omisiones lamentables es por lo que no deseo detenerme, en esta introducción, en lo que se ha hecho este año para conmemorar en todos los países miembros de la FAO el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Nos basta por ahora concluir que estas actividades no se reducen a un solo día al año, sino que tienden a realizarse durante todo el mes de octubre, e incluso hay países donde se llevan a cabo a lo largo de todo el año eventos alusivos al Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Por este motivo, señor Presidente, señoras y señores delegados, quisiera solicitar que en la discusión que se proseguirá a esta introducción, más que referirse a lo realizado este año en vuestros países pongan ustedes el acento en los desafíos que tenemos por delante. Les pido que miremos hacia el futuro con la tranquilidad que nos da saber que hoy, después de 7 años, estamos frente a una iniciativa que ya se ha consolidado en la inmensa mayoría de los países miembros, pero en la cual todos los objetivos por los que fue instituida siguen siendo válidos. Parte importante del documento que ustedes tienen ante sí está destinada a analizar las perspectivas futuras del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Para la FAO constituyen, un motivo de justo orgullo las grandes realizaciones logradas por ustedes a nivel nacional, pero sigue constituyendo, al mismo tiempo, un motivo de preocupación la gravedad de los problemas del hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza que afectan a más de 500 millones de habitantes en todo el mundo.

Y es precisamente porque no queremos descansar en los éxitos acumulados en estos años, que planteamos a la reflexión de la comunidad internacional los componentes básicos de los que creemos debe ser la evolución futura del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. El objetivo final de esta iniciativa es lograr el progreso integral del ser humano y el reconocimiento de todos sus derechos a través de conceptos que tienen un alto contenido ético como son la justicia, la paz, la lealtad, la confianza, y la solidaridad necesaria entre todos los miembros del género humano.

Esta definición moral del objetivo final del Día Mundial de la Alimentación es la que nos permite seguir avanzando en la internacionalización de este Día en todos los países. El hecho de que sea celebrado simultáneamente en más de 140 países no significa que se trate de más de 140 reflexiones separadas e independientes sobre los respectivos problemas nacionales de desarrollo.

Solo a través de la colaboración estrecha entre todos quienes pueden contribuir al logro de este objetivo seguirá creciendo cada año el impacto internacional del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. La experiencia enseña que la gravedad de los problemas alimentarios exige una acción constante todos los días del año y que, por consiguiente, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación no puede considerarse como una fiesta de un día al año en el que simplemente se recuerda un aniversario. El DMA -es cierto-coincide con el aniversario de nuestra Organización, de cuyas realizaciones todos estamos orgullosos. Pero así como los esfuerzos de la FAO en la lucha contra el hambre no se detienen en ningún momento del año, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación debe hacer hincapié en la continuidad de la acción a través de actividades substantivas y de largo plazo llevadas a la práctica en la totalidad de los países miembros, con este objetivo.

En el documento sometido a vuestra consideración se plantean diversas propuestas relativas a las actividades a nivel nacional, regional e internacional que es necesario seguir desarrollando en los próximos años para poder cumplir con el objetivo final de eliminar el hambre de la faz de la tierra. Me referiré sólo a algunas propuestas que me parecen las más importantes en el documento:

- 1) Los Comités Nacionales del Día Mundial de la Alimentación deben ser estructuras permanentes que trabajen durante todo el año en cada nación.
- 2) Cada país debe producir, en la medida de sus posibilidades, sus propios materiales en los idiomas locales, orientándolos hacia grupos sociales específicos: estudiantes, consumidores, pequeños productores, jóvenes rurales, mujeres trabajadoras, etc.
- 3) Cada vez que sea posible, los Comités Gubernamentales del Día Mundial de la Alimentación deben incluir a las organizaciones no gubernamentales como parte integrante de todo el proceso de coordinación y adopción de decisiones.
- 4) Deberían organizarse reuniones regionales entre los responsables de las actividades nacionales del Día Nacional de la Alimentación o aprovechar otras reuniones que se realicen de este carácter, en las que se puede incluir el Día Mundial de la Alimentación como tema del programa para facilitar el intercambio de ideas y experiencias a nivel regional, de tal manera que permita, de tanto en tanto, alguna reunión internacional periódica que pudiera tener también efecto a fin de permitir una continua evaluación y planificación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación a través de este constante intercambio de información y de ideas.

Deseo terminar, señor Presidente, afirmando que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación ha demostrado ser un instrumento altamente valioso -a través de la información, la inspiración y la promoción de millones de personas- en la lucha por poner fin al hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza en nuestro planeta.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Mr Moreno for the detailed exposition you have given us on the concepts, and also the solutions, which should be considered by this Commission.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Mi delegación ha leído con sumo interés el documento que se nos ha hecho llegar y también ha escuchado muy atentamente las palabras del Asistente del Director General, Sr. Moreno.

Creemos que el documento está muy bien sintetizado en cuanto a las acciones realizadas y coincidimos plenamente con lo que sugiere el señor Moreno en el sentido de intensificar estas acciones de tal manera que tengan una mayor amplitud. Creemos, señor Presidente, que este Día Mundial de la Alimentación debe intensificarse en el mundo porque es muy importante crear un sentido de solidaridad humano en un mundo que, de por sí, es egoísta.

Las experiencias, Sr. Presidente, sobre estas campañas me recuerdan un acontecimiento personal. Yo nací en un pequeño pueblo de Los Andes y allí mis profesores nos enseñaron a amar el árbol y en la primavera celebrábamos su día. Ese día nos vestíamos de campesinos y hacíamos canciones, poesías y composiciones alusivas al árbol, así como obras de teatro, llegándose incluso a conceder premios. Esta campaña promovida por mis maestros prendió tanto, señor Presidente, que me agrada manifestar que todos los estudiantes que compartíamos en aquella época las aulas escolares llegamos a amar mucho al árbol, hasta tal extremo que recuerdo que una vez llegaron a la capital de la República noticias de que un alcalde estaba talando árboles en las bellas alamedas que había a fin de cubrirla con cemento, y en Lima nos levantamos todos los ex-alumnos de esa escuela - inclusive de todo el Departamento - a protestar e impedimos, en parte, que se talaran esos árboles, consiguiendo que esa alameda fuera intangible.

Cosas como estas se pueden hacer a nivel mundial para crear una conciencia, y felicito al Sr. Presidente porque éste sea el objetivo mundial de las organizaciones del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Me permito, Sr. Presidente, enviar un Proyecto de Resolución para que sea leído, el cual contiene más o menos las mismas ideas expuestas.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, the delegate of Peru. We recognize that you moved a resolution, which will go before the Resolutions Committee, and, before the formalities are completed, will come before the Commission.

Augustyn WOS (Poland): This is the first time the Polish delegation has taken the floor. We should like to join other delegates in expressing our pleasure in assuming your chairmanship of this important Commission. At the same time I should like to express the satisfaction of my delegation with the quality of the documents prepared by the Secretariat. In the discussion of later items on the agenda, especially 8, 9 and 10, I shall speak more about the documents prepared for this Conference, but now I shall be brief.

The Polish delegation shares the opinion on the useful role played by the World Food Day in disseminating problems of agricultural development, nutrition and rural issues all over the world, presented in the document so perfectly prepared by the Secretariat.

We support the suggested directions of activities and organizational assumptions, which help the NGOs, national FAO committees and regions to conduct their work.

We note in Poland the increasing interests of different professional organizations, scientific bodies, research centres, and mass media in spreading the ideas of agricultural development, of alleviating hunger and of promoting social and rural development. The Polish FAO Committee will do its best to implement the recommendations proposed in the document before us.

Yiadorn K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I should also like to congratulate the Assistant Director-General on the quality of the paper, and I wish to place on record my delegation's support for the objectives and ideals defined for the World Food Day programme. Members of my delegation, having been closely associated with the planning and grass roots implementation with the FAO World Food Day celebrations since 1983, cannot help but register our total endorsement of the objectives of the programme.

World Food Day, set up by the FAO Conference, is a day on which world food problems, hunger and malnutrition, are sharply brought to public awareness in order to develop a sense of national and international solidarity in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and to stimulate practical action towards the elimination of these scourges. Relevantly, the celebration also affords Member States of the FAO an excellent opportunity of knowing what the FAO stands for, what it is, what it has accomplished since its foundation, the dynamic policy directions initiated since 1976, and the challenges which the Organization faces in its resolve to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

Since its inception, the FAO has led a sustained frontal assault on hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty, working over the years towards raising the levels of nutrition and standards of living, improving efficiency in the production and distribution of food and agricultural products, improving conditions of rural population, and responding in a very responsible way to crisis situations, including locusts and grasshopper infestation, droughts and floods. During the past twelve years we have, no doubt, witnessed practical demonstrations of FAO's effectiveness in dealing with the practical problems of the farmer.

On World Food Day, Member States of FAO, through their national World Food Day committees, regional organizations, Ministries responsible for agriculture, NGOs, academic institutions, schools and colleges plan various activities, including special radio and TV programmes, film screenings, symposia, seminars and exhibitions to bring home to their citizens the importance of the occasion and thereby urge them to support the programmes of the FAO.

Ghana has over the years, in collaboration with the FAO Regional Office in Accra, been celebrating the occasion responsibly. There is always an ad hoc committee set up to mark the occasion in a manner befitting Ghana's status as Africa's regional headquarters of the FAO. Last year, for instance, emphasis throughout the celebration was on the role of "fishermen and fishing communities". Activities planned for the occasion, which were preceded by a nationally televised press conference, included a special "What do you know?" programme, a symposium, an exhibition, and a field trip to a typical fishing village on the Volta Lake where two self-help rural development projects were commissioned. This year the theme was "small farmers". One important activity added was the organization of a Farmers' Forum in a typical rural town that drew together about 70,000 small farmers.

Among themes that have been focused on in the past are "Forestry in Agriculture" and "Women in Agriculture". These were proposed because of the immense contribution these sectors make to the development of agriculture and which the world as a whole has failed to recognize or, at best, has given not enough attention to.

It is remarkable to observe that until two or three years ago the extent of women's contribution to food production was generally underestimated and certainly undervalued. Policy-makers always assumed that it was only men who did the cultivation or the catching, processing and marketing of fish, while women were concerned only with the household chores. In line with this thinking, development assistance was steered toward the male component of the target groups. It is of interest to note that since 1984 when the FAO chose "Women in Agriculture" as the theme for that year's World Food Day celebration, donor countries and organizations and governments have started to pay greater attention to the role and status of women in agriculture, among others. The same goes for "Forestry in Agriculture" which was the theme for the 1985 celebration. Likewise, it has turned attention to the development of forestry in agriculture and deforestation and afforestation.

These are very healthy developments, and the FAO efforts should be sustained. My delegation would recommend increased flow of resources to support the programme.

In conclusion, paragraph 6 of document C 87/29 makes reference to the objectives of the World Food Day as set out in paragraph 5 and concludes that of the six objectives mentioned the one which has been most thoroughly complied with is the first one, but I may add that, because of the importance which African governments, my country and the FAO Regional Office in Accra attach to the World Food Day programme, objectives (b), (c), (e) and (f) have been seriously accepted for implementation. For instance, activities of this year's World Food Day celebration in Ghana included a round table conference which brought together most of the English-speaking countries in Africa for a dialogue on the problems of small farmers.

Therefore, it is the contention of my delegation that all future activities for this programme should be supported and, if possible, there should be increased flow of resources to support the programme.

Moses Mike MUKOLWE (Kenya): Kenya has participated in the World Food Day celebration since 1981 and has also played host to the regional observance in the past for the African region. I am grateful to Mr. Moreno for his presentation and for the document before us, C 87/29, and all the information that has already been given.

I shall not go into details of the functioning of the National World Food Day Committee in Kenya, but would just emphasize here that we support the essence of going right to the grass roots, and that is the people, the target groups, that we need to involve and the wider dimension of groups that we need to involve in giving information on the gravity of the world food situation.

We have found, from our own experience, that the venues that are chosen at district level in the rural areas are the right place at which to launch our information regarding food. We have found that the visitors we invite and the local guests who normally come to those venues find it very informative. They rediscover what has been lost in the past - that is, the traditional food dishes. They also see the local storage, preservation and home management. Government departments also take the opportunity to show in a very small way how they operate, and this helps to induct the people into the information that we need to pass to them.

In Kenya we hold regular agricultural shows throughout the country. These shows are normally well attended, and we pass our information on to the public. This is also a very good forum for dissemination of information regarding food production and food problems.

We also feel very strongly that the involvement of the NGOs is part and parcel of our Organization. At the moment we have in Kenya the Kenya Freedom from Hunger Council for National Development which was started in 1964 and which has played a very significant role in mobilizing financial resources to support development in the rural areas. This particular organization works closely with us and it is an institution which we can strengthen, to be able to facilitate the flow of information to as many of the target groups as possible.

The document before us emphasizes the question of creation of new ideas. It also looks at the long-term involvement of the World Food Day as such and it helps, in Mr. Moreno's words, to give peace, loyalty and confidence to the small farmer which are so important. It qualifies the national philosophy in Kenya at the moment, namely "Nyayo", which means "peace, love and unity". I would imagine that if the world converged on this issue of peace, this would be the beginning.

The meeting rose at 10.30 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/6

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTH MEETING
SIXIEME SEANCE
SEXTA SESION

(13 November 1987)

Tre. Sixth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
C. S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

K. S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I should like to inform you that the General Committee has reported to the Plenary on nominations for the vice-chairmen for the Commissions, and I understand that the Plenary has cleared the nominations of the vice-chairmen of the Commissions. The Vice-Chairmen of Commission I are Mr S. G. Obimpeh of Ghana and Mr Diaz Yubero of Spain.

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)
- 6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)
- 6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)
- 6.3 World Food Day (continued)
- 6.3 Journée mondiale de l'alimentation (suite)
- 6.3 Día Mundial de la Alimentación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We resume discussion on agenda item 6.3. World Food Day. We have a list of 24 speakers and, therefore, it is essential that we should finish the discussion on this item today. We will possibly come back to this item briefly on Tuesday when the resolution that has been tabled by the delegate from Peru will have gone through the required procedures and be presented to us formally for consideration. I will request delegates, as the delegate from Kenya did this morning before we adjourned, to try to limit their interventions to five minutes at the most. If you can make them briefer, that will be all the more welcome.

Gerard A. M. VAN DER GRIND (Netherlands): Our delegation wishes to compliment the Secretariat of FAO for the overview of World Food Day presented in C 87/29. It is shown that in an increasing number of countries World Food Day is organized on 16 October, and that the range of activities is growing. This is an important way to give the world food problem the attention it requires worldwide.

It is stressed correctly in the document that the involvement of non-governmental organizations is needed in world food activities. This can open further possibilities for non-governmental organizations to play a role in initiating and carrying out the policy for rural development at the local level in developing countries. This would be in line with the conclusions of the WCARRD Conference in 1979.

In the document it is proposed to reinforce the international dimension of World Food Day. In this respect our delegation would like to suggest that representatives of rural organizations from developing countries be invited to participate in world food activities in industrialized countries. This could give more insight into the specific situation of nutrition in those countries. It could also lead to a strengthening of direct contacts between rural organizations from industrialized countries and the developing countries.

It is also of importance that the FAO gives a timely impression of the central theme for World Food Day in the following year. This is required to enable proper preparation of the world food activities on a national as well as local level. This is especially required if the activities as proposed in the document can be spread wider during the year and are not fixed only on 16 October.

Marc-André FREDETTE (Canada): We find the document C 87/29 to be a very good document, even perhaps an example in some ways of the type of documentation we seek in this institution. Not only is the document good in itself but the message is that review and reform need not be painful or frightening,

I shall quote from the document ' two remarks that were particularly striking to us. I am quoting from page 14 of the English text, last paragraph: "International coordination mechanisms should be strengthened ..." Later in the paragraph it is stated: "by increasing its effectiveness, FAO can make a greater contribution to global efforts towards achieving food security for all". We believe those statements to be true and to apply not only here but elsewhere at this Conference.

Fritz-Otto HAASE (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): World Food Day 1987 in the Federal Republic of Germany was the subject of a number of events and focused on 16 October with strong media participation on a central event in the historical Emperor's Hall of the town hall in Frankfurt, including the participation of the Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry.

Among the most important accompanying events we had a panel discussion, a scientific symposium and a comprehensive exhibition. All events concentrated intensively on the problems of the production and living conditions of small farmers.

In organizing World Food Day it was again clear to our mind that World Food Day, apart from aspects of agricultural producers, should also have a look into the state of nutrition of individual segments of the population and what seems to us particularly important is the nutritional situation of small children. In a number of developing countries particularly small children are given sufficient quantities of food, but that food often does not suffice to furnish them with the needed quality of nutrition. Nutritional shortages are found mainly in regions where tubers and roots are the staple foodstuffs. The capacity of a child's stomach is not sufficient when eating that type of food to absorb the quantity necessary for proper nutrition. The consequences of such a malnutrition are considerable and in the case of small children in particular it cannot be remedied in later life and causes damage forever. Such deficits in nutrition can be avoided if, as so often, this malnutrition is based on ignorance.

That is why we would suggest that at World Food Day 1988 the nutritional situation of small children be proclaimed the major theme, and by way of title we might suggest Feeding or Nutrition of the Child.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITTELLI ANNIBALDI (Italie): Je serai très brève car je n'ai pas grand-chose à ajouter au sujet du document rédigé par la FAO sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Je dirai même que si j'avais eu à le rédiger j'aurais écrit la même chose. Nous partageons entièrement ce que y est suggéré.

Je dois dire qu'en Italie nous avons créé l'année passée un Comité national permanent de la Journée mondiale, de l'alimentation qui travaille pendant toute l'année et poursuivra des initiatives déjà évoquées dans ce document.

Nous oeuvrons dans le sens de la sensibilisation au sein des écoles en organisant des séminaires.; c'est là pour nous un but essentiel. En effet, dans notre esprit, le premier pas consiste à aller vers les enseignants et sur ce plan, il importe de voir ce qu'on pourrait faire au niveau

international pour que les gens se rencontrent afin de sensibiliser l'opinion publique. Nous sommes convaincus, comme l'a dit M. Moreno ce matin en présentant le document, que c'est là le pas fondamental pour parvenir à résoudre le problème de la faim et de la malnutrition.

Je n'ai plus grand chose à ajouter, je veux simplement vous assurer que nous avons commencé à travailler très sérieusement au cours de cette année, nous avons organisé des expositions sur l'alimentation dans le monde, des tables rondes où nous avons discuté de ce problème; nous avons organisé des concerts et je voudrais citer une initiative appelée "treno agricolo", c'est-à-dire une sorte de train qui est allé montrer en Italie tout ce qu'on fait dans les différentes régions dans le domaine de l'agriculture et de la faim. Un wagon était dédié à l'activité de la FAO et du PAM. On peut donc en conclure que tous les organismes travaillant dans le cadre de la lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition peuvent contribuer à donner à cette JMA toujours plus d'importance et d'impact.

CHAIRMAN: I was particularly pleased to note the research identity of youth and similarity of thinking between the delegate from Italy and the documentation presented by the FAO Secretariat. I might add that if such similarity of thinking were more widely prevalent in the interventions, we would be even more brief.

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): Compartimos también los mismos elementos expuestos por las demás delegaciones sobre el documento que ha preparado la Secretaría.

El Día Mundial de la Alimentación simboliza el impulso de las naciones hacia la solidaridad, la hermandad y el respecto sagrado del derecho a la vida. El 16 de octubre expresa la voluntad colectiva del hombre en su esfuerzo por producir más alimentos y enfrentar con justeza y equidad su distribución más racional, para atender con firmeza el problema del hambre y la desnutrición.

El Día Mundial de la Alimentación simboliza también un llamado a la paz entre los hombres y el destierro de toda actitud guerrillera y racista.

En esta línea, nuestras naciones deben apoyar con firmeza y promover al máximo el símbolo de nuestra solidaridad humana, celebrando el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Mi delegación desea expresar en esta oportunidad las actividades que en Nicaragua se han realizado con motivo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Coincidiendo con el resultado de las experiencias logradas en años anteriores, hemos organizado con más participación las fuerzas populares e institucionales para la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Las actividades se resumen en lo siguiente:

1. Cuatro talleres nacionales de carácter educativo sobre el aprovechamiento de los recursos naturales y la producción de alimentos.
2. Tres seminarios sobre la conservación de los ecosistemas y perspectivas de producción de alimentos.
3. Tres debates universitarios sobre el medio ambiente y la alimentación.
4. Dos concursos didáctico - culturales alusivos al Día Mundial de la Alimentación por televisión a todo el país.
5. Tres concursos populares sobre la producción de alimentos en huertos familiares y comunales.
6. Dos exposiciones de pintura y poesía alusivas al Día Mundial de la Alimentación.
7. Conferencias de prensa sobre el medio ambiente y la alimentación.
8. Inauguración de dos centros de investigación relacionados con las áreas de Protección Vegetal y

Producción de Arroz. 9. Concentración masiva de pequeños agricultores el propio 16 de octubre, Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Mi delegación expresa la posición firme de Nicaragua de seguir promoviendo activamente los objetivos y postulados con que se estableció el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Este día debe adquirir una dimensión internacional más amplia y apoyamos a la FAO, como principal organismo internacional para el desarrollo agrícola, en sus esfuerzos de promoción y coordinación de las actividades del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Es importante para apoyar el esfuerzo de la FAO, que nuestros gobiernos fortalezcan los Comités Nacionales procurando mejorar su impacto global. En este sentido, apoyamos la iniciativa de la FAO,

Patrick O'QUIN (France): En France comme dans de nombreux autres pays, la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation fait l'objet de multiples manifestations tant au niveau national qu'au niveau régional et local.

Les mass-média, les Organisations non gouvernementales et l'ensemble des pouvoirs publics et des collectivités locales sont étroitement associés à l'organisation de ces manifestations.

On peut cependant noter que le public est plus facilement sensible aux situations dramatiques qui nécessitent une aide d'urgence qu'aux actions à long terme en faveur du développement. En effet, celles-ci qui exigent la durée et un travail en profondeur ne présentent pas de caractère spectaculaire qui appelle l'attention internationale.

En conséquence, pour ma délégation, le 16 octobre constitue un point important mais ne doit pas être une journée isolée. Cela doit être le point culminant d'un effort de sensibilisation permanent du public aux différents problèmes de lutte contre la faim et la malnutrition dans le monde. Cet effort ne prendra véritablement son sens que s'il existe une action soutenue, orientée vers une urgence véritable qui est celle du développement.

C'est pourquoi la délégation française a pris connaissance avec un intérêt très vif des différentes propositions contenues dans le document présenté par le Secrétariat. Ces propositions paraissent en effet de nature à renforcer l'impact de la JMA qui nous paraît un moment important de l'action contre la faim et pour le développement.

Nous approuvons l'ensemble des propositions contenues dans ce document et nous tenons particulièrement à appuyer certaines d'entre elles qui nous semblent tout à fait justifiées. Je citerai à cet égard:

- l'utilisation commune de certains moyens de communication de masse;
- l'organisation d'activités multinationales autour d'un thème commun.

Ma délégation souhaite appuyer la proposition de définition des thèmes de la JMA avec une année d'avance, de façon à préparer des interventions et l'activité qui pourrait y être effectuée.

Enfin, la proposition qui est faite à la Conférence de procéder périodiquement à un examen approfondi des différentes conceptions et actions entreprises dans le cadre de la JMA nous paraît devoir être soutenue.

Soukaseum PHOTHISANE (Laos): La délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao a examiné attentivement ce document important relatif au bilan de la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation et Orientation future. Tout d'abord, qu'il me soit permis, Monsieur le Président, de présenter nos chaleureuses félicitations au Secrétariat pour avoir mis à notre disposition un document si bien présenté.

Notre délégation partage entièrement les points de vue des délégations qui estiment que la JMA est devenue un instrument efficace d'information, de mobilisation et de sensibilisation de l'opinion publique au problème de la faim, de la pénurie alimentaire, de la pauvreté rurale.

Nous pensons que, grâce à la JMA, il n'y a pas de moment semblable où les masses aient pris conscience de la nature et des dimensions du problème alimentaire et l'humanité entière ait concentré ses efforts d'ordre physique et moral à la recherche des solutions aux problèmes de l'alimentation, du rôle des femmes en agriculture, de la pauvreté rurale, des petits pêcheurs, des petits agriculteurs.

La FAO devrait poursuivre ses efforts dans le sens déjà entrepris afin d'augmenter le prestige de la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation. Elle devrait aussi aider les pays membres à avoir les moyens nécessaires pour assurer les activités concrètes et continues de la JMA.

La célébration de la JMA a été, à notre connaissance, très riche d'expression, elle diffère d'un pays à l'autre.

En République démocratique populaire lao, le Ministère de l'agriculture, des forêts, de l'irrigation et des coopératives agricoles, en étroite collaboration avec la préfecture de Vientiane et les organisations de masse telles que les syndicats des travailleurs, l'Union des femmes, la Jeunesse patriotique lao a célébré tous les ans, sans exception depuis 1981, la Journée Mondiale de l'Alimentation d'une manière très vivante.

Au programme de la cérémonie marquant la JMA, figure le grand meeting auquel participent les corps diplomatiques' accrédités au pays, les experts, les représentants de différentes organisations gouvernementales, des organisations de masse, des étudiants, des écoliers, etc.

Souvent, des rencontres entre les experts internationaux qui travaillent dans différents projets et les responsables du Ministère sont organisées afin d'échanger des points de vue quant aux solutions des problèmes posés lors de l'exécution de ces projets. Des visites de terrain sont aussi régulièrement organisées.

D'autre part, des activités plus continues sont aussi inscrites au programme de la JMA. Par exemple, tous les ans, en vue de promouvoir l'autosuffisance en denrées alimentaires et d'améliorer le niveau de vie de la population, des outils agricoles, des semences améliorées et d'autre intrants agricoles ont été distribués aux différentes provinces du pays. Pour aider les agriculteurs à mieux produire, les personnels de toutes catégories, aussi bien administrateurs, chercheurs que vulgarisateurs sont envoyés régulièrement à la campagne afin de mieux connaître leurs vrais problèmes et de les aider à les résoudre.

Des cours de formation dans différentes disciplines sont également à l'honneur de la JMA.

Une des formes les plus vivantes de la JMA dans notre pays, c'est le travail collectif pour réaliser différents travaux agricoles: repiquage du riz, entretien des cultures, entretien des canaux d'irrigation et de drainage, récoltes du paddy etc. Tout cela se passe dans la bonne humeur.

Il est également intéressant de souligner que l'ampleur du mouvement de la JMA dans notre pays est devenue de plus en plus importante. La JMA n'est plus célébrée dans la capitale seulement, elle l'est en province aussi.

Bien sûr, en me référant aux objectifs de la JMA, à cause des moyens limités et des difficultés multiples, nous sommes encore loin de les réaliser tous. Toutefois, je dois vous dire, Monsieur le Président, que les résultats obtenus nous encouragent à entreprendre dans le futur des activités plus continues et plus concrètes de la JMA.

Nous sommes heureux de vous dire notre approbation de l'idée qui propose que le ou les thèmes de la JMA doivent être définis une année à l'avance afin de disposer de suffisamment de temps pour s'y préparer. Nous appuyons l'initiative qui invite la Conférence à procéder tous les six ans à l'examen approfondi de l'évolution des conceptions dont s'inspire la JMA et de ses réalisations et à proposer de nouvelles idées à la lumière de cet examen.

Enfin, nous soutenons définitivement toutes les propositions qui visent à accroître la participation populaire de toutes les couches sociales aussi bien celle de la zone urbaine que celle de la zone rurale afin que la JMA soit réellement une manifestation de masse.

CHAIRMAN: I would make two submissions for the attention of delegates. Paragraph 16 on page 5 of the document clearly brings out that, of the 158 FAO Member Nations, 145 have directly or indirectly reported about the celebrations of World Food Day and that from only 13 countries no information was received one way or another. Therefore it is clear that there is overwhelming support for the concept of the celebration of World Food Day.

I would reiterate the point made by Mr Moreno during his introduction that, instead of trying to tell us what has been done in each country for each of the last World Food Days, it would be of help to FAO Headquarters if you could focus attention on whatever conclusions you have in the light of what is contained in the document.

Mrs- Fatma H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I should like to congratulate you on behalf of my delegation, since I am taking the floor for the first time in Commission I, on your election. I should also like to compliment Mr Moreno on his presentation of this excellent document.

We all know that the essential purpose of World Food Day contains a guarantee for the well-being of all peoples, the rural population in particular, and justice, legality and the right to food. We should concentrate on this moral dimension of the issue, because it is a point of reference for all the activity and also provides a framework for reviewing all World Food Day activities.

We should also make every effort to ensure that World Food Day is truly known worldwide and celebrated worldwide. The Organization, as a United Nations agency, plays an essential role in agricultural development and also because it coordinates World Food Day activities. That is why it can strengthen the feeling of solidarity throughout the world and give it that universal dimension. We must not consider World Food Day as a fleeting moment in time, as a day to be celebrated once a year. That certainly would not be enough. What we must do is pursue the activities undertaken and turn the enthusiasm aroused by World Food Day into long-term productive activities.

The Organization and NGOs must take all necessary steps to make communications between the various organizers of the World Food Day activities easier. There was a meeting in Milan from 3 to 6 June, and a number of governmental and NGO representatives attended it. People from many countries came.

I represented my country at that meeting. It was held in order to plan World Food Day activities together and to exchange views, recommendations and experiences. In this respect, I should like to assure all my colleagues who were at that meeting, as Chairman of our World Food Day Committee, that the World Food Day is considered to be a very important factor in the fight for self-sufficiency and in order to make millions of people aware of this purpose throughout the world and encourage them to participate in World Food Day activities.

World Food Day activities obviously should concentrate on all problems of food, hunger and malnutrition, especially in a world where there are so many food surpluses. To enhance its importance that it deserves.

I should like to apologize to the Secretariat for having spoken at length, but I think it was only right that I should do so because I took active part in all World Food Day activities and I was one of the founders of the Kuwait World Food Day Committee. I think the Organization is aware of what has been done in Kuwait. We have been pioneers in this field. We prepared one of the first reports on World Food Day activities to be written.

Once again, I urge you all to support the resolution on the matter at this Conference session which deals with World Food Day.

Khalid HASSAN (Bahrain) (original language Arabic): Mr Chairman, I should like to commend you for the way you are guiding the discussions of this Commission, which is working on very important problems. I should like to thank Mr Moreno for the excellent document he presented to us which recounts the activities related to World Food Day. It is not only an opportunity for speeches but has an ethical dimension which highlights the right of man to food. We have also been able to note over the past years the importance of World Food Day and the role it plays in sensitization of the world to problems of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, by way of a theme scrutinized each year, international, national and regional problems.

Another positive aspect of World Food Day is that it helps to channel resources and energies so that people can work better together - governmental, non-governmental and individuals who are all involved in nutritional activities and planning,

In order to step up the efficiency of World Food Day, we need not only one day but should also disseminate targets and principles throughout the entire year. Good planning and further thinking about the importance of World Food Day can awaken people to the importance of World Food Day. These are the basic targets of World Food Day.

I should like to mention the role of mass media in this connection, with posters and publications, programmes, radio and television broadcasts; also organizing meetings under the aegis of the Organization, such as the meeting that was held in Milan in 1987. All this further strengthens the importance of World Food Day so that this Day may really reach that target we have in mind, the objective we strive towards.

We support Kuwait's proposals in connection with World Food Day because of the importance of that Day and we also recommend that we further pursue the celebration of that Day in view of its importance and its impact on the lives of the international community.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): In my country, the government has been playing a central role in various events, such as publicity activities through newspapers, magazines and others, organizing special programmes for radio and TV, and arranging relevant symposia. Recently, spontaneous events have also been organized by universities and the general public.

This year, we have fixed the catch phrase such as "Food is the first step toward peace: let's seek a globe without hunger", and the title of the symposium which was implemented by the Japan/FAO association was "Has the African food crisis subsided?". In particular, the events of this year's World Food Day formed a link with the newly-designated "International Cooperation Day" in Japan, on October 6.

Thus,, my country takes it as very effective to appeal to the people on the importance of food problems and the necessity of international cooperation through World Food Day events, and means for them to be continued.

For this end, FAO's provision of materials is very much appreciated, and especially posters and video tapes are highly valued. However, we do hope that their quality will be much improved.

I also recognize the importance for the future to target children and students, as paragraph 32 suggests. Therefore, I should like to request the Secretariat to prepare and distribute prototype pamphlets including, for example: the geographical distribution of food production, trade of major foods, staple foods by region, dietary energy intake, dietary habits, hunger population and so on, with a sufficient use of graphs, illustrations and photos.

Finally, it is most desirable for FAO to decide the theme one, year in advance. As for my country, we begin the preparation about six months before the day.

Sabri KESKIN (Turkey): I should like to start by expressing our thanks to the Secretariat for the preparation of an excellent document on the assessment of World Food Day activities in the future.

We notice that the coverage of activities carried out on World Food Days has significantly expanded since 1981. Indeed, these activities, we believe that this evolution is in the right direction.

As to the future direction of World Food Day activities, my delegation wishes to make a few comments. First, we believe that it would be useful to give a greater importance to the human factor involved in the food chain. The programmes to increase awareness among farmers about their role in improving the world food and nutrition situation should be intensified. It is also important to increase the international nature of these celebrations through the organization of regional and sub-regional activities.

Thirdly, I would like to stress the importance of involving non-governmental organizations in the preparation and implementation of programmes on the occasion of World Food Days. When this involvement is secured on this occasion, it will become institutional in the future, helping us to receive their contribution to major development programmes as well.

Fourthly and lastly, I wish to emphasize the importance of establishing a mechanism whereby national committees can cooperate and exchange information. These committees should be informed through FAO at all stages about the national programmes for the celebration. They should exchange visits among themselves. In this context, I would like to propose that FAO's programme allocations on World Food Day celebrations should be increased to promote cooperation among the national committees.

Mustapha LASRAM (Tunisie) (Langue originale arabe): La Tunisie participe corraane tous les autres pays à la célébration de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation qui constitue une occasion unique d'évaluer la situation alimentaire et de réfléchir aux mesures à prendre afin d'accéder à la sécurité alimentaire.

En 1987, la JMA, en Tunisie., a revêtu un caractère spécial car, en plus des activités ordinaires comme la préparation d'affiches et la sensibilisation aux problèmes de la faim par les moyens audio-visuels, nous avons pris une série de mesures visant à augmenter le développement agricole. Parmi les résolutions qui ont été prises, nous voudrions mentionner l'importance du rôle de certains produits alimentaires. Nous avons créé un fonds pour le développement agricole et nous avons augmenté le prix de l'huile d'olive, qui constitue une source essentielle de revenus pour les petits agriculteurs. Nous avons adopté le principe d'une aide financière de 10 pour cent, en offrant des tracteurs aux petits agriculteurs afin d'augmenter leur production. Nous avons également remis en question les législations concernant l'investissement. Nous avons pris des mesures incitatives, afin de faire participer les jeunes agriculteurs et d'améliorer le niveau de la production.

A l'occasion de la JMA, nous avons tenu une table ronde qui a été diffusée à la télévision et à laquelle a participé le ministre de l'agriculture et de la production agricole afin de présenter ces mesures importantes qui ont été prises.

Il est important de renforcer la célébration de la JMA, et, dans le document présenté, certaines idées concernant l'avenir ont été présentées comme les propositions sur le plan régional, national et international. Nous voudrions affirmer l'importance de ces mesures et la nécessité de les appliquer.

La proposition faite par le premier orateur ce matin devrait être débattue et prise en considération car elle vise à donner de l'importance aux manifestations concernant la JMA sur la plan rural, et nous avons adopté ces orientations en Tunisie depuis plusieurs années, car nous célébrons chaque année la fête de l'arbre, la fête de l'olivier ainsi que la fête de la vigne.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba agradece grandemente al Dr. Moreno Rojas por la excelente presentación de este tema que ya contaba con una magnífica documentación por la Secretaría.

Mi delegación considera que, según van pasando los años, la importancia práctica de la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación va haciéndose más palpable. Asimismo es más injundiosa la documentación que nos ofrece la Secretaría. Cada año se hace más patente que la creación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación por la Comunidad Internacional como expresión de su intensa preocupación por la gravedad de los problemas del hambre y malnutrición y la pobreza en el mundo, no ha sido en vano. Como bien expresa el párrafo 3 del documento C 87/29, cada día se hace más patente el hecho de que el derecho a la vida es el más sagrado de los derechos humanos, y el derecho a los alimentos es una de las piedras angulares de la realización efectiva del derecho a la vida.

Los objetivos del Día Mundial de la Alimentación son cada vez más reconocidos por la Comunidad Internacional, en especial, el que se refiere al aumento de la conciencia pública de la naturaleza y las dimensiones del problema, a largo plazo, de la alimentación mundial y el fomento todavía mayor del sentido de solidaridad nacional e internacional en la lucha contra el hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza.

En Cuba existe un Comité Permanente de Coordinación del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, presidido por el Ministro Presidente del Comité Estatal de Colaboración Económica que es el organismo gubernamental centro de todas las actividades que se realizan con la FAO. Miembros de este Comité Permanente son el Ministerio de la Agricultura, el Ministerio de Salud Pública, el Ministerio de Educación, la Asociación Nacional de Agricultores Pequeños y la Federación de Mujeres Cubanas. Todas las actividades que realiza este Comité Permanente, todas las acciones que se organizan, se efectúan en estrecha colaboración con el Representante de la FAO.

Consideramos que los temas elegidos hasta este momento para ser centro de las actividades de los Días Mundiales ya celebrados, han sido todos de gran importancia y el recuento que nos hace el documento que analizamos es altamente elocuente. Nuestra delegación apoya las propuestas futuras que hace la FAO para la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, especialmente lo referente a las actividades a nivel regional, y como es lógico, la continuación y desarrollo de las actividades a nivel nacional. Tal vez, las Conferencias Regionales pudieran ser un punto de intercambio de opiniones entre los países de cada Región acerca de la intensificación de las acciones sobre el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Finalmente la Delegación de Cuba quisiera apoyar todas las acciones que ayuden a consolidar la importancia de esta celebración, influyendo las Resoluciones mencionadas por la distinguida Delegada de Kuwa it.

Enrique MONTERO CONTARDO (Chile): La delegación de mi país desea hacer unos breves comentarios en relación a la proyección global, regional y nacional del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Como bien se expresa en el Documento C 87/29, la tendencia creciente y alarmante del hambre y la miseria en diversas áreas del mundo, genera un problema ético ineludible que compromete la paz y seguridad internacional.

Al respecto, una de las formas esenciales de hacer posible a los países en desarrollo el derecho a la vida, es implementando mecanismos que aseguren su subsistencia mínima, para cuyo propósito, el Sistema de Naciones Unidas y esta Agencia en especial, procuran alentar la puesta en práctica de ciertos instrumentos legislativos internacionales de aceptación universal. Nos referimos a la Resolución 1803 sobre el acceso soberano de los pueblos a sus recursos naturales y la asistencia oficial para el desarrollo, que ha dado lugar a una práctica consuetudinaria.

Mal podría ni siquiera pensarse en elementos conducentes al fortalecimiento de una existencia digna del ser humano, si a los países no se les reconociera su soberanía permanente sobre sus recursos naturales. Ello implica, correlativamente, la obligación solidaria de la Comunidad Internacional de disponer de los mecanismos apropiados para que todos, sin excepción, accedan al conocimiento de las informaciones de sus propios recursos y cuenten con los medios tecnológicos para explotarlos.

Es evidente la importancia que reviste una actividad cuyo propósito es dar a conocer el problema de la desnutrición y el hambre en el mundo; a hacer conciencia y desarrollar acciones destinadas a reducirlo, y eventualmente, eliminarlo.

Chile, al igual que los demás países, así lo ha considerado y con esa apreciación ha participado, diligentemente, cada año en la celebración del DMA.

Es interesante el planteamiento contenido en el documento, en cuanto a reforzar e institucionalizar el DMA con miras al largo plazo; sin embargo, en relación a ello, es de interés hacer algunas consideraciones.

La realización de esfuerzos en la dirección señalada podría demandar la creación de una organización permanente a nivel de organismos públicos y privados con los recursos del caso. En la medida en que los organismos no gubernamentales no estén en condiciones o en ánimo de participar en estos términos, la obligación recaerá completa sobre la administración pública.

Existe, por otra parte, la posibilidad de que una acción reiterada durante muchos años haga decaer el interés en llevarla a cabo, a lo menos por parte de algunos sectores.

Si bien parece conveniente, desde todo punto de vista, mantener y acrecentar las acciones destinadas a aumentar el conocimiento y el nivel de conciencia respecto de un problema tan vital, cabe reflexionar si no sería beneficioso efectuar una evaluación del efecto conseguido hasta la fecha con el actual esquema para decidir si es apropiado mantenerlo o cambiar la modalidad de acción en la materia.

Moisés TELIZ ORTIZ (México): Me uno a la felicitación a esta Secretaría por la presentación del excelente documento C 87/29 que incluye el tema que nos ocupa de este Día Mundial de la Alimentación y haga sacudir la conciencia de la Comunidad Internacional a partir de las acciones en cada país con tal intensidad y extensión que mantenga viva su atención para siempre, o cuando menos hasta el siguiente año.

Siguiendo su recomendación expresada en esta Comisión haré referencia específica a la forma en que en nuestro país se atendió a la Resolución de FAO para celebrar el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

A este efecto, se formuló un Programa de Actividades de tres días en reconocimiento al productor rural para resaltar la importancia de su papel como sujeto activo de toda estrategia de desarrollo agropecuario y fomento a la producción de alimentos.

El Programa de esta celebración se llevó a cabo los días 14, 15 y 16 de octubre con las siguientes actividades. El día 14, se organizó un Taller de Intercambio de experiencias entre organizaciones de productores cuyo objetivo fue propiciar, a través de diversas mesas de trabajo, el análisis de temas referidos a la reordenación y fortalecimiento de las políticas alimentarias.

El día 15 de octubre se llevó a cabo un Seminario sobre Alimentos Autóctonos cuyo objetivo fue destacar la aportación de la cultura culinaria autóctona mexicana a su propia dieta alimenticia, mediante la incorporación de algunos de sus productos agrícolas como el maíz, chile, frijol y otros a diversos guisos tradicionales unos y novedosos otros, de cuya amplia variedad se hizo gala en este Seminario.

Y el propio Día de la Alimentación, el día 16 de octubre, se realizó en la ciudad de Oaxaca un acto magno encabezado por el propio Presidente de la República, en donde se anunció el levantamiento de una encuesta nacional sobre las condiciones de nutrición y consumo de alimentos en México, ya que los últimos datos que hay al respecto datan de 1979/80.

En el marco de esta ceremonia, nuestro Presidente entregó los galardones del Premio Nacional de Investigaciones en Alimentos, otorgado en las áreas de: Producción, Comercialización, Transformación, Consumo, Nutrición, Bioingeniería, Biología Vegetal moderna y aspectos de frontera en Biología Animal, como estímulo a investigadores dedicados a promover el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario.

En el curso de estos festejos, se informó a la opinión pública, a través de las diferentes fuentes informativas como la radio y la televisión, acerca de la situación alimentaria mundial y la importancia de la cooperación internacional en la atención a los problemas alimentarios y agrícolas. Así mismo, se atendieron y organizaron eventos que contaron con la participación de dependencias e instituciones vinculadas a los productores rurales y a la alimentación, los cuales se orientaron a resaltar la necesidad de continuar fortaleciendo la voluntad política en favor del proceso de desarrollo rural integral.

Esa celebración constituyó una clara expresión del compromiso de México por mejorar los niveles de alimentación de su población, y su apoyo a los esfuerzos de los productores rurales en la lucha diaria por la producción de alimentos.

En las celebraciones futuras del Día Mundial de la Alimentación proponemos incluir la presentación y discusión de los siguientes temas en su relación con la Alimentación: Agricultura de los Trópicos, Agriculturas de Temporal, Alimentos Autóctonos y la Sanidad Agropecuaria.

Felizmente también vamos a tener la oportunidad más directa de nuestro país de enfrentar la situación mundial de la alimentación al tener el honor de tener a nuestro Secretario de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos, Sr. Eduardo Pesqueira-Olea en la Presidencia del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación.

Mansur SUGHAYER (Libya) (original language Arabic): Our delegation has studied the documents on World Food Day, and we have also listened very carefully to the introduction by the Director-General. We greatly appreciate the excellent documents, and we think of 16th October as a day of liberation, of the fight against hunger and malnutrition in the whole world. Therefore, that day should have our complete support, national, regional and international. He who has his subsistence is free, but a people which dependent on the outside for its needs is in a situation of slavery. We therefore fully endorse all efforts along these lines.

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): The United States delegation would like to commend the Secretariat on the preparation of this document. The United States has commemorated the World Food Day since the first World Food Day observance in 1981. For the past six years the US Government's observances have been held at the Department of Agriculture where they were highlighted by the reading of the US President's proclamation and the FAO Director-General's message. This year's theme provided us with a unique opportunity to reach out to our historically black land grant colleges and universities. These institutions, which were originally established in 1890, typically work with the smaller and often more disadvantaged farmers in the United States.

This year the United States World Food Day programme was broadcast live by satellite to these institutions and other sites around the country. The programme was also broadcast back to back with our National World Food Day Committee's broadcast of the annual town meeting, each complementing the other.

The US delegation would like to reiterate the US commitments to the original objectives of World Food Day as well as to the new concepts. The US remains committed to achieving World Food Day objectives and strengthening its relationships with FAO and the national committee.

This year the United States also undertook a review of our World Food Day activities and explored ways in which we could better fulfil the outreach concept of World Food Day. This was a useful exercise for us, so we agree with the recommendations of the Secretariat that such a review of World Food Day activities be undertaken by the Conference every six years.

Pierre KOYA (Congo): La délégation du Congo a suivi avec intérêt la suggestion sur le sens et les orientations consacrées à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation. Elle félicite le Secrétariat pour le caractère quasiment complet des analyses s'y rapportant.

La délégation de mon pays considère la Journée comme un symbole pour la sensibilisation des masses populaires aux travaux agricoles en vue de l'augmentation de la production et de l'amélioration de leurs conditions nutritionnelles. A cet égard, nous soutenons les orientations proposées et adhérons entièrement à la Journée commémorative de l'alimentation, avec la participation des ONG et d'autres organisations.

Dans notre pays, outre le Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, le gouvernement a institué dans le but de poursuivre la sensibilisation sur les questions relatives à l'alimentation et l'agriculture, la Journée nationale de l'Arbre qui se célèbre le 6 mars de chaque année.

Toutes les actions de sensibilisation sur l'alimentation et l'agriculture sont menées en direction de toutes les couches sociales de notre pays sous l'égide du Gouvernement.

Beaucoup d'efforts restent à faire, notamment en ce qui concerne l'organisation matérielle relative aux manifestations de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

L'on peut toutefois noter l'impact significatif des actions déjà entreprises qui s'expriment à travers la profondeur des débats qui se sont déroulés dans le pays dans le cadre des préparatifs des travaux du Conseil national de l'agriculture dont l'ouverture a eu lieu ce matin.

Hans RAMEL (Sweden): The Swedish delegation appreciates very much the interesting document which has been prepared for this session.

In collaboration with governmental bodies and the Federation of Swedish farmers, since 1979 we have been working for the goals which are set up for World Food Day.

I have two further remarks. First, in the severe economic situation of agriculture in all parts of the world, we have to chose priorities. The most interesting one for this meeting today must therefore be how to make World Food Day more successful by close cooperation worldwide, regional and national. Secondly, there is a great need to create and to maintain confidence between producers and consumers. All producers must do their best to meet consumers' requests for food, both in volume and quality. On-the other side, consumers should appreciate producers' efforts to be as efficient as possible. Special attention must be devoted to this problem in connection with World Food Day.

J.D. D'HAYERE (Belgique): J'aimerais avant tout remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qu'il a produit, qui m'apparaît résumer parfaitement l'essentiel du succès remporté par la JMA, tout en fournissant un aperçu complet des perspectives d'action future.

La délégation belge, qui souscrit pleinement aux objectifs et aux idéaux qui se trouvent à la base de cette initiative, partage également l'opinion émise dans le document C 87/29, selon laquelle il convient à présent de se pencher sur l'orientation générale qui présidera à ces journées dans le futur.

Monsieur le Président, conformément à votre souhait, je ne ferai que mentionner la vaste campagne nationale de sensibilisation à la problématique du petit agriculteur qui a été organisée en Belgique, pour me limiter à quelques réflexions.

L'accord unanime que recueillent les 6 grands objectifs énoncés sous le point 5, ainsi que les points communs que présentent les activités organisées dans les pays qui célèbrent la JMA, ne nous apparaissent pas incompatibles avec l'établissement de priorités nationales en vue de lui assurer un impact maximal.

C'est ainsi par exemple, que le fait de faire porter l'accent des activités nationales sur l'objectif visant à mieux faire prendre conscience au public de la nature et des dimensions du problème alimentaire, nous semble assez naturellement requérir davantage les priorités des pays développés que celles des régions dans lesquelles ce problème fait malheureusement encore partie du vécu quotidien.

Si, dans le cadre de cette prise de conscience des pays développés, la popularité dont jouissent les ONG les appelle à jouer un rôle primordial, il conviendrait cependant de continuer à tenir le grand public informé des actions menées au niveau gouvernemental, ainsi que de la manière dont les programmes techniques de la FAO sont appliqués en pratique, comme d'ailleurs le mentionne le document. La nature collective de l'effort consenti pourrait être ainsi rendue plus manifeste.

Enfin, d'une manière générale, nous continuons d'insister sur l'importance de la promotion du transfert de la science et des technologies vers les pays en développement, qui nous apparaît comme une des conditions essentielles à la résolution à long terme de la faim dans le monde.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I should like to associate the Australian delegation with those delegations who have congratulated the Secretariat on the presentation of the document before us. We welcome the document. It is a very good one, and one which carries an important message; it proposes future activities with which we fully agree. We fully agree with the emphasis on regional and international collaboration.

Like most countries, or I would say all nations, Australia observes World Food Day each October. For the past three years we have held an essay competition for school students. We held one recently this year, and the winners of that competition - in fact three students - will be undertaking an extensive study tour to view and discuss firsthand the advancement of food and agriculture in developing countries. From this particular activity that we have engaged in we have received a very good and strong feedback from the people of Australia. There is strong support for continuing this particular activity.

I should also like to say that a number of community groups, state and provincial governments in Australia, have based their own activities on World Food Day on the excellent material supplied by the Secretariat. Next year, in 1988, we shall be seeking to have other South West Pacific countries participate in the activities which we are organizing for 1988. This fits in very well with the Secretariat's proposed future emphasis on regionalization and decentralization of these activities.

Salimoen SOERJOATMODJO (Indonesia): My delegation would like to join other delegations in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this very important Commission.

In regard to the subject matter under discussion, the Indonesian delegation appreciated the excellent efforts of the Secretariat in preparing the World Food Day Report in Document C 87/29.

Since adoption by the Conference in 1979 World Food Day has been celebrated on 16 October every year in order to stimulate the awareness of all concerned - governments, the private sector, all segments of the community as well as the farmers in every country - of the role they can play in resolving food problems.

In my country World Food Day celebration has been part of our yearly agricultural production campaign in our capital city as well as in villages throughout the country. This year at the national level we have conducted, and will continue to conduct, a scientific seminar on the topic, and held agricultural exhibitions and food fairs. The peak of the celebration on 16 October was a nationwide speech delivered by the President and broadcast live, together with a message from the Director-General of FAO read by the FAO Representative in Jakarta.

For 1987, in spite of the theme adopted worldwide as suggested by FAO, "Small Farmers", in Indonesia we adopted the theme "Increasing Agricultural Production and Maintaining Food Self-sufficiency in Order to Create a Sustainable Agricultural Development."

We strongly believe that World Food Day needs to be continuously observed in order to maintain the momentum of high spirits for sustainable agricultural production.

Aboubacar KOUROUMA KOLY (Guinée): La République de Guinée prend la parole pour la première fois à cette commission. Vous me permettez donc de m'associer à tous ceux qui m'ont précédé pour vous adresser, au nom de mon pays, mes chaleureuses félicitations pour votre élection à la tête de cette commission.

La délégation guinéenne apprécie vivement la manière magistrale dont vous dirigez et organisez les débats et nous remercions M. Moreno pour la clarté de son exposé.

En examinant le document C 87/29, document qui d'ailleurs est très bien élaboré, nous nous rendons compte que les propositions de la FAO quant aux perspectives futures de la JMA vont dans le même sens que celles de ma délégation. En effet, cela fait plusieurs années qu'une Journée mondiale de l'Alimentation est organisée le 16 octobre de chaque année dans les pays membres de la FAO avec toujours la même rengaine: thèmes centraux changeant tous les ans, comités nationaux dont les Présidents changent également selon les thèmes choisis. Ainsi, la JMA prend un caractère ponctuel qui est aussitôt oublié dès l'extinction des lampions des cérémonies.

Ma délégation se devait donc de faire des suggestions à notre commission. Mais il se trouve, comme je l'ai dit plus haut, que les propositions faites dans le document C 87/29 coïncident avec les nôtres. En conséquence, nous les appuyons de toutes nos forces.

Nous appuyons plus particulièrement au point b), page 12, paragraphe 32, la proposition relative à la permanence des comités nationaux. Nous pourrions en cela faire comme l'Unesco qui dispose d'une commission ou d'un secrétariat permanent dans chaque Etat Membre.

Nous accueillons avec satisfaction au point ii) du même paragraphe 32 l'appel lancé aux représentants et aux hauts fonctionnaires de terrain de la FAO pour continuer à catalyser les activités de la JMA au niveau national. Pour ce faire, nous suggérons une participation financière plus élevée de la FAO à la JMA. En effet, les ambitions de mon pays dans le sens de l'organisation de la JMA sont souvent freinées par des difficultés matérielles et financières de toutes sortes. Malgré tout, les cérémonies de la JMA en République de Guinée sont suivies avec intérêt. Tous les membres du Gouvernement, le corps diplomatique et les organisations internationales sont conviés cette journée qui cette année a pris un caractère tout particulier: des expositions, des visites de terrain aux petits agriculteurs ont occupés tout le monde une semaine durant.

Nous nous rallions à ceux de nos prédécesseurs qui ont suggéré que les thèmes de la JMA soient définis un an à l'avance. Enfin, nous voudrions demander au Secrétariat d'élaborer un texte pour institutionnaliser la JMA dont l'impact favorable dans mon pays n'est plus à démontrer.

Ahmad ALAVI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): In the name of God the Beneficent and Merciful.

On behalf of the Iranian delegation and myself I would like to extend deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the splendid fulfilment of their task in preparation of Document C 87/29, "World Food Day Assessment (1981 - 1987) and Future Directions."

With regard to the objectives stated by the document I would like to pinpoint very briefly what has been carried out in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Agriculture in our country has received prime priority among other activities. Hence, the production of food commodities has been keeping pace with the enhancement in agricultural activities. We commemorate World Food Day in our country in order to awaken the consciousness of the masses to the significance of a movement for food production for everybody.

This divine belief in Islam which reiterates that those who are benefiting from a surplus in food production should contribute a portion of their stocks to the needy, is the holy doctrine that we strongly believe in. A national seminar on the subject of World Food Day stressing the prevention of wastage in food commodities and the provision of food for everybody was held in Tehran and was well attended and welcomed.

There is no doubt that to achieve success in this regard we have to encourage nations to enhance their productivity potential by employment of all possible scientific and technical ways and means.

Iran has also made a lot of efforts to improve its extension services through which farmers are able to obtain the best benefits from the result of research and, therefore, further steps can be taken towards self-sufficiency. Self-reliance is one very significant aspect in which we strongly believe, and we would like to encourage the developing countries to pay close attention to this belief. It is high time for us to stand on our feet and to fully employ and direct our potential capabilities to the actual ones. This is a very great task but it can be done and it should be done.

Undoubtedly to achieve success in this regard FAO must strengthen its support and assistance to the developing countries and help them to benefit easily and in a practical way from the experience and expertise of the developed countries in order to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Ignacio RADIOLA (España): Ante todo deseo felicitarle a usted y a todo su equipo de colaboradores por lo que representa el Día Mundial de la Alimentación para nuestra nación y para todas las naciones del mundo.

España viene celebrando desde hace años, con éxito creciente, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, siguiendo las directrices emanadas de la FAO.

Desde el primer momento caló en el ánimo de los responsables de la política de producción de alimentos la importancia que tiene la dedicación de un día aniversario en el que recordar a nuestros conciudadanos todo lo que se haya detrás de los lemas que la FAO propone cada año para solemnizar ese Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

En estos últimos aniversarios nuestro Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación tomó parte muy activa en los actos preparados para la celebración pública del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, y con tal ejemplo contagia a otros muchos niveles directivos y contribuye a atraer la atención de los medios de comunicación hacia un aspecto que, por vital y rutinario, parece que no merece las primicias periodísticas, como a nadie parece preocuparle el aire que respira o el agua que satisface su sed.

Podría parecer en un principio que un país como España, en el que hace bastante años se superó una situación de periódico desabastecimiento alimentario, en particular concerniente a los productos ricos en proteínas, y en el que se está más bien en grado de poder ceder a la exportación alguna parte de su producción, tiene menor necesidad que algunos países menos desarrollados de dar anualmente un aldabonazo a la opinión pública en favor del sector agrario, pesquero y alimentario. Sin embargo, no se ignora que existen sectores de población mejor expresado que referirse a estratos de población - que aún no se alimentan convenientemente, de manera esencial por razones educativas o culturales. Es por ello que en la actuación de su política alimentaria el Gobierno español sabe dar la importancia debida a ese aspecto de la información y de la formación alimentaria que puede contribuir de manera decisiva a salvar distancias entre los sectores mejor y peor alimentados de la población. En tal sentido, el aldabonazo que a la atención pública se da anualmente con la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, es bien aprovechado por el Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación en España, en su empeño por mejorar las estructuras, la formación y la información en el sector agroalimentario. Así, en este año se han convocado con éxito concursos para premiar las mejores contribuciones al Día Mundial de la Alimentación en los ámbitos periodístico, profesional gastronómico y estudiantil, éste centrado en la importante etapa de la Educación General Básica.

Deseo resaltar la simpática emulación que ha movido a muchos grupos de pequeños estudiantes a preparar valiosos trabajos sobre la persona del pequeño agricultor, en los que brillan con esplendorosos colores las ilustraciones surgidas de los lápices, las tizas, los temples, las acuarelas e, incluso, los óleos de los pequeños grandes artistas.

Creo que sería muy bien recibido, a nivel mundial, que la FAO organizara algún tipo de exposición general en la que se recogiera una muestra de éstas o similares aportaciones de todos los países que contribuyen al éxito del Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

He de decirle que en España las realizaciones del Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación no se ciñen a este día determinado, sino que la colaboración en el sentido educativo con el Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia es incesante y forma parte de una de sus prioridades para llevar al nivel educativo la experiencia y el conocimiento, en materia de producción de alimentos, de las cualidades y características de esos alimentos y su valor nutritivo esencialmente, que deben ser divulgadas y conocidas por todos los consumidores, así como otras a niveles varios.

La delegación española se complace, una vez más, en felicitar a los organizadores del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y les anima a proseguir en sus tareas para el mayor éxito del mismo en los años sucesivos.

Eduardo José MICHEL (Argentina): La República Argentina se adhirió a la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, al igual que más de 140 países. El evento fue declarado de interés nacional por el Gobierno argentino y 14 provincias de mi país se adhirieron a la celebración mediante decretos de gobernadores. Los festejos, cuyo tema central fue el pequeño productor agropecuario en Argentina, tuvo amplia repercusión en las escuelas y en los medios de difusión, tanto orales como escritos, técnicos, políticos y de interés general.

La organización del evento estuvo a cargo de la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca; contó con colaboración financiera del programa de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo, y la participación de Presidencia de la nación, Ministerio de Relaciones, Actividades y Cultos y otros organismos nacionales, el Comité de Acción para la Seguridad Alimentaria Regional y otras entidades privadas vinculadas a la agricultura y la alimentación.

Para la ocasión se llevaron a cabo debates en mesas redondas durante toda la semana del 16 de octubre, con la finalidad de evaluar y discutir la orientación y resultados de las distintas acciones emprendidas y tomas conciencia del camino que aún resta por recorrer en relación al pequeño productor agropecuario de mi país.

Al concluir las jornadas se elaboró un documento que contiene un diagnóstico y recomendaciones sobre la situación alimentaria y la problemática del pequeño productor en la Argentina.

Entre las conclusiones, podemos señalar que en la Argentina no es tan relevante como en otros países de latinoamérica, el peso del pequeño productor. Sin embargo, el número y porcentaje de unidades campesinas es relativamente alto. Las unidades minifundistas se sitúan en el orden de las 200 000 explotaciones, las cuales están principalmente concentradas en las regiones del noroeste y nordeste y zonas ganaderas del norte de la Patagonia.

Las recomendaciones del documento están orientadas hacia los programas de desarrollo rural y acciones dirigidas a los pequeños productores, y señalan en forma prioritaria la necesidad de contemplar, como objetivo explícito, la seguridad alimentaria de la familia rural, reconocer la importancia de los cultivos de subsistencia para la condición de la familia, prestarles asistencia técnica en iguales condiciones que los cultivos comerciales, valorizar el papel de la mujer, proveyéndola de tecnologías apropiadas que alivien la carga de sus múltiples actividades y prestar atención, dentro de las distintas líneas de financiamiento posible, a aquellas destinadas a atender las necesidades básicas de consumo de la familia del pequeño productor. La delegación argentina ha escuchado con sumo interés las distintas propuestas para realizar reuniones regionales para el intercambio de ideas y experiencias y crear estructuras permanentes para el seguimiento de las actividades relacionadas con el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Las propuestas son interesantes y merecen ser analizadas adecuadamente, teniendo asimismo en consideración sus eventuales implicaciones presupuestarias.

Por último, es muy grato para mi delegación dejar constancia en esta ocasión de la labor incansable que realiza la FAO, y particularmente el Dr. Rafael Moreno Rojas, en esta materia. A él y a sus colaboradores nuestro reconocimiento.

Igor KIPMAN (Brazil): The Brazilian Government, through the Brazilian Enterprise for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension, promoted an intense programme of activities throughout the country from 13 to 16 October 1987, the period designated Food Week. During the said week the most significant issue was the Third Cycle on Debates about food technology which was held by the Brazilian Society on Food Technology in Brazilia in the presence of the Minister of Agriculture. A brief description of the activities was submitted in written form to the Secretariat. I will not, therefore, enter into a meticulous description in response to your request for brevity.

Regarding the document we are discussing, my delegation considers that it offers good and practical ways and means to enhance regional, national and international activities with the aim of attaining in a fuller dimension the objectives of World Food Day. I am, therefore, pleased to convey the full support of my delegation for the document and for the proposals it contains.

Oscar PETINGA (Portugal): Je veux tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat du document qui nous a été remis.

Dans mon pays, il existe déjà une tradition de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, en ce sens que nous organisons une campagne qui se développe tout au long de l'année et non pas une commémoration isolée. Les deux aspects les plus importants de la campagne se concentrent auprès des médecins et des étudiants; dans le premier cas, à travers des cours d'actualisation, les médecins se tiennent informés des problèmes de nutrition et d'alimentation. Ce sont les médecins qui enseignent oralement la population. Dans le deuxième cas, les professeurs ont sensibilisé les jeunes au problème de la faim dans le monde et à la façon technique de résoudre cette situation.

Nous pouvons nous référer à la campagne de communication des journaux et de la radio. La commission de la FAO a préparé un ensemble de textes sur l'éducation alimentaire qui ont été publiés entre les mois d'août et d'octobre dans la plupart des journaux dans tout le pays, et à travers la presse régionale .

Le Ministère de l'éducation a fait passer dans tous les domaines scolaires des cassettes envoyées par la FAO sur ce sujet. De grandes entreprises ont imprimé, sur le produit alimentaire, des phrases faisant allusion à la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation et d'autres entreprises ont reçu des visites d'étudiants. Un concours de dessin, au niveau des écoles officielles, a lieu actuellement avec des thèmes relatifs à la JMA, ce concours va se conclure en décembre. La radio procède à différentes interventions de spécialistes dans le domaine de la nutrition, et de membres de la commission nationale de la FAO.

Cette année, le 16 octobre, le représentant du Ministère des affaires étrangères, au cours d'une cérémonie publique a remis le premier prix au vainqueur du concours de la médaille de la Journée de la JMA, cette année elle a été décernée au Portugal. A cette occasion, a eu lieu une exposition des travaux présentés à ce concours; ont été exposées toutes les médailles éditées par la FAO sur la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Cependant, nous pensons qu'il serait très utile, pour la bonne préparation de la prochaine Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, que le thème soit choisi le plus tôt possible.

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): We associate ourselves fully with the sentiments of other delegations in respect of the excellent content and quality of the document under discussion. We wish to record our strong appreciation to the Secretariat, especially Mr Moreno, for the preparation and presentation of this document.

My Government is a fervent supporter of the aims and objectives of World Food Day and its activities. It has been used in Swaziland successfully to mobilize and focus public attention on food production and self-sufficiency, on fisheries development and nutrition, on rural afforestation and soil and water conservation, to name but a few. In our view these activities must be supported through increased allocation of financial and material resources. We fully support the suggestions by FAO, namely to encourage the participation of non-governmental organizations and the use of regional fora for the discussion of World Food Day activities.

I wish also to record our strong appreciation to FAO and the local UNDP office for promoting world food activities in Swaziland.

Anastase MUREKEZI (Rwanda): Je voudrais, pour ma part, rejoindre les autres délégations qui ont apprécié la qualité du document présenté par le Secrétariat sur le thème en discussion: la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation.

Comme vous le savez, les 95 pour cent de la population rwandaise sont constitués de paysans, ce sont ces petits paysans qui constituent le pilier de notre politique d'autosuffisance alimentaire et il est heureux de remarquer que le thème choisi par la FAO pour la célébration de la septième Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, à savoir les petits agriculteurs, soit tout à fait similaire à l'orientation du Gouvernement de la République rwandaise qui, pour sa part, a dédié cette année 1987 au thème de l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Nous avons célébré cette journée du 16 octobre 1987 avec éclat, dans une commune rurale, au niveau national, en présence du Président de la République qui a tenu à féliciter personnellement et à encourager les lauréats paysans gagnants du concours agricole, du concours chanson, et du concours dessin, dédiés à la fois à ce thème de la JMA pour cette année et aussi en rapport avec le thème choisi au niveau national, à savoir l'autosuffisance alimentaire.

Une cérémonie similaire s'est déroulée au niveau régional et au niveau local, dans toutes les préfectures et dans toutes les communes du pays où les gagnants, paysans, ont été primés. C'est là le signe évident du soutien institutionnel constant apporté par les autorités de la République rwandaise aux petits agriculteurs rwandais, amis de tous les agriculteurs du monde entier.

Toute mon approbation va au document C 87/29 qui nous a été proposé par le Secrétariat et j'apprécie spécialement l'organisation des orientations proposées par le Secrétariat pour les activités futures sur ce thème.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ocho años después de haber sido creado el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, si quisiéramos ensayar nuestra propia evaluación, deberíamos decir que esas celebraciones han logrado cierto relativo impacto en los países, y que en cambio, su efecto ha sido menos notorio aquí en Roma, como lo explicaremos más adelante.

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, debe cumplir los propósitos esenciales para los cuales fue establecido: llamar la atención, tratar de despertar las conciencias sobre la gravedad de los problemas del hambre, la malnutrición y la pobreza en los países en desarrollo.

Pero opinamos que esos objetivos deben perseguirse y obtenerse de manera pragmática, sencilla y verdaderamente eficaz, despojándolos de toda literatura o retórica que nos correspondan a la naturaleza seria y preocupante de esos problemas.

La delegación de Colombia, reconoce que en los países en desarrollo, esa celebración ha venido produciendo algunos buenos resultados; sin embargo, todo ello puede mejorarse aún más, para lo cual será necesario que - con adecuada anticipación y no al último momento - la FAO por medio de sus representantes en los países, con el apoyo político y técnico de las Oficinas Regionales y de la Sede, asista y oriente a los gobiernos y a las instituciones para que, mediante una adecuada, sólida y cuidadosa preparación, las celebraciones del DMA no sean tan sólo oportunidades de discursos demagógicos y desfiles de fanfaras, sino que esas ocasiones sean propicias, por ejemplo, para que la opinión pública, los grupos organizados, las asociaciones campesinas, las ONG, promuevan concretas iniciativas que logren influir sobre las autoridades y los parlamentos, para que se conceda a la agricultura más alta prioridad y el máximo de los recursos posibles en los planes nacionales de desarrollo.

El Gobierno de Colombia atribuye gran importancia a la participación de las ONG a las cuales se hacen tímidas referencias en el apartado d) del párrafo 4 y en el apartado a) del párrafo 20.

Preguntamos: ¿La FAO ha tomado iniciativas concretas para fortalecer su cooperación con las ONG? Nada de eso aparece en el documento, ni se expresó en la presentación. No basta reconocer que las ONG son importantes en estas actividades, como se dijo esta mañana, sino concebir nuevas ideas para que las ONG intensifiquen esa participación.

Por ejemplo, hacia la mitad de cada año, convendría que la FAO promoviera reuniones en Roma, a nivel regional, subregional y nacional con las ONG interesadas, para que esas organizaciones estén en mejores condiciones de apoyar los planes de la Organización y asistir a los gobiernos para que el DMA se enmarque dentro de parámetros positivos.

Pensamos que en todo esto sería necesario actuar con realismo y redimensionar, tal vez un poco, la redacción aparentemente inflada y ostentosa del párrafo 4. No convendrá desde ahora hablar de resultados muy superiores a los previstos, sobre todo en los planos internacional, regional y nacional. Más bien, convendría hacer el mejor uso de los resultados alentadores obtenidos y tratar de superarlos en el futuro.

Tenemos la impresión, ojalá estemos equivocados, de que este documento contiene más referencias a lo que se ha hecho hasta ahora, que no es despreciable, pero menos sugerencias e iniciativas sobre lo que se deberá hacer en el porvenir, y son escasas también las recomendaciones concretas y específicas a este respecto.

La sección II "Perspectivas futuras", en los párrafos 26 a 29, parece como que se hubiera esparcido toda una hermosa fronda lírica, con elucubraciones e invocaciones demasiado ampulosas, como la de afirmar, al igual que se hizo en la presentación en el romanito siete del párrafo 29: "es posible poner fin al hambre en el mundo en el futuro cercano". Esto es lo que todos pensamos y deseamos, pero el logro de una meta tan ambiciosa como esa no podrá atribuirse al modesto alcance del DMA.

En cambio, apoyamos el párrafo 30 sobre la necesidad de desarrollar nuevas iniciativas y enfoques para la acción futura. Apoyamos firmemente el concepto de mayor participación popular, el reforzamiento de los Comités Nacionales, la decidida y creciente participación de las Oficinas Regionales y de los Representantes en los países. También convendría que en las Conferencias Regionales, con cierto intervalo, el DMA fuera uno de los temas de las agendas de esas Conferencias.

Hemos participado en todas las actividades que han conducido al establecimiento del DMA. Desde el principio, apoyamos firmemente la iniciativa de Hungría, y junto con los representantes de Cuba y Kuwait, entre otros, cumplimos función importante en la creación del DMA.

Nuestro interés acerca del DMA nos ha permitido reconocer los esfuerzos del Director General por dar a esas celebraciones, la altura y significación que merecen. Es apenas natural, que esos acertados esfuerzos del Director General, puedan ser impulsados por las opiniones de los representantes de Gobiernos animados por el sano propósito de que esas actividades, cada vez más, estén dirigidas al logro de objetivos con mayor alcance popular, realmente vinculadas a las clases campesinas.

En el párrafo 11, aparecen los temas seleccionados en los años 83 a 87 para la celebración del DMA en Roma. Todos nos parecen muy bien.

Igualmente, encontramos adecuado que esos temas no sean un marco rígido que necesariamente deban seguir todos los países, pero sí convendría que la FAO, en cooperación con las ONG y los representantes de gobiernos, elaboraran series de temas que pudieran servir de guías, directrices, a los países que así podrán seleccionar las que más les interesen y consideren pertinentes de acuerdo con sus respectivas características y condiciones.

Las personas escogidas hasta ahora para hacer su declaración en el DMA en Roma no aparecen en el documento, pero hemos asistido a todas esas celebraciones y las encontramos impecables, a todas esas personalidades. Pero convendría observar que, en los últimos años, ha sido escasa la participación de voceros del tercer mundo.

Sé muy bien que el Director General tiene una gran sensibilidad política y social en esas determinaciones, pero que a veces los imponderables políticos, como parece ser el caso de este año, frustrar los buenos propósitos del Director General.

Es así como de manera cordial y respetuosa, quisiéramos sugerir que para los años futuros, se planifique esto con debida antelación y se pueda asegurar así la presencia en Roma de los países en desarrollo, cuyo contacto permanente con la difícil situación de la agricultura y la alimentación, les permitirán exponer situaciones y hacer declaraciones que sean de vasto interés para la Comunidad Internacional.

Por qué no pensar también en traer a campesinos, a dirigentes campesinos, a líderes de organizaciones campesinas, a agricultores que hayan participado en la ejecución de proyectos de FAO y puedan transmitir sus experiencias sobre cómo, por ejemplo, un proyecto FAO ha contribuido a aumentar la producción agropecuaria en su país.

En fin, éstas son ideas concebidas tan sólo con buena voluntad con el deseo de contribuir a que el DMA llegue realmente a los sectores que están directamente vinculados con los temas que el DMA suscita.

La Delegación de Colombia apoya el Proyecto de Resolución que anunció nuestra distinguida colega y amiga Fátma HAYAT de Kuwait, y espera que Ud. Sr, Presidente y nuestros colegas de esta Comisión reciban el contenido de esta declaración como un apoyo franco, leal y sincero al Director General porque estamos seguros de que el Director General de la FAO seguirá, cada día más, preocupándose para que el DMA sea realmente importante y dé resultados positivos.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, delegate of Colombia. May I point out that you have taken slightly longer than the five-minute norm that has been agreed upon? But, in view of the sincerity, criticality and constructiveness of your intervention, I am sure my colleagues will agree that these ten minutes were well worth the investment.

A.H. Mofazzal KARIM (Bangladesh): The importance of World Food Day cannot be overemphasized. This is the day when humanity rededicates itself every year to its divine responsibility of fighting hunger, malnutrition and poverty. This is the day when humanity expresses its unanimous resolve to live and not perish on this planet. Right to food is as natural as right to breathe.

Imbued with this spirit, Bangladesh observes this day on 16 October every year with due solemnity and proper publicity. Seminars and conferences, attended by national personalities, are held. Exhibitions of food items emphasizing their nutritional aspects are arranged. Talks and discussions on radio and TV are held. Newspaper supplements are taken out. Adequate publicity is also given through posters, banners and pamphlets. The purpose is to create public awareness of the food problem and to pay homage to the 85 percent of our population who produce food.

In this context, finance appears to be the main constraint. Lack of adequate finance makes it difficult to organize elaborate programmes at subnational and grassroots levels.

The Bangladesh delegation feels that observance of World Food Day should be universal in the sense that programmes should be taken out not only in the cities and towns but also in the rural areas, involving the rural masses in general and farmers in particular. Again, finance turns out to be a problem.

Vàclav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): I should like to congratulate Mr Moreno on his presentation of the document under discussion. After studying this document, it can be stated that it offers a good survey of the food aid development associated with World Food Day and its future objectives.

The Czechoslovak delegation shares the view that this event is very important, arousing the interest of the public of the world in the struggle of FAO against hunger in the world, against malnutrition and poverty. We consider it useful and necessary that the FAO as a leading international agency for agricultural development should continue its efforts to expand the activities of the World Food Day at the international, regional and national levels. The publicity material prepared for the World Food Day is all well made, convincingly documenting the character of the subject.

However, in this context we have a comment on the poster with the theme of the World Food Day. In our view, for the second year, the poster is not easy to look at and does not have a very interesting appearance. It also takes a comparatively long time to recognize the subject of the poster. I think that it will not be very difficult to remove this shortcoming and to increase in this way the effectiveness of the materials of FAO propaganda.

We attach very great importance to the selection of the themes of the World Food Days. The themes chosen up to now testify to the well-thoughtout attitude of the FAO to this important world event. In this context, the Czechoslovak delegation proposes that the cooperative and rural organizations and their influence on the removal of hunger in the world, malnutrition and poverty should become one of the next themes of the World food Day. This theme would also correspond with the conclusion of the WCARRD.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): I shall be very brief and only make three points. First, over past years, in line with the theme chosen by FAO and adapting it to the context of our country, we have always organized celebrations in many ways and of many kinds in order to make world food problems and the effort deployed by countries better known to an increasing number of people, in order to do away with hunger and malnutrition. We have mobilized people from all parts of life to associate themselves with this major struggle.

Since this is a long-term struggle, we have given particular focus to the sensitization and education work among young people and school children. Young people have a future and to bring them in to participate in these activities aimed at eliminating hunger and malnutrition will help promote the ongoing pursuit of these activities.

Secondly, as has already been pointed out in the documents we have before us, World Food Day is not just a sporadic event which takes place once a year. It is an annual event which should become increasingly visible. That is why we carry out research and education, training at grassroots level and in grassroots units, in order to have the whole mentality of World Food Day spread and percolate to agricultural workers, organizations and groups.

Thirdly, we note the objectives and plans for future celebrations of World Food Day in the document. We endorse the ideas expressed in this document and will certainly strive to take the necessary measures in order to make these celebrations even livelier and more useful.

Pascal GOUTON (Bénin): La délégation béninoise s'associe à celles qui l'ont précédée pour vous féliciter de votre élection à la tête de cette commission et pour la façon dont vous dirigez les travaux.

En République Populaire du Bénin, toutes les autorités politiques et administratives sont activement impliquées dans l'organisation et la célébration de la JMA à laquelle sont sensibilisées toutes les forces productives. A cet effet, le déroulement de la septième JMA a connu les manifestations suivantes:

- 1) Allocution radiotélévisée du Ministre du Développement Rural et de l'Action Coopérative sur le thème des Petits Agriculteurs.
- 2) Exposition de produits et de photos relatifs aux activités de production de petits agriculteurs.
- 3) Débat télévisé de techniciens de haut niveau sur les problèmes des petits agriculteurs.
- 4) Conférence-débats sur les petits agriculteurs avec la participation des représentants diplomatiques et de tous les autres ministères.
- 5) Distribution de prix aux lauréats des concours de poésie et de rédaction sur le thème: "Les Petits Agriculteurs".

Le déroulement de cette septième JMA ne s'est pas limité à la capitale. Les 5 autres provinces du pays ont connu les mêmes célébrations sous la conduite de leur préfet.

Il serait souhaitable que le thème de la JMA soit connu six mois au moins avant sa célébration; il serait également souhaitable que les moyens financiers accordés par la FAO soient accrus pour permettre d'atteindre un plus grand nombre de producteurs par une meilleure diffusion des affiches publicitaires et pour mieux récompenser les lauréats des concours 1/ .

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques): Je félicite le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document et M. Moreno.

J'avais souhaité depuis longtemps une Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, et finalement elle est arrivée dans une lumière de foi et d'espérance. En cette occasion, chacun de nous, je pense, fait quelque chose pour faire connaître l'importance de cette commémoration et pour sensibiliser la conscience des hommes dont la majeure partie ne connaît pas toujours ce que fait la FAO pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, pour combattre la faim et les carences en principes nutritifs, cause de maladie et de mort.

Dans la mesure modeste du possible, je m'efforce d'agir dans mon entourage, auprès de mes collègues et amis, au niveau de ma paroisse et certaines institutions et écoles, pour faire connaître le plus possible que le premier et le plus sacré droit de l'homme est le droit à la vie, et que pour conserver cette vie il est indispensable que soient appliqués certains principes en matière de nutrition.

Chacun de nous pourrait faire beaucoup, car chacun doit donner témoignage. Je me permets de vous parler d'une expérience que j'ai faite dans un institut de soeurs qui gèrent des écoles. Avec quatre leçons seulement, je les ai mises en condition de faire des calculs sur le contenu et le pouvoir nutritif et en calories des principaux produits alimentaires et de quelques diètes recommandées, et cela pour éviter des erreurs dans leur alimentation et dans celle des enfants des écoles.

En effet, du point de vue matériel, nous sommes ce que nous mangeons, mais heureusement, l'esprit nous aide beaucoup car chacun de nous possède une âme et une conscience, ce lieu incomparable qui permet la rencontre entre Dieu et nous-mêmes.

Ainsi, au nom de la fraternité entre tous les hommes, j'espère qu'une vraie culture de l'alimentation et de la nutrition pourra s'affirmer toujours plus pour la sécurité alimentaire, le bien-être, la santé, la paix dans ce monde si éprouvé et martyrisé.

Une culture de la spiritualité qui nous manque malheureusement dans ce monde où nous vivons pourrait nous aider à aller dans ce sens. On a déjà oeuvré dans cette direction mais il faut continuer avec un élan accru.

Je pense que les initiatives qui sont prises pour la JMA doivent être toujours plus poussées et mieux préparées et que l'information à ce sujet doit être renforcée.

CHAIRMAN: I would suggest first that we take cognizance of the fact that the delegation of Benin has a statement on World Food Day, which has not been read out in the meeting, but which should be inserted in the verbatim records. May I now request Mr. Moreno to answer some of the points which have been raised during the discussion?

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General)a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): Trataré de ser igualmente breve que las intervenciones que las diversas delegaciones han presentado en esta discusión.

En primer término quisiera agradecer en nombre de la Secretaría, en nombre del Director General, de mis colegas que trabajan en el Dequeño grupo del Día Mundial de la Alimentación y en el mío propio, las palabras que aquí se han vertido respecto de la calidad del documento presentado y al tipo de actividad que se viene promoviendo desde Roma, al mismo tiempo que por el contenido y forma en que este documento ha sido discutido esta tarde y ha sido presentado y entregado al conocimiento de las delegaciones. Apreciamos en todo lo que vale las opiniones y sugerencias que aquí se han vertido; como es ya costumbre nuestra, ellas son debidamente estudiadas, no sólo en el curso de este debate sino posteriormente, y pretendemos siempre extraer de ellas los comentarios y las sugerencias para, ya sea reorientar, ya sea reforzar las acciones y mecanismos con los cuales el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, a través de todo el mundo, viene siendo desarrollado.

Quiero reiterar lo que aquí se ha dicho respecto de la importancia de seleccionar oportunamente el tema del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Es ya una costumbre, que se ha adoptado prácticamente a partir del año pasado, el hacer el esfuerzo de comunicar a los países la selección del tema y sobre todo la preparación del primer material informativo, con el cual cada país puede comenzar a prepararse y a preparar a los distintos organismos y organizaciones en los cuales se enmarca el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, sobre la base del conocimiento adecuado y prematuro de la temática ya seleccionada.

Recogiéndose, igualmente, con gran interés las sugerencias que se han hecho respecto de temas futuros, así como también aquellos comentarios sobre el tipo de material de información u otros materiales de apoyo que aquí se han mencionado en el curso de este debate. Recogiéndose, igualmente, con gran interés, los comentarios respecto a dar mayor prioridad a las organizaciones no gubernamentales. Creemos que esto está recogido pero si no hubiese sido percibido, por la forma en que ha sido leído o expuesto el documento, baste mencionar que el documento que tenemos a la vista, que consta de breves 14 páginas, tiene, por lo menos, más de 18 referencias en párrafos especiales a las organizaciones no gubernamentales.

Recogiéndose también el interés que aquí ha sido expresado respecto de este tipo de estructuras; estamos convencido de que ellas juega un rol insustituible y realmente determinante en la movilización de la opinión pública en sus respectivos países, y, por lo tanto, seguiremos dando apoyo y respaldo a este tipo de orientación.

Con esto señor Presidente, quisiera terminar reiterando el agradecimiento de la Secretaría por la forma en que el debate ha sido sugerido esta tarde.

CHAIRMAN: We have had a very long and interesting debate in which there were 38 delegates participating as well as one observer. The enthusiasm of the delegates about the World Food Day has emerged very clearly through the discussions. One point which requires to be pondered over is whether the present practice of the FAO indicating a major theme for the celebration should not be continued, with Member Nations having the choice of adopting either that theme or some other theme which is of immediate relevance to the situation and conditions obtaining in that particular nation.

The second point we should keep in mind is that ultimately food production comes from the hard work of the farmers, with the support of the extension agencies and the science and technology we infuse into our extension effort.

Therefore, with a celebration like the World Food Day or any other celebration like the Input Fortnight which we take up merely to include farmers, we should recognize its functions and limitations clearly so that it becomes a point which highlights where all these efforts coalesce to achieve the long-term objectives we all have in view.

We shall close the discussion on item 6.3 with the caveat that as and when the resolution which was tabled this morning by Peru comes before the Commission we shall revert to the subject for the consideration and adoption of the resolution. With that, the discussion on item 6.3 is closed.

7. Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind
7. Etude de faisabilité sur l'élargissement de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles
7. Estudio de viabilidad sobre la ampliación del suministro de insumos agrícolas como ayuda en especie

CHAIRMAN: We now have about half an hour to take up for consideration Agenda Item 7, that is, the report of the Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind. We have two documents before us running into about 160 pages. While deciding whether we should have the introduction by Dr G.V.K. Rao this evening at the end of a fairly hard week when we are about to recess for the weekend or whether we should have it postponed to Monday morning, we felt possibly the balance of advantage might lie in requesting him to speak at length this evening for about forty minutes depending on his convenience, so that with the background of what he says and with this documentation we commence the fresh week on Monday with a debate on the various items that are contained in this presentation.

Dr Rao might not need much introduction to the members of the Council, before whom he had an opportunity to present some of his views and observations at the last meeting. I might claim some reflected glory in the fact that I am by some steps removed a successor to Dr Rao as Secretary, Agriculture and Cooperation in the Government of India. Subsequently, he has blazed a brilliant trail. He is also in our Planning Commission as a member in charge of agriculture. He has recently been associated with a study of fertilizer distribution and costing in India, where there is a feeling that too much money is being paid as subsidy to the farmers and to fertilizer prices. He has recently given the report which is under consideration by the Government of India. He is currently associated with a high-powered group which has been set up to look at the agricultural research and education structure in India in the light of the developments that have taken place in the last 20 to 25 years, when the green revolution has been achieved, and to suggest how the research infrastructure should be remodelled and restructured. He has been associated with the study in Africa right from the inception to advise the Director-General on exactly how this work should be organized.

G.V.K. RAO (Special Adviser to the Director-General on the Feasibility Study on Aid-in-Kind):

Thank you, Mr Chairman, for that very complimentary introduction. I am happy to report to you, on behalf of the Director-General, on the outcome of the Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind.

As you are aware, the idea for the study arose from the conclusions of FAO's recent report "African Agriculture: the next 25 years". The report made it clear that agricultural development in Africa cannot be expected to improve significantly without intensified efforts to support agricultural institutions, infrastructure, incentives and inputs. From these areas, named by the report as the "4 i's" of agricultural development, inputs were selected for special study, because they will inevitably play a major role in raising agricultural productivity and incomes and yet inputs are not always available when and where they are needed. In particular, it was decided to examine the feasibility of expanding aid-in-kind, that is the direct supply of inputs, in order to increase the availability of inputs to African farmers.

The study found that there are considerable amounts of inputs being supplied to Africa through aid-in-kind, programme aid, and agricultural development projects. Yet, countries do not have and, given current trends, will not have the inputs they need to reach the target of an annual agricultural growth rate of 3 percent. The expansion of all forms of input assistance, including aid-in-kind, is necessary. It is also feasible. However, the study contends that although it is feasible to expand input assistance quantitatively, expansion alone will not be sufficient. Qualitative improvements in the provision, receipt and use of input assistance are equally important.

Before elaborating upon these findings and the actions proposed in follow-up to them, I should like to briefly review how the study itself has been conducted.

The study was initiated at the request of the Council after its meeting in November 1986. As I mentioned during my oral progress report to the Council in June, the Study's activities were of three main types: consultations with African countries and with members of the international community involved in input assistance; case studies of four African countries; and working papers on the issues involved.

Our consultations involved meeting with and collecting data from other UN agencies and international organizations, donor countries, recipient countries, and private sector producers of agricultural inputs. The case studies were effected through missions to Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Zambia. The working papers were prepared on the subjects of Africa's overall input requirements, local input production and intra-regional trade, input distribution systems, input pricing, counterpart funds generated from the sale of aid-in-kind, the activities of non-governmental organizations in administering input assistance, and past experiences with aid-in-kind. These working papers have been consolidated, together with the reports from the country case studies, for your reference as annexes to the main report. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who contributed to the study, to the countries and organizations who responded to FAO's request for information, and especially to the governments of Ghana, Niger, Senegal and Zambia who received the FAO missions for the case studies.

Findings of the study: The study found that currently in sub-Saharan Africa there is gap between the supply of inputs available and the amount of inputs needed to support the annual agricultural growth rate of 3 percent that is required to raise food self-sufficiency and also increase export earnings. This gap is expected to widen over the next 10 years or more, and an additional input aid of some US \$4 billion will be needed to fill it. Substantial aid will also be required for supporting services in two particular areas. First, to strengthen or create national input data banks that are essential to improve input policy formulation, aid coordination and operation of input supply systems. Secondly, to improve the transportation, storage and distribution systems which currently constrain development and add considerably to marketing costs.

The inputs for which there is the greatest supply gap are mineral fertilizers, agricultural machinery and implements, and pesticides, and there are four main sources for them. They could be produced locally; they could be purchased at commercial markets by African countries from other African countries; they could be purchased at commercial markets by African countries from developed and developing countries outside the region; or they could be supplied by developed countries as aid on a concessional or a grant basis.

The Study found that the current local production of agricultural inputs is very limited. Output levels of locally produced agricultural inputs can and must be stepped up. I would like to emphasize the over-riding importance of expanding local and regional production as a long-term solution. However, according to even the most optimistic estimates, few countries will be self-sufficient and in the short-term increases in local input production will be able to fill only a fraction of the supply gap. Moreover, with a number of important exceptions, limited local production in Africa means, of course, that there is limited scope for intra-regional trade. In addition, poor lines of communication, lack of transport facilities, and currency exchange problems pose obstacles to trade between African countries.

For inputs that cannot be produced locally or procured within the region, Africa can turn to commercial suppliers from developed countries who currently provide most of Africa's modern farm inputs. However, for most African countries foreign exchange constraints are extremely tight. Despite intensive and continuing efforts to raise foreign exchange earnings, demand for foreign exchange will exceed supply in most if not all countries. Debt service alone claims more than a third of annual foreign exchange earnings in some African countries.

Given the short-term limitations to increasing input supplies through both local production and commercial procurement, input aid will have to increase, if African agricultural growth rates are to keep pace with population growth.

Moreover, given the conditions currently facing the producers of inputs in developed countries, they could put their production resources to greater use, if input assistance to Africa were to be stepped up.

Input assistance: the study found that the experiences of both donors and recipients with aid-in-kind have been similar to their experiences with other forms of aid to supply inputs, such as programme aid. We have learned that all tend to suffer from similar defects and that these must be corrected if input assistance is to be successfully expanded.

Problems with input assistance have been found to start with the identification and specification of input needs. Repeatedly, needs have been improperly identified and ill-specified. Recipient countries have lacked the information necessary to know exactly what and how much they needed, or how much they could handle.

The unsystematic programming of input assistance by donors, and the lack of coordination by recipients of inputs supplied have been the next most troublesome aspects of input assistance. Year-by-year donor commitments at very different levels hurt more often than they help. As a consequence of sporadic commitments by donors and poor coordination by recipients, there can be a flood of aid-supplied goods in one year and a mere trickle in the next. Unreliable supplies have detracted from, rather than enhanced, development efforts to introduce new production technologies calling for increased input use.

Input assistance has commonly had a disruptive effect on existing trade in inputs, on local commerce in inputs, and on local input production. However, our analysis suggests that there is nothing about the nature of input assistance per se that makes such detrimental consequences inevitable. Input assistance does not have to have negative effects. On the contrary, it can have very positive effects if its design takes into consideration existing input supply, and patterns of use in the recipient country, and its implementation is carried out with attention to changing needs and circumstances. It is sufficient that basic principles for input assistance be developed, and respected by both donors and recipients.

The study found that, aside from increasing the total availability of inputs, input assistance and aid-in-kind in particular can have other positive effects. Through triangular transactions aid-in-kind can help forget new trade relationships. By purchasing inputs for aid-in-kind from African suppliers, aid-in-kind can be used to stimulate local production of inputs. By using revenues from the sale of inputs - commonly called counterpart funds - for investments in infrastructure such as storage or transport facilities, aid-in-kind can be used to cut costs of input delivery thereby working to the advantage and not to the detriment of local commercial input suppliers.

The study confirmed that, like other forms of input assistance, aid-in-kind provides balance of payments support by saving foreign exchange, and it can also provide government budgetary support by generating local currency revenues through the sale of inputs. Aid-in-kind differs from other forms of input assistance in that it offers a more secure way of targeting certain recipients or sectors as beneficiaries. By providing goods rather than credits, loans or grants, aid-in-kind is guaranteed to get to the agricultural sector, and even to certain kinds of users, depending on the type of the goods. Moreover, because donors take responsibility for procurement with aid-in-kind, time and costs can be saved. This was found to be especially useful in emergency situations.

Follow-up proposals: In light of the study's conclusion that, in the short term and probably in the longer-term, there will be a substantial gap between the amount of inputs that Africa needs to develop its agriculture and the amount of inputs that it can afford to buy or produce, the study strongly advocates an increase in the total amount of input assistance. Without modern agricultural inputs African agriculture will be seriously constrained by being locked into traditional production technologies. Agriculture will be held back, unable to realize its potential as an engine for economic growth in the way that it did for the majority of today's more developed countries.

Donors know that they stand to gain from supporting growing agricultural economies that will make African countries into the healthy trading partners badly needed by their own export industries. We propose that they act on this knowledge by augmenting financial and material support to existing channels for input assistance. Increasing resource flows through multilateral channels is especially recommended, given that they shield recipients from subsidized export promotion and surplus dumping.

The study proposes, with equal emphasis, that the modalities for aid-in-kind and other forms of input assistance should be improved by both donors and recipients. Improvements are recommended for three stages of input assistance. First there must be improvements at the input identification and specification stage. Clear-cut policies and good information will be necessary to improve these activities. Secondly, there must be improvements at the stage of aggregate supply. There must be a coordination of supplies from the various sources by recipients and commitments by donors must be systematically programmed over longer periods. Thirdly, a wide range of improvements must be made at the implementation stage. In particular, guidelines should be developed to lay down basic principles for the implementation of input assistance to avoid the negative effects that some input assistance has had in the past. The guidelines would recommend taking certain measures such as pricing and marketing of inputs supplied through aid in conformity with existing practices for commercially supplied inputs, devoting greater attention to the management and use of counterpart funds, and making provisions for spare parts and maintenance services that many inputs require.

The proposals for improving the modalities of input assistance are complemented by others regarding the use of aid-in-kind. Expansion of aid-in-kind is recommended in three particular cases.

Firstly, to support local production of inputs by providing raw materials. Secondly, to foster intra-regional trade by adopting triangular transactions, whereby donors buy inputs from the few African countries with export capabilities to meet the needs of the deficit countries. Thirdly, as a catalyst for technical changes which could raise the productivity and incomes of small farmers. This may, for example, involve input for work programmes, weed management campaigns, or feed aid.

FAO's role in expanding and improving input assistance: The study recommends that FAO's principal role in expanding the quantity and improving the quality of input assistance should be to offer services that will facilitate the expansion and improvement of input assistance conducted through existing institutional mechanisms. It suggests that FAO should offer services to help make information on inputs more widely available. This would promote both the expansion of input assistance and improvements in the quality of its administration. Better information on how much input assistance is needed can be used to promote its expansion. Information on what kinds of inputs are needed could also improve its delivery. The study also suggests that FAO provide its services in the development of guidelines for the improvement of input assistance.

To facilitate expansion of the quantity and improvement of the quality of input assistance at the country level, FAO could provide technical assistance to overcome the weaknesses identified by the study in the identification and specification of input needs. The more countries are able to quantify their needs, the more likely they are to be successful in expanding their input supplies. Similarly, the more accurately they can specify the type of inputs needed, the more likely that the inputs supplied will be suited to those needs. Since the conclusion of the study preliminary proposals have been developed for the establishment of National Input Databanks in recipient countries. Such databanks would allow recipients to collect, analyse and disseminate information about inputs with a view toward increasing input availability and optimizing input use according to national objectives for the agricultural sector.

To facilitate the expansion of the quantity and improvement of the quality of input assistance at the international level FAO could, subject to the availability of funds, create an International Input Databank for Africa to monitor the changing needs and market demand for inputs in the countries of Africa. The International Databank would also monitor input flows from local producers, commercial imports and aid programmes. Published periodically, this information could be useful to planners involved in the importing and exporting of inputs through both concessional and commercial channels, especially in bilateral and multilateral aid agencies. Like information at the national level, it could be used to promote expanded supplies of inputs and improve their delivery. These services could support the more systematic programming and better coordination of input assistance found by the study to be of utmost importance.

Other steps to be taken by donors and recipients to improve the implementation of input assistance programmes could be included in guidelines for input assistance. In this FAO could play a role by bringing together members of the international community to review what ought to be basic principles for the implementation of such assistance. A review of the study's findings could be used as a basis with which operational guidelines on the implementation of input supply programmes are developed for reference for both donors and recipients.

In conclusion, I would like to say how happy I am to have been involved in this study. I believe that you will agree that for the first time it brings together sufficient information to permit a thorough assessment of the availability and use of agricultural inputs in Africa. The variety and depth of information collected has enabled us to analyse the recent and possible future situation with a clarity and assuredness that has not previously been possible. However, the study should be regarded as the first stage of a possible multi-stage process. The four case studies indicate clearly that the situation is dynamic. They also show that country situations are diverse. Hence, a uniform response to input supply problems is not possible. Most of the actions required will have to be drawn up on the basis of country by country, and problem area by problem area analyses.

I am sure that you will find that the study will be of use to you in your bilateral programmes for in put assistance. However, in my opinion, the study's findings have equally if not more important implications regarding the place for multilateral assistance in the provision of inputs, in the collection and exchange of data, in aid coordination and in policy formulation. Input assistance must be increased, but it must not be a vehicle for subsidized export promotion or surplus dumping, nor must it continue in an ad hoc, un-systematic and un-coordinated way. Neutral advice and assistance to recipients and donors alike is necessary to prevent this from happening. FAO has the experience and the means to provide this kind of assistance.

Finally, I would like to comment on the emphasis FAO gives to improved information systems. Sound and up-to-date information on agricultural inputs needs and availabilities are vital to policy and decision-making by African Governments, by donor agencies and by the private sector. In particular, improved information systems are a prerequisite for action on three weaknesses that commonly prevail in Africa. First, the absence of coherent strategies for input production and use. Secondly, the lack of a suitable policy framework for input assistance. Thirdly, the demand and supply constraints that inhibit local production of inputs. The report makes a number of proposals to address some of these problems. If these proposals are acceptable to Conference, FAO can strengthen them in consultation with all parties concerned and launch certain actions at modest cost.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/7

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTH MEETING
SEPTIEME SEANCE
SEPTIMA SESION

(16 November 1987)

The Seventh Meeting was opened at 09.50 hours,
C. S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La septième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la séptima sesión a las 09.50 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. s. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRMAN: The Seventh Meeting of Commission I is called to order. We are to discuss item 7, "Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind".

Before we come to this subject, there are two matters which I want to bring to your attention. A resolution on World Food Day has been tabled by the delegate from Peru. It has been referred to the Resolutions Committee and, hopefully, it should be with us for consideration by late this evening. Depending on the progress it makes through the procedural channels, we will take it up for consideration sometime tomorrow, possibly first thing in the morning.

The second point I wanted to mention was that the delegates must have had an opportunity, after hearing the detailed presentation given by Dr J. V. K. Rao on Friday evening, of reading through the two documents, C 87/20 and C 87/20-Sup. 1, which contained the introduction or the foreword by the Director-General, a summary of their findings and recommendations, and also the detailed backup data contained in the supplement. Whilst I throw open the subject for discussion now, I would submit for your consideration that this is an item which is scheduled for discussion in two sessions today, the Seventh Meeting this morning and the Eighth Meeting this afternoon. Depending on the number of speakers from the floor, if we are able to conclude this discussion earlier than 5.30 pm this evening I will seek your indulgence that we may this afternoon, depending on the availability of time and when the discussion on this item is concluded, take up for discussion Item 8, Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment, but this is provisional as of now.

Item 7 is now open for discussion.

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
7. Feasibility Study on expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind (continued)
7. Etude de faisabilité sur l'élargissement de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles (suite)
7. Estudio de viabilidad sobre la ampliación del suministro de insumos agrícolas como ayuda en especie (continuación)

A.H. Mofazzai KARIM (Bangladesh): The Bangladesh Delegation feels that the recommendations made by Dr Rao in his Report are the result of an in-depth study of the problem of agriculture in Africa. The Report truly supplements the 1986 FAO Report "African Agriculture: the next 25 years" We believe the recommendations, if accepted and implemented, will usher in a new era of hope and prosperity for African agriculture. We thank Dr Rao for this excellent Report.

May I be allowed to offer briefly my observations and comments on three specific points? First, regarding Aid-in-Kind for feed grains and high protein animal feeds: this refers to paragraph 57 of the Report. I suggest that medicines for livestock might also be included in the shopping list for Aid-in-Kind.

In this context, I refer to the vulnerable condition of draught animals in most of the developing countries, such as Bangladesh. Acute shortage of high protein animal feeds and pasture lands is responsible for such poor growth of livestock in these countries. I would therefore, suggest, that the Aid-in-Kind programme be implemented also in countries such as Bangladesh, to the extent of providing feed grains and high protein animal feeds. In this context, I would recall that after this year's devastating floods, when we sought for Aid-in-Kind in the form of animal feeds, response from the international community was almost negative. As the result, we faced a very precarious situation. Relief in other sectors received from the international community was, however, highly encouraging.

My next comment relates to the Work-for-Inputs Programme as envisaged in paragraph 83. For one thing, it will generate employment opportunities, particularly in the lean season, for thousands of out-of-work farmers. My only anxiety is about the use of such inputs by small farmers who, I am afraid, would sell them off to relatively big farmers and middlemen at rates lower than market rates. This I say from our experience of the Food-for-Work Programme, where cash-hungry small and marginal farmers go for cash by selling the food grains to middlemen and others in the trade. Although in our case - i.e. in the case of the Food-for-Work Programme - it does not affect agricultural production, it may not be so in the case of the Work-for-Inputs Programme where the purpose is not only to provide inputs, but also to ensure their use by the recipient farmers. More attention may, therefore, perhaps be given to details and specifics in this regard.

Lastly, about data base and the Management Information Service in developing countries, the whole exercise hinges on availability of statistical data which is more often than not, missing in developing countries. I understand the authors of this report also face difficulties in this respect.

In paragraph 46 it has been rightly suggested that FAO's technical assistance could be provided to install data management and monitoring systems. Here I would refer to a recent development in the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), of which Bangladesh is a member. The SAARC at its last summit held only a few days ago in Katmandu, Nepal, approached, inter alia, setting up a regional information centre to strengthen the agricultural data base of the Member Countries and ensure the flow of agricultural information. FAO may enthuse similar entities in Africa for this purpose. At the same time I would appeal for FAO's assistance for such other institutions in developing countries also such as the one proposed to be set up by the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

Tsutomu TAKAHASHI (Japan): At the 90th Council, the delegate of Japan mentioned that this feasibility study would be useful. Therefore, I am pleased to have received the report and find it mostly acceptable, except for a few points. However, we particularly agree with the proposed efforts which should be made by recipient countries, such as the need to raise public investment in agriculture, the need to make clear and realistic decisions regarding food self-sufficiency and agricultural targets, policies to give incentives to farmers to use more inputs, and so on. We also support FAO's intention to provide technical assistance to African countries, to establish a data bank on necessary information on inputs and to use the existing "early warning system" also for input oversupply or shortage, as proposed in paragraph 46.

However, Japan does not consider it important to set a frame to the existing assistance scheme, nor to introduce a new system of input aid which could be managed by FAO, as is proposed in paragraph 141.

Multi-annual commitments and triangular transactions are also difficult to accept, in the light of relevant national regulations. I am afraid the adoption of such guidelines will rather hamper the expansion of Aid-in-Kind, consequently I am of the view that it is too early to discuss such guidelines.

I should now like to make important recommendations with regard to Aid-in-Kind which are not seen in the report.

In order that the provided inputs, namely fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural instruments, can be fully utilized effectively as well as efficiently, corresponding technique on the part of recipient countries and their farmers in particular is a prerequisite. Therefore, each African country is required to intensify agricultural research, education and extension, along with the proposed requirements mentioned above. In this regard, the combination of Aid-in-Kind and technical cooperation could be desirable, depending on the needs, and so it is also important for the international community to strengthen assistance for this purpose.

Furthermore, since it is crucially important for the inputs to be delivered to small-scale farmers, which account for most of the food production in each country, improvement in managing distribution and transportation is urgently required. Also, appropriate storage measures for fertilizer and pesticide commensurate with increased volume of Aid-in-Kind and appropriate maintenance technology for machineries are quite important

Though it appears that the Aid-in-Kind is mainly for food production as seen, for example, in paragraph 47 through 49, input requirement in Table 2 may include input for cash crops as well.

As Japan indicated at the 90th Council, we hope that input for food crops and input for other crops will be distinguished from each other to the extent possible, in preparing country-level study at a later stage. Because it is the production of food crops which has to be significantly increased in most African countries at present.

Also, in the country-level study, it is very important, I consider, not only to identify the really essential inputs, but also to fully grasp the administrative capacity of institutions in each country which will be responsible for implementation of the Aid-in-Kind, and to clarify the required field and method of multilateral or bilateral technical cooperation.

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Liban) (langue originale arabe): La délégation du Liban tient à féliciter le Dr Bonte-Friedheim de cet excellent exposé qu'il nous a présenté pour le document C 87/20 relatif à l'étude de faisabilité sur l'expansion de l'aide en nature pour les approvisionnements en intrants agricoles. Nous connaissons le Dr Bonte-Friedheim depuis bien longtemps et avons toujours apprécié sa compétence notamment quand il a pris ses nouvelles fonctions à la suite du Dr Bommer. Il a toujours démontré une grande aptitude à accomplir sa tâche et fait preuve d'une connaissance approfondie des sujets touchant à l'agriculture ainsi que des problèmes dont souffrent les pays en voie de développement, en particulier, dans les domaines de leurs besoins en intrants agricoles, de la protection des animaux, de la commercialisation, etc.

Cette étude a été menée dans un laps de temps très court et avec des moyens très modestes; malgré tout, elle est très complète. Nous aurions souhaité qu'il dispose d'un temps beaucoup plus long, néanmoins nous le remercions ainsi que le Secrétariat.

Eh terminant, nous voudrions assurer le Dr Bonte-Friedheim de l'appui de la délégation du Liban en ce qui concerne le contenu de ce document.

Moses Mike MUKOLWE (Kenya): The Kenyan delegation commends the Secretariat, first, for taking the initiative in the Study, and secondly, on its presentation by Dr Rao. This shows a great concern to improve the agricultural delivery system in order to enhance and increase food production in countries of sub-Saharan Africa. My delegation supports all the efforts made in assembling earlier documents by the OAU Secretariat backed by the FAO, "African Agriculture: the Next 25 Years", and endorsement of the Programme by the UN General Assembly last year.

The documents before us, C 87/20 and its supplement, have attempted to explain the policy and planning framework for the input assistance. My delegation may have some slight difficulties when it comes to areas of major government policies such as the general framework suggests: "Aim is institutional change". We also note that the Director-General in his opening statement under aid-in-kind said: "FAO's aim is to bring together all interested parties for concerted international action". We welcome this move.

The inputs looked at are exogenous: that is, they are external in origin, or off-farm, to use the term that appears in "Agriculture: Towards 2 000". This is opposed to introgenous, which should be from within the farm or within the country. The paper points out that without these inputs countries are destined to remain underdeveloped. Aid-in-kind is to fill the gap without harming commercial transactions. It is a matter of choice between bilateral and multilateral arrangements, and I do not know how many "rounds" we shall need in order to agree.

The agricultural problem in sub-Saharan is lack of moisture or rain water conservation to sustain crop production. Other inputs, such as fertilizers, will only interact so long as moisture is available. Research to generate appropriate technology should be the emphasis. Document C 87/27, "Agriculture: Towards 2000", item 4.33, takes care of this. The same document hints that even with combined agricultural development some significant black spots which have been discussed over and over still loom high. By that I mean the World Food Security Compact and the twelve points.

The target groups, the majority, to benefit from the aid-in-kind are the numerous small-scale farmers, pastoralists, fishermen, all scattered over a wide area. The objectives under the three main components of the policy and planning framework for input assistance and their linkages are unclear and it is hoped that this will become clear when the aid-in-kind is being discussed by each recipient country. We should avoid a situation that would be similar to that of IMF structural adjustments. Attempts to develop rural areas assume all sort of themes. We have had the special or integrated agrarian reform and now aid-in-kind. In the paper we have staple foods are emphasized and these probably would be as monoculture under the aid-in-kind programme. How about balanced nutrition in a family? In our document "Agriculture: Towards 2000" it is clearly stated that nutrition is essential in our debate.

Development varies within a country and from country to country, so there are agro-ecological zones. Technological transfer using the intended high inputs is a long and continuous process and this is a way of life, dealing with individual families through participation and decision-making but guided by their governments.

In Kenya and I believe in many of our African countries, the basic four "is" exist in varied degrees which could be exploited in the delivery system to strengthen the linkages. There are hidden costs, of course, in dealing with such credit lines, in some accounting systems which require parliamentary approval by the treasuries in those countries, including the agreements which might be in existence between private bodies. These are bodies which are multilateral and multinational in nature and with joint ventures it is hard to accommodate them in the system.

In conclusion, Kenya has continued to benefit from aid-in-kind and programme aid. We have experienced some problems, of course, and we have identified our way through in the use of these inputs. We shall definitely cooperate with the FAO in consultations so that we can strengthen our case.

Rudolphe de POURTALES (Suisse): Ma délégation a examiné avec grand soin et intérêt l'étude de faisabilité sur l'expansion de l'aide en nature pour les approvisionnements en intrants agricoles. Ces documents démontrent très bien la complexité du problème mais à notre avis, l'analyse des motivations des paysans pour l'investissement est encore insuffisante.

En effet, nous connaissons des cas où des paysans sont retournés à la production d'autosuffisance non seulement par manque de marché pour leurs produits, mais également par manque d'approvisionnement en produits de consommation courante.

Ma délégation n'est pas convaincue qu'une aide additionnelle puisse être obtenue par ce biais et craint qu'il y ait plutôt un déplacement de l'aide vers une aide plus liée.

Ma délégation estime que les paysans réagissent en général très positivement et de façon assez rapide lorsque les conditions économiques et institutionnelles sont favorables et offrent une certaine sécurité non seulement à court terme mais également à moyen terme.

C'est pourquoi nous pensons qu'une approche très prudente doit être adoptée pour ce type d'aide et qu'il serait peut-être utile de réaliser des actions pilotes dans un ou deux pays de petite taille, afin de mieux cerner les problèmes concrets qui se présenteront.

Antonio SAINTRAIOT (Belgique): La matière de l'aide en nature est une matière particulièrement intéressante et également particulièrement complexe. Nous avons eu l'occasion déjà à quelques reprises

d'intervenir pour souligner à la fois l'intérêt de cette formule notamment dans la grave crise que traverse actuellement le continent africain et également les aspects dangereux qu'elle pourrait présenter.

Je voudrais tout d'abord bien sincèrement féliciter les services techniques de la FAO pour la documentation qu'ils nous ont soumise en très peu de temps. Les deux documents que nous avons eu l'occasion d'examiner longuement sont particulièrement bien faits. Il s'agit bien sûr d'éléments qui devront dans l'avenir être davantage fouillés et étudiés. Je regrette peut-être qu'un certain nombre de pays n'aient pas encore fourni de documentation qui est quand même de nature à assurer une meilleure coordination de la coopération internationale pour le continent africain. Il est important que nous sachions de manière claire ce que les contributeurs multilatéraux, ce que les contributeurs bilatéraux font dans le domaine de l'aide en nature.

J'ai eu l'occasion de dire antérieurement que dans notre idée l'aide en nature devrait être une aide additionnelle, un effort supplémentaire spécifiquement pour le continent africain et qu'elle ne devait pas constituer un retour à l'aide liée dans le cadre des programmes de coopération. Dans la mesure où l'aide en nature est une aide et un effort additionnels à ce qui fut fait dans le passé dans le domaine de la coopération internationale pour l'Afrique, je crois qu'elle peut être réellement utile.

Nous avons une expérience peut-être relativement limitée mais intéressante, notamment dans le domaine des engrais et dans le cadre d'un programme que nous menons ensemble avec la FAO en Afrique centrale.

L'aide en nature, je le disais au début de mon exposé, peut être la meilleure et la pire des choses. Nous faisons tous de l'aide en nature et l'aide alimentaire est incontestablement un des meilleurs exemples de ce type d'aide qui peut être dans certains cas un élément de développement et dans d'autres cas, un élément d'anti-développement. Aussi s'agit-il d'être extrêmement prudent dans ce domaine particulièrement délicat.

Je crois que dans le domaine de l'aide en nature, il y a tout un élément de formation qui est indispensable de façon à assurer la vulgarisation; pour les populations paysannes cet aspect est particulièrement important.

Je crois aussi que l'aide en nature doit être accompagnée d'un suivi et d'une volonté d'assurer la maintenance. Je viens de parler de formation et de vulgarisation mais il y a également tout l'aspect de maintenance, l'aspect de fourniture de pièces de rechange et l'aspect indispensable non seulement de formation mais également de suivi à moyen terme et long terme des programmes d'aide en nature.

Je crois également qu'il faut éviter ce que j'appellerai la création "d'abonnés" à l'aide en nature parce que dans ce cas, on aboutirait à des éléments d'anti-développement. Il faut, quand on prévoit une aide en nature, prévoir également les dispositions voulues pour la cessation graduelle de ce type d'assistance. Il faut en arriver à des systèmes de crédit rural avec fonds de roulement et à une participation vraiment active des populations intéressées et des pays avec lesquels "ces programmes sont élaborés.

Nous soutenons particulièrement vivement l'idée de la FAO de constituer ce qui a été appelé une banque de données techniques sur les besoins identifiés et l'urgence relative qu'il y a à satisfaire ces besoins. C'est une idée particulièrement intéressante dans le domaine de l'aide en nature de savoir ce dont chaque pays a besoin, comment on peut répondre et synchroniser les efforts pour satisfaire ces besoins et savoir quand la réponse doit être fournie en fonction d'une programmation dans le temps et également d'une programmation dans l'espace, en fonction des endroits où l'aide en nature doit pouvoir être livrée et doit pouvoir parvenir dans de bonnes conditions.

L'aide en nature couvre un champ infiniment vaste puisqu'elle va du matériel aux vaccins, aux ressources phytogénétiques, aux semences, aux engrais, à toutes les variétés susceptibles de répondre à des besoins en fonction de situations essentiellement divergentes et qui relèvent des nécessités de chacun des pays; la situation n'est évidemment pas la même dans toutes les régions des différents pays.

Nous devons insister sur la nécessité d'une stratégie cohérente de l'utilisation des intrants. C'est le problème qui a été très bien identifié dans la troisième partie de l'étude, la formulation d'un cadre pour les politiques et la planification en matière d'utilisation de l'aide in kind. A ce propos, il y a un point que notre délégation voudrait soulever, c'est la nécessité d'assurer des liens articulés entre la FAO et l'IFPRI, Centre de la recherche agronomique internationale dans le domaine de l'utilisation des engrais. J'ai toujours plaidé pour une bonne articulation entre les activités de la FAO et les activités du Groupe consultatif de la recherche agronomique internationale financées par la Banque mondiale et un certain nombre d'autres donateurs.

Le problème spécifique fourniture d'intrants contre travail mérite bien sûr une analyse plus poussée. La situation est quelque peu différente de l'aide alimentaire du Programme alimentaire mondial puisque là, il s'agit de fourniture de travail contre une rémunération en tout ou en partie en espèces, c'est-à-dire en fourniture de vivres. La situation, dans l'hypothèse d'aide en nature, se présente quelque peu différemment mais il faudrait pousser davantage l'étude entreprise en ce domaine.

Je voudrais attirer l'attention sur la nécessité de bien répondre aux techniques culturales de façon à éviter les dégradations de sol ou à éviter qu'on ne rende un service peu utile aux pays en fournissant du matériel inadapté. Une bonne connaissance des réalités du pays, et la FAO a un rôle particulièrement important à jouer, de ses spécificités en matière de techniques culturelles permettra avec la mise au point d'une banque de données, de répondre de façon efficace à l'appel qui fut lancé par le Directeur général.

Je répète une fois de plus que je suis convaincu que l'aide en nature, que l'aide en intrants agricoles peut être un complément extrêmement important et extrêmement utile, notamment dans la crise que traverse actuellement le continent africain mais qu'il est bien entendu que pour nous cette aide en nature doit être additionnelle à l'effort tel qu'il a été réalisé jusqu'à présent.

Je voudrais une fois de plus remercier la FAO pour l'étude entreprise. Le Secrétariat est parfaitement conscient que l'étude est loin d'être terminée, qu'une bonne coopération de l'ensemble des membres de la FAO est indispensable pour en arriver à poursuivre l'étude, à la mener à bonne fin et à faire en sorte que cette étude constitue non seulement un excellent document de travail mais aussi l'instrument d'une stratégie qui permettra d'être appliquée dans un avenir rapproché pour permettre à l'Afrique de sortir d'un certain nombre de difficultés qu'elle connaît actuellement et, dans le cadre d'une meilleure coopération internationale, de mettre davantage l'accent sur la nécessité pour ce continent de pouvoir satisfaire à ses besoins.

Je crois également que, dans ce cadre, des opérations triangulaires revêtent une importance particulière pour un certain nombre de pays en voie de développement ce type d'opérations sont incontestablement de nature à assurer également leur propre développement.

CHAIRMAN: May I invite the attention of delegates to document C 87/20-Sup.1, page 95, where it is clearly indicated the Belgium is one of the seven countries which responded to the questionnaire sent in the consultation. It is also one of the three respondents who indicated that they supplied aid-in-kind in agricultural inputs to the African countries outside the technical assistance projects for foreign exchange credits. It also bears out on page 96 that we should bear in mind that Belgium is possibly one country which did not impose more than one condition on the supply of goods.

In this context, the detailed intervention made by the delegate of Belgium is of particular value because of the positive attitude to the subject under discussion.

Mohamed El Bashir MUFARAH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I have studied the report which is very interesting. The writer has analysed the negative and positive aspects and ended with proposal for work which can be implemented and applied to all sorts of aid, on condition that agreement be sought on such measures with the recipient and the donor countries.

As this appears in paragraph 163 of the report, allow me to present some comments and proposals which I think will be profitable for the rationalization of work to increase the benefit of such aid

First of all, in paragraph 22 the report says that there is a limited demand for agricultural products. I do not think this applies to all African countries, although it might exist in certain areas which have not traditionally practised the consumption of certain livestock products. There is a lot of demand for dairy and meat products as well as eggs in most African countries. These are also an important source of income for a large number of citizens. However, as the report says, there is a lack of convenient means of delivery, transportation and storage. They also need support in order to improve productivity. Therefore, I agree with the proposal to improve the means of preparation, delivery, transportation and storage in order to improve the livestock industry which has been receiving more acceptance from the private sector and small producers.

However, I feel that the funding should be extended to improve productivity through the improvement of breeding and nutrition, and also by providing convenient economic and medical care as well as veterinary services.

In paragraph 33 I should like to add another source of food which has not received suitable attention. In most pastoral areas in Africa, which is known as the coastal belt, there is a surplus of fodder plants during the rainy season. There are also field product plants and the residuals of the harvests. All these feeds are destroyed either by fire, by insects or the wind during the drought season after the departure of the herds. Therefore, the drought season is considered to increase suffering and loss of carotene, protein and energy in the resident herds, which leads to lower production and the spread of malnutrition among the animals.

Therefore, I suggest that we extend aid to the owners of the resident herds, through the ministers concerned, to enable them to harvest the fodder plants in the pastures and in the farms, and to preserve them as dried feed, that is to say as hay or silage. These operations need little financial aid and little experience and training, apart from the need for certain machines such as feed cutters and the building of silos and storage for hay and other agricultural residues, on the condition that the operation of cutting these plants from the land does not lead to soil erosion.

We could also make the molasses cubes, which would include the energy from molasses and nitrogen from urea and other minerals from the mineral salts. These cubes are produced now in the Sudan through the aid of the British Ministry for Overseas Development. These cubes of concentrates can be transported and stored, and the cattle like them. Therefore, there is increasing demand from the owners of both resident and migrant cattle for these cubes. In the Sudan we are trying to increase the productivity of the factory so as to enable these cubes to reach the cattle breeding areas in far off water points in the Sudan.

Therefore, we suggest that the FAO should provide aid to the coastal belt countries and other countries which have the raw material for such concentrates, so that they can use them to improve livestock products, provided that a feasibility study is carried out before we start producing these cubes in the country and area concerned.

The report says that the monitoring of expenditure will always be present and that lavishness in expenditure will not be allowed and that only real requirements will be financed and supported. In fact, countries which need such aid are the poor countries which are suffering from external debts which have led to the slowing down of their growth and productivity and to their inability to exploit human and natural resources.

Once more, I should like to thank the Secretariat for the information in the report and for the proposals for the rationalisation of expenditure on agricultural development in Africa.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): Following the 90th Session of the Council, FAO has undertaken many feasibility studies on the implementation of aid-in-kind for Africa. The need of African countries in agricultural inputs and their self-sufficiency were estimated, and programmes on aid-in-kind for Africa were drawn up. The relevant studies have summed up past experience in the practice of aid-in-kind and drawn the proper lessons. Here we would like to express our appreciation for the keen sense of responsibility demonstrated in this task. Now, allow me to say a few words on this item.

Aid-in-kind was practised in the past. For instance, the International Fertilizer Assistance Scheme of FAO and, more recently, the pesticides provided to African countries to combat locusts, have achieved good results. They made up for the shortfall of the low-income developing countries in agricultural inputs, and served to increase and strengthen their agricultural production. This positive rate of aid-in-kind should be affirmed and enhanced. Practice shows that aid-in-kind serves as a vital supplement to the financial, technical and food aid given to the developing countries. These two means of providing aid are complementary and mutually promoting when provided in parallel.

We have noted that the proposed programme stems from the need for a 2% annual growth rate in African agriculture - a figure which slightly exceeds the continent's annual rate of population increase. It seems to us that the target is not only based on the actual needs but on what is obtainable. Currently, many developed countries are facing depressed markets for fertilizers and agricultural inputs and are forced to resort to structural contraction. Paragraphs 92-95 of Document 87/20 contains an excellent analysis of the situation. It points out that the benefits which the developed countries derived from giving input-aid will equal those enjoyed by the recipient countries. We agree entirely with this view.

Paragraph 163 of the Report contains 11 guidelines for the formulation of input-aid of a minimum of three to five years duration. These guidelines stress the planned implementation of aid-in-kind, encourage the setting up of indigenous industries of the recipient countries and the launching of triangular transactions and agricultural trade among the developing countries themselves. It calls for greater attention to the improvement and protection of the existing system of marketing in the recipient countries and distribution of donated items based on the strict observance. It also calls for intensified efforts in upgrading training, marketing and service, etc. All these are very sound ideas which can help the developing countries embark gradually on the road to self-reliance. We endorse and support in principle these guidelines.

We earnestly hope that the traditional donors will give active support to the aid-in-kind report and the aforementioned guidelines, so that it will be implemented for Africa at an early date. We also hope that the recipient countries will adopt necessary effective measures for improving their infrastructure and institutional arrangements.

FAO in the execution of this programme should continue to play its role in monitoring, management, technical advice and other related aspects. It should continue to sum up experience, and strive to create the conditions for this type of aid to grow and reach an increasing number of needy developing countries.

Angus Edward MACDONALD (Australia): The Australian delegation has studied the documentation prepared for this agenda item and found it to be comprehensive, detailed and thought-provoking. Document 87/20 and its Supplement highlight the input constraints to increasing agricultural production in Africa, and undertakes projections of needs for fertilizer, pesticides, farm machinery and implements, veterinary supplies and other related inputs necessary if African agriculture is to grow at 3 percent per annum for the foreseeable future. While these inputs are, of course, necessary, they are not solely sufficient to bring about the needed expansion in African agriculture.

My delegation is pleased to see that the paper clearly places the primary onus of responsibility for improving African agriculture where it rightfully belongs - on the individual countries themselves, since it is here that appropriate policies and programmes must be adopted to stimulate food production.

The provision of the above-mentioned inputs is one of the necessary measures to stimulate production and to raise rural living standards, but so are the other three "Is" of agricultural development: incentives (for farmers to produce); infrastructure (to allow access to markets and distribution of inputs); and institutions (both public and private). Inputs provided under any aid-in-kind scheme must closely be integrated to, and dependent upon, progress in these other related sectors.

My delegation believes that the aid-in-kind proposals are basically sensible and ingenious: the provision of raw materials from donor countries to allow production in recipient countries of needed

agricultural inputs, for example, urea for fertilizer production or steel for farm tools, etc; the use of triangular transactions to stimulate intra-regional trade in inputs; the direct provision of inputs from donor countries under an aid-in-kind scheme; and the use of counterpart funds generated from the sale of inputs to stimulate food production. But it should be recognized that many donor countries already engage in provision of this type of assistance, as the survey on aid-in-kind readily shows. Australia, for example, provides substantial food aid to Africa in support of agricultural production and has in place a Development Import Grants Scheme which allows recipient countries to freely choose commodities that they consider to be of highest priority in their respective development programmes. The only constraint on the Development Import Grants Scheme is that the cash grants must be used for demonstrably development purposes, and certainly agricultural inputs would qualify. The issue, therefore, to my delegation appears to be one of additionality.

There is one basic underlying assumption implicit in the aid-in-kind study, if not overtly stated in the papers. It is that the rationale for an African aid-in-kind programme is based on the assumption that such a scheme would result in the flow of additional resources to developing countries.

I have found only two references in the papers to the issue of surplus disposal, and the assumption that donor countries would and could embrace an aid-in-kind scheme because it would be a less expensive form of development assistance than alternative measures: that by drawing on surplus industrial capacity to produce farm machinery, pesticides or fertilizer, or by drawing down supplies of fertilizers against an unutilized surplus the costs to the national treasuries in the donor countries would be less than opting for an alternative form of aid.

Mr Chairman, I can assure you that for my own country this is manifestly not the case. It is not the case for our current food aid programme, and it would not be the case for any future aid-in-kind, non-food programme. There is no surplus of fertilizer, pesticides, agricultural machinery or other related inputs upon which to draw. Their provision by the Australian government would be at the same real cost as providing food aid, technical assistance, or project aid. Aid-in-kind, therefore, would have to compete with the other forms of development assistance for the limited aid dollar.

Australia is fully cognizant of the problems facing African agriculture, and already has in place schemes assisting a number of countries in southern and eastern Africa. Within the context of existing country programmes we would be willing to consider assistance of an aid-in-kind nature where such inputs are viable and where their absence is seen as a major constraint to agricultural development. We believe that the FAO has a valuable role to play in helping countries to identify these needs and in helping to develop a suitable policy framework to assist African countries to move towards food self-sufficiency.

May I now turn to some specific proposals in the paper. My delegation agrees that multi-year commitments ease future planning by adding predictability to resource flows. However, a five to ten-year commitment period for targeted inputs is not viable in terms of development assistance planning.

We question the value of establishing a consultative committee to consider estimates of input requirements and coordination of commercial and concessional imports.

We are wary of the proposals to establish minimum and maximum prices for commodities and input, respectively, since artificial controls are not likely to produce greater allocative efficiency than alternative market forces.

The "work for inputs" proposal is likely to place a major burden on recipient agency authorities. Similar food-for-work schemes in some parts of Africa have not worked well and those that have been successful have required careful management and close supervision.

We find the paper both stimulating and interesting. However, we do not consider that the aid-in-kind programme standing on its own would necessarily result in the decline of rural poverty and the reduction of malnutrition in Africa, which FAO and its membership so earnestly wish to see take place.

Nguen SRISURUKSA (Thailand): I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers in expressing my appreciation to the Secretariat for preparing the comprehensive and lucid documents before us, and to give special thanks to Dr Rao for his clear highlight of the subject.

There is no doubt that farm inputs, namely, fertilizers, seeds, farm tools, pesticides and vaccines as well as fingerlings are the most important factors to increase agricultural production and increase income of farmers, as well as to create jobs for the rural population and the well-being of consumers.

It is clear from the study's findings that the problems of farm input shortages in the African countries, accompanied by population pressures and the low productivity of crops, livestock and fisheries, as well as deforestation and nutritional problems have reduced food production substantially. My delegation agrees that we need to find quick solutions to solve these problems.

The comments of my delegation are as follows.

Firstly, the study's findings show that mineral fertilizers, such as compound ammonia and urea, and seeds are quite important. In this connection I would like to point out that without enough information about water, including irrigation, ground water, annual rainfall and soil fertility we cannot apply fertilizers to increase potential agricultural production.

Regarding rainfall and soil fertility, it is necessary to mention that each production area must be classified as to how many days it rains, for example, under 80 days per year, 80 to 120 days per year, or over 120 days per year. This information in our experience is very useful when designing and planning for agricultural development. However, there is not enough information in the study. Moreover, if we had such information production areas could be classified into rainfall or irrigation areas. It would be easier to find the seeds and fertilizers.

Secondly, the study's findings indicate that there can be no doubt about the very close links between inputs and the other three "Is" of agricultural development - incentives, institutions and infrastructure. My delegation feels that it is not enough to have the three "Is" and that one should be added, that is, information. The study has mentioned the subject of information many times but it does not give high priority to this factor.

Thirdly, my delegation believes that farm inputs are, therefore, very important factors, and all of us recognize them as key factors in increasing food production. Consequently, my delegation feels that it is time now for all of us to emphasize "Farm Input Security" at national, sub-regional and regional levels in the same manner as "Food Security". The plan of action and guidelines for farm input security are laid down in paragraphs 132 to 135 and paragraph 163.

Lastly, regarding the credit for expanding food and agricultural production because of the serious problem in African countries at the present time, my delegation would like to draw your attention, Mr Chairman, to the fact that the difference between the price received by the government or agency handling the farm inputs and the price paid by a farmer, which in our understanding is a profit, should be transferred to a so-called "revolving fund". This fund, in turn, could be a momentum for agricultural development and for the cost of distribution of farm inputs to the farmers.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): At the Plenary my delegation has already associated itself with the Study and its conclusions contained in paragraphs 164 and 165 of document C 87/20. The Study has stressed the strengths and weaknesses of past input aid and the opportunities for its expansion, in order to identify feasible actions and to alleviate problems in input requirements, their importation or local manufacture, sub-regional collaboration in input manufacture and policy formulation and planning framework for input use.

We recognise that, while the mix of investment priorities will vary naturally with individual developing countries, the study has emphasized those priority areas which are common to the general development situation and need most development assistance. Additionally, it has highlighted areas for maximizing the benefits from existing and planned facilities for input procurement, be it

locally manufactured or imported, and programmes as a basis for increasing their early effectiveness. An underlying theme has been the importance of improved management of programme and project aid, related policy sources and physical facilities. To us this is of particular importance since most African countries now have the trained personnel and skills to upgrade their performance in the management of development programmes. In this connection, we wish to point out that FAO stands out clearly as the unique Organization which can identify local experts and make use of their services at the local level.

A clear message from the Plenary indicates that most African countries are positively responding to the UN Special Programme for Africa by committing more resources to agriculture. It has, however, been emphasized that without sustained and massive external assistance through aid-in-kind programmes or projects, many African countries may not be able to mobilize the resources essential to meeting their development objectives.

So far in Africa the IDA, IMF, ADB, UNDP and IFAD are addressing investment and assistance needs, but development assistance from the developed countries must be more predictable and sustained. Replenishment of concessionary funding sources, such as the Italian Trust Fund, is of particular importance to Africa. In this regard, our gratitude goes to the Italian Government for its decision to uplift the level of its Trust Fund, and to other donors who have shown a similar inclination.

As a positive step towards advancing the implementation of the UN Special Programme for Africa, all donors must return to the concern of placing further replenishments of the World Bank, African Development Bank and IFAD on a solid footing. Combined with other assistance, whether on a co-financing or parallel financing basis, this would provide the platform for steadily increasing overall effects. It is only in this spirit that the aid-in-kind programme we are addressing can become meaningful.

It seems to us that what is materially at stake is the size, complexity and timeliness of the respective programme and project aid. Our own experience in Ghana has shown that the project-programme cycle - i.e. identification formulation, pre-appraisal, appraisal, start-up activities and implementation - takes up to two years on average. It is in our own interests to take the necessary action to do something about this. We feel that with the FAO input, the cycle can be shortened, as amply demonstrated by the FAO/Italy Project in Ghana, "Support to Agricultural Mechanization for Food Production in Northern Savannah". We wish to note with satisfaction not only the speed at which the project was formulated and implemented, avoiding most of the bureaucratic delays associated with other aid-in-kind projects, but also the successful impact the project has had in increasing food production in the Northern Sector of the country and the excellent achievement made in the field of cooperative management, tillage and artisan training. The project, which is being executed with FAO support, has been most instrumental in increasing production in the target area, in addition to creating the practical awareness that, with the provision of after-sale support service, more output would be expected from agricultural machinery operating in Ghana's soils than has so far been realised. The project is now serving as a model and is being replicated again within the context of cooperative management by the FAO and Italy in other vantage parts of the country. My delegation would like to thank Italy for her assistance and also to stress the importance of FAO playing a coordinating and catalytic role in management of aid-in-kind projects similar to the FAO/Italy Project in Ghana.

Page 121, paragraphs 21 - 24 of C 87/20-Sup. 1, acknowledges the multifaceted character of the Input Supply Programme that Ghana has benefited from since the inception of its Economic Recovery Programme in 1983. Under the World Bank Reconstruction Import Credit I and II, inputs including spare parts; raw materials- for local manufacturing of inputs such as processing equipment, fishing nets, wire netting and polythene bags; and fertilizers, pesticides, veterinary drugs and vaccines have been imported. Co-financing facilities have been provided by Canada, the Dutch Government, France, KFW of the Federal Republic of Germany, European Development Fund and the African Development Fund.

In the agricultural sector itself parallel financing facilities are currently being provided by the UNDP, KFW, and the ADF to complement the IDA finance project, "Agricultural Services Rehabilitation Project".

For all these various categories of programme and project aid the World Bank is playing the coordinating role effectively, while at the same time the donors are insisting on their individual conditions and procurement procedures. Currently the investment projects being formulated in collaboration with the various donors to address the social costs of the Structural Adjustment Programme are being coordinated by the World Bank. We are grateful to the Bank for their role. However, it is the contention of my delegation that the Guidelines for Aid-In-Kind and Programme Aid outlined in Paragraph 163 of C 87/20 are worth favourable consideration by the donors for these carefully constructed guidelines seem to hold the key to the sustainability of the on-going Structural Adjustment Programme in Ghana.

Milan KARIC (Yugoslavia): After considering the Study prepared at the initiative of the Director-General and in accordance with the decision of the FAO Council made in November 1986, it can be said that the Study, although not containing data from all countries, shows, quite convincingly that basic inputs are the key factors for food production under the ecological conditions of Africa as well, and that there is an increasing gap between the need for those inputs and the possibilities of supplying them.

The Study also shows that the inputs are important, not only for production, but also for the preservation of the resource base of Africa and for the protection of nature.

Therefore, my delegation supports the proposals of FAO regarding the coordination of aid-in-inputs through an ad-hoc consultative committee as well as through the greater assistance of FAO to the African countries in assessing their needs and facilitating contacts between beneficiaries and donors of inputs.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation of FAO's efforts in initiating the Study and bringing it to a successful end.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba quisiera agradecer a los señores Rao y Bonte-Friedheim la elaboración y presentación de los documentos C 87/20 y C 87/20-Sup.1. En realidad, señor Presidente, coincidimos en que uno de los elementos más importantes para la recuperación económica general de los países en desarrollo es, precisamente, el desarrollo de la agricultura; pero seguramente uno de los factores más críticos es el suministro de un volumen suficiente de in-sumos agrícolas adecuados en el momento que sea más oportuno y donde sea más necesario. Consideramos, ciertamente, que se trata de un problema de gran complejidad. Este estudio de viabilidad sobre la ampliación de la ayuda en especie de insumos agrícolas nos demuestra, entre otros aspectos ya mencionados, los desajustes que existen entre las necesidades y los suministros. Mi delegación apoya las recomendaciones que aparecen en el párrafo 18 del documento 20, donde se expresan algunos elementos necesarios para superar ese desajuste entre necesidades y suministros. La ayuda en especie en otro tipo de suministro ha sido de gran importancia para los países en desarrollo, al igual que las operaciones triangulares que la Delegación de Cuba siempre ha apoyado. El caso específico del informe que analizamos, referido a las dificultades del continente africano, es motivo de gran preocupación para nuestra Delegación y consideramos que la ayuda en especie debe ser algo adicional a los esfuerzos que ya se hacen en favor de ese continente.

La Delegación de Cuba apoya las recomendaciones que nos proponen en los documentos que analizamos, especialmente la creación de un banco de datos para conocer el monto de necesidades y la localización de las mismas. Pensamos que el papel de la FAO en este Programa debe ser fundamental. Sin embargo, consideramos, que debe tenerse muy en cuenta que no se hagan duplicidades y que se utilicen plenamente los órganos e instituciones ya creados.

Finalmente quisiéramos expresar que estas experiencias pudieran ser llevadas a otras regiones del mundo subdesarrollado.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Mi delegación ha leído con mucho detenimiento el documento preparado por la Secretaría que, en términos generales, nos parece muy acertado y demuestra la experiencia que la FAO va teniendo y adquiriendo cada vez más en este campo. Sin embargo, me permitiría hacer algunas pequeñas apreciaciones.

En primer lugar, vemos que en el párrafo 88, se habla de un desequilibrio entre las necesidades de insumos y su abastecimiento que llegaría - dice - a 410 millones de dólares en 1970 y a 700 millones en 1985, sería interesante que se aclarara más, en el sentido de saber a qué se debe este desequilibrio, si es solamente porque se ha considerado el incremento del volumen de los insumos o se debe al incremento en el valor de los mismos. Esto sería interesante que se aclarara para tener una apreciación más correcta o más certera de lo que aquí se dice.

Las insumos, como bien dice el documento, son un factor muy importante para poder incrementar la productividad. Todos sabemos que con buenas semillas, con la aplicación de fertilizantes y la aplicación oportuna de plaguicidas se consiguen altas tasas de incremento en la productividad. Consideramos que es muy importante que se realice una ayuda en especies, sobre todo en insumos, para aumentar la productividad. Pero, sobre la aplicación de esta política, mi delegación cree que debe tenerse mucho cuidado porque pueden presentarse problemas .

Es verdad que para los países subdesarrollados, sobre todo cuando esta ayuda en especie se realiza en forma de donación, es una ayuda muy importante ya que, además de incrementar su productividad, les permite economizar divisas. Las divisas en estos países son escasas y, por consiguiente, una donación de éstas va a ayudar a que estos países no estén necesitando moneda extranjera para adquirirlas.

Además la fabricación de insumos locales, sobre todo en Africa, según los documentos, se ve que es pequeña y por consiguiente es necesario, mientras las fábricas puedan desarrollarse con el tiempo, dar una ayuda de insumos.

Para los países industrializados indudablemente significa una gran ventaja estas donaciones porque, en primer lugar, todos sabemos - y el documento la afirma - que estos países están produciendo con exceso maquinaria agrícola y fertilizantes y no tienen mercado en vista de que la demanda ha disminuido y existe una sobreproducción que perjudica indudablemente a los países industrializados. Estos países necesitan salir de esta producción y a las fábricas particularmente les interesa introducir sus marcas en estos países para ir ganando y acostumbrando a ese mercado, y que cuando su economía mejore, puedan lograr un mercado asegurado. En consecuencia, para los países industrializados es conveniente esta política. Existen algunos peligros - podríamos llamarlo así - en esta política de insumos cuando no se toman las precauciones del caso. Si bien el documento no habla específicamente de semillas, mañana puede ser que se amplíe o haya intención de ampliarlo; y en cuanto a las semillas, es conveniente tener algunos cuidados porque actualmente las grandes empresas productoras de semillas llegan a tecnificar excesivamente su producción y vender semillas cuyos resultados van a dar plantas, tan delicadas a veces al ataque de las enfermedades, que les van a crear un problema, porque las semillas excesivamente tecnificadas son más exigentes en fertilizantes y necesitan más plaguicidas. Por consiguiente, creo que en este campo sería más conveniente que se ayudara tecnológicamente a producir semillas apropiadas para cada región, que mantengan su grado de rusticidad tanto para el ataque de enfermedades e insectos como también para la demanda en fertilizantes y agua.

A veces también, cuando no se tiene cuidado con la introducción de semillas, puede llegar a un país, que no tiene una determinada plaga, una nueva plaga o enfermedad, como ha sucedido en algunos países, por ejemplo, de América Latina.

En cuanto a los fertilizantes, seguramente la FAO ha hecho recomendaciones a cada país en base principalmente al estudio de sus suelos, porque éste es importantísimo. Nosotros hablamos del deterioro de los suelos por la falta de fertilizantes, pero los suelos también se pueden deteriorar por una mala aplicación de los fertilizantes. Hay fertilizantes nitrogenados, por ejemplo, que pueden aplicarse a determinados tipos de suelo y a otros no, y determinados tipos de fertilizantes nitrogenados que pueden aplicarse a un cultivo y a otros no. También la selección de estos fertilizantes puede estar en función del transporte, para disminuir costos.

Hay fertilizantes que tienen mayor porcentaje de nitrógeno para distancias más lejanas y otros que tienen menos. Quizás esté hablando de más en este sentido porque considero que los técnicos de

la FAO habrán tenido en consideración todos estos asuntos. No obstante, y por lo general, debido a la experiencia que he tenido, la ayuda en fertilizantes se reduce muchas veces al nitrógeno y se olvidan de los otros tipos de fertilizantes que complementan la productividad de una planta. Es importante conseguir que vayan los fertilizantes completos y no parcialmente en determinadas cantidades que puede donar el país que fabrica un tipo de fertilizantes y otros no.

Otro problema importante es el que se refiere a los almacenes para fertilizantes, y el documento también lo señala. He visto en Latinoamérica que en muchas ocasiones ha llegado ayuda, o a veces ventas, de fertilizantes baratos a determinados países. Por otra parte no se ha tomado en cuenta la falta de almacenes y he comprobado en mi país que si bien existe una buena política previa de construcción de almacenes, resulta que en algunas zonas de agricultura pobre no se preveyó y se amontonaron los fertilizantes en cualquier tipo de almacenes, con lo que se produjo una pérdida enorme en el porcentaje de su contenido activo. Yo creo que esto es fundamental si se quiere enviar fertilizantes a un determinado país.

También, como señala el documento, es importante tener cuidado de que estos insumos no compitan con los que producen las fábricas locales. En este caso parece estupenda la propuesta que hace el documento de que la ayuda triangular puede ser muy importante para evitar estos problemas.

En cuanto a los plaguicidas, el documento ha señalado con toda precisión que hay que tener mucho cuidado en el envío de plaguicidas que ya no se usan en países desarrollados. Desgraciadamente éste es un tema que hemos tratado en el tercer mundo. Nuestros países han echado siempre la culpa a los países desarrollados de la responsabilidad de haber mandado no sólo plaguicidas en desuso y contaminantes que hacen daño al ambiente, sino también medicinas para los humanos y para los animales que no se utilizan en sus países. Todo ello debido a que algunas fábricas están acondicionadas seguramente para fabricar estos productos que envían al tercer mundo ocasionando daños a la población.

Sería conveniente que la ayuda en materias primas sea para estos plaguicidas, porque una de las formas más sencillas de fabricar plaguicidas es a través de los llamados formuladores, que son pequeñas fábricas de molienda o de mezcla de productos, donde se incorpora la mano de obra y ellos mismos fabrican los plaguicidas que necesitan con la ayuda de los insumos que los países desarrollados pueden mandar.

Finalmente, voy a ocuparme de la maquinaria. Muchas veces existe la confusión - y esto ha sucedido en toda clase de políticas - de creer que cuando un país posee muchos tractores va a desarrollarse enormemente. Esto es a veces un espejismo. Muchos países, al tener mucha mano de obra, una incorporación enorme de maquinaria agrícola crea un amplio desempleo. Por consiguiente, debemos tener mucho cuidado. He comprobado en algunas zonas de mi país que se tiene la creencia de que porque un gobierno está haciendo grandes importaciones de maquinaria es una buena política. Esto no es así, ya que los trabajadores del campo se quedan sin empleo debido a la competencia del tractor.

Debemos ser muy cuidadosos y hacer una exhaustiva selección para saber si usamos mano de obra o tractor. Esto, aparte de ser un problema de estudio económico, también es una cuestión de estudio social.

Otro problema muy grave que con frecuencia se presenta, Sr. Presidente, es la proliferación de marcas de tractores.

Yo he visto en muchos países - y en el mío sobre todo - que cuando se introducen marcas, ya sea porque hay un vendedor hábil o porque el tractor sea barato, se venden éstos a pesar de que no tienen representantes en ese país, lo que ocasiona una falta de servicios de mantenimiento y de repuestos y que cuando ese tractor se para lo hace definitivamente, con grandes pérdidas para el agricultor y el país.

Yo creo que si un país donante quiere hacer una donación a un país africano, entonces será necesario pedirle que done maquinaria de una marca que ya existe en ese país. De repente la FAO podría conseguir intercambio de donantes en función de la marca que al país receptor le conviene o canjee con otro país para que done donde exista esa fábrica y el otro país donará donde haya mayor marca de otra fábrica. He visto cementerios de maquinarias agrícola, y esto significa no solamente un perjuicio para el país, sino para el agricultor, porque el agricultor ilusionado a veces se endeuda por la maquinaria ya que cree que la maquinaria le va a resolver sus problemas. El agricultor compra esta maquinaria y se produce su endeudamiento, y ese endeudamiento significa a veces el inicio de la

pobreza del agricultor. También hay algunos países que, si bien no tienen fábricas de maquinarias agrícola, tienen fábricas de implementos. Aquí también habría que tener mucho cuidado de que la importación de implementos no perjudique a esas fábricas locales.

Finalmente, el delegado de Bélgica hizo mención - con el buen criterio que siempre le caracteriza, país del cual recibe el Perú una gran ayuda - a un crédito agrícola rotatorio. Esto ha dado excelentes resultados en muchos países. Creemos que esta ayuda en insumos y especies debe ser transitoria -como creo que lo señaló Australia - porque, de lo contrario, se volvería a una situación incómoda para los mismos países manteniendo un paternalismo inconveniente. Se debe hacer una ayuda transitoria y el agricultor debe tratar de comprar, al precio real, estos insumos a medida que su productividad aumente.

Creo que los bancos agrícolas pueden desempeñar un gran papel siendo ellos los que puedan suministrar, como parte del crédito, estos insumos. Generalmente los agricultores solicitan su crédito y muchas veces este crédito no lo gastan precisamente en lo que ellos necesitan para la producción, sino que se compran una camioneta para la familia que en muchas ocasiones no le es prioritario. Por ello, la ayuda en especie de un banco de crédito resulta muy importante. Un crédito rotatorio de esta naturaleza ha dado resultados excelentes en muchos países en su desarrollo, y deseáramos que se estudie la posibilidad de que también en Africa pueda hacerse una cosa similar.

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): El documento C 87/20 nos presenta con claridad una situación compleja relativa al suministro de insumos agrícolas y a la problemática de producción agroalimentaria actual de los hermanos pueblos africanos.

Definitivamente la comunidad internacional juega un papel de primer orden para apoyar a Africa en este momento de crisis. Sin embargo, éste apoyo solidario y otras acciones conexas tienen que ir acompañados de cambios que posibiliten localmente mejoras en los servicios de apoyo a la producción, así como del fortalecimiento del sistema tecnológico agrícola, cuyo eje es fundamental para aprovechar con eficiencia los recursos productivos.

Muchas veces abordamos globalmente los problemas, y nos olvidamos o dejamos en segundo plano el accionar tecnológico. Si bien es cierto que en el presente estudio se señalan consideraciones a este bloque, debe ser en nuestro caso y para el estudio en sí y en sus resultados, un elemento básico para sustentar el proceso de identificación de necesidades y el suministro y utilización oportuna y efectiva de los insumos por los pequeños agricultores, que son los que llevan en primera línea el peso y la responsabilidad de producir los alimentos básicos.

Al observar las recomendaciones del estudio, que en sus aspectos generales son aceptables, debería ponerse especial atención al desarrollo práctico de un sistema de generación y transferencia de tecnología dirigido a los beneficiarios agrícolas, en este caso a los pequeños agricultores.

Al referirnos a este sistema, hablamos también de la conjugación o interacción necesaria con los componentes fundamentales de infraestructura, políticas y servicios de apoyo a la producción, tales como: red de distribución, acopio, crédito, transporte, precios e incentivos, abastecimiento técnico material, energía eléctrica, caminos, etc.

Una estrategia que pueda plantearse a cinco años o más, siguiendo las orientaciones que expresa el estudio, y en los términos de integrar un plan dirigido de tecnología, suministros, infraestructura, crédito e inversiones; derivaría una ruta concreta para aprovechar con eficiencia el esfuerzo solidario de la Comunidad Internacional, en apoyo a Africa en su objetivo primario de lograr la autosuficiencia alimentaria.

Es decir, que la ampliación de la ayuda en especie de insumos agrícolas que debe acompañarse de un plan maestro puede ser un aporte fundamental de orientación general, que se aseguraría mediante la coordinación de la FAO.

La relación interregional de comercio y suministros, sería un elemento clave del plan maestro. Asimismo, el fomento de la capacidad interna para producir bienes básicos y eliminar gradualmente el efecto de la dependencia externa.

Apoyamos un pronunciamiento unánime por la ampliación de la ayuda a Africa, pero expresamos también la necesidad de que los países del continente africano en crisis, aseguren a lo interno las condiciones mínimas necesarias para que esta ayuda de la Comunidad Internacional se transforme en abundancia de alimentos para sus pueblos.

Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): The United States has carefully listened to the introduction by Dr Rao on this item on Friday and has also given attention to the presentation in documentation C 87/20. I do not think we would call this a feasibility study. What this document does is to focus on the problems of agricultural production in developing countries, especially African developing countries, from one point of view; the point of view of production inputs, and more narrowly still, aid-in-kind. In so doing, the document serves to highlight something we all know and have discussed many times: the problems of agricultural development require an integrated approach. Addressing one aspect of the problem, whether it is inputs, as in this case, or institutional capacity or credit is not only not sufficient, but can be ineffective and wasteful.

As the FAO study on African agriculture and many other studies of the food problem in Africa emphasize, as well as paragraphs 23 and 24, 98 and 99 of the present document, inadequate availability of production inputs is only one of several major constraints to improving food production and agricultural production and productivity.

The lack of appropriate policies, agricultural technologies, sufficient numbers of trained personnel and adequate functioning infrastructure affect the capacity of countries to absorb inputs and machinery. The availability of inputs alone will not significantly improve the performance of the agricultural sector on a self-sustaining basis.

The emphasis on increased aid-in-kind could divert attention from the central objective of carrying out coordinated programmes for agricultural development. It puts the focus on the mechanism, aid-in-kind, which leads us into the danger of tailoring the problem, low agricultural productivity, to fit the solution we have in mind rather than the other way round. It takes us a step backward from looking at agricultural development needs in an integrated way.

It is none-the-less useful and opportune that this document reminds us that we must all continue to give attention to the amount, reliability and appropriateness of inputs supplied to the developing countries if these inputs are to make the greatest difference in increasing agricultural production.

Paragraph 25 acknowledges that there is no single solution to the constraints to agricultural production we have been discussing, and I think the debate this morning bears that point out. The paragraph then suggests the use of aid-in-kind to support local production and inter-regional trade and as the catalyst for technical change. I doubt that aid-in-kind has a special characteristic which makes it particularly effective in these two roles. In our own bilateral assistance programme over the years, the provision of commodities as inputs for local production and the purchase of such materials in third countries has been part of the way we do business. The provision of packages of inputs to stimulate farmer adoption of improved technologies is likewise nothing new. It is already an integrated part of many agricultural assistance programmes and development activities.

Regarding the other two "uses" of aid-in-kind mentioned in paragraph 25, a policy and planning framework for input assistance and guidelines for input assistance, aid-in-kind is hardly necessary as a basis for activities related to establishing policy and planning frameworks or guidelines for input assistance. These functions are already an inherent part of FAO's mandate.

As I shall discuss further on in detail, my Government would see FAO field staff taking a strong role at the country level in promoting dialogue among the government and interested donors on input needs and technologies. Here the information role which Thailand mentioned is important. Strengthening the government's capacity to identify these needs and make the appropriate choices considering issues like those raised so eloquently a few moments ago by the Representative of Peru, and coordinating the procurement of such inputs, this is part of FAO's raison d'être.

Having made these general remarks, I would like to turn to some specifics. Aid-in-kind is programme aid, the provision of agricultural inputs through external assistance is essentially a form of balance of payments support and programme aid. As the document points out in a number of places, for example paragraphs 13 and 87, there is not really much difference between aid-in-kind and programme aid. Different aid agencies have different mechanisms for providing such assistance. But in general, it is planned, taking into account a range of factors from the country's foreign exchange position, to its needs for specific commodities, to the use of the local currency generated by the sale of such commodities, to a far greater degree than this paper suggests.

Aid-in-kind will not result in additional resources available for official development assistance. FAO's programme of action for African agriculture recognizes that a major increase in external financing is unlikely at this time. We agree with this assessment. Although some donors - and we would congratulate those donors - will be able to increase their level substantially, overall we anticipate essentially a levelling off of aid flows. If aid-in-kind is not substantially different from programme aid, my delegation fails to see the usefulness in making an artificial distinction, especially since it would amount to little more than taking resources available for official development assistance from one pocket and putting them into another.

I would like to note that over the last few years my Government has been among, those taking the lead in calling attention to the increasingly difficult burden, the proliferation of development projects is placing on developing country governments, especially in Africa. We have urged multilateral and bilateral donors, and we have sought authority from our Congress ourselves to increase the proportion and amount of flexible, fast-dispersing assistance available, especially for African countries undertaking economic reform programmes.

In our own programmes, as well as others such as Lomé III mentioned in the document, this means there can be greater resources available to support the import of agricultural inputs. Recipient countries will have to review their needs carefully and balance the allocation of resources for commodity support against other, perhaps more important forms of assistance that they may require. Their decisions will determine how much of the resources available will be used to fill the agricultural input gap mentioned in paragraph 77.

The document's emphasis on the idea of multi-year commitments is useful. Obviously greater predictability of resources improves development planning. My Government has supported multi-year programmes with multi-year commitments for agricultural inputs in a number of countries. Nevertheless, five to ten year programmes for targeted input aid are unrealistic from a resource point of view, as well as from a technical point of view. We do not see a useful purpose to be served by FAO's widening its fertilizer programme to include five to ten year programme of targeted input aid.

The identification of agricultural input needs and the coordination of supplies is a national level function. Paragraphs 16, 21, 102 and 106 point out the problems in coordination. My Government was gratified to note the emphasis the document placed on the function of the World Bank Consultative Group and the UNDP Round Table mechanisms as fora where needs for agricultural inputs and resources for financing them should be discussed.

FAO should be working through UNDP to make sure issues are appropriately raised in consultative groups and round tables. It is in these fora that governments can present their needs, their investment priorities and plans and try to assure the best match of assistance resources against those needs. Also, at the country level, especially in the context of local in-country sector coordination discussions, FAO should be an important voice to assure consideration of appropriate technological choices.

Nevertheless, the comments in paragraph 39 have taken us somewhat by surprise. Although we are well aware of cases in which coordination among aid agencies in countries including the FAO has been considerably less than optimum, we are amazed at FAO's proposing in paragraph 39 as a new idea a coordination mechanism. We would have thought that such mechanisms would already exist in one form or another where they are needed at the initiative of FAO.

As I said earlier, the tasks and processes described are clearly the sort of things FAO field staff should have been involved with long before now in ways which suited the individual country situation; that is, either through provision of direct advice or through the support to a government unit charged with the responsibility. My Government does not believe that any new or special endorsement is needed for this task. Nor is there need for an elaborate and formal hierarchical committee structure as described beginning in paragraphs 131 through 146. Nor are new general guidelines on the provision of aid-in-kind and programme aid needed. What is needed is for field level staff to get to work on a country-by-country basis where these problems exist, to identify them, to lend FAO's technical expertise to discussions with governments and other donor officials in order to find ways to address them. I am sure that in some places this is already happening in the context of sector-level coordination.

My Government would encourage the FAO to take a more appropriate open and constructive role in bringing everyone into a process of dialogue and coordination which addresses the technical questions outlined in this document.

There are a number of points dealing with the pricing and distribution of inputs in the document which causes my delegation some concern. Paragraph 41, for example, refers to the establishment of minimum and maximum authorized prices for inputs. Relative price stability is important; experience teaches, however, that the greatest determinant of price stability is the availability of the input, not the existence of a maximum authorized price. Authorized price ceilings do not ensure that scarce inputs reach those in need. They just add an unnecessary administrative burden to the government. On the other hand, uneconomically low prices are also undesirable. Developing countries' budgets cannot absorb the costs of subsidies for agricultural inputs. Moreover, our experience has shown over and over again that if farmers can count on a price that covers their cost of production they can and will pay the true cost or new inputs.

This is another one of those issues that we would expect FAO field staff to address in a serious systematic and constructive, in country sectoral level in coordination with other interested donors and recipient governments' staff. We think the delegation of Bangladesh's concern about work-for-inputs is valid and should receive attention. Also, in our view the proposal of work-for-inputs described in paragraph 83 is a total subsidy which will only serve to create dependence on already overburdened governments for financing and distribution of input. Furthermore, aid-in-kind can be very detrimental to the development of a private sector delivery system, including support, advisory and repair services for machinery, fertilizers and agricultural chemicals. The development of adequate services is of major importance for continued availability of inputs and services over the long run. Short-term and in-kind can destroy those in existence and prevent development of needed services.

We note the point in paragraph 33 suggesting that the 1974 moratorium on World Food Programme, food aid is no longer necessary nor justified. This is an issue which should be discussed fully in the CFA. It is not an appropriate matter for decision by this forum.

We have provided many of these comments earlier this year directly to the Director-General in response to his inquiry. As should be apparent from these comments, my government's views have not changed. We do not see the need for follow-up actions to this study except those at the country level and except as they are appropriate in the context of FAO's regular operations at the country level. At that level we would hope that FAO would share the results of its studies and request its field staff to take an active role in working with other donor and recipient governments involved in the agricultural sector to minimize recurrence of the problems cited in this report.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the United States delegate for that detailed statement. This brings out the position of the United States Government on the proposals before us in clear and unequivocal terms, and has also highlighted to delegates that the position of the United States on this point has been consistent throughout.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): On behalf of the Brazilian delegation I should like to join many previous speakers in thanking the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation of this item of the agenda, for the preparation of document C 87/20 and its supplement C 87/20-Sup.1. We think that this presents an important new approach and an additional effort towards the development of African agriculture.

We agree with the statement in paragraph 1 of the main document that the need for aid-in-kind is not restricted to Africa, although we agree that at present the greatest need is in Africa. However, we welcome that the issue will also be dealt with in the study on the economy and agricultural situation of Latin America and the Caribbean to be presented during the next regional conference to be held in Brazil next year.

We are convinced of the importance of this approach to agricultural development, and we sincerely hope that proper attention and support can be given to it by the world community.

At this point, I should like to quote a passage of the statement by the President of IFAD to this Conference. After regretting the substantial shortfall in overall external resource availability, Dr Jazairy expressed his hope that some of the savings from what he hopes will develop as a balanced reduction of agricultural subsidies by industrialized countries, can be transferred to increased concessional flows for desperately-needed food production in poor countries. The aid-in-kind programme of action offers a good opportunity for that.

In the same line, we agree, as stated in paragraphs 92 to 95 of the main document, that the new approach has clear advantages both for developing and also for developed countries. Attention must be paid as well to the types of pesticides to be provided, to training needs in the proper use of pesticides, fertilizers and machinery, and to the adequate supply of spare parts for the machinery provided as aid.

We also wish to make a reference to the use of triangular transactions, which can play an important role in the expansion of intra-regional aid as well as in the strengthening of trade amongst the developing regions. Input industries in some developing countries could play a role in the efforts, with better priced manufactures already tested in regions of similar ecological conditions.

In summing up, we reiterate our support to the document as well as to the operational guidelines presented in paragraph 163, and to the important role to be played by FAO in this regard. We hope, therefore, that this Conference will recommend that the proposals be translated into practical action.

Mme Malika SACI (Algerie): Ma délégation tient à remercier le Secrétariat pour L'excellent travail consigné dans les documents C 87/20 et C 87/20-Sup. L dont elle appuie les propositions et les lignes d'orientation.

Devant cette somme de réflexions et de données, nous constatons avec M. Rao que c'est en effet la première fois que nous disposons d'autant d'informations-sur les besoins et l'emploi d'intrants en Afrique. C'est aussi cette richesse d'information qui nous conduit à privilégier quelques points de ces documents. Ils s'ordonnent autour de deux thèmes: les critères d'efficacité de l'aide en nature d'une part, et l'environnement commercial et financier d'autre part.

L'étude de faisabilité qui nous est présentée part des conclusions du rapport sur "l'Agriculture africaine: les 25 prochaines années" et répond à la question de savoir comment procurer les facteurs de production nécessaires à l'Afrique pour qu'elle augmente de 3 pour cent sa croissance annuelle, si elle veut assurer son autosuffisance alimentaire.

Ce domaine des facteurs de production et en particulier, celui des intrants, est caractérisé par une situation paradoxale de stocks importants et de pénurie dans les pays en voie de développement.

Un des moyens d'approvisionnement est l'aide en nature qui intervient chaque fois que l'écart se creuse entre l'ampleur des besoins en intrants et l'insuffisance de leur offre.

Les deux documents décrivent très bien les mécanismes d'approvisionnement des biens de production. L'aide en nature qui est bien une forme d'assistance au développement intervient lorsqu'un déficit apparaît dans les circuits habituels d'approvisionnement. Il est important que cette aide réponde à une demande précise; pour ce faire l'évaluation des besoins quantitatifs et qualitatifs est primordiale. Ce préalable est une protection contre l'arrivée d'intrants inadaptés dont le seul mérite est d'alléger les excédents des pays industrialisés. Le contrôle de la qualité et de la conformité aux normes établies pour les engrais et pesticides est une seconde nécessité.

En troisième lieu, l'approvisionnement en intrants doit être planifié afin que les flux soient progressifs et réguliers. Une trop grande quantité importée qui dépasserait les besoins locaux aurait, sans nul doute, des effets néfastes sur la production locale et les prix pratiqués.

A cet égard, il est hautement souhaitable que la FAO accorde une assistance technique aux pays bénéficiaires de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants afin de les aider à déterminer leurs besoins en la matière, à identifier les priorités et à planifier leurs actions.

Aussi, ma délégation souhaiterait-elle appuyer ici les paragraphes 45 et 46 du document C 87/20 et recevoir du Secrétariat éventuellement des explications au sujet de l'article 39 qui semble faire double usage avec les dispositions contenues dans les articles précités et qui apparemment serait une nouvelle structure.

Le deuxième volet de mon intervention a trait à l'aspect commercial et financier de l'aide en nature. Nous voudrions souligner l'importance des opérations triangulaires qui s'inscrivent dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud et Nord-Sud. L'Algérie intervient dans les opérations triangulaires avec les pays limitrophes. Ce genre de commerce est à encourager pour peu que les pays donateurs développés le veuillent.

S'agissant des fonds de contrepartie, dont la gestion semble poser quelques problèmes, les paragraphes 126 et 127 proposent des solutions pour les utiliser à bon escient.

Par ailleurs, la dynamisation de la demande locale est une opération nécessaire si on veut stimuler l'utilisation d'intrants. Il faut que le paysan dépasse le stade de la subsistance pour devenir un utilisateur potentiel d'intrants. Pour ce faire, la création d'emplois dans les secteurs agricole et agro-industriel ainsi que l'aménagement du crédit agricole sont en mesure d'élever le niveau de vie et d'augmenter le pouvoir d'achat; de même qu'il est possible de créer un marché régional et local.

Nous approuvons les conclusions du paragraphe 3, page 2 du document C 87/20. Les transformations qualitatives et quantitatives du secteur agricole en Afrique passent par une monétarisation de l'économie et l'organisation du crédit agricole.

L'étude de faisabilité conclut à la possibilité d'élargir l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants. La démarche prudente et pragmatique préconisée est tout à fait pertinente.

La délégation algérienne est tout à fait d'avis que des expériences pilotes devraient être réalisées dans ce domaine avec cette approche afin d'en assurer l'efficacité et l'exemplarité. Nous sommes d'accord également pour étendre cette étude à d'autres régions.

Tin HLÁING (Burma): The Burmese delegation has made a thorough study of document C 87/20 and document C 87/20 Sup.1. The documents are clear and comprehensive.

Adequate supply and sufficient utilisation of agricultural inputs is a serious and major problem being faced in many developing countries. As a developing agricultural country, Burma has accorded high priority to the agricultural sector. Much emphasis has been placed on developing new production technology, on establishing an efficient extension system, and on supplying agricultural inputs adequately. We have achieved a marked progress in the first two areas. However, we are still being faced with the problems of shortages in the supply of agricultural inputs amidst the scarcity of foreign exchange, difficulty with easy access to markets for the export of agricultural commodities, and the rising prices of input materials.

In this situation, we are most grateful to the FAO, to other multilateral agencies and friendly countries for their sustained, continuous and generous, development assistance with input materials such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural equipment. Such assistance in the form of aid-in-kind has been most precious and helpful in our efforts towards increased agricultural production.

We honestly feel that the provision of agricultural inputs as aid-in-kind is most essential and urgent for many developing countries as a catalyst for sustained growth and advancement in the agricultural sector. Therefore, we commend that a feasibility study of this kind should be expanded to other regions as well.

Arzouma KOUSSOUBE (Burkina Faso): Bien que l'autosuffisance alimentaire soit le premier objectif des pays en voie de développement, les efforts et les politiques n'ont jamais été suffisants pour réaliser pleinement cet objectif pourtant indispensable à leur réelle indépendance économique et politique.

L'agriculture de ces pays est restée archaïque, extensive, très peu productive et incapable de nourrir les populations qui sont en croissante évolution numérique. On peut remarquer que le contexte politique et institutionnel de l'agriculture est resté incohérent, mal défini dans certains pays et la volonté politique a toujours manqué pour conduire des actions déterminantes en matière de production agricole. L'inorganisation des producteurs agricoles, leur faible niveau d'équipement en machines agricoles, la mauvaise définition des structures de commercialisation se sont traduits par une production précaire très insuffisante, très peu productive.

Le résultat final découlant d'une telle situation dans les PVD et plus singulièrement dans les Pays sahéliens, est largement déficitaire. Ces pays enregistrent un déficit alimentaire chronique et connaissent de ce fait la faim et la malnutrition.

La FAO n'est pas restée insensible à cet état de fait. Elle a, à la demande des Etats Membres nécessiteux, mis en place une politique cohérente d'aide en vue d'une amélioration progressive des productions agricoles afin de réduire, voire enrayer, la faim dans le monde. Ainsi dans les PVD souffrant de cette situation d'insuffisance ou de pénurie, en plus des aides en matière de formation technique, d'organisation des producteurs et d'amélioration des structures d'appui à la production, on a mis en place l'aide en intrants agricoles. Ces aides avaient pour but d'accroître rapidement, dans les pays bénéficiaires, le niveau quantitatif et qualitatif des productions agricoles.

Le document C 87/20 tout en analysant l'importance des intrants dans le développement agricole, situe, avec son supplément 1, les contraintes liées à l'introduction des intrants dans l'agriculture des PVD. La délégation burkinabé après lecture attentive de ces documents approuve cette analyse et marque son accord pour les recommandations et les solutions qui y sont proposées qui sont entre autres:

- le renforcement des capacités nationales à évaluer les besoins en intrants dans le souci de leur bonne gestion,
- l'aide en nature qui doit se faire en concordance avec les importations commerciales et également, dans la mesure du possible, selon le principe des opérations triangulaires, comme il est dit dans le document C 87/20 en page 6 paragraphes 27 et 28 et ceci sur la base d'une transaction équilibrée.

Le Burkina Faso accorde une grande importance aux intrants agricoles et s'attèle depuis un certain temps à améliorer les conditions d'octroi et d'utilisation de ces intrants.

Les principales actions sur lesquelles l'accent est mis sont d'ordre organisationnel et institutionnel.

En effet, la bonne définition des besoins en intrants agricoles est liée à l'existence des statistiques agricoles fiables: les quantités souhaitées par les producteurs, les superficies à couvrir en ce qui concerne les engrais, les insecticides, les herbicides, etc doivent être maîtrisées pour éviter les pertes et les utilisations abusives. Dans ce but, un système national de suivi et d'évaluation est mis en place et permet de saisir et d'analyser l'ensemble des données relatives à l'utilisation de tous les intrants agricoles. Nous pensons qu'un renforcement de ce système de suivi va de pair avec une vulgarisation agricole dynamique bien structurée et sécurisante pour les producteurs ruraux. L'utilisation de la micro-informatique doit être développée.

Une organisation des services de statistiques s'impose si nous voulons réellement maîtriser les circuits d'importation et de gestion des intrants agricoles.

En ce qui concerne les opérations triangulaires, il faut adopter une attitude prudente qui respecte les intérêts de l'ensemble des parties en présence sinon le caractère promotionnel de l'aide devient imperceptible. En effet, l'aide devrait permettre de faire la promotion des produits locaux. Par exemple, nous pensons que dans le cas qui nous intéresse, la formule unique d'engrais pourrait être maintenant remplacée par une formule nouvelle qui peut être fabriquée sur place à partir des phosphates locaux. Une aide qui irait dans ce sens serait très appréciée.

Nous ne nions pas l'importance et les effets bénéfiques de l'aide en nature. Mon pays compte aussi avec cette forme d'aide. Cependant, comme l'a déclaré le chef de la délégation en plénière, l'aide doit être catalyseur de la production agricole. Elle doit faire également la promotion des produits locaux par le biais des opérations triangulaires. Mon pays est disposé à avoir recours à cette forme d'aide qui peut être développée dans plusieurs secteurs de notre agriculture, de notre élevage, en fonction de la protection de notre environnement.

Tout: en accordant une priorité à l'aide comme moyen de développement de notre agriculture, nous pensons enfin que cette aide doit s'accompagner d'une composante formation et information qui en demeure un élément très important et valorisant.

Le thème de l'aide en nature est essentiel. Des millions de petits producteurs agricoles en Afrique comptent avec elle. Avant de terminer, je lance un appel à la FAO afin qu'elle mette encore à contribution ses compétences pour mobiliser les pays donateurs et les institutions de financement afin de renforcer l'aide en nature dans les PVD.

Václav DOBES (Czechoslovakia): Our delegation believes that expanding the provision of agricultural inputs as aid-in-kind can become one of the major forms of development aid. Of course, documents C 87/20 and Supplement 1 contain only the general ideas and can serve as a good basis for studying this problem. The feasibility study illuminates some of the possible forms of aid-in-kind. Other forms are undoubtedly possible, including the development of such as veterinary services.

My country is considering the possibility of assisting in some FAO activities in the field of animal production. The Czechoslovak Government hopes that FAO will succeed in cooperation with UNDP in including the aid-in-kind programme part of its accumulated voluntary contribution to UNDP. It seems to me to be absolutely illogical if these contributions remain insufficiently used if the contributing government expresses its full willingness to realize development aid through the delivery of urgently needed materials and special technical services.

Fritz-Otto HAASE (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation welcomes the presentation of the feasibility study on Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind. We are also prepared to make our experience available in bilateral aid. But we have some problems in order to give the figures for that aid that the FAO Secretariat has asked for because such figures are part of integrated projects and are not shown separately. Also, we have no evaluations on the efficiency of commodity aid.

Experts in my country are looking forward keenly to the outcome of the feasibility study. We agree with the opinion that without additional inputs agricultural production cannot be increased and poverty thereby alleviated in rural areas. Among the necessary inputs, as this study has highlighted, are not only mineral fertilizers and plant protection products, but also implements and agricultural machinery as well as facilities to avoid post-harvest losses. Without such inputs productivity and the income of farmers remain inadequate and thereby further stimulate the trend to drift to the overcrowded urban conurbations.

On the basis of experience we have obtained up to now input supplies should be made available only within the framework of projects. In this respect the private economy sector should be given priority. Inputs belong in the hands of the final users. Input supplies should normally not be given away; they should be sold at market prices, thus allowing the returns to be put into a revolving fund. In order to enable farmers to do so they need national price policy-gear incentives, and effective marketing and service systems must be set up, including banking services.

Jacobus J. NEETESCN (Netherlands): My delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for submitting document C 87/20 containing the report on the feasibility study. We have read it with great interest. I know from experience that it is not easy to obtain all of the data and information that forms the basis of the report.

We appreciate the comprehensive approach of the study. The input supply gap is estimated to widen to a very high figure in US dollars. However, the recommendations for closing the gap are much more interesting. In general we agree with most of the approaches and recommendations outlined in the report. Indeed, support for local production and intra-regional trade of inputs, whether through aid-in-kind or otherwise, must come first. It must be emphasized, however, that different sets of conditions should be met and economic criteria applied to local production of the various types of inputs.

A second item that I should like to mention is the policy and planning framework for input supply. The Netherlands has a fairly large history of experience in balance-of-payment support and in programme aid used for agricultural inputs, notably fertilizers. Whereas input availability at the national level is often seen as the main constraint, other constraints that prevent farmers from using the correct amount of inputs at the correct time may be just as important, or more important. These constraints may originate from such factors as price policy, distribution and marketing, credit services, extension, education and research. In the report they are dealt with as policies to strengthen incentives, institutions and infrastructure. They are very important in our view.

It is from this experience that I would like to recommend that programme aid and aid-in-kind be linked as much as possible with technical assistance activities. In this respect there is scope for more cooperation between bilateral donors and multilateral agencies enabling one activity to reinforce another.

My third remark concerns the relationship which is established in the report between surpluses of inputs in OECD countries and expansion of aid-in-kind to African countries. In my opinion, these two should not be connected as is being done. As far as the Netherlands is concerned, the need of the recipient country determines the type of assistance, and not the existence of surpluses. Moreover, if there is a shortage of agricultural inputs on the world market, accompanied by high prices, the need for assistance in whatever form is even higher.

These remarks illustrate our view that normal commercial mechanisms on the World Market, as well as within the recipient countries, should form the basis for programme aid and aid-in-kind.

My last remark concerns the role of FAO. We agree with the conclusion of the report that the main follow-up action will have to be at a national level in the recipient countries. In our opinion, mainly at debt level, FAO could play a coordinating role. This role has to be based on a policy analysis of the input supply situation. At the same time FAO should also be involved in donor coordination which functions already - although not always efficiently - in a number of countries under the chairmanship of the recipient countries. In our opinion, both donors and recipients could benefit from the proposed input information system coordinated by FAO. In the Plenary the Minister of Agriculture has outlined our views with respect to the need for increased involvement of FAO, as we see it, in policy advising of countries and multilateral financing institutions. Other members of the Netherlands delegation have stressed the same points under other agenda items. It is maybe clear from my remarks that we should like to see input production and input supply systems to be included in that part of the new role of FAO.

Abdel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): My delegation studied document C 87/20 and its supplement. At the beginning we should like to point to our statement during the 91st Session of the Executive Board of FAO, which welcomed such a study because of the conviction of its objective which aims at realising agricultural development. Therefore, Egypt provided all the information required from it in order to prepare such a study.

Paragraphs 8 - 13 of this document draw attention to the existence of a large gap at national level between the needs of agricultural inputs and the quantities available of such inputs. Therefore, we agree with the view suggested by this study to sustain local production, first and foremost, and to encourage inter-developing country trade, as is clear from paragraph 18.

Paragraphs 26- 28 deal with the role of such aid-in-kind in overcoming the problems which face local production. We therefore welcome what is referred to in paragraph 28, to apply the triangular transactions as a factor to encourage trade in order to solve such problems..

We also welcome paragraph 29 to enlarge the use of production inputs in the development of technological changes, and we hope we benefit from the inputs in kind in research and experiences.

Paragraphs 30 - 33 talk about the implementation of programmes of input for work. My delegation would approve and welcome such a proposal and hope that it will be implemented on an experimental basis to avoid the adverse effects which might come out.

After reviewing paragraphs 34 - 40, we should like to welcome the general framework of policies for the planning of aid-in-kind as referred to in this document .

This document also points out the possible role of FAO, as appears in paragraphs 45 and 46. My delegation feels that the FAO's role should be restricted to providing technical aid to countries upon request in the field of the elaboration of policies and plans and in the follow-up of this information. We are pleased to note the success of certain African countries by putting out policies which meet the needs of the farmers and lead to the increase of productivity, paragraph 49.

The delegation of Egypt has studied paragraphs 51- 57 concerning the needs of inputs in order to increase production. We approve the content of these paragraphs, and we hope that, after reviewing paragraphs 61 - 68, concerning production, trade and aid-in-kind, the problems which are pointed out by these paragraphs will be solved. It might be preferable in order to bridge the gap to apply the triangular transactions, as appears from paragraph 78. We recommend the members who welcome the principle of triangular transactions. My delegation hopes that good planning would be applied in order to define the need for inputs and to define the kind of pesticides needed.

We also welcome the content of paragraphs 126 and 127 concerning the management counterpart funds. We also join the countries which have asked for the carrying out of this study in the various regions of the Organization.

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We should like to thank the Secretariat for the thoroughness of preparation of this paper. It gives an excellent review of the problems of providing aid-in-kind, or what we would call programme aid.

We feel that the weakness of C 87/20 is that aid to the agricultural sector is being considered in isolation. It must be considered in the context of overall development plans. A further weakness is that insufficient attention is paid to other factors, such as appropriate policies, institutions, training, etc., which are required to make optimum use of inputs. The intervention of the delegate of Australia drew attention to this aspect.

Nevertheless there is a considerable amount of excellent information in the document and it provides a starting point for consideration of how to make programme aid more effective. We feel that in the future African agriculture will become a more intensive user of imported inputs. In the past these have been subsidized and, thus, arguably over-used. Future unsubsidized demands cannot easily be inferred from past trends. Generalizations about the role of inputs, therefore, are not proven.

Agriculture has benefited strongly from the price reforms and altered terms of trade associated with structural adjustment policies. As its growth resumes its effective demand for imported supplies will increase. With import liberalization and competitive internal marketing, which is also part of structural adjustment, supplies will be more readily available to farmers. It is important that any kind of aid should be integrated into existing World Bank country programmes and coordinated with these. British policy is to provide bilateral programme aid where appropriate to countries undertaking structural adjustment reforms. We have increased the provision of programme aid for such countries in sub-Saharan Africa. This aid helps agriculture and enhances the ability of recipient countries to buy imported farm inputs, where there is effective local demand for these, either because it finances them directly or because of the indirect effect of relieving foreign exchange bottlenecks elsewhere in the economy - for example, in transport.

We fear that aid-in-kind as proposed could become a palliative measure for countries with chronic balance of payment strains due to mistaken economic policies. We recognize that such support has to be given to help those countries committed to economic reforms.

The conclusion we reach from reading C 87/20 is that aid-in-kind must be highly country specific and can only be planned on a country-by-country basis. We welcome recommendations to strengthen capacity of recipient countries to identify requirements for programme aid.

The administrative proposals in paragraph 39 seem too complicated. We do not see a role for FAO in providing secretariat services. FAO's job should, we think, be to provide technical assistance to countries to enable them to identify needs and manage supplies with minimal disruption to the agricultural sector.

We counsel caution when considering the establishment of minimum or maximum price controls, since these can all too easily lead to distortions.

We support the observation of the delegate of Kenya that aid-in-kind should not disrupt normal commercial channels. The danger in the proposals as they are currently cast is that programme aid will lose some of its flexibility, and that they will create long-term dependence on externally-financed inputs.

We suggest that there should be joint donor recipient workshops to examine ways of improving mechanisms of handling programme aid for the agricultural sector.

We do not agree with the suggestion that animal feeding stuffs should be provided under aid-in-kind other than in the most exceptional circumstances, such as to preserve limited numbers of breeding stock.

There is a danger that provision of feed-aid could artificially maintain over-stocking in ecologically fragile areas with consequent environmental damage. We are thus opposed at this stage to the lifting of the 1974 moratorium on World Food Programme feed-aid, as suggested in paragraph 33 of document C 87/20, without further detailed examination of the implications. We agree with the view expressed by the delegate of the United States that this is for decision elsewhere.

Finally, work on programme aid is being undertaken in the OECD, and we feel that FAO should - and we feel confident that they will - coordinate any further action with the OECD Secretariat.

Patrick Oliver RYAN (Ireland): We have read with interest document C 87/20 and in general I can state that we are in broad agreement with the general findings and conclusions.

The Irish Government has for some years been a firm supporter of what could be termed FAO's existing aid-in-kind programme. I refer to the FAO fertilizer programme and the associated international fertilizer scheme. Document C 87/20 and its supplement make several references to these programmes. We consider that the FAO fertilizer programme provides a very useful working model for any donors considering an expansion of aid-in-kind. Badly needed inputs are provided at farm level - not only fertilizers but also seeds and chemicals. These inputs are distributed to FAO fertilizer projects which have as one of their principal objectives the strengthening of extension services. Farmers are very quick to adopt the message of increased inputs leading to increased outputs. The result is an extension service which gains the confidence of the farmers and in so doing gains confidence in itself.

Concerning the use of counterpart funds, the IFS/FAO programmes again provide a very useful working model. Counterpart funds from the sales of IFS fertilizers are under the joint control of the joint project managers, the FAO and counterpart managers. Funds are provided quickly for such useful purposes as the building of fertilizer and inputs stores at village level, training of extension agents and the provision of equipment and transport for extension services.

Concerning the recommendations outlined in paragraph 25 and the following paragraphs of C 87/20, the weed management campaign suggested in paragraph 31 is a logical follow-on to the activities of the fertilizer programme. However, the suggestion in paragraph 33 for the use of feed grains as a catalyst of technical change in the livestock industry seems to us to be a less logical proposal. This paragraph seems to recommend the establishment of feed lots and dairy farms dependent on imported grains with the objective of supplying growing urban demands. We would suggest that very careful studies are needed before proceeding with this type of programme on a larger scale. For example, we must ask what effect such semi-industrial farms would have on indigenous livestock production. How well would the objectives of these farms tie in with FAO's own livestock development programmes?

Regarding the inputs of equipment, we find ourselves in agreement with the comments of the delegate of Peru concerning cemeteries of agricultural machinery and the impoverishment of farmers through purchase of machinery of a level of technology inappropriate for local conditions.

It is significant that in Annex V of the Supplement to document C 87/20, Country Case Studies on Input Needs, a common need in three of the four countries studied is the need for simple equipment and raw materials for blacksmiths to facilitate continued production and maintenance of tools and equipment.

On more general themes, we would share the view of the Netherlands delegate that it should be the needs of developing countries which determine the type of aid to be given rather than the existence of surpluses in the developed countries.

Finally, we would see a greater role for FAO at national level in coordinating the assessment of specific input requirements and in the coordination of the supply of these inputs.

The meeting rose at 12.35

La séance est levée à 12 h 35

Se levantó la sesión a las 12.35 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/8

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

EIGHTH MEETING
HUITIEME SEANCE
OCTAVA SESION
(16 November 1987)

The Eighth Meeting was opened at 14:40 hours
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La huitième séance est ouverte à 14 h 40,
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la octava sesión a las 14.40 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 7. Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-Kind (continued)
- 7. Etude de faisabilité sur l'élargissement de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles (suite)
- 7. Estudio de viabilidad sobre la ampliación del suministro de insumos agrícolas como ayuda en especie (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The eighth meeting of Commission I is called to order.

Soukaseum PHOTHISANE (Laos): Monsieur le Président, si je vous demande la parole, c'est pour vous dire que la délégation de la République démocratique populaire lao a suivi avec plaisir l'excellent exposé préliminaire de M. Rao et a examiné avec intérêt les documents relatifs à l'expansion à l'aide en nature pour les approvisionnements en intrants agricoles en Afrique.

Bien que cette étude ait été réalisée dans les pays de nos amis africains, nous trouvons que les observations, les remarques et les leçons à tirer de l'expérience en matière d'intrants agricoles décrites dans ce document pourraient être également utiles pour les pays d'Asie comme le nôtre où ces intrants font aussi défaut.

Nous appuyons l'idée que la FAO devrait redoubler ses efforts pour aider les pays en développement à identifier leurs besoins, à former des cadres appropriés et peut-être à trouver les financements nécessaires aux projets visant à accroître le degré d'autosuffisance en intrants agricoles.

D'autre part, nous pensons que l'aide en intrants devrait être liée à celle des infrastructures de transport et de stockage sans lesquelles il serait difficile, voire impossible, d'utiliser ces intrants d'une manière efficace.

En ce qui concerne les engrais minéraux, nous pensons, pour notre part, qu'ils sont l'un des principaux facteurs pour augmenter la productivité du sol. Encore faut-il bien les identifier et bien les utiliser. Cependant, ils sont malheureusement fort coûteux aussi bien pour les produire nous-mêmes que pour les importer.

C'est pourquoi, dans l'état actuel des choses, nous nous contentons de recourir aux moyens dont nous disposons, c'est-à-dire utiliser les déchets organiques, les composts et divers engrais verts pour amender nos champs. Mais cela ne va pas sans difficulté; nous avons encore besoin de former nos cadres et nos agriculteurs pour exploiter correctement toutes les ressources organiques renouvelables qui existent dans notre pays.

Philippe PIOTET (France): La délégation française a examiné avec un vif intérêt le rapport préparé par le Secrétariat. Mon pays est heureux d'avoir pu participer avec d'autres donateurs aux premières réflexions engagées dans le cadre de cette étude. Nous aurions toutefois souhaité pouvoir disposer du rapport avant le début de la Conférence pour l'étudier bien en détail avec les Administrations et les responsables des secteurs économiques concernés; je pense aux fabricants d'engrais, de semences et de machines agricoles. Aussi, je me limiterai aujourd'hui à vous faire part *de* quelques observations préliminaires.

Ma délégation constate tout d'abord qu'un certain nombre de préoccupations qu'elle avait évoquées lors des récents conseils ont été prises en considération dans le cadre de cette étude. Je pense en particulier aux précautions à prendre pour que l'aide en nature soit bien adaptée aux besoins spécifiques des pays bénéficiaires et ne fasse pas obstacle au développement dans ces pays des activités artisanales et industrielles susceptibles de répondre à ces besoins. Je pense aussi à la nécessité de concevoir l'aide en nature dans le cadre global des politiques de développement agricole, ce qui implique que l'on agisse simultanément sur la recherche, la formation, les investissements, la commercialisation des produits notamment. Aussi, la délégation française appuie-t-elle tout particulièrement le paragraphe 44 du rapport concernant les règles à respecter en matière de livraison des intrants, les paragraphes 115 et 135 concernant la création d'un environnement favorable pour une utilisation efficace des intrants.

Avant d'en arriver à quelques questions spécifiques évoquées dans le rapport, je souhaiterais faire deux remarques d'ordre général.

L'expérience montre tout d'abord qu'il ne suffit pas d'accroître les disponibilités en intrants pour, ipso facto, accroître la production. De même, un accroissement qui ne serait dû qu'à des livraisons extérieures de moyens de production serait très fragile. Le rapport explique clairement ces deux risques, mais je crois nécessaire de les souligner et de les garder en mémoire tout au long de notre examen.

Je crois nécessaire également d'avoir pleinement conscience que certaines propositions peuvent aller à l'encontre des recommandations faites dans le cadre de mesures d'ajustement structurel et qui concernent les nécessités de fournir à leur vrai prix, sans aide extérieure, les investissements nécessaires à l'agriculture.

Sur les problèmes plus ponctuels, je formulerai maintenant un certain nombre de remarques.

En premier lieu, c'est à juste titre que le paragraphe 18 évoque trois options pour combler le déficit des intrants des pays africains. Je rappelle ces options: stimuler la production nationale d'intrants, promouvoir le commerce international et accroître les importations en provenance d'autres régions, tant à conditions commerciales qu'à conditions de faveur.

Ma délégation ne peut qu'appuyer la recommandation du paragraphe 44 selon laquelle l'aide en nature doit viser en priorité à stimuler l'industrie locale et les échanges intrarégionaux, en particulier les échanges triangulaires soulignés à juste titre dans les rapports. Toute la difficulté cependant est de savoir comment atteindre cet objectif. Les situations sont en effet très diverses. Il est difficile et sans doute imprudent de généraliser. Aussi, une approche pragmatique cas par cas est certainement la plus recommandable dans un premier temps.

En second lieu, les comparaisons qui sont faites avec l'aide alimentaire nous semblent intéressantes car il s'agit d'un domaine dans lequel la communauté internationale a une certaine expérience. Je pense toutefois qu'il faut se garder de pousser trop loin de telles comparaisons. Certes, il existe un certain parallélisme entre l'aide en nature et l'aide alimentaire; par exemple, dans les deux cas, il y a des risques de créer des habitudes différentes et inadaptées, dans les deux cas, il y a des risques de déséquilibrer les flux commerciaux. De même, encore l'idée de réaliser des opérations triangulaires mérite d'être mise à l'épreuve.

La notion de programme "intrants contre travail" nous apparaît toutefois plus complexe et plus délicate à mettre en oeuvre que les programmes plus classiques et bien connus de "vivres contre travail". Nous pensons néanmoins que cette idée pourrait être utilement approfondie et expérimentée en particulier dans les pays qui n'ont pas besoin d'aide alimentaire.

Par ailleurs, du côté des donateurs, les situations sont assez diverses. Certains pays ont en effet des surcapacités de production en engrais ou en machines agricoles qu'il serait intéressant d'utiliser. Mais dans un certain nombre de cas, le développement de l'aide en nature n'entraîne pas nécessairement une réduction des coûts marginaux dans les secteurs industriels concernés. C'est le cas par exemple des industries qui fabriquent des engrais, lorsque leur matière première est importée, ou bien des industries du machinisme agricole lorsque leur production de série n'est pas adaptée aux besoins des pays bénéficiaires d'une aide en nature.

Du côté de la demande maintenant, comme cela est signalé justement aux paragraphes 105 et suivants du rapport, un certain nombre de contraintes doivent être résolues au préalable comme le manque de disponibilités financières dû aux déficiences de systèmes de crédit ou à l'inadaptation de systèmes

de production à des apports supplémentaires d'intrants.

Enfin, s'agissant du rôle que la FAO pourrait jouer dans un tel dispositif, ma délégation n'estime pas très souhaitable que soit encouragé le développement de nouveaux mécanismes administratifs. En effet, l'aide en nature, pas plus que l'aide alimentaire n'est une fin en soi elle ne constitue qu'un moyen déjà largement pris en compte dans un certain nombre de projets.

C'est pourquoi, ma délégation estime que la FAO pourrait en priorité prendre en charge certaines missions définies aux a) et b) du paragraphe 145, c'est-à-dire; la fourniture d'une assistance technique et de moyens de formation; l'appui à la définition de politique agricole intégrant les intrants.

Ce n'est me semble-t-il, que dans un second temps, après quelques années d'expérience, que l'on pourra examiner l'opportunité pour l'OAA de créer une banque de données ou de mettre en place un système d'alerte rapide comme le suggèrent les points b) et c) du paragraphe 145.

V.K. SIBAL (India): At the outset we would like to place on record our appreciation for the well-analyzed and incisive report under debate and its very clear presentation.

There is no doubt that the poorer food deficit countries do find their efforts to increase agricultural production hamstrung by reduced export earnings, especially because of depressed commodity prices, their huge foreign debts and reduced aid flows. There is a gap in their input requirements if they are to establish and operate well-considered programmes for increasing their agricultural production even though account is taken of increased local production and trade flows. This provides the scope and potential for aid-in-kind, which so far mostly has been in the shape of food.

The Director-General in his speech in the 9th session of COAG mentioned that inputs such as fertilizers, improved seeds, pesticides and appropriate machinery had been provided as aid-in-kind on a much smaller scale than food. This situation constitutes a serious case for aid-in-kind to African countries facing serious problems with their agricultural production and balance of payments. In this context the under-used capacity of the industrialized countries could be mobilized to produce inputs that the poorer nations cannot normally afford to purchase. At the same time aid could be directed to building up the delivery systems and developing policy frameworks that will be required if food-deficit countries are to maintain a higher level of agricultural technology at a later stage when international input aid is progressively scaled down. We consider this a very important point-because this kind of aid is not meant to induce or establish dependencies for all time to come but must keep in focus all the time a phased programme for reducing the requirements for such aid over time.

In the 10th session of the Commission on Fertilizers in April 1987 it was felt that the study should consider the improvements in the modalities of distribution of inputs to farmers and that the implementation of fertilizer aid should be linked with training to ensure the use of recommended types and rates of fertilizer application. It also stressed the importance of effective monitoring to ensure that aid-in-kind reaches the farmers. There is also a need to safeguard against aid-in-kind leading to the introduction of inappropriate technology or becoming the means of disposing of the surpluses of developed countries that are unsuited to African conditions or that harm local industries.

We note that much of the present aid-in-kind is provided on an ad hoc basis; a coherent policy framework for channelling input assistance is needed; that input assistance requires bilateral action on incentives, institutions and infrastructure; that recipients have suffered from insufficient coordination of input aid; and that such aid needs to be tailored to country, area or group-specific requirements.

The suggestions in the report aimed at strengthening national capacities for assessment of input requirements, the coordination and monitoring of commercial and concessional flows of inputs, the development of guidelines towards aid-in-kind and other forms of input, and mechanisms needed to facilitate the systematic programming of commercial and concessional flows are important and need to be seriously pursued.

The possibility of the use of triangular transactions in handling such aid is important. The use of aid-in-kind to provide raw materials for local production of input programmes, for greater production of staple crops in deficit, or export crops, for soil conservation and for weed management, are aspects of the report with which we agree. The generation of counterpart funds to sustain local cost financing would be a clear advantage in some of the activities programmed.

The role of FAO has been well outlined in the report. The African countries would need the assistance of FAO for determination of their input needs. FAO could set up a data bank on requirements and bring urgent needs to the attention of donors. FAO would also be called upon to monitor the programmes and to arrange consultations between the parties. We agree that some parts of the programme could start on a bilateral basis in some countries, and in some cases provision for phasing in and phasing out the input assistance would have to be built in.

In short, we have a very useful report that lays the groundwork for a systematic approach by the international community and by individual African countries towards identifying needs and mobilizing resources for meeting them. We would support the report. We would like to underline the fact that the need for aid-in-kind, however, is not limited to Africa. In other continents too such aid could be usefully deployed. Therefore, FAO should consider how it might be extended eventually to cover other regions at a later date.

In closing, we would underscore the fact that the proposals need to be pursued, as stated in the paper, as the first step in a possibly phased process, and should be built upon slowly on the basis of experience to operate an effective programme of aid-in-kind. In view of our past and ongoing association with the Commission on Fertilizers, to which we had the privilege of providing the last Chairman, we would like to suggest that consideration be given to expanding the mandate of that Commission to cover other inputs presently being discussed, which are necessary to achieve maximum fertilizer efficiency.

Anastase MUREKEZI (Rwanda): La délégation rwandaise félicite le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document C 87/20 et son supplément qui portent sur l'étude de faisabilité et sur l'extension de l'aide en nature sous forme d'intrants agricoles. Cette étude complète le rapport sur l'agriculture africaine pour les vingt prochaines années, présenté par le Directeur général de la FAO à la quatorzième Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique qui s'est tenue en Côte d'Ivoire en 1986.

L'aide en nature, sous forme d'intrants agricoles que sont les semences, les engrais, les produits phytosanitaires, les machines agricoles, les aliments pour bétail, les produits vétérinaires est une réponse appropriée à la crise de l'agriculture africaine et elle profite à la fois aux bénéficiaires et aux donateurs.

Nous adhérons donc entièrement aux conclusions et aux recommandations de cette étude. Nous avons besoin d'engrais organiques et minéraux adaptés à nos sols acides, nous avons besoin de profiter de progrès déjà accomplis ou à accomplir dans le domaine du génie génétique et de disposer de semences hautement performantes de haricots, de bananes, de maïs, de riz ainsi que de races d'animaux plus productrices de lait et de viande.

Mon pays est par ailleurs très reconnaissant envers la FAO pour le soutien à notre programme national d'intrants à travers le programme engrais/FAO. Beaucoup de donateurs nous fournissent des engrais et nous aident à produire des semences de qualité.

Nous souhaitons le renforcement de ces activités et nous lançons un appel à la communauté internationale pour consacrer plus d'attention à la valorisation des ressources phytogénétiques locales et au droit pour tous les pays d'accéder facilement aux biotechnologies existantes.

Les pays développés nous ont habitués, jusqu'à maintenant, à l'aide alimentaire. Pour nourrir nos populations, mais, faut-il le rappeler, l'aide alimentaire n'est vraiment appropriée que dans les cas de famine ou d'autres catastrophes comme ce fut le cas en Afrique en 1984. En période normale, l'aide alimentaire paralyse la production nationale et désarticule l'effort des populations locales, elle constitue en fait une subvention subtile à l'agriculture des pays du Nord. Elle empêche une commercialisation efficace des produits locaux, ce qui anéantit les capacités des paysans des pays d'Afrique à payer les intrants nécessaires à la modernisation de leur système agricole.

Certains pays africains produisent déjà des engrais. Je vois là un atout majeur aux transactions triangulaires entre les pays développés et les pays en développement. Ce concept doit être étendu à l'ensemble des intrants agricoles.

Mais il faut aussi renforcer la formation et les moyens de distribution dans les pays en développement. Il faut améliorer la capacité de planification dans nos pays pour mieux définir et utiliser les intrants agricoles en profitant des expériences des autres pays similaires dans le cadre de la coopération entre pays en développement, conformément aux recommandations de la treizième session du Conseil mondial de l'alimentation qui s'est tenue à Beijing, en République populaire de Chine, en juin de cette année.

La FAO devra jouer, tout au long de ce processus, un rôle prépondérant comme consultant, comme conseiller et comme pourvoyeur de données de base pour l'utilisation efficace des intrants agricoles.

Jean BANTSIMBA (Congo): Ma délégation s'associe aux précédents orateurs pour noter la pertinence des analyses et propositions faites dans le cadre de l'étude de faisabilité sur l'expansion de l'aide en nature pour les approvisionnements en intrants agricoles dont elle approuve les principales conclusions.

Naturellement, il est indispensable d'intensifier l'agriculture africaine pour lui taire atteindre un niveau de productivité conforme à son objectif d'autosuffisance alimentaire. Cependant, l'utilisation rationnelle des intrants nécessaires au passage de son état actuel à celui d'une productivité satisfaisante implique le déploiement d'une recherche d'accompagnement et de systèmes de vulgarisation efficaces pour définir et planifier correctement nos besoins. Nous proposons que cette idée, qui apparaît déjà dans certains paragraphes des documents, puisse faire l'objet d'un alinéa spécifique dans les lignes d'orientation pour l'aide en nature et l'aide aux programmes, paragraphe 163.

Enfin, ma délégation constate qu'une catégorie importante d'intrants, ces concentrés pour aliments du bétail, ne semble pas avoir été prise en compte dans l'étude; elle propose de l'intégrer.

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Mi delegación felicita al equipo que elaboró el documento C 87/20 y el suplemento 1 y ve con agrado los resultados del mismo al cual apoya con determinadas observaciones: el suministro de insumos agrícolas deberá estar acompañado de la cooperación técnica que evalúe las necesidades de cada país, en el uso de los mismos, teniendo en cuenta la cantidad y calidad de estos insumos, como bien lo destacara el distinguido delegado de la República hermana del Perú.

Para mi delegación es fundamental que esta forma de ayuda no afecte los niveles de intercambio comercial y los niveles de precios que rigen el mercado de este tipo de insumos, pues si no, no seríamos coherentes si por una parte reclamamos el libre juego del mercado sin proteccionismos ni subsidios, y por el otro, apoyáramos algún tipo de control del mismo.

Mi delegación ha recibido con satisfacción las declaraciones de algunos países desarrollados que apoyan el libre comercio sin medidas que afecten los precios de los productos.

En resumen, mi delegación apoya dicho programa dentro de un marco de medidas que no afecten el libre comercio.

Mohsen BOUJBEL (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi, Monsieur le Président, de remercier les équipes techniques qui ont élaboré cette étude sur l'aide en nature. La délégation de mon pays appuie les propositions contenues dans cette étude et en particulier celles concernant le renforcement des échanges entre pays en développement, en matière d'intrants agricoles.

Ma délégation voudrait également appuyer les opérations trilatérales et souligner davantage les effets positifs de ces opérations ainsi que la façon dont elles peuvent être mises en oeuvre.

En ce qui concerne le rôle de l'Organisation dans le domaine de l'aide en nature, ce rôle est tout à fait important, en particulier en fournissant l'aide nécessaire aux pays qui ont besoin de créer l'infrastructure nécessaire en intrants agricoles. L'Organisation pourrait également jouer un rôle très important pour définir les nécessités de chaque agriculture dans les pays en développement en intrants agricoles.

M.R. MULELE (Zambia): Mr Chairman, let, me thank you, first of all, for affording me the opportunity to make a few remarks on the subject under discussion.

Before I go any further I should like to commend the consultant and the secretariat for a job extremely well done in undertaking the Study and making available to us these excellent documents.

There is no doubt that inputs play a significant role in increasing agricultural production. We know too well that all farmers need some kind of traction, be it in the form of tractors or oxen; they require ploughs, hoes, implements, fertilizers, seeds, chemicals, etc. When a good supply of inputs is supported by an efficient extension service, remunerative prices and indeed sound infrastructure, increased agricultural production becomes assured.

The need for the supply of inputs-in-kind is, in the main, necessitated by the balance-of-payments difficulties with which most of the African countries are faced. As the terms of trade have moved against these countries, their ability to purchase inputs for agriculture has been made more and more difficult. There is no doubt that, if properly implemented, aid-in-kind should result in maximum benefits to recipient countries. A multiplicity of donors supplying similar commodities as aid-in-kind can all too often exacerbate the problems of a country. Take the case of the supply of tractors and equipment: in many instances we find that there is a wide range of makes and this is a common feature in most developing countries, with all the attendant problems that go with machinery. Little wonder that we can talk of the developing countries increasingly becoming dumping grounds for goods and commodities from the developed world.

Aid-in-kind is a strong candidate for encouraging dumping of old stocks of fertilizer and chemicals and outmoded tractors and equipment. We need to watch out against this. In our view, serious dialogue between the donor and recipient countries is of paramount importance and the latter should determine and articulate their own needs.

Aid-in-kind, if not properly controlled and monitored, can thwart regional trade initiatives and efforts. Donors could easily off-load their products at subsidized prices to recipient countries, particularly in Africa, thereby killing the emerging industries. In our region, the Preferential Trade Area, PTA, is becoming increasingly important, with trade between member states picking up. We now know what each member state produces and we can obtain commodities quite often without using foreign exchange. We think this is a good development which should not be destroyed but encouraged.

The aim of my delegations intervention is not to condemn aid-in-kind per se. On the contrary, we want to state that we support it and it should be country or situation specific. It should not be seen to promote the businesses of the developed countries and to threaten the growth of emerging industries in developing countries.

As we have already stated, aid-in-kind can definitely lead to increased food and agricultural production, but we believe that in the final analysis the answer lies in the developed countries opening their doors wide to goods from developing countries and paying proper prices, prices which we think would enable these countries to purchase the kinds or forms of inputs needed. These should be inputs which are tailor-made to their requirements, not approximations as is often the case.

Fereydun SANEI (Islamic Republic of Iran): On behalf of the Iranian Delegation and myself, I would like to extend my deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the presentation of the very lucid and elaborate documents C 87/20 and C 87/20 Sup.1.

The Iranian delegation would entirely support the aid-in-kind concept and hopes that this measure can help the developing countries to further their activities in the provision of more agricultural commodities, to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Here we would like to pose the following suggestions and we do expect that FAO should pay attention to facilitate their accomplishment.

First, since one measure to extend agricultural development is education followed by proper training in the field of better utilization of resources and productivity elements, we therefore, believe in the compilation and recruitment of properly and sensibly planned educational and training programmes in schools and training centres for both youngsters and elderly farmers.

Secondly, the preparation of such programmes requires the proper recognition of resources and productivity elements, together with the demands of working rural inhabitants. As a consequence, the collection and compilation of data and information can be of great help to agricultural development.

It is obvious that in programming not only do we require the aforesaid factors, but also other elements such as acquaintance with different social aspects, classic education, hygiene and welfare, transportation and communication, lodging and accommodation and some other factors that have a very effective influence on the agricultural activities in each region. Therefore, recognition of all these elements is of prime significance if we want to gain success and secure the proper implementation of our already-planned projects.

Thirdly, another very important requirement of the rural and production centres, particularly in countries where great distances exist among rural and urban centres, is the preparation of a category of services which would enable the farmers to get the best benefit from facilities such as available inputs, loans and credits, marketing and machinery services, all on the spot. Under such circumstances farmers, through saving costs, time and energy, would be able to carry out their duties and to further the management of their farms easily and efficiently.

Fourthly, considering the above-mentioned factors, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to achieve success in the establishment of approximately 600 agricultural services centres. These centres deal with the implementation of training and extension and data collection, which are necessary for programming and meeting the demands of farmers concerning agricultural inputs.

The outcome of this measure has proved to be fruitful and we do hope that in future we shall be able to extend the number of these centres throughout the country.

Fifthly, considering these procedures and the significance of each individual element which we have pinpointed so far, we do expect that FAO should put forward programmes of evaluation of these activities in countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and, following that, should prepare facilities for them to gain the best benefit from the experience and expertise of those countries which have similar climatological, cultural and social frameworks and conditions.

Aboubacar KOUROUMA KOLY (Guinée): La délégation guinéenne apprécie l'excellente présentation du document C 87/20 faite par M. Rao.

La question abordée par ce document représente en réalité un des facteurs limitant le développement économique dans nos pays. La place des intrants parmi les différents facteurs qui accélèrent la production agricole est certainement la plus importante. En effet, lors de la treizième Conférence régionale de la FAO à Yamoussoukro, l'ensemble des pays africains étaient convenus qu'une utilisation rationnelle des engrais, des pesticides et des équipements appropriés améliorerait rapidement la production agricole. Pour ce faire, il est indispensable que toute aide en nature soit précédée d'essais appropriés pour l'adapter à chaque cas.

Le paragraphe 5 de la page 7 du document C 87/20 mérite de retenir l'attention pour servir de cadre à l'harmonisation de l'aide en nature avec les besoins.

Plus loin, le paragraphe 61 du chapitre II, page 15 du même document, souligne le préalable essentiel à une rationalisation de l'aide en nature.

Pour terminer, notre pays reste favorable à toute démarche visant à l'expansion de l'aide en nature, sur la base d'enquêtes minutieusement menées pour éviter les dégâts qu'une mauvaise utilisation pourrait provoquer.

Ms Anna Liisa KORHONEN (Finland): On this occasion I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and my own country, Finland. First of all, we should like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive introductory statement to this item on Friday.

Our delegations have carefully studied the report of the Feasibility Study on Expanding Aid-in-Kind of Farm Inputs in document C 87/20. In general it contains valuable information about different requirements for accelerated agricultural development. The Nordic countries follow very closely the African development prospects and have actively supported special multilateral arrangements to alleviate the difficult economic situation, especially of those Sub-Saharan low-income, debt-distressed countries who are implementing national structural adjustment programmes. In these endeavours the Nordic countries have constantly emphasized the importance of agricultural development.

The report gives ample evidence of the widening resource gap between available resources and actual needs. It also rightly points out that the international support measures must complement national policies and plans as defined by the governments concerned.

All Nordic countries attach considerable importance to agricultural development in their bilateral assistance programmes. Over the years we have learned that agricultural development is a complex issue that must be promoted by different measures. The input constraint is just one of many difficulties. Unfortunately, aid-in-kind is often tied aid, with all the problems caused by this fact as mentioned in paragraph 87 of the background document. In addition, if aid is also given on a short-term basis, it may cause additional problems. In the multilateral context our delegations are strong supporters of untied aid. Thus, we are opposed to FAO getting involved in any additional kind of operations in this area. Against this background, our delegations have assessed the issue at hand - expanded role of aid-in-kind - with some concern. The report suggests that the readily available surpluses in developed countries should be used for filling the input gap in developing countries. Our delegations are not convinced that in the near future this kind of arrangement would result in increased overall resource flows. In our view these two aspects - surpluses and needs - should be delinked and aid-in-kind only given when appropriate for the recipient countries. In this way the aid will not harm the development efforts of the recipient countries. In our bilateral programmes we are trying to integrate the delivery of aid-in-kind with other components of planned agricultural programmes in order to increase the agricultural production.

The chapter on past experiences with aid-in-kind we found very interesting, and we agree that it is necessary to try to find ways to avoid the possible negative implications of aid-in-kind.

Such work is now going on in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), where the group of evaluation experts are working to establish guidelines for aid-in-kind and programme aid. We would suggest that the FAO should be in contact with the DAC Secretariat in order to avoid possible duplication of work and, in our opinion, the document 87/20 would also be a very valuable input in these DAC discussions.

Turning now to FAO's future role in the area of aid-in-kind; as we said above, we are strongly opposed to FAO getting involved in new operations in this field. We agree that there are some areas where the policy advice role of FAO could be useful and appropriate. It could advise recipient countries in the area of aid-in-kind, as to how these countries could identify requirements, monitor availability, coordinate supplies and use transportation facilities and marketing arrangements. These tasks should be performed using existing FAO facilities. The suggestion to widen the FAO International Fertilizer Supply Scheme to include also multi-annual commitments of other agricultural input aid ought to be clarified and the possible benefits of such a proposition described in more detail before any decision on this matter could be taken.

The Nordic countries find that FAO could make periodic reviews on the use of agricultural inputs in development aid and in this show how aid-in-kind is channelled and used in order to point out possible concerns and make recommendations for overcoming obstacles encountered. This kind of information may bring about facts which could be easy to remedy and would bring immediate benefit to all partners concerned.

Bernardo PALESTINI (Italy): We have read with great interest documents C 87/20 and C 87/20 Sup.1 and find that they provide an in-depth and comprehensive review of the issues involved. While we agree in principle with their conclusions, nevertheless it is our opinion that the solution to the problems involved is still a long way off, by reason of the multiple factors which affect it. It is

true that a substantial improvement of yields can only be obtained by the use of modern agricultural inputs, such as mineral fertilizers, improved seeds and pesticides. But then other problems arise, such as production of the said inputs on a fairly wide scale, their distribution, technical guidance and expertise, etc.

Let us take, for example, the fertilizer sector. Italy, in the 1985/86 period, had a fertilizer production of over 6 400 000 tonnes. The annual consumption was of 5.5 million tonnes, and the stocks added up to about 1 million tonnes. But, as the said documents point out, only a small part of the over-production of the developed countries can be made available. There is a need to improve the distribution, on the one hand, and, on the other, to develop agricultural inputs production in the developing countries themselves, providing financial means and technical expertise for the realization of field programmes.

There is a further factor to consider, and this is irrigation. An appropriate irrigation network is essential if we want fertilizers and other inputs to be effective and thus provide an increase in agricultural yields.

Last but not least, transport and communication facilities are necessary to render agricultural inputs available when needed.

However, in spite of the many constraints facing the provision of agricultural inputs to developing countries, we are aware that such inputs are badly needed if a sustained and balanced growth, both quantitative and qualitative, in the production of food and cash crops is to be achieved.

Therefore-, apart from the provision of aid-in-kind to meet emergency situations, Italy's efforts in this field have led to the implementation of specific programmes, combining the supply of inputs - equipment, pesticides, fertilizers - with adequate support activities, mainly training, extension, credit schemes, technical assistance and soil conservation.

Based on recent experience, the latter approach has made possible a more effective use of the inputs provided, as was pointed out in the joint evaluation of FAO-executed mechanization projects funded by Italy. Whenever possible, Italy has tried to follow the same approach in carrying out emergency operations in such countries as Angola, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan Tanzania and Zimbabwe, where the inputs requested by the recipient governments - pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, equipment - amounting to approximately US\$ 55 million have been provided, along with relevant technical assistance.

Another joint evaluation is now under way to assess the achievements of Italy's assistance to the International Fertilizer Scheme.

Mme Cristina Isabel DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert félicite la FAO pour l'état d'avancement, la qualité de l'étude, et l'encourage dans sa poursuite. L'importante étude sur l'aide en nature élaborée par la FAO fait suite à la remarquable étude sur l'agriculture africaine qui fut présentée à Yamoussoukro, lors de la Conférence ministérielle de la FAO pour l'Afrique.

Nous partageons l'idée selon laquelle l'accès aux intrants et aux moyens de production est un facteur décisif pour le développement agricole et alimentaire. Cependant, ma délégation aimerait faire quelques commentaires à propos du document C 87/20.

Il nous semble que, dans les premières pages, la question des intrants a été présentée comme la seule solution pour le développement africain, et nous pensons que l'on devrait avoir toujours présentes à l'esprit les limites de la fonction des intrants dans le cadre du développement économique africain. La question de fond est qu'il convient de relativiser la fonction des intrants comme solution au développement économique africain, puisque n'importe quelle mesure de politique comporte des relations de complémentarité en amont et en aval.

Le deuxième aspect concerne les effets possibles de cette aide en nature. Lors de notre première intervention au sein de cette commission, nous avons eu l'occasion de déplorer la mercantilisation des économies africaines. Nous pensons que l'accroissement prévu dans l'utilisation des intrants

provoquera sans aucun doute des changements au niveau de l'organisation du travail dans le monde rural africain, qui influenceront sur les aspects socio-culturels. Nous pensons donc qu'il ne faut pas concevoir l'opération intrants en Afrique comme une solution strictement technique associant l'écoulement d'excédents à l'augmentation de la productivité.

L'expérience faite dans notre continent nous montre que des solutions strictement techniques provoquent des résultats non souhaitables et parfois déstabilisateurs.

Le troisième aspect consiste à réaffirmer que l'opération intrants est avant tout un élément d'une stratégie de développement, donc sa matérialisation ne peut toujours être associée à l'existence - ou non - d'excédents. L'écoulement d'excédents des pays industrialisés sous forme d'aide en nature constitue l'une des façons les plus particulières de concrétiser cette ligne politique.

Le quatrième aspect à souligner concerne la complémentarité entre les quatre "i". En effet, nous pensons que les fonds provenant de la commercialisation de l'aide en nature seront utilisés dans le cadre du renforcement de cette complémentarité pour le financement des infrastructures, incitatifs et des institutions.

En dernier lieu, nous aimerions commenter les paragraphes 22 et 23. Si à l'heure actuelle, il devient difficile pour l'Afrique de satisfaire ses besoins en intrants, nous estimons cependant qu'à moyen ou à long terme, la situation puisse se renverser. Et par conséquent, l'étroitesse des marchés nationaux ne constitue pas d'obstacles, vu que la dimension minimale optimale pourrait avoir comme référence les marchés régionaux. C'est dans ce contexte que l'aide en nature pourra contribuer à la consolidation d'une demande solvable et, à plus long terme, à viabiliser les industries africaines. D'où la pertinence d'une aide pluriannuelle échelonnée et d'échanges interrégionaux.

R. BATTI (EEC): Mr Chairman, we have read with great interest the report on the "Feasibility Study on Expanding the Provision of Agricultural Inputs as Aid-in-kind" and would like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with such a thorough analysis of the issue. The study draws attention to such crucial problems as the availability of inputs to make rural development and food self-sufficiency endeavours a success.

The ninetieth session of the Council set two principal objectives for the study: to determine the likely gap in the medium term between input requirements and availabilities, and to assess the potential role of aid-in-kind to close such a gap. The report invites donors to help fill the estimated gap.

As far as the Community is concerned, the third Lomé Convention contains provisions for multi-annual support for key inputs and raw material imports, sectoral import programmes, which allows us to intervene in this area in appropriate circumstances. Besides, the Lomé Convention, the assistance granted by the countries of Asia and Latin America has for many years provided the framework for the supply of fertilizers to a certain number of countries in these regions.

I would like to make a few remarks on the content of the report and to draw the attention of this Commission to two points: first, in considering direct aid-in-kind, one should bear in mind that commodity aid has its drawbacks. Food aid for example has too often harmed the development of local food production. In all countries the symbiosis of rural and industrial sectors represents the driving force of development. One should therefore ensure that the normal outlet of industry is not restricted by flooding the market with readily available imported inputs, especially if they are effectively subsidized.

On the other hand, commodity aid is usually even more difficult and costly to supply, store, manage and distribute than straight human and financial aid. Commodity aid should not be provided unless it is cost effective and combined carefully with an adequate overall and sectoral strategy and efficient management.

Secondly, input availability is not the main constraint on development. Past policies have often discouraged farmers from investing in input use. In our view, a certain number of factors have to be taken into account besides input supply. Pricing policies: both crops grown and fertilizers, and other inputs need to be priced in accordance with economic realities, thus encouraging farmers to step up production without wasting inputs. The extension of credit availability and its improved

management are necessary to strengthen the absorptive capacity of the rural sector and its financial capacity to increase input use. Applied research should focus on cropping systems which diminish risks for the farmers and are carefully designed for the particular locality concerned. Parastatals have often been characterized by the lack of efficiency and excessive costs and therefore have not often contributed to the timely availability of the needed inputs nor to the prompt payment for crops harvested to the farmer.

The Community shares the view that the importance of inputs supplied should be stressed, but we hesitate to follow an across-the-board kind of approach because input availability represents only one element in an agricultural production orientated strategy which needs to take into account the macro-economic and sectoral policy and the institutional framework, as well as the social realities for the relevant farming community.

Giuseppe VASTA (Observateur de l'Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques): Je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat pour les excellents documents qui nous ont été présentés.

En ce qui concerne l'aide en nature, plusieurs délégations ont parlé des études et des évaluations faites à ce sujet par le Comité d'Aide au Développement de l'OCDE, le CAD. A ce propos, j'ai le plaisir de confirmer que l'OCDE est toujours prête à collaborer avec le Secrétariat de la FAO y compris dans le domaine dont nous venons de parler. Cette coopération du reste a été également offerte en plusieurs autres occasions et cela dans un esprit de cordiale et utile collaboration.

CHAIRMAN: Now that the discussion on these two documents has been completed, may I request Dr Rao to react to some of the points which have been raised by delegates during the discussion.

G.V.K. RAO (Special Adviser to the Director-General on the Feasibility Study on Aid-in-Rind):

Mr Chairman, thank you for giving me this opportunity to react to some of the comments which have been made. There have been 41 speakers, 39 representatives of countries and 2 observers from the floor. A very large number of useful suggestions have been made and I think it would not be possible, nor even fair to try to answer all the points. In fact, I am most grateful for the extremely helpful comments which have been made and generally the conclusions have been welcome.

However, there has been a feeling that inputs have been emphasized to the detriment of the other factors. I think I should take delegates back to the discussions which took place in the Council earlier. After the study on Africa was considered by the Conference and also by the African Ministers for Agriculture, the Council mandated the Director-General to do a feasibility study on the supply of inputs. The study was deliberately confined to one aspect of the particular task which had to be done

As has been mentioned in the report itself, there are other factors also, particularly the other three "i's" which have been mentioned, "incentives, institutions and infrastructure". They are all equally important. It was, however, felt by the Council that inputs had a higher importance than the other three and the Director-General in his foreword has pointed out that efforts to increase the proper use of foreign inputs may well provide a stimulus for improvements in the other three "i's". That does not mean that this study has tried to emphasize inputs as being the most important thing and not the other factors. There are a large number of other factors and this has been pointed out in the main book as well as in the main report which we have submitted for consideration. There were a number of other factors, policies, pricing, and all these have to be taken into account so that there can be successful agriculture.

But the Council rightly felt that inputs were extremely important and if I may be permitted to mention it, I would like to point out that in some countries the increase in the consumption of inputs, particularly of fertilizers, has led to those countries achieving very great success. I would refer to the case of my own country, India, in which the consumption of fertilizers just a few years back was only 2.5 million tons in terms of planted nutrients; at the time of Independence it was just 50 000 tons. It came up to 2.5 million tons after about 25 years' work. But a decision was taken, particularly when the new miracle seeds, so to speak, came in which were fertilizer responsive, that consumption of fertilizers should go up. A large number of factories were set up. We also imported a lot of fertilizers and the consumption of fertilizers went up from 2.5 million tons to 9 million tons and it is 9.2 million tons now. That is how the country's agricultural production went up to 150 million tons and we are in a fairly comfortable position.

The same thing is the case with China. China's consumption of mineral fertilizers now, this year, is of the order of 25 million. That is why their production is much more than 300 million tons. Inputs, particularly fertilizers, are extremely important. You will find in the document, if you will go through it in greater detail - I am sorry that some of the documents were not available in time - that

the consumption of fertilizers in many African countries is extremely low. The total consumption is just 2.5 million tons, and out of that more than 80 percent is concentrated in a few countries. Without inputs, really agricultural production cannot go up. That was the philosophy of the Council which mandated the Director-General to do a feasibility study on inputs. That is why inputs are raised again and again in this document.

Some delegates have made extremely helpful comments, and I am sure that they will be taken into account if further action has to be taken. The report itself makes it very clear that a general solution is not applicable for the whole of Africa. There is no such intention. It has to be a country-by-country study. It has to be tailor-made for each country, because the requirements of one country differ from those of other countries, as has been pointed out. In fact, what has been done is to set up small groups with local participation to find out what is happening now and what is required, and to try to find out in what manner those requirements can be fulfilled. There is no doubt that it has to be a tailor-made approach. There is no intention of having a general pattern for every country.

The idea that it is a disposal of surplus from developed countries has been mentioned only in passing. That is not the intention. The intention is to increase agricultural production in Africa, which is the only way of eliminating poverty also. There are some developed countries which have temporary surpluses and it was felt that this might be a mutually advantageous arrangement. The intention is not to see that the developed countries get out of a temporary difficulty; the intention is to assist African countries, and if in the course of that action it helps the developed countries, so much the better. In fact, that has been mentioned fairly clearly in the report also.

One delegate has pointed out that a new programme is not needed, that the existing mandate of the FAO itself is good enough. It is true that the FAO mandate is quite broad enough to cover these cases, but the case of Africa is somewhat separate. Africa, in spite of the mandate, in spite of all our goodwill, continues to be a problem continent, and it is going to have a large number of problems in the future. Unless we get out of the mandate, increase the mandate, or interpret the mandate in such a manner that special attention is paid to some countries in Africa, they are not likely to get out of the kind of trouble they are in.

That is the kind of spirit which moved us in making this study. I am grateful for the extremely helpful comments which have been made by most of the delegates in this particular Commission.

My colleague, Mr Bonte-Friedheim, has something else to add.

C. H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I should first like to echo Dr Rao in thanking all those who participated in this debate and discussion since Friday evening, all those who have provided information, those African countries which we have bothered with country missions, those donor countries which have provided information on their experience, and those colleagues from all member countries who have provided advice on the study.

I should like to start with what one normally ends with, that is to try and say where I see FAO going from here.

First of all, we will study the individual comments which have been made, and we might take up a few of them with individual delegations now or after the Conference. Of course we will discuss with OECD and DAC, we will discuss with EEC and bilateral donors, and certainly we will discuss with industries, but above all we will discuss with mainly the African countries which require our assistance in implementing in their own country some of the recommendations and some of the ideas as outlined in the study.

Furthermore, there are four broad subjects where FAO will have to do some more in-house thinking. The first one deals with the input study analysis. The second will deal with the national data and data coordinating systems. The third will deal with inputs for work and all the problems of benefits, and the fourth one will deal with animal feeds.

I should like to answer one particular question because I think it was a question which required an answer. Algeria pointed out that there seems to be some difference of view between paragraph 39 on the one hand and paragraphs 45 and 46 on the other. We believe that the proposals in the three paragraphs cited are intended to be complementary. Improvements in information on national input

supply are a prerequisite in some countries for the effective operation of the proposed consultative committee or any other body considering input requirements and aid coordination.

With regard to the question by Peru on paragraph 8, I think that we have already dealt with this on a bilateral basis in informing him.

We in FAO are very pleased about the general agreement that the study, which has been prepared in record time, is a study found acceptable by most if not all speakers. We accept that the study has dealt with the very complex problems related to one of the four "i's", or possibly of the five "i's" as the delegate of Thailand has reminded us that the information and the need for information might be the fifth "i". We fully agree that this aspect of aid must be seen as a part of overall aid, and we agree also that agriculture in itself cannot be seen in isolation.

With regard to aid-in-kind, I should like to cite the study and just read a few sentences. We say that aid-in-kind should be complemented by supporting measures to address three other weaknesses identified by the study which need urgent attention. One, the widespread absence in African countries of coherent strategies for input production and use. Secondly, the lack of a suitable policy and coordination framework for input assistance which has frequently resulted in badly provided and badly received input aid. Thirdly, the demand and supply constraints that inhibit local production

We agree that if one were to implement aid-in-kind projects one should do it on a pilot approach basis. I would like to say that we note with pleasure that there was general agreement, first and foremost on FAO's general mandate in this field; second, on the need for data banks and their use on coordination, on the need for local production, but also on the need for triangular transactions. The need for guidelines has been supported by many speakers, though not by all. The need that we should also think of the transfer of the right technology, especially for the small farmers, has been registered by us and will not be forgotten. In a way, it was surprising that some speakers objected to a mighty annual commitment of input or aid-in-kind while at the same time requesting long-term planning from the recipient countries.

We have been reminded by one delegate that a major donor country, and maybe others too, is expecting that aid will be levelling off in the near future. In this respect, I should like to draw attention to the last two paragraphs. Since to my mind they are very important, I should like to read them. The last two paragraphs of the study say:

"African countries have essentially two choices regarding future food supplies. They can work to reverse the past trend of declining per caput food production by giving agriculture higher priority and improving support services for farmers. Alternatively, they can neglect agriculture and continue to be increasingly dependent on food imports, thereby foregoing employment creation from greater domestic food production and from capital goods imports that have to be restricted because of the cost of food imports. Most of them are actively pursuing the former choice, and off-farm inputs are playing, and must increasingly play, a vital role in its achievement. But qualitative and quantitative weaknesses in input supply, as well as problems with the other three "i's", are holding back progress. Removal or alleviation of these weaknesses requires greater aid-in-kind and other forms of input assistance, and it is feasible to expand them.

Concrete proposals require further investigation, and actions must vary according to country and commodity. Many countries in Africa require further institutional and infrastructural improvements to ensure the correct identification of the inputs needed and to bring about their effective procurement and distribution. At the international level the needs are for greater donor support to input production in Africa combined with the expansion of intra-regional trade in inputs, and at the same time for more generous and longer-term commitments of input aid".

Maybe the study should have continued by stating not that African countries have essentially two choices but that the donor countries have essentially two choices regarding future food supplies for food deficit countries. Many donor countries have two choices to help these food deficit countries. They must do this without either harming emerging market farmers or harming local industry, as Zambia pointed out very clearly. These donor countries can use the existing productive capacity of their agriculture which is in excess of local or normal demand and they can supply food aid; or they can use the existing productive capacity of the industry, machinery, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides, veterinary vaccines, in excess of local or normal demand, to supply suitable - I repeat suitable - or appropriate inputs. The discussions by recipient countries today have quite clearly indicated their preference.

I should like to end my contribution by two sentences from the foreword and leave it with the delegates. The foreword states:

"In most African countries, population pressure has brought about the spread of agriculture to a point where only marginal land remains to be developed. Moreover, crop and livestock yields on the land which is at present under cultivation or pasture cannot be raised on a sustained basis without the more widespread use of purchased inputs".

CHAIRMAN: We now come to the end of the discussion on agenda item 7. In this discussion from the floor there have been 39 country representatives who have participated. Among them were all the donor states and also many of the recipient states. Of the four states which have been studied by the consultants, two have spoken, namely Ghana and Zambia, and the representatives of Niger and Senegal have not participated in the discussion. In addition to those we also had participation by the EEC and the OECD observers.

understandably, in a discussion of this type the views that were expressed about the recommendations made as a result of the study have varied. Despite that wide variation there has been near unanimity in terms of the quality of the study and the thoroughness and competence with which the report has been prepared and presented. There was unanimity that this document presents a wealth of data in one volume relating to all of the 46 sub-Saharan countries in the area of inputs that was the focus of this study.

There has been some discussion as to whether there should be aid-in-kind through commodities or through providing cash. We are aware of the plusses and the minuses of each of these options.

While the debate goes on, the report has brought out clearly that aid-in-kind is already taking place as indicated under para. 70, table 4, which gives the magnitude of the fertilizers, pesticides, farm tools and seeds that have been supplied over a 6-year period, although there was a reservation entered that because of the paucity of data it was not clear how much was commercial transactions and how much was project aid. While this is so, the report also brings out the need for systematizing the transfer of resources taking place so that the aid being given could be used to optimum advantage by the recipient countries.

The report also brings out clearly the problems in observing the economies of scale in the underdeveloped or developing countries, particularly the effects of the fertilizer industry, and how most countries find it very difficult to set up modern fertilizer plants. It also brought out clearly the transport bottlenecks and how often it is easier to move something to Africa from Antwerp than from a neighbouring country, and in this context the study has highlighted the importance of triangular transactions.

Two questions were raised in relation to aid. Is aid-in-kind related to surpluses? Possibly in a manner of speaking, the answer has to be yes, at least under certain circumstances. But it is clear that it is not the surpluses alone that account for the aid but a number of other types of transactions not entirely related to the surpluses in the donor countries that result in the various programme aids and developmental programmes financed by the donor countries.

Another question raised was whether aid-in-kind replaces trade or project aid. The answer clearly is no, because this has got to be in addition to and over and above whatever other project aid and trade goes on, and hopefully trade of a commercial nature will have to expand.

The report brings out clearly the varied distribution in the consumption of inputs. For example, if we take fertilizer, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya and Sudan account for 61 percent of the total consumption, five countries. Similarly for pesticides, Nigeria, Sudan, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Tanzania account for 60 percent, another five countries. For tractors another 5 countries, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Sudan, Angola and Nigeria account for 60 percent. Delegates will have seen the details in the Supplement, which provides the wide variation not only in the graphics but in the tables where in a number of cases we find the figures not occurring for a number of countries.

The report also highlights the problem of determining exactly what the demand pattern is going to be. All of us who are dealing with the developing countries, particularly under rainfall conditions, know that predicting demand is a very difficult and risky proposition because the crop area and also the use of inputs often depends on the monsoon or the rainfall. In this context a need arises not only for buffer stocking but also some public policies so that the inputs are repositioned at the consumption centres and the right material is at the right place at the right time.

Another thing that has come into focus is the importance of the seed industry, and all of us who are dealing with agriculture are aware of how the seed industry is the most difficult industry to promote in terms of organization, research base and multiplication starting from the breeder seed, the foundation seed, and also the process of certification following growing in isolated conditions.

In the background of the prevailing unanimity that the report is thorough and competent, the question arises as to what the approach should be of FAO for further action on this report. In answer to that question three views have been expressed.

A majority of countries, particularly from the recipient group, have reiterated the need for follow-up of the contents of the report in terms of solutions. On the other hand, a contrary view was presented stating that what is being researched is already a part of the mandate of FAO, nothing new is needed and the country representatives of the FAO who are already located in the various countries should do a better job in trying to coordinate the requirements and in relating to the donor countries.

A third view lying somewhere in between has been expressed, which highlighted a gradual approach to this problem by taking a piecemeal approach in certain countries using the existing mechanisms such as the UNDP National Roundtable or the World Bank Consultative Group, as contained in para. 143, and also to the extent possible using certain existing mechanisms such as the Commission on Fertilizers, which could possibly cover some of these areas and programmes by expanding its scope. Whatever further action is to be taken, it is clear that so far as the recipient countries are concerned, as highlighted by Mr Rao and Mr Bonte-Friedheim, it has got to be done on a country-by-country basis associating the representatives of the countries concerned in trying to work out their needs in specific terms, how they see the programme over a period of time, five to ten years, and in trying to relate them to the work of the donor countries.

So far as the donor countries are concerned, basically a view has to be taken by them on the 11 conditions indicated in para. 163 of the Report indicating that possibly a long-term view has to be taken as to how difficult or how uncertain such an aid proposition would be in the circumstances in which we have to operate.

Those of us who are familiar with agricultural production, know as has been emphasized in the report, by a number of speakers, including Mr Bonte-Friedheim, that input supply constitutes but one of the important parameters for agricultural growth, albeit an important parameter. This has to go along with public policy, prices, marketing and state supports. Over and above all of this we must have a state-supported extension missionary capable of motivating the farmer so that all the inputs, thanks to the donor assistance that we are able to position in the area, are actually being used.

Now we come to the last question. Why Africa? The last item that we will be considering in this Commission relates to agriculture towards the year 2000. It is a revised report that is being presented to us for consideration. Some of us who have seen the earlier report know that the assumptions that were made five or six years ago have not turned out to be correct. Particularly in relation to Africa, possibly there has been a downward trend, which the world community as a whole must try to do its best to arrest and to see that the self-sufficiency goals set by the African governments are achieved to the extent possible.

With this background I conclude the discussions on agenda item 7 by saying that while the report is welcome we request that FAO take further action on the report keeping in mind the various points of view that have been expressed in our discussion.

We now close the discussion on agenda item 7.

- 8 Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment
- 8. Rapport sur l'état de l'Ajustement agricole international
- 8. Reajuste agrícola internacional: Informe sobre la situación

CHAIRMAN: We now take up agenda item 8 where we have the pleasure of welcoming an old friend of ours, Mr Islam, who will present to us the document on agenda item 8, the Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment on the 12 guidelines and what has happened in the Sixth Biennial Report.

Nurul ISLAM (Special Adviser to the Director-General): I am happy to be here again to participate in the discussions on this item of the Agenda in Commission I.

Document C 87/21 is the Sixth Biennial Report of Progress in International Agricultural Adjustment. You may recall that the guidelines on international agricultural adjustment are intended to assist and facilitate agricultural policy harmonization among the members of the international economic community. The policy guidelines adopted by the Conference in 1975 and revised in 1983 represent a statement of goals and policy approaches at national and international level. FAO member governments have agreed to take into account those goals and policy approaches in formulating their own policies.

You had an occasion for reviewing the agricultural production performance and the overall policy environment during the discussion on the world food and agriculture situation, so I will make only a passing reference to those aspects of international agricultural adjustment.

The agricultural production target for the developing countries as a whole indicated in Guideline I is 4 percent per annum. In the 1970s the actual growth rate was 3.0 percent but it picked up in the first half of the 1980s so that for the period 1980-85 the growth rate rose to 3.8 percent, which is close to the target. The last two years, however, saw a decline in the growth rate for agricultural production in the developing countries. It did not exceed 1.5 percent per annum on the average, though staple food production increased by 3.0 percent in 1986. Furthermore, the 1980-86 average was pulled up by the impressive performance of China and India. If these two large countries are excluded, the average growth rate falls below 3.0 percent per annum, while for the least developed countries singled out in the Guideline the growth rate is only just over 2.0 percent and so was negative in per .caput terms.

The policy environment in many developing countries continues to be characterized by greater attention than in the past to the needs of agriculture. Reform of agricultural policies has often been part of the wider policy packages for macroeconomic adjustment. The external environment for the success of such policy reforms continues, however, to be very unfavourable. In the developed countries the policy debate towards ways and means of removing the serious imbalances and policy disharmonies has recently increased in intensity. I am pleased to report that the concepts and methods for measuring government support to agriculture in terms of Producer Subsidy Equivalents pioneered by FAO in the context of this very agenda item are increasingly proving to be a valuable tool in the current debate on coordinated policy reform.

Guideline 2 calls for increased resource allocations to the agricultural sector of the developing countries. Here the record is mixed. There was a 3.2 percent drop in fertilizer consumption: in the crop year 1985/86 and FAO forecasts the average growth rate for the second half of the 1980s at just over 5 percent which is half that of the 1970s. As noted in the report, the data for monitoring financial flows to agriculture are incomplete. Data available for some countries indicate that the declines in total investments as a result of domestic fiscal and external imbalances also adversely affected agricultural investment. Between the late 1970s and early 1980s the share of total public expenditure going to agriculture was also unfavourably affected in most countries and regions for which data are available. Africa, however, made efforts to channel an increasing share of public expenditure to the agricultural sector.

Guidelines 3 and 4 are concerned with policy issues which are covered in the WCARRD Programme of Action. Progress in this area will be reviewed in detail under the next agenda item. I will not, therefore, attempt to address these issues now.

Guidelines 5 and 6 are concerned with nutritional policies, food consumption and food self-sufficiency. The trend noted in our earlier reports on IAA for an increasing number of developing countries to place greater emphasis on food production and nutrition objectives in their plans and policies

has continued and received added impetus from their overall economic difficulties and scarcity of foreign exchange. At the same time these difficulties have made it increasingly important for governments to intervene and support per capita incomes and food consumption levels of the poor. Thus, the economic austerity measures in many countries with debt problems often bear particularly hard on the poor with the inevitable result that their nutritional situation is, at best, not improving.

Concerning per capita food availability, the first half of the 1980s witnessed a marked slowdown in the rate of improvement compared with the 1970s, including outright reversals in many countries, while the slow production growth in the current year means that the situation is not improving and when all the data are in they will probably show reversals. This situation coincides with plentiful world supplies and stocks of cereals. That many developing countries could not benefit from low world prices to increase their food consumption is a further reminder of the pervasive effects of the economic crisis and balance of payments problems.

Guideline 7 is on agricultural trade and protectionism. We are all aware that over the past year or so government interventions in agriculture, particularly in the developed countries, which distort trade flows, have come under intense scrutiny, largely as a result of mounting budgetary and economic costs of these practices and also because of the increase in agricultural trade conflicts. The decision to include agriculture in the Uruguay round of GATT negotiations is an important step in the right direction. However, while these negotiations are under way, in the meantime more immediate measures are needed to combat the difficulties which currently afflict world agricultural trade, for example, application also to agriculture of the standstill and rollback provisions of the Punta del Este declaration.

Concerning stability of world markets for agricultural products (Guideline 8), the 1980s have been characterized by sharp reductions in international commodity prices and strong price volatility combined in recent years with large fluctuations in exchange rates. The climate has been particularly unfavourable for the negotiation of international commodity agreements and, with the exception of those on cocoa and rubber, no such agreements with market stabilization provisions have been concluded in the last few years. It is encouraging to note, however, that since the preparation of this document, export quotas have been re-introduced by the International Coffee Council with the aim of halting and reversing the precipitous decline in world coffee prices. It is also encouraging that UNCTAD VII resulted in agreement to revitalize aspects of the Integrated Programme for Commodities, while at the same time the entry into force of the Agreement on the Common Fund in the near future became a realistic prospect.

Guideline 9 advocates ECDC and TCDC in food and agriculture. Data available up to 1984 indicated that the rising trend of agricultural trade among developing countries was reversed in recent years, reflecting the economic recession and the decline in world agricultural trade in general. However, the agricultural trade among developing countries declined by less than their exports to the developed countries.

In the area of food security and food aid, global supplies remain plentiful notwithstanding the declines in cereals production reflecting reduced plantings in North America and some other exporting countries and the effects of unfavourable weather, particularly in Asia. World cereal stocks are forecast to decline by some 45 million tons by the end of the 1987/88 crop year, but they would still remain high at 396 million tons or 23 percent of world consumption. At the same time, stocks continue to be concentrated in the main exporting countries, while those of the developing countries are expected to fall to their lowest level for a decade. Thus, the main global issue in rural food security continues to be the inability of the poor countries and poor population groups to benefit from the global plenty. However, the global abundance of cereals has made possible the maintenance of food aid at nearly 12 million tons in 1986/87 and it is estimated that in 1987/88 it will be somewhat over 11 million tons.

In the area of external assistance to agriculture, the targets of Guideline 12 of \$8.3 billion at 1975 prices, with \$6.5 billion on concessional terms, have not been achieved. Total commitments were \$6.2 and \$5.8 billion at 1975 prices in 1984 and 1985, respectively, the latest years for which complete data are available. Data for 1986 are available only for multilateral commitments, which increased by 25% in current dollars and 5% in real terms over the level of 1985. Furthermore, the increase was entirely in non-concessional lending.

In conclusion, also this year in preparing this report we have tried to strike a balance between the need for full reporting and that for maintaining the document at a reasonable length. This was made possible also because some of the topics of this Agenda item are covered in more detail in other FAO documents submitted to this Conference or to other FAO bodies, e.g. to Council, the CFS and CCP. In recognition of this fact, and in view of the fact that many parts of the world food and agriculture situation and policies change only slowly, so that necessary information for monitoring becomes available infrequently and only after a longer time lag than two years, we have included a proposal in the introduction to this document: to change the periodicity of preparing progress reports on the guidelines from the present practice of once in two years to that of once in every four years - that is in alternate Conference years. We hope that this recommendation of the Secretariat will receive serious consideration by this Commission.

AugustynWOS (Poland): On behalf of the Polish delegation I would like to present some remarks concerning the currently discussed document C 87/21, as elaborated by the FAO Secretariat.

First of all I would like to state that the Polish delegation fully agrees with the proposition that reports concerning the progress in realization of adjustment processes in world agriculture be elaborated at four-year intervals instead of the two-year schedule so far.

Turning to the Secretariat report itself, which in our opinion has been elaborated very thoroughly and includes a substantial amount of interesting statistical material, we would like to present the following reflections. The guidelines concerning the realization of adjustment processes elaborated in 1975 were accepted through consensus decision. Nevertheless their implementation has encountered great problems in practice.

This in particular concerns the Guidelines 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10, where - if our interpretation of the report is correct - the progress achieved was slight, although some prospects for the improvement of the situation in the future are apparent presently.

While assessing very highly the total content of the report presented, we would like nevertheless to point out some either too-brief or superficial approach to some subjects.

The issue of agricultural protectionism and the development of subsidized production, frequently surplus from the point of view of the domestic market, has been discussed in parts 35, 36 and 37, while quoting non-FAO works concerning this subject. These works- in question do not have to be necessarily broadly known and in our opinion these issues should receive more attention, bringing more examples, facts and material, and, in the case of own reports on the subject, outside works could be added. The isolation of agricultural markets and surplus production realized at excessively high costs constitute today one of the major causes of the difficulties appearing on the international markets of food and agricultural products.

In part 37 we find the statement that the growing degree of isolation of the domestic markets from the international ones is a reflection of the decline of prices of farm products on the international markets. It seems that this statement could be reversed, taking into account the fact that excessively high production of some types of food products supported by high subsidies causes the supply of these subsidized food products on the world markets to grow and results in a dramatic decrease of prices. Such a statement would, in our opinion, much more accurately reflect the very nature of the phenomenon discussed.

In discussion of Guideline 3, we find the statement that this Guideline is not being implemented in the majority of countries, where this issue is particularly important at present or where progress has been very modest. One could possibly essay to answer the question whether this results from objectives and difficulties of an objective nature which are encountered by Governments in the implementation of this guideline or whether perhaps the Governments of some countries do not find the realization of this Guideline an important matter from the economic and social point of view. The problems and obstacles encountered in the realization of this Guideline would deserve, in our opinion, more and broader analysis.

In discussion of Guideline 4, as a most disquieting fact, we recognize the difficulties in securing for women equal rights as concerning access to land and identical remuneration for labour with men for the work actually performed. It appears that this issue should continue to be a central point of interest and concern of Governments of numerous countries and international organizations.

We find rather close linkage between Guidelines 5 and 6. To secure proper level of nutrition to all inhabitants of the globe and to eliminate hunger and malnutrition requires in the case of less developed countries, those with a lower level of the national product, first of all a more just distribution of the incomes among the particular population groups. It is a paradoxical development, although confirmed by much empirical research, that the discrepancies between the levels of incomes of the well-to-do and the poorest population groups are much greater in the less developed countries compared to those in the developed countries with a high or very high level of income per capita. The analysis and explanation of this issue and assessment of its weight is, in our opinion, very insufficient in the material presented.

The lack of progress in the realization of Guidelines 7 and 8 ought to be clearly assigned to the economically developed countries with a market economy, and this statement is lacking in the discussion of the Guidelines in question. There is, however, no doubt that the less economically developed countries are definitely interested in the liberalization of international trade in food and agricultural products.

When discussing Guideline 10 concerning food security, the issue of international debt is also mentioned as one of the crucial causes of the deterioration of the food situation in some countries. It appears that this problem, which indeed underlies the economic difficulties of numerous countries and makes it difficult to achieve any economic progress - among other things, in food security -ought to be seen in a much broader context, taking into account all of its implications. We hope that our proposition on this matter will be taken into account by the Secretariat when elaborating future Reports.

Ms Patricia WEST (United Kingdom): I should like to thank the Secretariat for an interesting report. There are, however, one or two points that the United Kingdom would wish to question. For instance, in the overview paragraph 21 states that external financial assistance for agriculture in the developing countries remains crucial. We believe that in many countries more money for agriculture by way of public spending is not a primary need. Our view is that the first priority is to introduce appropriate policies, since without these financial assistance would be of limited benefit. Increased use of the private sector for marketing, etc, will reduce calls upon the public purse.

As regarding Guideline 1 we are not keen on the way this focuses in paragraph 29 and table 1.6 on page 12 on self-sufficiency ratios. We believe that the emphasis should rather be on self reliance through comparative advantage. We retain doubts about the statements contained in paragraph 34 that in some countries higher price support for certain crops has not led to tangible results. This may well be true. Higher prices are necessary but probably not a sufficient condition, but more time is needed for the effects to show. Hard evidence is so far scarce and we feel it would be counter-productive to provide an argument for not adjusting prices.

Turning to Guideline 2, we would criticise the Guideline itself for not mentioning that assistance, in whatever form, must be appropriate and cost effective. We would also query the suggestion in paragraph 39 that structural adjustment measures have slowed growth in some economies We feel that this is not the case. Structural adjustment measures area adopted in order to lay a firm foundation for growth.

On Guideline 6, we cannot accept as true the statement in paragraph 100 that adjustment measures have, in general, borne particularly hard on the poor and above all on the rural poor. Many standard structural measures have helped the rural poor. For example, increased producer prices helped the small farmer.

As regards Guideline 10, there seems very little point in urging donors to meet the 500 000 tonnes target for the International Emergency Food Reserve and urging new donors to contribute when there are not, and never have been, problems in meeting the targets.

We are concerned that this report does not consider the environment.

Finally, the United Kingdom would agree with the proposal that the frequency of the preparation of progress reports on the implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment be changed to every four years.

Roberto NICOLAI (Italie): Tout d'abord, je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qui nous a été remis. Ensuite, si vous le permettez, je voudrais faire des commentaires d'ordre général sur le document.

En ce qui concerne le protectionnisme en matière d'agriculture, notre pays est favorable à une plus grande libéralisation des échanges internationaux par l'élimination des entraves qui plus directement freinent les échanges tels que les restrictions quantitatives à l'importation ou à l'exportation, les calendriers d'importation et par l'harmonisation des dispositions en matière sanitaire, phytosanitaire et vétérinaire. Quant aux subventions, on estime que l'appui aveugle à la production et à l'exportation est une des causes de la dépression actuelle des marchés mondiaux et de la formation de surplus considérables dans certains secteurs tels que les produits laitiers, les céréales, le sucre, et la viande de boeuf. Il faut donc une concertation au niveau international pour une politique d'ajustements structurels visant à limiter la production et à ajuster l'offre par rapport à la demande. A ce sujet, il nous semble que les négociations auprès du GATT pourront être une occasion pour parvenir à la stabilisation des marchés par des ajustements apportés aux politiques agricoles respectives.

Pour ce qui est en particulier de la ligne d'orientation n°7, ainsi que tout le monde le sait, la Déclaration Ministerielle de Punta del Este du mois de septembre 1986 a sanctionné l'engagement de toutes les parties concrètes à repousser le recours au protectionnisme, à éliminer les distorsions et les déséquilibres des échanges et à établir un système commercial multilatéral plus ouvert. En particulier, dans le secteur agricole on demande, en vue d'une plus grande libéralisation du commerce mondial des produits, de corriger les distorsions et les déséquilibres, notamment ceux qui sont liés aux surplus structurels qui frappent les marchés agricoles mondiaux, par une discipline plus rigoureuse de l'utilisation de toutes subventions directes ou indirectes ainsi que de toutes autres mesures qui influencent le commerce des produits agricoles.

Ces nouvelles orientations de politique commerciale, qui ont été réaffirmées lors de la réunion ministérielle de l'OCDE à Paris, du Sommet économique à Venise et de la CNUCED à Genève, recueillent notre accord.

Cependant, il est impossible de faire abstraction dans la poursuite de ces objectifs de certains principes essentiels tels que la spécificité de l'agriculture, la sauvegarde des revenus des agriculteurs et l'emploi, le maintien des mécanismes prévus par la PAC, même s'ils sont adaptés pour permettre la solution du problème des surplus. En effet, on estime que pour atteindre les objectifs dont il est question ci-dessus, il serait nécessaire de tenir compte de la concurrence des productions des autres pays grands exportateurs de produits agricoles.

En ce qui concerne le problème des surplus, il faut reconnaître que la Communauté a déjà introduit toute une série de liens et de limitations qui directement ou indirectement visent à limiter la production et à impliquer la responsabilité des producteurs.

De notre côté, nous estimons utile de mettre l'accent sur le rôle que peut jouer une plus grande prise en compte des critères qualitatifs dans les productions agricoles pour contribuer à la réduction des surplus et pour stimuler les cultures les meilleures. On estime également que l'appui aux revenus agricoles devrait être assuré par la politique des prix ainsi que, et surtout, par des interventions de caractère structurel plus efficaces et destinées aux agriculteurs les plus défavorisés.

Quant au système des préférences généralisées, il faut souligner que tout récemment le Conseil de la Communauté a adopté certaines améliorations pour une série de produits, eu égard notamment aux intérêts des pays les moins développés.

Enfin, pour ce qui est des soucis manifestés par les pays méditerranéens en ce qui concerne le secteur des fruits et des légumes, 'en particulier, les agrumes, il faut remarquer que les protocoles additionnels aux accords, négociés tout récemment et qui vont entrer prochainement en vigueur - le premier est déjà entré en vigueur le 1er novembre dernier - prévoient des améliorations importantes par rapport au traitement précédent. En particulier, ils prévoient la démobilitation tarifaire et l'éventuel ajustement du prix d'entrée dans le cadre de contingents très élevés pour les agrumes, tomates, raisins frais, aussi bien que des concessions importantes pour toute une longue série d'autres produits tels que le vin, l'huile d'olive, les fleurs, etc.

Je termine en disant que nous pourrions être d'accord avec les propositions concernant La mise à jour du rapport, tous les quatre ans.

Arif H. UGUR (Turkey): The document C 87/21 prepared by FAO on the implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment sheds light on how much progress has been achieved within the past number of years in this area.

The need for agricultural adjustment takes many forms, but, whatever form it takes, it calls for one or more types of public action. In fact, agriculture has been giving rise to increasing concern for the policy-makers of the governments in recent years.

One of the major roles of public activity and policies related to agriculture; in addition to promoting growth, is to promote agricultural adjustment. One form that the need for adjustment takes is the need for attention to income distribution as between farmers, and to the apparent income gap between the rural and urban areas. An improvement in the quality of rural life, valuable in itself, also creates demands capable of supporting industry.

Another type of adjustment that is frequently needed is to weigh the advantage of higher prices to farmers against the advantage of lower prices to urban consumers and make whatever adjustment is needed. This balance is of crucial importance in the recovery of economies from inflationary pressures.

As a result of agricultural policies followed and of continuing productivity growth, agricultural production has shown increases in developed and in some developing countries which are higher than the rates of growth of effective demand. Although there has been some slight progress in reducing the imbalances in world production, it is very impressive to see in the report C 87/21 almost half of developing countries with less than two percent agricultural growth rate and nine countries negative. This phenomenon indicates that the share of agriculture in total public expenditure should be increased; the services should be improved; the inputs and credits should be made available; and marketing, pricing and foreign trade policies should be improved so as to accelerate agricultural development in a rational manner.

External financial assistance is definitely needed to support these government activities. The document indicates that official commitments to agriculture have stagnated in real terms. In this context I would like to emphasize the inclusion of local cost financing of development projects financed by the world credit organizations. This is of crucial importance for the countries having budgetary problems in the structural adjustment period. In fact, providing local cost will definitely help to speed up implementation. The other important issue is to put reasonable and realistic conditionalities in the loan agreements and procedures for disbursement of either project or policy-based loans, which complicate spending and cause delay in implementation.

Support measures directly affecting agricultural production have given rise to increasing concern to governments. The extensive use of farm income support and incentives policies has a long history in Turkey. Recently, the Turkish Government has taken steps to reduce some of the more wasteful aspects of production price supports. The number of announced supports has been reduced, farmgate price stabilization has become the main policy objective. In connection with the new policy objectives the Government recognizes that the substitution of floor pricing for incentive pricing and income support at high levels will curtail the inherent bias towards large farmer beneficiaries in the working of the previous programme. The reforms introduced have had beneficial effects on the level and structure of commodity pricing, and the overall financing cost of providing farmer protection.

Through the 1970s official prices for seed, fertilizer, irrigation water, and machinery and equipment were kept artificially low to encourage the adoption of new technologies and diffusion of more productive agricultural practices. Since 1980, the Government has instituted measures to reverse this situation. The subsidy level for all inputs has been reduced, and eliminated for plant protection materials since 1980. It is the Government's policy to further reduce and eliminate the remaining subsidy in the medium term. It is interesting to note that producer subsidy level is estimated to be about 8 percent of the gross value of agricultural production in Turkey in 1987.

It is worth noting a recent OECD study which covers the period of 1979/81 estimated overall producer subsidy equivalent 55 percent in Japan, 39 percent in the EEC, 41 percent in Australia, 29 percent in the OECD, 24 percent in Canada, 15 percent in the United States. However, revision of the same study covering the period of 1982/85 has indicated that the situation has further deteriorated.

The revised study estimated the overall producer subsidy equivalent to be 60 percent in Japan, 36 percent in the EEC, 40 percent in Australia, 32 percent in OECD, 33 percent in Canada, 22 percent in the United States of America.

The economic effects of subsidies are not confined to this sector only. The effects of high subsidization that increases agricultural production draws resources from other sectors in the economy, either directly into the agricultural sector, or indirectly into the agricultural input supplying and processing sector. Production increases through subsidization, import restriction and export subsidy influence both the relative levels of internal and world prices and give rise to price instability on the world markets.

As indicated in document C 87/21, in agriculture the limited progress in trade liberalization in recent years has been completely overshadowed by the restrictive measures and trade distorting measures taken by a number of countries. Despite the fact that GATT contracting parties committed themselves on trade liberalization, new measures have been developed in addition to traditional tariff and non-tariff measures, such as levies or quotas.

The EEC sets levies or quotas for major exporting countries. Turkey's horticultural products, and in particular textiles, citrus and tomato products are subject to EEC quotas. In addition, the EEC imposes a variety of other tariff-like measures that tend to hinder Turkey's exports, including minimum import prices, licensing requirements, ad valorem charges, variable levies, etc. Not only the EEC but also the United States of America are imposing quotas on Turkey's exports of textile and clothing.

During the past two years, however, the world agricultural crisis and the policies which led to this situation have ranked top on the world's agenda. Now that the crisis has become difficult to bear, even the developed countries seem to be more aware of the necessity for urgent and concerted action towards restoring non-inflationary growth conditions and the need for reforms in their policies. A common purpose appears to emerge among them, as witnessed by the outcome of the OECD Council of Ministers last May, endorsed in part by the Venice Summit. The last IMF and World Bank meetings in Washington enhance this feeling. We hope that this positive trend will materialize in the coming round of GATT negotiations, and that the aim of progressive, predictable and greater liberalization of agricultural trade, and a better harmonization of agricultural policies will be achieved.

Steen SØNDERGÅRD (Denmark): The Danish delegation would like to mention two items relating to the sixth progress report on International Agricultural Adjustment, that is, Guideline 7 on trade issues, and the question of the need for this report.

Regardless of one's attitude to trade issues, Guidelines 7 is in our view the key guideline. In particular concerning the work of the GATT negotiations, it is very important that the agricultural policy forum at FAO contributes constructively to trade negotiations in GATT and elsewhere. This requires, of course, an open dialogue, where everybody is prepared to listen with an open mind, if needed, to respond in an appropriate way.

The report contains many appropriate criticisms of trade policies of member countries, not least those of the industrialized countries. However, it is not acceptable that FAO focuses on divergences between governments and their administrations, as in paragraphs 118 and 119 dealing with the agricultural policies in the USA and the EEC respectively.

Turning now to the need for this report, and in particular with reference to progress in reporting on guidelines other than number 7 on trade issues we agree with the Secretariat that this is a duplication of the work done in reports like the State of Food and Agriculture, the CFS analysis and the WCARRD follow-up.

I would, however, like to underline the fact that we have found many interesting analyses or statements in the follow-up reports; for instance, paragraph 50 on the introduction of environmental aspects to assure a sustained agricultural and rural development; paragraph 64 on too much priority given to export crops when using limited credits; paragraph 69, the need to strengthen the research

to the benefit of local crops and existing farming systems; paragraph 81 on the unintended negative impact on the position of women of some well meant agricultural reforms in certain regions; finally, paragraph 95 on urbanization and its impact on trade patterns.

In conclusion, I would recommend wholeheartedly that the capable analyses would be better utilized if they were integrated into other reports from this Organization.

Enrique MONTERO CONTANDO (Chile): En primer lugar, quisiera felicitar al equipo técnico que ha elaborado este completo informe. Es posible apreciar en el documento, que si bien algunas metas han tenido un cumplimiento relativamente aceptable, en su mayor parte, no han sido satisfechas y es mucho lo que queda por hacer.

A causa de las condiciones económicas, financieras y comerciales de los últimos años, los países en desarrollo han tendido a aumentar su autosuficiencia alimentaria. El cumplimiento parcial de este objetivo no parece haber ido acompañado de logros en otros aspectos de interés, como es el de la integración más activa del sector rural a una estructura social modernizada y a la economía comercial tecnificada y sus beneficios

Frente a esta realidad, es evidente que los países en desarrollo deben redoblar sus esfuerzos por lograr un mejoramiento de la situación vital de su población agrícola tradicional, así como de su participación en el proceso. En este sentido, y para este efecto, un buen camino es la implementación de planes integrales de desarrollo rural.

Por su parte, parece necesario que la FAO acentúe, congruentemente, su asesoría y apoyo a los países en el área de diseño e implementación de políticas. Igualmente importante es la acción de la Organización, tendiente a la consecución de una mayor liberalización del comercio mundial de productos agrícolas.

Consideramos que el desarrollo de los países debe basarse, más que en la ayuda externa, en la posibilidad de acceso que tengan sus productos a los mercados internacionales. En cuanto al punto que se somete específicamente a consideración de la Conferencia, de espaciar los informes sobre esta materia cada cuatro años, parece del caso apoyar la proposición.

Avram E. GUROFF (United States of America): The Secretariat is to be commended upon what we consider to be a very balanced and objective analysis of the current agricultural situation. The problem of agricultural trade and its causes have been debated at length in FAO and in other international organizations. The heart of the problem, in our view, is government interference in agriculture.

Many countries, both industrial and developing, have pursued policies of subsidy or protection for agriculture. The United States is no exception. The combination of subsidies with today's technology has an explosive effect on productivity leading to large surpluses and trade disputes.

Last July President Reagan announced a major new approach to the problem of agricultural trade and the United States presented this proposal in the agricultural negotiating group of the GATT. The nature of this proposal is probably already familiar to this group, so it is only necessary to refer quickly to its main features. The United States has proposed a complete but gradual elimination over ten years of all agricultural subsidies which directly or indirectly affect trade and production. This applies to export subsidies, nearly all domestic farm programmes, and all import barriers. Important exceptions include income supports not distortive or production and trade, and bonafide food aid. Restrictive health and sanitary regulations also would be harmonized.

Virtually without exception and with varying degrees of comprehensiveness and success, all governments have contributed. It needs a solution in which all governments participate. The United States is prepared to implement its proposals, but only if and when others do. Without commitments from both developed and developing nations, change to benefit all agricultural trading nations cannot be made.

Rather than comment on each provision individually, I should like to associate my delegation with the specific comments made by my colleague from the United Kingdom.

I would just like to continue by joining what appears to be perhaps the strongest consensus emerging from this Conference, that is the appropriateness of moving to a four-year reporting cycle a proposed by the Secretariat.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): I should like to congratulate the Secretariat on the high quality of this report. In general, we are in agreement with its conclusions and can offer our support to the document.

It is regrettable that the serious economic difficulties faced by the developing countries on the one hand and the persistence of mounting protectionism in the industrialized world on the other, have led to a disappointing overall performance in the implementation of the guidelines. The excessive burden in the service of external debts, the continual losses of markets for subsidized products from the north, and depressed commodity prices have substantially contributed to the decline of the rate of growth of food and agricultural production in developing countries, and also in their expenditures in the agricultural sector.

Like many other developing countries, Brazil has been facing in the last few years a serious economic and social crisis resulting from a huge external debt service and a domestic debt that limits the government's capacity properly to invest in the agricultural sector. In spite of these difficulties, great efforts have been made by my government to improve our irrigation and storage facilities, to extend the availability of credit to farmers, and to build and expand rural infrastructure facilities. As a result of these efforts, we had a record grain crop in 1986-87 totalling 62.5 million tons, around 8 million tons larger than in the previous season.

We still had some other remarks, Mr Chairman, to offer in relation to other areas dealt with in the document, but, not wishing to be repetitive, we will leave them to the debate related to items 9 and 10 of the agenda. In this context, we fully agree with the Secretariat that while the monitoring of guidelines remains essential, it duplicates a number of other regular reports. We therefore join the consensus and support the proposal to change the frequency of the preparation of the progress report to every four years.

Esa HÄRMÄYLÄ (Finland): In this statement my delegation will mainly concentrate on issues of international trade and adjustment dealt with in guideline number 7 of the report.

The problems of agriculture are manifold today. On the one hand we have structural surpluses and the need to adjust agriculture in western industrialized countries, and on the other hand we have the need to promote agricultural production in most of the countries of the world.

International trade in agriculture is in confusion. Enormous resources are wasted, for example in the form of export subsidies. There are no more healthy world markets for any major produce.

Because of this, trade in agriculture has risen to the top of the international trade political agenda. The Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations were launched last year with the aim of making international trade in agriculture more liberal. While fully accepting the goal of making trade in agriculture more liberal, there are also reasons to consider its consistency with positive global development of agricultural production.

Answers should be found to questions concerning relationships between more liberal trade and aspirations to increase domestic production in developing countries. Perhaps it is not easy to find a single answer to these questions, but certain basic elements are to be found.

My country, Finland, happens to be in the good position of being self-sufficient in basic temperate zone products in spite of being the northernmost agricultural land in the world. Indeed, today we are even producing too much. How is that possible? How has Finland been able to raise her agricultural production in a couple of decades to a sufficient level? Of course, there are many answers. But the basic fact is that this development could not have been possible without efficient protection of domestic production.

The need to protect farmers certainly applies today to many developing countries also. Domestic production cannot be raised and self-sufficiency rate growth improved without border protection behind which farmers can be given certain production incentives. Too low priced imports would - as happens in some cases today - ruin the aspirations to increase domestic production. Totally free world trade would not offer anything positive to many developing countries. This fact is also recognized in the Punta del Este declaration when it states "The developed countries do not expect the developing countries in the course of trade negotiations to make contributions which are inconsistent with their individual development, financial and trade needs." According to my understanding, this means that developing countries will also have the right in the future to protect their own production with the help of various means.

My delegation thinks it also fair to state in this context that at least for some of the developed countries, my own country included, it would be neither politically realistic nor economically feasible to totally give up the protection, and thus production of temperate zone products.

On the other hand, my delegation feels strongly that an industrialized country which protects its own agriculture against imports has no right to expand its exports with the help of direct or indirect export subsidies. I am sure we all agree to the fact that export subsidies are the main reason for the chaotic situation in the world markets.

With the help of export subsidies, many governments try to transfer abroad their domestic agricultural policy problems, and in doing so they cause enormous problems to countries producing and exporting without support and to developing countries trying to increase their domestic production.

The policy of Finland - and we have also expressed this in GATT - is to decrease the use of export subsidies. This will be done, and actually we have already done quite a lot by decreasing exportable surpluses by using effective supply management policies.

All that I have said above refers to temperate zone products. From the point of view of many developing countries, however, tropical products are also of major importance. In the past, Finland has taken concrete steps to liberalize imports of these products from developing countries, and is ready to go further and urge other industrialized countries to do the same.

Finally, I should also like to say that we have a feeling that this policy line which I described is consistent with guideline number 7 in the report because the guideline is actually written in relative terms.

Moisés TELIZ ORTIZ (México): La delegación de México expresa su reconocimiento a la Secretaría por la presentación de este elaborado documento C 87/21 sobre la aplicación de las orientaciones y objetivos del reajuste agrícola internacional, aprobada por la Conferencia de 1975.

Sobre su contenido, esta delegación expresa su apoyo a la propuesta de que el Informe sobre este tema se presente cada cuatro años, y solicitamos que la presentación de Informes a la Conferencia se realice alternadamente para una adecuada revisión de los mismos. Asimismo, solicitamos que la Secretaría distribuya los documentos correspondientes con suficiente antelación para que los países miembros puedan aportar precisiones al documento.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/9

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

NINTH MEETING
NEUVIEME SEANCE
NOVENA SESION

(17 November 1987)

The Ninth Meeting was opened at 10.45 hours,
C. S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La neuvième séance est ouverte à 10 h 45
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la novena sesión a las 10.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 8. Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment (continued)
- 8. Rapport sur l'état de l'Ajustement agricole international (suite)
- 8. Reajuste agrícola internacional Informe sobre la situación (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: We resume our discussion on the Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment.

Erland CARLSSON (Sweden): I would like to thank the Secretariat for having prepared a useful Progress Report under this agenda item. My delegation has read the document with great interest and can agree with much of what is said in the text, but will make some observations, mostly in relation to measures taken in our country. However, first of all I would like to say that we tend to agree with the proposal that the frequency of the preparation of progress reports be changed to every four years, for the reasons stated in the document

In relation to Guideline 1, it is stated in the Report inter alia that agricultural policies in many developed countries continue to be characterized by high levels of protection and subsidization. It is also stated that the effect of this is that their farm sectors produce too much. However, in this connection it would be fair to note that many developed countries have recently taken or are in the process of taking action with the purpose of reducing output of price supported products.

At least in Sweden such actions have been rather successful, for instance, as regards meat, milk and grains. To some extent these aspects are discussed in relation to Guideline 7, but it seems appropriate to deal with them also when dealing with Guideline 1.

As regards Guideline 7, in relation to paragraph 125 dealing with beef imports in developed countries, it might be of interest that Sweden is a net importer of beef as a result of various measures, including restrictive price policies. In paragraph 133, which speaks about export and import policies in the cereals sector that have been isolating domestic markets from world market events, it is also noted that certain domestic policies may work in the other direction.

In that connection, I would like to mention that Sweden has taken measures to reduce production of cereals from the 1987 crop by means of a fallowing scheme. This scheme is to be followed in the coming years by measures to stimulate alternative use of land. It might also be of interest that Swedish support prices for cereals were reduced by between 8 and 9 percent in 1986 because of the difficulties on the world market.

Finally, Sweden would like to underline what is said in paragraph 181 about the serious implications for world food security in the long-term of policy induced surpluses on the world level.

The GATT Uruguay Round negotiations are of great importance in achieving a better international environment, including also short-term measures to restore the balance on the world markets for agricultural products.

Aziz YAACOB (Malaysia): Allow me at the outset to congratulate the Secretariat on the very interesting document so succinctly summarized by Professor Nurul Islam. We note the difficulties faced by many developing countries in trying to adopt adjustment measures along the guidelines prepared by FAO in recent years.

The poor performance of agricultural commodity prices has severed the capacity of many developing nations to earn enough to service their debts and get on track on to the growth path. As such, it is not surprising that the 4 percent growth target for agriculture as laid down by Guideline 1 could not be met by many developing countries. Many, short of financial and physical resources, have had to turn to aid but such aid appeared to stagnate. So Guideline 2 for greater financial flow to the agricultural sector may also not be met.

Progress in meeting the other guidelines appears satisfactory, at least for Malaysia, as we constantly seek to provide adequate infrastructure and support services, greater rural and women participation and measures to increase food production, and to achieve a more equitable income sharing.

These last two guidelines pertaining to increased food production and equitable distribution of income cannot, from our experience, be undertaken regardless of considerations of comparative cost advantage and involving sacrifice of economic growth in the long run. We believe other developing nations are attempting the same but may be constrained in varying degrees by lack of resources.

Perhaps it is time to examine the experiences of various developing countries that have adopted adjustment measures, and the implications and problems of adopting these measures, including the conditionality package of the IMF, and to assess the effectiveness and consequences. Has the conditionality package provided the right panacea to structural problems of developing countries, or has it created adverse recessionary tendencies not anticipated before? Until a more enlightened presentation of the effects of these adjustment measures is made, we propose that countries applying such adjustment measures should do so on a gradual and more moderate basis that will not disrupt the demand foundation of their economies and avoid the setting of recessionary tendencies.

The package of adjustment measures cannot be homogeneous. FAO should include in their excellent study an examination of the appropriate adjustment package for developing countries at different levels of development, varying degrees of openness, and encountering different sets of problems. Adjustment packages for low-income countries necessarily must differ from those in the middle developing bracket. Middle developing nations such as Malaysia face problems not only associated with declining agricultural terms of trade externally, but also internally, caused by appreciation in the real effective exchange rates that are disadvantageous to tradeable agriculture relative to the non-tradeable industrial products that enjoy an over-extended period of protection that makes their rates of return much higher than those of agriculture. The consequence is that resources, both labour and capital, flow out of agriculture into industries, while, the immobile factor, land, gets increasingly abandoned.

Agriculture needs industries to pull it out of its lethargy, but this cannot occur so long as industries remain a protected sector and cannot achieve international competitiveness to expand into the world market and provide the effective linkage for supply sources from the agricultural sector. The lack of sectoral planning and of inter-sectoral implications of policies undertaken in sectors outside agriculture is evident in many developing countries, including Malaysia. FAO's involvement and in-depth examination of this issue and the lack of sectoral planning may be pertinent.

Touching on Guideline 7 which calls for refraining from further imposition of trade barriers, our delegation is happy to note the many nations among the developed world that have joined in the chorus. We respect and support the call for reviewing protectionist policies in the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations, particularly by countries which themselves currently indulge in heavy subsidization and protection of their agricultural sectors.

We hope this interest does not arise merely because of the urgent need to dispose of surplus agricultural production, but that it will be a sustained commitment that will continue even after their surplus stocks are disposed of. We do not wish to see agricultural developing countries losers in what may turn out to be a game, either from the influx of cheap disposal of surplus cereals that will lower prices of outputs which are the lifelines of developing countries, or from subsequent protectionist enhancement that inhibit developing countries' exports once the stocks are disposed.

We therefore request the participants to the Uruguay Round to ascertain their long-term commitment to the spirit of the Uruguay Round. The hope for success of adjustment measures currently undertaken by the developing nations depends greatly on the achievements of the Uruguay Round and the quest for freer trade.

We would agree with the proposal of the Secretariat to change the reporting to once in every four years.

Frank CRAWFORD (Australia): It is sometimes difficult when dealing with the same issues on a daily basis to stand back and discern the longer term thrust and direction of events. In my own case, I have returned only recently to the agricultural scene. I was for some time chairman of the Joint Working Party of the OECD Trade and Agricultural Committee, until 1980. In the years since then the European Community has changed from being the largest importer of temperate zone agricultural products to being one of the largest exporters. In that period also the budgetary costs of United States agricultural support programmes has increased ten-fold. There has been an enormous increase in the foreign indebtedness of developing countries. At the same time their ability to service that debt has been undermined by the agricultural protectionism practiced by the major money lenders.

In short, the condition of world agricultural trade has deteriorated even further in the 1980s. Fortunately, some influential policy forums, such as the OECD, are now beginning to give more attention to the wider economic policy aspects of agriculture, not because of any miraculous conversion of the agricultural protection lobby, but rather because the costs of agricultural protectionism are becoming so insupportable both in domestic and global terms that the issue can no longer be regarded as the exclusive domain of agriculture ministries.

It is also true, however, that talk of agricultural adjustment in the past has not taken us very far. There are arguments of epic proportions virtually every year within the EC membership, and between them and the EC Commission on price support levels and so on. And all too often what were represented as courageous steps forward have been overtaken by still further increases in production with surpluses dumped on world markets, displacing and driving down the prices of agricultural exports from other countries, mainly developing countries, but also including some others, such as my own, for whom agricultural trade is the key to economic and social development as a whole.

In recent years the United States has also increased on a massive scale its agricultural support expenditures. Cereals, cotton and rice have been added to the meat, dairy products and sugar as examples of US intervention into agricultural commodity markets. Irrespective of the motives, the effects of the US export enhancement programme on Australia, Canada, Argentina and some other developing countries caught in the crossfire has been no less crippling than if we had been the primary target.

Japan, the third major force in agricultural protectionism, is a strong supporter of world trade liberalization, although not, it would appear, of that sector of world trade on which the developing countries and other markets depend in order to pay for their imports of manufactures from Japan.

We recognize, of course, that the developed agricultural protectionist countries have made some efforts to assist agriculture in many developing countries through the Lomé Convention by assistance with agricultural research and extension, by special assistance programmes for the poorest countries, and so on. But these are mere crumbs from the feast of agricultural protectionism. The direct budgetary expenditures by the United States, the European Community and Japan alone exceed US 70 billion dollars per year. Non-budgetary welfare costs are equally staggering. A 1986 World Bank report estimated that non-budgetary transfers from consumers, paid by way of higher prices, were US 20 billion dollars in the United States and around US 40 billion dollars in the European Community. In the United States in 1986 Federal Government spending for farmer support combined with other transfers from consumers has been estimated to be equivalent to around US 1 200 dollars per year for each non-farm family.

It is important that organizations such as FAO expose such unpublicised, if not hidden, costs of

agricultural protectionism. It seems to my delegation that the questions which the international community must face are, firstly, why are marginal farmers of the protectionist countries more deserving than more economically efficient farmers elsewhere? What is the economic rationality and morality of dispossessing low cost farmers of their livelihood while higher cost producers elsewhere, who often have second jobs, are heavily subsidized to maintain production that is not needed in their own countries and that is either used as animal feed or dumped on world markets? Where should we put our economically efficient farmers when they are bankrupted by agricultural protectionism? Do we put them into our manufacturing industries and increase protection for those industries to cut back on imports of manufactures from the US, the EC and Japan? Would that kind of reaction help or hinder world economic growth and adjustment? To what extent would the payment surplus countries contribute to the reduction of global payments imbalances if they applied to their agriculture and agricultural trade policies the same principles and standards which they espouse to payments-deficit countries in respect of the management of their non-agricultural sectors?

We know that the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy is having the general effect of worsening employment in the EC as a whole. What is the full cost in terms of unemployment in urban communities and economic growth foregone in order to maintain marginal farmers under the present mechanisms of protectionism? What is the rationale for a payments surplus country such as Japan denying its consumers reasonable access to food imports and taxing their food to eight times and higher than the level of world food prices?

I mentioned that there has been some significant agricultural adjustment in some agricultural protectionist countries. The problems arise in the main with the rate of adjustment and inappropriateness of the mechanism of agricultural support and adjustment. There is normally an increasing recognition in Europe of the need to move to more production-neutral income supports focused more directly on the relatively poorer section of the farming community. We acknowledge also the need for agricultural adjustment to be fostered in all countries and not only in the most protectionist countries. The Secretariat's paper notes that the trend towards the reform of agricultural prices policies in the developing countries is continuing. It also notes, however, that policy measures applied by several major developing countries typically have had the effect of taxing agriculture. Certainly it is clear that the corruption of world agricultural markets by the major agricultural protectionists has made it extremely difficult for the developing countries to implement their agricultural reform programmes. Having been denied fair access at fair prices, having been denied the opportunity to trade their way out of onerous and debt servicing burdens, the developing countries have all too often had to increase the cost of agricultural inputs such as agricultural equipment, which in other circumstances would have been imported at lower cost.

My own country also has had to reassess the extent to which assistance to our manufacturing industries impacts on our farm income and agricultural competitiveness. In our case that protection, mainly in the form of import tariffs, continues to be reduced.

In a major statement to the GATT in Geneva three weeks ago our Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, announced that Australia was prepared to negotiate a broad package of measures to reduce overall levels of effective assistance to Australian industry as part of a broadly based multilateral approach. In addition to tariff reductions, he said this would involve a preparedness to phase out all of our quantitative restrictions, including tariff quotas, import licensing and embargoes. The Prime Minister also had the privilege while in Geneva of presenting on behalf of the Cairns Group of Fair Trading Countries the Group's proposals for agricultural trade reform. The thrust of those policies has already been outlined in earlier statements at this Conference. I mention them here to underline the fact that this unprecedented negotiating group of developed and developing countries is simply not prepared to sit on the sidelines and leave the question of agricultural trade reform to the super powers. The Cairns Group has now established its credentials as a third force in agricultural trade negotiations.

In conclusion, in order to concentrate today on the need for attitudinal change towards agricultural reform, I have had to forego comment on the several other aspects of agricultural adjustment reported on in the Secretariat paper. Nevertheless, I would like to commend the Secretariat for its analyses of those issues and developments, and more generally for the very high standard of professionalism manifested in the papers prepared for agenda items 6 and 8 in particular.

We would not object to future progress reports on international agricultural adjustment being prepared every four years instead of every two years. Nevertheless, we would want to retain agricultural adjustment on the agenda for the next Conference as a separate item or sub-item under that of the State of Food and Agriculture. The food and agriculture item is of considerable importance and complexity in its own right, and if we are to address that and agricultural adjustment in the same statements, the adjustment issue would very likely be buried in the myriad of other aspects of the food and agriculture situation.

More than ever before we shall need in 1989 a clear focus for debate on international agricultural adjustment at a time when the Uruguay Round Agricultural Trade Negotiations will be at a critical point. It is particularly important for the Cairns Group of countries, and I would think for other developing countries. In short, we can agree to foregoing a separate paper on agricultural adjustment at the next Conference, provided agricultural adjustment is listed as a separate agenda item and on the understanding that it will be covered, to some extent, in the Secretariat's paper on the State of Food and Agriculture.

V.K. SIBAL (India): We should like in the first instance to express our appreciation for the quality and comprehensiveness of the document under discussion, and its very clear presentation by Dr Islam who we are very glad to see again in this forum.

The document under consideration is the sixth Progress Report prepared by FAO on the implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for international agricultural adjustment. In the introductory part of the document, it has been suggested that as the Report inevitably duplicates a number of other regular FAO reports, and there are also many areas covered by the Guidelines where no significant changes occur as frequently as every two years, the frequency of the preparation of Progress Reports on the implementation of Guidelines and Targets for IAA be changed to every four years instead of every two years, as at present.

Before taking a view on the periodicity of monitoring of implementation of these Guidelines and Targets, it is necessary to go into the background of the formulation of these Guidelines.

The IAA was a major theme of the Seventeenth Session of the FAO Conference in 1973 which identified the broad objectives of the IAA.

The Eighteenth Session of the Conference in 1975 accepted eleven Guidelines, to further the achievement of the objectives for IAA and to provide a global policy framework. At the Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second Sessions of the FAO Conference the progress of action on the agreed Guidelines on the basis of reports prepared by the FAO Secretariat was considered. These reports showed that, while some progress had been made towards the achievement of the objectives of International Agricultural Adjustment during the period since 1974, this progress had nevertheless fallen short of expectations.

The Twentieth Session of the Conference had agreed that the Guidelines should be reviewed and revised in the light of developments since their adoption in 1975. A Contact Group constituted by the Eighty-second Council had reached a consensus on twelve guidelines - except one part of Guideline 10 - which were considered by the Twenty-second Session of the Conference, which reaffirmed the continued validity of the objectives of the IAA identified by its Seventeenth Session and endorsed the twelve revised Guidelines and Targets as a global policy framework.

Continued relevance of the Guidelines has thus been emphasised on various occasions. This view has also been accepted in the Document, in paragraph 5, which says that the Guidelines bring together many aspects of food and agriculture development that are more often considered only separately. As such, we are of the view that the continued monitoring of the performance in relation to the Guidelines remains essential. Further, the main objective of the Guidelines was not merely to secure a faster growth of world agricultural production, but to ensure a more balanced growth and also to ensure that action for achievement of the balanced growth is taken both by the developing and the developed countries. As the action taken on different Guidelines reveals, while the developing countries have been making their maximum efforts to improve their food and agriculture situation, they have in many cases not been able to reach the targets. One of the many reasons for their not

achieving the targeted rate of growth may be that the developed countries have failed to fulfil their obligations of assisting them through trade liberalisation and adequate external assistance. The monitoring of the Guidelines provides an opportunity to identify such problems and make efforts to take appropriate remedial measures.

From this point of view, we are not in agreement with the suggestion in the paper to review the progress of implementation of Guidelines once in four years. Two years are a sufficiently long period for monitoring the progress, and increasing it to four would rob the reviews of the necessary immediacy and urgency and make them historical rather than operational in perspective.

There is also another consideration for reviewing the progress of implementation of the Guidelines on a biennial basis. In case the FAO suggestion for a review after four years is accepted, the next progress report will be due at the 1991 FAO Conference session. By that time, the International Development Strategy for the third Development Decade launched by the UN General Assembly would have lapsed on 31 December 1990 and, if the UN General Assembly so decides, a new IDS for the fourth Development Decade will be launched from 1 January 1991. The monitoring of the implementation of the Guidelines by the 1989 FAO Conference could provide some useful suggestions which could be appropriately incorporated in the International Development Strategy for the fourth Development Decade.

The document brings out some important problems facing world food agriculture today, the most important of these being that, while the developing countries have been making efforts to uplift their agriculture, the support from the developed countries as stipulated in the Guidelines has been lacking.

The document has brought out that there is slackening in the growth of food and agricultural production in the developing countries after 1984, paragraph 8. This is a matter of great concern. It is a matter of anguish that agricultural policies in many developed countries continue to be characterised by high levels of protection and subsidies which distort producers' incentives and consequently tend to keep excessive resources in agriculture.

Particular mention in this context may be made of Guidelines 7 to 12. As the document has observed, while there have been some modest improvements in trade liberalisation, they have been completely overshadowed by restrictive and trade-distorting measures recently taken by a number of countries. India has constantly expressed itself against protectionist measures by the developed countries and we would like to place on record our firm opposition to such measures on this occasion too.

The Indian delegation would like to highlight the need for containing and reversing the growing protectionist policies and support the need for removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers which restrict the flow of exports from the developing countries. The flow of these exports from the developing countries would help them to earn valuable foreign exchange.

In the matter of food aid to developing countries, Guideline 11 provides that consideration should be given to the upward revision of the food-aid target of 10 million tonnes, taking into account the estimated requirement of 17 to 18.5 million tonnes of cereals, which provides a useful indicator of the overall requirements of food aid by 1985. Little effort seems to have been made by the international community to review the food-aid target or further to strengthen the International Emergency Food Reserve. These are important problems which have not been addressed with the required sense of urgency so far.

There have also been attempts to link food aid with structural adjustments in the developing countries. We would like to emphasize that the right to food is a basic and universal human right which should be guaranteed to all people. The food security compact enshrines the objective though we are far from reaching it. All major international conferences in the sphere of food and agriculture have underscored the urgent need for eradication of hunger within the shortest possible time. The eighth Non-aligned Summit in 1986 strongly condemned the use of food aid as an instrument of political pressure and cautioned against any kind of conditionality for supply of food aid. While the developing countries should be free to utilise the food aid for purposes of structural and sectoral adjustments according to their needs, any effort to influence their decision through a process of multilateral consultations amounts to interference in their internal affairs through the

multilateral agencies. Therefore, the Indian delegation is opposed to the linkage between structural adjustments and food aid. Further, several sectoral adjustments are needed not only on the part of the developing countries, but also on the part of the developed countries, to ensure the regular flow of food aid and other external assistance to developing countries to enable them to achieve their production goals.

The progress of action on Guideline 12 dealing with external assistance to developing countries is also a matter of concern to us. It has been brought out in the Report that official commitments to agriculture have stagnated in the last few years in real terms, and in 1985 were as much as 30 percent below the already inadequate targets. While there is need for greater effectiveness in the use of external financing on the part of the developing countries, efforts should also be made to increase the flow of assistance to them to enable them to make adequate investments in agriculture. There is also need for initiation of efforts for a review of the targets of external assistance as suggested in the Guidelines.

These are urgent issues and their biennial review in the view of the Indian delegation is useful to take stock of progress in respect of them. We are, therefore, not in favour of extending the periodicity of this review to four years.

Khamsing SAYAKONE (Laos): Tout d'abord je voudrais féliciter très sincèrement M. Islam pour son exposé très clair sur un sujet aussi vaste et aussi complexe que celui de l'ajustement agricole international.

Nous avons étudié ce document avec intérêt et avons mesuré son importance.

Avant tout je voudrais vous dire que ma délégation appuie entièrement la proposition qui consiste à présenter les rapports non plus tous les deux ans mais tous les quatre ans; comme vous le savez, les changements qui se produisent dans le développement de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, notamment dans le domaine de la production, du développement rural, des échanges, sont trop graduels pour être évalués tous les deux ans.

o La ligne d'orientation N 1 qui propose que la procédure alimentaire et agricole dans les pays en

développement, en particulier dans les pays les moins avancés, devrait progresser pendant la quatrième au lieu de la troisième décennie des Nations Unies pour le développement à un taux moyen annuel de 4 pour cent au moins est, selon nous, une nécessité en vue de répondre aux besoins nutritionnels et à la demande croissante de la population de ces pays. Ce taux d'accroissement est d'autant plus nécessaire que le taux d'accroissement annuel de la population mondiale est de l'ordre de 2 pour cent et que les besoins mondiaux en produits alimentaires de 1985 à l'an 2000 n'augmentent pas moins de 3 pour cent. Mais cet objectif n'est pas si facile à atteindre car il dépend de plusieurs facteurs. C'est vrai qu'il appartient à la population elle-même de briser le cercle vicieux de la pauvreté et de la malnutrition et aux gouvernements de sensibiliser toutes les forces productives de la nation au service du développement. Mais il appartient aussi à la communauté internationale de créer l'environnement politique et économique plus favorable à la production alimentaire et agricole.

Comme vous le savez, pendant ces dernières années, à cause de la morosité de l'environnement politique et économique, le taux d'accroissement de la production agricole avait tendance à diminuer chaque année: 1,3 pour cent en 1986 contre 2,4 pour cent en 1985, c'est-à-dire qu'on est loin encore de l'objectif fixé de 4 pour cent.

Un autre point que j'aimerais souligner est celui des facteurs qui influencent la disponibilité des produits alimentaires. Si l'on obtient le taux d'accroissement annuel des produits alimentaires et agricoles de l'ordre de 4 pour cent pendant les années à venir comme il en était dit auparavant c'est bien; mais si on assure une meilleure disponibilité de ces produits c'est mieux.

Les facteurs qui influencent la disponibilité des produits alimentaires sont nombreux. Je me permets de n'en citer que quelques-uns qui, à mon avis, sont essentiels: ce sont les infrastructures de transport, de stockage et de conservation des produits. En effet, les produits récoltés doivent être transportés rapidement du centre du premier stockage aux industries pour éviter les pertes qui découlent des conditions climatiques ou du fait que les produits sont rapidement périssables.

D'autre part, la quantité et la qualité des centres de stockage et de conservation doivent correspondre à un minimum d'exigence car une très forte proportion des récoltes se perd malheureusement dans le monde, surtout dans les pays sous-développés, du fait de l'insuffisance et des mauvaises conditions de moyens de conservation.

En République démocratique populaire Lao, les pertes après récolte de riz (entre la moisson, le battage, le séchage, l'emmagasinage et l'usinage) sont estimées à un pourcentage qui varie entre 20 et 30 pour cent.

Il serait donc beaucoup plus important pour augmenter les disponibilités alimentaires de concentrer les efforts d'amélioration sur la diminution des pertes de stockage et de conservation que d'essayer d'augmenter une production qui, en grande partie, sera perdue après la récolte.

Pour les autres lignes d'orientation, je suis d'accord, Monsieur le Président, d'ajuster en se référant aux observations et remarques qui ont été décrites dans le document de base.

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Our delegation wishes to record our appreciation to the Secretariat for both the quality of the documentation and presentation to this Commission. My delegation considers this topic to be among the most important agenda items of this Conference, for, as we said last week in the Plenary, to what avail if all the technical assistance that we receive in the developing world through multilateral and bilateral channels to increase our agricultural output if we are then denied market outlets for our produce? Of course, we recognize that market access - in fact, market distortion - is an issue for both developed and developing countries. As the Secretariat has noted in this paper, modest improvements in trade liberalization have been completely overshadowed by the restricted and trade distorting measures taken by a number of countries. We are told that: "The best hope for the future lies in the new Uruguay Round of GATT multilateral trade negotiations in which agricultural products are to be covered for the first time". It seems to my delegation that the time has come to put FAO more firmly into the agricultural trade negotiation process.

At the country level, Trinidad and Tobago have learned the hard way that it is folly to plan ambitious production programmes without regard to the marketing aspects. Surely this lesson applies with at least equal force at the international level? Here we must remember that the global economy is inextricably intertwined and interdependent. We cannot remain unaffected by one another's decisions. In this respect, we should note, for example, the rapidity with which so-called non-traditional export commodities may assume the market constraints faced by traditional agricultural exports. The New York Times, for example, of 1 February 1987 cites the figure of 19 Caribbean countries with programmes to produce cut flowers for export to the United States of America at the time of the Costa Rican difficulties with CVI. If all these efforts yield increased output as anticipated by individual countries, then the non-traditional products may well become neo-traditional products, thereby further facilitating the very process of reverse flows of income and resources out of the region that they intended to overcome.

I wish I could be as sanguine as the Secretariat in its expression of hope for the future from the Uruguay Round in respect of international agricultural adjustment. The Uruguay Round has not yet really got under way because of disputes on procedural issues and on agricultural subsidies. Once again the focus of attention seems to be on commodities exported mainly by the developed countries -cereals, dairy products, etc. We hope for more consideration of developing countries' interests. As in the past, the interests of the developed nations still tend to dominate negotiations concerning the system of international economic relations.

In the context of growing economic interaction and interdependence, we in the developing world are becoming highly dependent upon the performance of the external sector of our economies, yet most of us will face growing difficulties in operating in the competitive and undoubtedly hostile environment of the international markets unless major reforms are implemented to modify radically the structure of power that dominates the global system of economic relations. In this regard, only a few minutes ago Australia painted for us the current scenario across the globe in the matter of agricultural protectionism. My delegation is of the opinion that this is the challenge facing us in this forum

and the context within which a reassessment, if any, of this Organization's role and function must be viewed. I take it that we may assume that we all agree that one of our main purposes is to start to push the agricultural economies of the developing world on the path towards agricultural diversification and food security. In the understanding of the Trinidad and Tobago delegation, this process entails moving away from the present pattern of world protection and trade relations in which the centre absorbs and transforms, at the same time adding value to, the agricultural raw materials produced in the periphery which it re-exports to the periphery in the form of manufactured goods. These manufactures come back to us in the periphery together with food. The structure and production are an existing fact, of course, in the periphery, which, as well as massive production subsidies at the centre, caused to be cheaper than domestic food production in most parts of the developing world.

The challenge is to so order things as to secure radical changes in this structure while ensuring an orderly and continuous increase in global agricultural output and incomes and with the minimum of social upheaval and distress in either the developed or the developing world. It is necessary to appeal to the developed countries for greater understanding and implementation of appropriate policy decisions in favour of the developing countries in the adjustment process. The alternative to such a positive response can only be the widening of the development gap. This becomes very obvious when we monitor the technological links within the developed countries on multi-purpose use of agricultural raw materials and by-products while the developing countries, are, in the first instance, merely asking for access to external markets. For example, the science report in the Times of 13 November 1987 refers to growing support for an agricultural refinery in the United Kingdom to process farm products for industrial use. The idea is to utilize not only crop residues but whole crops - for example, cereals - as foodstock for the manufacture of chemicals for the people, plastics and pharmaceutical industries. The article speaks of counteracting the present cost of storing agricultural surpluses by redirecting the expenditure as subsidies - now billions of dollars in some countries - to the new industrial plants. We cannot halt the scientific endeavours, but we in the developing countries have to be on the alert in respect of the implications for new policy decisions which flow from these developments. I submit that the time has come to move from the mere monitoring of progress in the field of international agricultural adjustment in this forum. We can no longer afford to divorce the question of increased production from the issue of market access. My delegation considers, therefore, that, as we look to the future, there is need for a shift in emphasis of FAO away from being largely a forum for debate and resolution of international agricultural policy issues towards a more active role as an activist and arbiter in the formulation, negotiation and implementation of policy measures in the area of international agricultural adjustment. FAO may well have to be the fourth force, with a more neutral voice, but of course intervening in a special way on behalf of the developing countries.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Al intervenir sobre este tema, los representantes de Colombia sentimos gran satisfacción, inmenso placer, al ver en el podium a nuestro distinguido y eminente amigo el Profesor Nurul Islam, hasta hace poco Subdirector General de la FAO, Jefe del Departamento de Asuntos Económicos y Sociales.

Cuántas ocasiones tuvimos con el profesor Islam de participar en actividades sobre el ajuste agrícola internacional, y cómo pudimos admirar la inteligencia, la consagración y la gran capacidad de trabajo del profesor Islam. Al haberse ausentado de la FAO, el profesor Islam deja una huella incancelable porque además de sus condiciones intelectuales y profesionales, tiene excelentes calidades humanas y está dotado de independencia que es una característica fundamental para los funcionarios de una Organización como la nuestra. Ud. profesor Islam será recordado siempre, aquí en la FAO, por los representantes de Colombia y seguramente por muchísimos otros colegas con cariño y gratitud muy sinceros.

Después de que en el año 1975, la Conferencia adoptó estas orientaciones y objetivos sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, que más adelante revisamos en 1983, a juicio de la delegación de Colombia parece evidente que ya muchas de estas orientaciones han sido superadas, son obsoletas. Creemos que es necesario concentrarlas, reducirlas, limitarlas, fortalecerlas y en aquellos aspectos más actualizados, como lo acaba de decir nuestro colega de Trinidad y Tobago. Todo ello dirigido a tratar de defender mejor los intereses y las aspiraciones de los países en desarrollo.

Queremos apoyar al colega de Australia en el sentido de que si bien un propio informe como éste, no se presente a la próxima Conferencia, sí de todas maneras el ajuste sea uno de los temas de la Conferencia del año 1989, cuando esperamos que la Ronda Uruguay estará en un punto verdaderamente interesante. Pensamos que estas orientaciones y objetivos deben actualizarse, sobre todo a la luz de acontecimientos importantes que han empezado a producirse en la Comunidad Internacional, a partir de diciembre de 1986, cuando la Comunidad Económica Europea adoptó nuevo Reglamento, que según esa importante Comunidad, está dirigido a suprimir progresivamente los subsidios y a reducir los grandes excedentes de que hoy se dispone en todos los países de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Posteriormente en 1987, el comunicado de la reunión de Ministros de la OCDE también hizo promesa, estuvo lleno de buenas intenciones en ese mismo sentido. Siguió en junio, la Cumbre de Jefes de Estado de los países industrializados del mundo que tuvo lugar en Venecia, y también hemos participado en ese proceso países en desarrollo como Colombia a través del Grupo CAIRNS, Grupo CAIRNS en el que países en desarrollo y en vías de desarrollo están igualmente empeñados en lograr una progresiva liberalización del comercio internacional.

Por eso, pensamos que estas orientaciones y objetivos deberían ponerse a tono con estas nuevas manifestaciones que están teniendo lugar, a fin de que toda esa proliferación de palabrerío se pueda convertir en realidad, en hechos concretos y positivos.

Desgraciadamente, este documento confirma la desafortunada paradoja que sigue existiendo en el mundo de excedentes en los países industrializados y hambre y malnutrición en muchos países en desarrollo. Estamos volviendo hacia atrás.

Después de que en los primeros cuatro años del decenio de los ochenta se logró alguna mejora en esa situación, ahora sabemos ya que de nuevo en el sur del Sahara, y particularmente en Etiopía, hay graves amenazas de crisis. Ojalá que la FAO con el Programa Mundial de Alimentos y todos los demás organismos competentes y Gobiernos de países donantes, puedan intervenir oportunamente para que la situación al sur del Sahara no adquiriera las características de gravedad que tuvo en el año 1985.

En relación con la responsabilidad que corresponde a los países en desarrollo para lograr que estas orientaciones y estos objetivos logren fines concretos, en los párrafos 10, 12, y 13 de este documento se hace referencia a los esfuerzos que estamos haciendo los países en desarrollo. Comprendemos que, sobre todo, ante la reiterada falta de voluntad política de los estados industrializados, nos corresponde asumir actitudes como las que estamos realizando. Estamos asignando más alta prioridad a la agricultura y el máximo de los recursos posibles en los planes nacionales de desarrollo porque esos esfuerzos, que presenta muy bien este documento, sean realidades.

Nos duele lo que dijo en Plenaria el honorable Secretario de Agricultura del primer contribuyente de la FAO, quien afirmó que los países en desarrollo deberán acomodarse a vivir en el futuro con un flujo menor de recursos externos. Esa afirmación que lamentamos, está en contraste con el párrafo 21 del documento, párrafo 21 que apoyamos y debe constar en nuestro Informe, porque sigue siendo crucial la ayuda financiera exterior a la agricultura en los países en desarrollo.

Si en realidad van a cumplirse los buenos propósitos de los estados industrializados, convendrá que los enormes excedentes de que hoy disponen no sean destruidos, como parece que está sucediendo en alguno de esos países, sino que se tenga en cuenta una propuesta que la delegación de Colombia y otras delegaciones, hicimos en la última reunión del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación, que tuvo lugar en un gran país del tercer mundo, en el país de mi vecino de la izquierda, en Pekín, China. Propusimos allá que esos excedentes se utilizaran para proyectos de desarrollo en los países del tercer mundo o que la FAO, con la cooperación del Consejo Mundial de la Alimentación y del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, pudiera tener en cuenta la necesidad y conveniencia de hacer el mejor uso posible de esos grandes excedentes.

El párrafo 20 habla, trece años después de la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación que tuvo lugar en 1974, todavía de las dos metas que fijamos en ese año, ya lejos de nuestros recuerdos. Si bien es cierto que se han superado ambas metas, la de diez millones en ayuda alimentaria y la de 500 000 toneladas de cereales en los aportes a la RAIE, es igualmente claro que la situación ha cambiado, que es más dramática y que convendrá que sigamos solicitando la colaboración eficaz y oportuna de los donantes para que la situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo no se precipite de nuevo con la pérdida de la vida de millones de seres humanos.

Pensamos que con esta modesta declaración nuestra, hemos contribuido a que la FAO siga ofreciendo a través de estas orientaciones y estos objetivos un marco propicio dentro del cual se puedan reconocer más las aspiraciones y los derechos de los países del tercer mundo.

Guy FRADIN (France): Le rapport qui nous est présenté observe avec juste raison que son contenu fait en partie double emploi avec la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture et avec les rapports présentés à divers comités de la FAO.

Notant en outre que dans beaucoup de domaines de l'ajustement agricole international les changements sont très graduels, le Secrétariat nous propose que les examens à venir sur ce sujet ne soient présentés que tous les quatre ans. Ma délégation appuie fermement cette proposition de même qu'elle appuie la proposition présentée par notre collègue des Pays-Bas sur la révision de ses lignes d'orientation visant à inclure la nécessité d'une politique agricole dans les pays en voie de développement.

Ma délégation souhaite en tout état de cause que cet examen ne soit pas seulement limité à un bilan, mais s'attache plus que par le passé à une analyse des causes qui expliquent ce bilan, et des contraintes qui le conditionnent. Nous notons par exemple que la présentation des niveaux de production et de consommation par habitant ne prend pas en compte l'évolution démographique et le phénomène d'urbanisation. Dans le cas de l'Afrique c'est une des contraintes qui modère l'amélioration constatée.

En ce qui concerne les facteurs du développement agricole, nous observons que l'examen des lignes d'orientation fait ressortir principalement de grandes questions: les relations économiques extérieures des pays en voie de développement et leurs programmes de développement agricole et rural tels qu'ils sont mis en oeuvre et appuyés par l'aide internationale.

S'agissant des relations économiques extérieures des pays en voie de développement, il apparaît qu'elles sont étroitement conditionnées par le déséquilibre des marchés agricoles mondiaux et par l'endettement croissant.

Le déséquilibre des marchés internationaux est présenté comme la résultante, pour l'essentiel, des politiques de soutien à la production et à la commercialisation mises en oeuvre par les pays développés. Ma délégation a déjà eu l'occasion, à de nombreuses reprises, depuis notre dernière conférence, et notamment au moment des travaux de celle-ci, lors de l'examen de la politique des prix agricoles, d'exprimer son désaccord avec l'approche du Secrétariat en la matière, approche qui lui paraît inadaptée aux problèmes qui nous occupent, celui du développement agricole et de la sécurité alimentaire.

Ma délégation fait observer une nouvelle fois que la relation de cause à effet en la matière n'est pas si évidente ni si directe que le laisse penser le Secrétariat ou la déclaration de notre collègue australien tout à l'heure. Cette relation aurait mérité en tout état de cause une réflexion plus élaborée que la simple affirmation du paragraphe 35.

Sans revenir en détail sur cette question, nous rappelons notre attachement à une réduction globale et équilibrée des mesures de soutien à l'agriculture, d'une mise en oeuvre par les pays développés dont ma délégation reconnaît volontiers la nécessité pour soulager les tensions des marchés internationaux. Elle estime cependant que les problèmes économiques des pays en voie de développement, et notamment les plus pauvres ne seront pas tout autant résolus, en particulier, les problèmes des recettes d'exportation liés aux produits tropicaux ainsi que ceux résultant de la concurrence existant entre les pays en voie de développement eux-mêmes. Une fois encore, ma délégation rappelle que, d'une manière ou d'une autre, l'agriculture des pays les plus pauvres devra être protégée des aléas des marchés internationaux.

Je souligne à cet égard la déclaration faite hier par notre collègue et mon voisin de la délégation de la Finlande, ou même, lors du dernier Conseil, de la délégation de la Suisse.

L'endettement en revanche a des conséquences immédiates sur l'économie agricole des pays en voie de développement, puisqu'il apparaît malheureusement - et je renvoie au paragraphe 43 - que très souvent ce soient les investissements du secteur agricole et rural qui pâtissent les premiers des difficultés budgétaires du pays. Ceci est particulièrement regrettable, puisque nous observons, au paragraphe 40 et dans le tableau de la page 9, que lorsque les dépenses publiques consacrées à l'agriculture ont diminué - comme dans le cas du Proche-Orient ou de l'Amérique latine - le taux de croissance ou la production agricole a baissé. Par contre, lorsque les dépenses publiques ont augmenté, comme en Afrique, le taux de croissance de la production agricole s'est accru.

S'agissant des programmes de développement agricole et rural et de l'aide dont ils bénéficient, l'expérience montre que leur analyse ne peut se faire d'un simple point de vue quantitatif. Les lignes d'orientation 3, 4, 5 et 6 indiquent quelles doivent être les caractéristiques essentielles de ces programmes.

La principale est axée sur la notion de développement des filières agro-alimentaires à partir des structures existantes, ce que nous appuyons, tout en notant que le document ne fait pas référence aux problèmes spécifiques des industries agro-alimentaires.

Ces filières doivent s'appuyer sur la dynamique propre aux organisations locales d'agriculteurs et s'intégrer dans les plans nationaux. Elles doivent assurer la continuité des relations entre les villes et la campagne. A cet égard des instruments efficaces de gestion des marchés sont nécessaires pour dynamiser et contrôler le développement des filières. De plus, le bon fonctionnement de ces filières est indispensable à l'accroissement des échanges entre les pays en voie de développement.

Le rapport note, en ce qui concerne l'aide internationale qu'en raison de leurs problèmes budgétaires, de nombreux pays en voie de développement ne sont plus en mesure de couvrir les frais locaux et les dépenses de fonctionnement des projets en cours, les nouveaux investissements ne faisant qu'aggraver la situation. Ceci montre bien que, plus que jamais, il est nécessaire d'avoir une approche économique globale au sein de chaque pays, et non une vue partielle et superficielle au travers des projets de développement.

Je retiens pour l'essentiel de cette analyse de la situation agricole mondiale que les perspectives d'amélioration sont liées d'une part à un accroissement des marchés internationaux, avec la réserve, ou plutôt le commentaire que j'ai fait sur ce sujet au début de mon intervention, et d'autre part à un renforcement des investissements liés aux programmes de développement agricole des pays.

J'observe que c'est dans le but de faire face à ces deux contraintes que la France a proposé une initiative dont M. Guillaume, Ministre de l'agriculture, nous a exposé les grandes lignes en séance plénière au début de la semaine dernière.

Avant de terminer, la délégation souhaite faire une mention particulière de la ligne d'orientation N° 7 relative aux échanges commerciaux de produits agricoles.

Je voudrais tout d'abord commenter les paragraphes 36 et 37, et rappeler qu'en matière d'évaluation des degrés de soutien à l'agriculture la plus grande prudence s'impose. D'abord parce que, à notre connaissance, et contrairement à ce que pourraient laisser penser certaines déclarations entendues dans cette enceinte, il n'existe pas d'agriculture un tant soit peu performante qui n'ait été soutenue d'une manière ou d'une autre. En tout état de cause, les études menées en la matière par les Etats-Unis et citées par le document ne sont qu'une estimation parmi d'autres et ne sauraient constituer, telles quelles une référence universelle.

S'agissant des chiffres publiés par l'OCDE, ma délégation, fait remarquer qu'ils le sont sous la responsabilité du Secrétaire général qui précise que les incertitudes sur les chiffres sont telles qu'elles ne permettent pas de comparaison par pays. Le Secrétariat de la FAO a bien voulu le préciser, mais seulement au paragraphe 116; il nous paraissait donc judicieux de le rappeler

Je rappelle par ailleurs que le travail d'évaluation quantitative et qualitative est toujours en cours. Je rappelle enfin que si nous ne doutons pas que la FAO se soit depuis longtemps intéressée au problème des équivalents des subventions à la production, il convient de noter que ce concept remonte à la méthode normale élaborée au Deuxième Comité du GATT, avant les négociations du Kennedy Round et qui sont précisées dans le paragraphe 13 du document Corn. 203 du 22 novembre 1960.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 114, nous ne croyons pas qu'il faille s'étonner que très peu de mesures concrètes aient été prises dans le cadre des négociations commerciales multilatérales. En 1987 devaient être identifiés les problèmes et en 1988 doit démarrer la négociation. Ma délégation fait néanmoins observer que la Communauté Economique Européenne a déjà pris un certain nombre de mesures dans le cadre de la réforme qu'elle a entreprise de sa politique agricole commune. Ces mesures sont citées au paragraphe 119, mais leur effet n'est effectivement pas encore mesurable puisqu'elles ont été prises en mai 1987.

Ma délégation ne partage pas non plus l'avis du Secrétariat sur l'évolution du SPG et fait observer que cette question est liée à la négociation sur les produits tropicaux au GATT, négociation qui fait l'objet d'un traitement privilégié et plus rapide.

Pour conclure, ma délégation souhaite réaffirmer l'attachement qu'elle porte à une intervention qualifiée de la FAO dans le domaine des échanges commerciaux agricoles, au niveau de l'analyse des causes, des contraintes, des conséquences et de la réflexion prospective sur les améliorations envisageables. Il nous paraît que le simple bilan des mesures de soutien à l'agriculture, avec tout ce qu'il a d'incertain, voire de partial, n'est pas suffisant. Nous souhaitons quant à nous, que, détachée de tout dogmatisme, la FAO puisse apparaître comme un partenaire incontesté des réflexions en la matière.

Petrus A. L. DE RIJK (Netherlands): Our delegation considers the evaluation of the progress made during the last two years of the items dealt with and in the twelve Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment in itself a useful document. It provides an opportunity for a comprehensive assessment of the main directions of change in world agriculture in relation to the objectives set.

But, as is indeed pointed out correctly in the document, there is too much of an overlap with other reviews, regularly published by FAO, and especially with other documents for this session of the Conference. We refer to the State of Food and Agriculture, the second progress report on the WCARRD Programme of Action and the Agriculture: Toward 2000 Study. We therefore support the proposal to limit the frequency of this progress report. We also suggest that future progress reports on international agricultural adjustment should not appear in combination with the report on the WCARRD Programme of Action or with updated versions of the Agriculture : Toward 2000 Study. Moreover, some thought should be given to the possibility of combining in overlapping years the traditional State of Food and Agriculture publication with this document on International Agricultural Adjustment.

By avoiding duplication, studies can be presented to the Conference which are of a more specific nature dealing with areas where changes occur or should occur. An example of such a study was the price policy document presented to the last Conference.

In line with recent developments, presentation of a document relating to relevant aspects of the required liberalization of trade and agricultural products or a document concerning the implications of such adjustments in developing countries would have been most appropriate. They most likely still are for the next Conference.

By 1991, supposedly the date the next progress report on International Agricultural Adjustment will be discussed, a revision of the set of guidelines might be useful. For our part, we consider that an explicit target-setting of the abolition of hunger and malnutrition should be included. It seems to us that progress in this field should be the most essential criterion for an adequate international agricultural adjustment. At the same time increasing concern about the impact of agriculture production on the environment might be incorporated.

Another guideline which could be elaborated on deals with the requirements in relation to an adequate agriculture policy in developing countries. Guideline 1 now limits itself to the non-rational use of resources in agriculture in developed countries, resulting in too much production. But as paragraph 35 indicates, non-rational use of resources caused by disincentives to agriculture are the cause of the depressed production in many developing countries.

FAO did pioneering work., on measuring the government support to agriculture in developed countries by means of the producer subsidy equivalents. Some form of these PSEs could even become of operational use in the GATT trade negotiations concerning agricultural products.

Analysis and monitoring of the required adjustment of non-rational use of resources in developing countries is at least as important and it is an area in which FAO should become involved.

As to the monitoring of the guidelines, we shall limit our comments here to paragraph 69. Among other things, reference is made there to the need for more research on dry land grain crops such as millet and sorghum in Africa and elsewhere. We would like to stress the importance of this research, as very often there is no alternative to increased production of these cereals but imports.

Moreover, the continuing research on wheat in the exporting countries resulting in ever decreasing production costs might, in the long run, make imports of wheat more and more attractive, even with adequate price policies for sorghum and millet, if sufficient research on these crops is lacking.

A.H. Mofazzal KARIM (Bangladesh): We have carefully gone through document C 87/21. We are of the opinion that the document presents a panoramic view of world agriculture in recent years. The scenario is one of pluses here and minuses there. In any case the conclusion is clear. It indicates that the steady growth rate achieved in the 1970s and early 1980s has atrophied in recent times. Such a situation warrants immediate attention of all concerned.

The Bangladesh delegation deeply appreciates the illuminating and objective analysis of facts contained in the document, and expresses its sincere thanks to Professor Nurul Islam for his very lucid presentation.

In spite of some heavy odds, Bangladesh has made meaningful strides in recent years for the development of agriculture in particular and rural uplift in general. Most of these are in consonance with the FAO guidelines and targets. Without going into detail, some of these can be briefly enumerated here.

First, through administrative decentralization the participation of people in development work has been ensured in the rural areas. The administrative unit thus created at the semi-urban grass root level is headed by an elected chairman. This is an autonomous local body which is independent of bureaucratic control and is responsible for agriculture, communication, health, family planning, primary education and so on.

Second, through land reforms, not only have ceilings been fixed for ownership of land but also minimum wages for agricultural labourers have been determined and the rights of share croppers protected.

More recently, through a countrywide drive, the Government has started distributing government owned arable land among landless peasants. One interesting feature of such land distribution is that land is allotted to both husband and wife of a family, who own it jointly. This is done in order to safeguard the right of the woman in the family.

Third, through the system of support prices for agricultural produce, we have attempted to ensure a fair price for the growers. The system of government procurement is there for all major crops.

Fourth, with the privatization of fertilizer, pesticide and insecticide distribution systems, farmers have got easy access to inputs.

Fifth, the process of infrastructure building is being accelerated through the execution of a number of development projects. Thus, electricity is reaching more villages in the far flung areas through the rural electrification board and communication system geared up through the food-for-work and other programmes of the Government.

I need not prolong the list of activities that currently charge the development atmosphere in Bangladesh. However, it may be noted that many of the reforms, such as decentralization of administration, land reforms, privatization of input distribution systems, etc, are recent innovations. They are expected to show good results after the necessary time lag has passed.

In conclusion, I should like to say that if all member countries follow the FAO guidelines and targets which were adopted by the Conference in 1975 and updated in 1983, it may not be difficult to make progress in agriculture by disadvantaged countries such as Bangladesh. Agriculture may thus soon escape from the stagnation and atrophy in which it is caught.

As regards frequency of the preparation of the Progress Report, we approve the proposal of the Secretariat to prepare it every four years, with the modification suggested by the Australian delegation.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): Dr Islam and the Secretariat have produced a very useful document. The Guidelines for encouraging and maintaining the international agricultural adjustment are very useful indeed. They show how countries in the region are performing with regard to the key development indicators.

It may be useful to make my delegation's initial remarks on the period of reporting. We concur with the Secretariat that a four-year reporting system might give more the significant and more discernible structural and physical shifts in performance. The advantage of a two-year reporting system were that it enabled government to react quickly to improve situations before they drifted too far out of hand. We will have to see how a four-year system will enable us to make timely decisions. But, again, the Secretariat has indicated that there are other documents such as the annual State of Food and Agriculture report and the annual reports to the Committee on World Food Security, etcetera, which periodically indicate the state of affairs.

I am glad to note that a number of the Guidelines, such as Guidelines 1, 7, 8, 9 and 10, in essence address the vexing problem of food and agricultural production in developing countries and the trade with developed countries. It is quite clear from the assessments in the relevant Guidelines that developed countries are either subsidizing their agricultural production excessively and to the detriment of trade with developing countries and/or are imposing a galaxy of protectionist restrictions against goods from the Third World.

It cannot be overemphasized that unless developing countries can export their products to the north they will continue to beggars of funds and food aid. My delegation is convinced that the producer subsidy equivalents (PSEs) in the EEC, the United States of America and indeed in Nordic countries must be quite unfavourable for developing countries. Yet these are the large groups of countries we look to for our development. I agree with the delegate from Poland that we need many examples on subsidization.

Guideline 2 is useful but it could be more useful if it were quantified. The target of financial flows and other resources to the agricultural sector should be targeted as a percentage of GDP. The preferable GDP should be given in the Guideline as an aim.

With regard to the reference to the environmental concerns in Guideline 2, my delegation supports the principle of incorporating environmental impact assessment procedures in every rural development project. In fact, my delegation would like to have a clear description of the state of the environment in each developing country before a project starts to be implemented in order that monitoring could be done on a yearly basis. In this regard I agree with the observation of the delegate from the United Kingdom.

Guideline 3 with regard to providing more land to the rural masses and with regard to appropriate pricing policies and other incentives is crucial for developing countries and should be monitored closely. Also important in this regard is the information package by extension officers and the overall infrastructure.

My delegation supports Guideline 4, especially with regard to the need for farmers to form their own trade unions, sometimes called farmers' bureaux, thereby enhancing their bargaining power vis-à-vis the urban dweller's organized trade union, which bargain for lower consumer prices.

My delegation feels that Guideline 6 with its special emphasis on food subsidies to a particular group could be difficult to implement. My delegation would like to benefit from the experience of those who are implementing this aspect successfully.

I should like to conclude my remarks by making two short observations. The first is that it is pleasing to note from the document under discussion that, at least when seasons are favourable, agriculture and food production in developing countries responds markedly and that trade among developing countries is also improving. This is a good sign.

My second observation is to appeal to developed countries to make it possible for the reintroduction of international commodity agreements, many of which are now in disarray.

My delegation is in full support of the main forecasts of the observations made by the delegate of Ausiralia.

Fritz-Otto HAASE (Federal Republic of Germany) (original language German): My delegation wishes to thank the FAO Secretariat for presenting document C 87/21. To a considerable extent we can endorse what it says. Permit me, however, to comment on some of the problems that it addresses.

The improvement in the food situation for the developing countries as a whole referred to under Guideline 1 is to be greatly welcomed. It is true that the high production target of an annual increase in agricultural production of 4 percent was not fully reached. On the other hand, considerable success was recorded in that total production grew between 1980 and 1986 annually at the rate of 3.6 percent as against 3 percent in 1970-80 and per capita production in the same period by 1.5%. These achievements are all the more noteworthy in view of the adverse overall economic conditions prevailing generally. We believe that they result from corresponding policy changes in the countries concerned. Therefore, we welcome the fact that, as the document states, there is a continuing trend towards agricultural price policies designed to increase and in part to diversify production.

We share the concern of the Secretariat regarding developments in several developing countries. After all, from 1980 to 1986 per capita production dropped in 56 of the 94 developing countries examined, nor do the latest reports from African countries indicate any fundamental shift towards a lasting improvement in the food situation in that region.

There are also some developments in the agriculture of developing countries referred to in Guidelines 2, 3 and 6 with which we share the concern of the FAO Secretariat. This applies in particular to the decreasing share of the total public expenditure accounted for by agriculture and the scant success in the endeavour to improve access to land and water, inputs and services, and the efforts, so important but so difficult, to bring about a more balanced and more even distribution of income. There needs to be close monitoring of fertilizer use development in developing countries. The approximately 3 percent drop in 1985 was faced with a considerable increase in 1984, about 11 percent, with the general trend being upwards. The further adjustment in developed countries' agricultural policies referred to in Guidelines 1, 7, 8 and 9 is indeed indispensable. There is broad consensus on that in all international fora and in the individual countries.

My Government too sees no point in producing surpluses for which there is no market demand. My Government supports the decisions of the OECD Council of Ministers in May of this year and the conclusion of the World Economic Summit in Venice in June. My Government hopes that the principles agreed to there will be reflected in the outcome of the Uruguay Round of GATT. It will be of decisive importance that the problem of agricultural surpluses be solved by common action concerted worldwide.

The report refers to several measures designed to curb production already taken by the EEC and other industrialized countries in recent years. These efforts should not be undervalued (paras. 119 and sequ.). First, since incomes are inadequate and unemployment is high, these policies have entailed considerable social hardships for farmers and the expenditure of considerable budgetary funds.

Second, price policy measures partly take effect with a time lag and, thus, their effects can be hidden by biological-technical progress. Moreover, they can only impinge fully on the parlous situation of world agricultural trade if the global action I have referred to occurs. In any case, in the European Communities, the milk quota system has already led to a considerable reduction of milk production. The decisions of December 1986 will lead to a further reduction of production and also livestock numbers, so that the balance on the EEC milk market could be achieved again. This should make circumstances considerably easier on world markets for milk products and beef.

The PSE model referred to in Guideline 1 for the calculation of comparable standards of state agricultural support is now being further evolved so that measures to reduce production, such as production quotas and set asides, can be countered along with other measures reducing state support to agriculture.

In conclusion, I should like to say on behalf of my delegation that we support the proposal in para 6 of the document that the progress report be submitted only every four years for the reasons adduced by the FAO Secretariat.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Mi delegación considera que a este nivel de la crisis agrícola internacional no es fundamental explicitar cuál ha sido el grado de perjuicio que ha tenido que sufrir la economía de nuestro país, y la de aquellos que nos acompañan en el reclamo permanente ante todos los foros internacionales.

Argentina ha contribuido a la seguridad alimentaria mundial merced al denodado esfuerzo de los productores rurales que lograron incrementos importantes en la productividad y producción agrícola, y frente a estos esfuerzos, el incremento en los volúmenes de exportación se vio paradójicamente contrarrestado por una significativa disminución de los ingresos de divisas y consecuentemente una agobiante situación económico financiera que nos compromete para el cumplimiento de nuestras obligaciones externas. Argentina ha recibido con beneplácito los objetivos perseguidos en la propuesta de los Estados Unidos de desmantelamiento de los subsidios a un plazo cierto, como así también la voluntad política de la Comunidad en ofrecer indicadores que podían aliviarnos de la crisis en la que estamos sumergidos. Nuestro país, conjuntamente con los demás países que integran el "Grupo Cairns", hemos elaborado una propuesta de reforma estructural profunda del comercio y la producción agropecuaria a largo plazo, pero que fundamentalmente incluye decisiones y medidas con impacto a corto plazo en los mercados, con el objetivo de aliviar la situación de los productores agrícolas y permitir así su subsistencia. Esta también toma en cuenta la situación doblemente desventajosa de los países en desarrollo.

Frente a esta propuesta de reforma estructural reconocida como necesaria e imprescindible para un reordenamiento comercial, nos encontramos con el crecimiento, en este último año, de esfuerzo presupuestario de países que incrementan sus exportaciones subsidiadas. Frente a una guerra comercial que crece, se reconoce la necesidad de cambios y, mientras tanto, la economía de nuestros países sigue destruyéndose dadas las exigencias financieras internacionales que aplican tasas de interés en sus préstamos, reflejando la ineficiencia de aquellos países que en definitiva reclaman responsabilidad en la administración presupuestaria. Realmente, creo que ha llegado el momento de cumplir con la voluntad política expresada, que beneficiará el objetivo más importante de los pueblos: la paz en desarrollo.

Mi delegación ve pertinente que el balance sobre esta temática se haga cada cuatro años, pero el análisis de las causas de la crisis y el monitoreo de las políticas agrícolas deberán ser discutidos cada dos años.

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): Document C 87/21 has further reviewed the progress of international agricultural adjustment in the past two years in terms of production, consumption, trade and assistance, thus deepening our understanding of the present situation in world agriculture.

First, according to the information provided by this document, the international agricultural adjustment has not gained much progress. Despite the fact that many developing countries, based on the requirements of the Guidelines, have undertaken significant reforms of their agricultural policies, particularly pricing policies for both inputs and outputs, and have obtained certain positive achievements, the share of agriculture in total public expenditure has tended to decline, the growth of food and agricultural production has slackened and equitable distribution of income has become more difficult due to the unfavourable influences of the heavy debt burdens, decrease of income from trade of agricultural products and lack of sufficient external assistance. Many developed countries, confronted with surplus production, export reduction and product overstocking, are also adjusting their agricultural policies towards high protectionism and subsidization. This is in the opposite direction of the Guidelines of the international agricultural adjustment, causing irrational utilization of domestic resources and negative impacts on the agricultural development of developing countries. We are deeply concerned about these trends which are unfavourable to the world agricultural development.

Secondly, we have also noticed that since the beginning of the 1980s, the international trade of agricultural products has been on the decline, with weakened market demands and more restrictions on the market. The prices of agricultural products have been continuously going down, large quantities of agricultural products are overstocked, and the terms of trade of agricultural products have been deteriorating. The direct cause for this situation is the implementation by some developed countries of protectionist policies which have brought about difficulties for the economy of both developed and developing countries.

Concerning the issue of protectionism, we believe that specific analyses and different solutions instead of simplified methods need to be sought for, while taking into consideration the characteristics, nature and current situation of each product of each country. For the developed countries which are already troubled with severe structural surpluses, it is inappropriate to adopt measures of tariff-barriers or non-tariff-barrier measures and to give unrestrained large amounts of subsidies to promote production and export, because they create burdens on themselves as well as intensify competition. It is now wise to take measures to eliminate protectionism and gradually reduce and abolish subsidies of this nature.

We have seen with interest that efforts have been made worldwide to improve the international trade of agricultural commodities. The new round of GATT multilateral trade negotiations will include the trade of agricultural products as a principal item. There were also some new developments in this year's UNCTAD meeting on implementation of Integrated Programme for Commodities and establishment of Common Fund for Commodities. There have been increasing trade activities between developing countries themselves. We hope that through these negotiations, substantial progress will be obtained in improving trade of agricultural products.

We believe that it is of no avail merely to adopt some remedial measures to do away with protectionism. The fundamental way is to combine trade with development, and to seek rational adjustment of trade during development and thus to achieve common development. Developing countries possess a vast market to be explored as well as many other elements for development, including their population and resources. At present, their development is still at a low level. Economic development, income increase and continuous expansion of people's purchasing power are the basis for developing trade of agricultural products. It is in the long-term interests of developed countries to try to help developing countries develop their economy and explore new markets in various ways by speeding up technical and capital transfers, alleviating their debt burdens and granting favorable terms in trade of agricultural products. We hope our discussion will result in a deeper understanding of the issue and also positive action to follow.

Thirdly, the capital and technical transfer from developed countries to assist developing countries in economic development is an important principle concerning the South-North relations, which has been established in the more than four decades since World War II and has been widely acknowledged by the international community. We have taken note of the changes in food aid in cereals and external financial assistance to developing countries in recent years. The food aid in cereals began to fall after 1984/85 and the official commitment of external financial assistance showed no sign of growth, particularly in 1985 when the official commitments were 30% below the already inadequate target. Considering the current real economic situations of developing countries, we are deeply concerned about this issue and would like to appeal to developed countries to make greater efforts in assistance.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express our support to the proposal in Paragraph 2 of Document C 87/21 that the biennial progress reports on implementation of the Guidelines and Targets for International Agricultural Adjustment shall be prepared every four years in future instead of every two years. We would also like to propose that these progress reports and the progress reports of WCARRD be prepared alternately, so as to avoid repeated discussions at the Conference.

In the meantime, we hope that the progress reports contributed to the Conference will include necessary analyses of the key points raised in the reports besides providing full explanation of the situation. This will help delegates have better deliberations on the issues and their solutions.

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): El documento presentado sobre la situación del reajuste agrícola internacional, nos proporciona amplia información relativa a los diferentes factores restrictivos que en los últimos años han intervenido en el desarrollo agrícola y la alimentación. Estos factores corresponden a la aplicación de bajos precios internacionales para los productos básicos, a las subvenciones a la exportación por los países desarrollados y al proteccionismo creciente, que han determinado el endeudamiento externo para los países en desarrollo, provocándoles una baja capacidad para financiar sus importaciones de alimentos como de insumos y bienes de capital, fundamentales para la explotación agrícola y eficiente de la tierra.

Lacapacidad inversionista de los países en desarrollo sigue en descenso. Las posibilidades de rehabilitación y mejoramiento de la infraestructura productiva son limitadas y el desarrollo tecnológico de la producción exige mayores niveles de suministros agrícolas.

La búsqueda de la estabilidad de los mercados mundiales para los productos agropecuarios, debe ser un punto de discusión y de análisis central en ese tipo de encuentros. Lamentablemente, la negociación de acuerdos internacionales sobre el particular, dentro del Programa Integrado de la UNCTAD, no ha sido concretada.

Aunque los países en desarrollo han tomado iniciativas en mejorar el comercio agrícola, esto no significa que el ritmo de crecimiento se haya superado. Más bien, tiende a estancarse a consecuencia de la recesión económica y el descenso del comercio agrícola mundial. A la par, se presentan políticas de subsidios a la exportación por los países desarrollados, que chocan con este esfuerzo de comercialización recíproca.

La seguridad alimentaria mundial tropieza con todas estas dificultades. Los avances logrados de carácter global se reconocen, pero los problemas aún persisten con gravedad, tales como la crisis de abastecimiento por falta de disponibilidades en algunas zonas, problemas de desastres naturales en otras, o problemas de acceso por insuficiente oportunidad de empleo e ingresos. En los últimos tres años, la ayuda alimentaria se ha mantenido superior a los diez millones de toneladas, de acuerdo con el objetivo fijado en 1984; sin embargo, es bastante inferior a las necesidades globales.

La ayuda alimentaria no debe ser utilizada como arma política de presión; más bien, debe ser espontánea y solidaria. La seguridad alimentaria debe ser siempre una línea de atención en esta Conferencia, profundizando sobre los diferentes elementos económicos y financieros que inciden en el cumplimiento de los objetivos. El apoyo financiero externo a la agricultura es vital para los países en desarrollo, y deben considerarse los aspectos siguientes: la rehabilitación actual de la infraestructura productiva, la finalización de proyectos prioritarios para la producción de alimentos de primera necesidad, y como elemento fundamental para estas acciones, debe incorporarse el desarrollo tecnológico, entendiéndose como el sistema que integra la generación de tecnologías, el desarrollo genético, la producción de semillas y la asistencia técnica.

Es importante expresar en esta Conferencia, no sólo los aspectos económicos y financieros que agravan y limitan las posibilidades reales de los países pobres. Es vital y urgente hacer un llamado a la conciencia de los gobiernos desarrollados y con excedentes económicos de que es necesario promover la ayuda externa solidaria, y enfrentar con entendimiento y buena fe la problemática de la deuda exterior, que agobia con mayor fuerza las economías de los países en desarrollo. Así mismo, orientar sus esfuerzos y recursos a promover la distensión y el desarme nuclear como elementos fundamentales que garanticen la vida y el porvenir de la humanidad.

Es fundamental estimular la relación soberana entre los países, su independencia e integridad; hacer un alto a las actitudes neocolonialistas e imperialistas para que la ruta hacia la paz sea estable y duradera, permitiendo a los pueblos del mundo alcanzar el bienestar social y económico y la seguridad de vida para las futuras generaciones.

Observamos satisfactorio el Informe elaborado por la FAO sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional. Consideramos importante para la Conferencia contar bienalmente con un informe analítico más integral de la situación del reajuste y el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación. Este análisis permitiría conocer con mayor claridad, las diferentes connotaciones y efectos de la economía y el comercio mundial sobre el desarrollo agrícola y alimentario.

Apoyamos la propuesta de la FAO de concentrar esfuerzos en un análisis de cuatro años sobre el reajuste agrícola internacional, pero recomendamos que el informe bienal sobre el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación, recoja las variaciones económicas y financieras de mayor peso que influenciarían en la agricultura.

Moses Mike MUKOLWE (Kenya): I should like to put on record our appreciation for the work done by Dr Islam, who has been associated with the progress report on International Agricultural Adjustments for a very long time. As stated by the distinguished delegate from Colombia, we feel that there is a gap which might be created.

Coming to the periodicity of this report, it is fair that as much information as possible should be tapped for inclusion in the final analysis of such an important document. For that reason, we feel very strongly that the two-year period is good enough in that the current biennium can pick up as much information as possible. However, the distinguished delegate from Australia did bring up the point that, even if we went to four years, at least an agenda item reporting on the situation is vital. The reason that our discussions are repetitive may be because of finance or because the flow of information is not regular but comes in trickles. I would still go by that reasoning, but we feel that the pick-up of information is very important.

The imbalances of world food production and supply are not a healthy situation and remain an embarrassment for both the world of plenty and that of shortages. Policy changes must be pursued to balance the situation. This is where FAO faces the challenge and must push actions so that positive results are forthcoming.

Regarding Guidelines, and commenting on a few here and there, I should like to point out that in the developing countries, and particularly in my country, we definitely place emphasis on agriculture, and of late we have had some temporary surpluses which we have managed to put in the intra-trade or in triangular trade in our region, and this has been a great contribution to world food security.

We have recently also looked at long-term policy issues within the government in a publication entitled "Economic Management for Renewed Growth". This gives government policies in our effort to further agricultural production in our country and in relation to other factors that affect agriculture, particularly trade, which many delegations have spoken of during our debate.

Looking at Guideline 2, I would go along with the other delegates who have stressed the emphasis of planning on environmental impact assessment.

On Guideline 3, particularly where our governments have emphasized and increased the flow of resources into agriculture, my country is one of those that has definitely done this, and we feel very strongly that the research area should be given a leading role so that farming systems that would be sustainable can be generated with a view to preserving the environment or the natural resources that we exploit. We have in mind agro-forestry and other farming systems that are sustainable .

On Guideline 4, we have the District Focus of Rural Development to mobilize the grass roots rural organizations to have people's participation and exploit their resourcefulness. Several groups are included in this, particularly the cooperatives, the informal groups, women's groups, youth and credit area organizations to deliver the inputs to such groups. At para 80 of the document the District Development Committees are referred to - erroneously, I think - as "Councils". I hope this will be picked up by the Secretariat for correction. We are in agreement that women should be fully integrated in our development, and this has been a very important area within our country, both from the political angle and that of the government. This also includes the youth groups. At paragraph 91 the Kenya self-help training groups are referred to. The correct term is "village polytechnics". Of late we have recognized another informal sector, which is referred to as "Jua Kali", the informal sector that enhances the interest of self-employed entrepreneurs to advance innovations in technology to produce goods and services, in both rural areas and urban areas. Their skills can be upgraded progressively with time.

Guidelines 5 and 6 are a question of looking at the food which we produce for the nation which requires a lot of monitoring so that the consumption patterns can be generated and the use of diversified crops be included so that the tendency to rely on one particular crop as a staple food is eliminated. We feel strongly that as we increase the consumption or bring in many more crops or foodstuffs which can be diversified, their safety to the public is very important, so food safety controls are very important and we have a department dealing fully with food code standards development .

On Guideline 7, on which many delegations have already intervened, we are very pleased to hear what has been said by the delegates from Finland, Italy, the USA and others who have mentioned that there is a hope in the negotiations. We only hope that these particular negotiations could be accelerated.

We emphasize the horticultural export market in our efforts to diversify. This is in line, because our two commodities, coffee and tea, have led us to some problems due to the price they receive on the international markets. This affects the repercussions which result for us and particularly the small farming community who produce these commodities.

On Guideline 8, which refers to remuneration to producers and consumers, we feel - and this was harped on by the delegate of Australia - that honesty of trade among trading partners is important. We would like to echo this in that of late we find there are so many fiddlers along the line and the exporting countries find themselves not getting their true dues as far as market values are concerned. Of late in my country stern approaches or regulations will be taken against such dealers, if found, but I only appeal to the international community that honesty should be the practice.

On Guideline 9, I wish also to state that regional cooperation in trade is fully reflected in our operations, that is the preferential trade area which we support in our region, the PTA. Recently, we have had to host a PTA trade fair in Nairobi and this is one way of bringing the trade message to the region which we represent.

In conclusion, I hope we can intervene on other agenda items where we have quite a number of overlapping items for discussion.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): Document C 87/21 is a useful summary of progress, and in some cases lack of progress, in key areas where change is required in order to achieve acceptable development in agriculture and to combat hunger and poverty in the developing world. New Zealand fully supports the objective of achieving a 4% annual growth rate in food and agricultural production and we note with concern the fact that some countries are falling well short of this objective. The fact that some other countries have easily exceeded the target is clear evidence that, with the right mix of development instruments, 4% is not an unrealistic growth rate.

We support the view expressed by many other delegations that steady growth in production and fulfilment of national objectives is not merely a function of improved infrastructure but also of policies.

I propose to comment in more detail on the question of national policies for agriculture, particularly macroeconomic issues, in Agenda item 10. But two specific issues, namely price policies and protectionism, feature strongly in this document and merit further discussion here. We note the conflict in many developing countries between the basic objectives of providing cheap food for consumers and adequate incentives for producers. This is particularly in regard to paragraph 14. Furthermore, when high prices are used to encourage production, the response is not related to demand and the production tap does not automatically shut off when that magical self-sufficiency point is reached.

New Zealand is painfully aware of the effect these policies have had in developed countries. We are not surprised to see therefore in paragraph 33 that the same problems are emerging in some developing countries where price policies are having to be used to diversify agricultural production so as to avoid surplus cereal production.

History, especially recent history, is littered with examples where bureaucrats and politicians got price signals wrong. It is difficult and at times dangerous to pick winners. That is why we in New Zealand believe firmly that market forces are the only reliable way of establishing true price relativities and of efficiently allocating resources.

Having decided that principle, the policy challenge is one of establishing a national economic framework in which market forces can successfully operate and comparative advantage can prevail. It also required removal of protectionist policies in other countries which force international prices to levels much lower than the cost of production in those countries. We therefore fully

endorse the work FAO is doing to increase the awareness of the problems of protectionism, particularly in relation to developing countries. After all, as Dr Islam pointed out in his introduction, it was FAO that pioneered the work on measurement of assistance provided to agriculture through the concept of producer subsidy equivalents. These measures help to highlight the distortions of policy and hopefully encourage countries to move towards more rational policies.

We add our voice to those who have so convincingly put the case for trade and policy reform. We exhort all countries to work for real and urgent progress in the present GATT round and to honour their commitment to standstill and rollback.

New Zealand is a committed member of the Cairns Group of agricultural fair trading countries.

We fully support the proposals which that group of developed and developing countries has agreed as a way forward for agriculture in the GATT round.

While on trade, we support the goal of promoting increased trade and cooperation among developing countries. FAO should continue to help those countries to capitalize on the complementarity which exists between their economies.

The New Zealand delegation shares the concern expressed yesterday by the UK delegation about preoccupation in parts of this document with self-sufficiency. We agree that self-reliance is a more appropriate term. Under that umbrella, developing countries can encourage growth in those sectors in which they have the greatest comparative advantage. In many instances, this will be food-producing sectors, but in others it will involve a mix of economic activity. Either way, through will be export led development.

We also strongly oppose the view expressed by a few earlier speakers that border protection is necessary for successful development in developing countries. Indeed, our experience indicates the opposite is true. As argued earlier, successful development requires the encouragement of comparative advantage need not fear competition from imports. The fact that they presently fear that competition is a reflection of the high subsidies and import barriers imposed by other developed countries. The policy response is thus removal of those distortions and not erection of barriers by developing countries. Furthermore, border protection by developing countries is doomed to failure. Highly subsidized agriculture is only possible in developed economies which have sufficient wealth to carry the cost or where comparative advantage lies in sectors other than those being supported. As New Zealand found to its detriment in the early eighties, agriculturally dependent countries simply cannot compete in the food subsidy race.

We note that the 1980s have been an unfavourable period for commodity agreements. The fact that such agreements are most difficult to negotiate at a time when they are most needed is not surprising. In our view, they address the symptoms of surpluses and trade imbalance and not the protectionist policies that are at the heart of the problem. There may be situations when commodity agreements are a short term palliative but they are no substitutes for the reform of agricultural policies and the liberalization of trade in agricultural products.

In conclusion, we agree that the frequency of preparation of these progress reports could be changed from one to four years. However, we also agree with the Australian delegation that agricultural adjustment, particularly policy and trade reform, should appear as a separate agenda item at the next Conference.

Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Permítame, en primer lugar, felicitar a la Secretaría por el excelente informe, base de nuestras deliberaciones.

Mi delegación considera que éste es uno de los temas más importantes de nuestros debates y, por ello, lamenta que las orientaciones y objetivos del reajuste agrícola no hayan podido aplicarse adecuadamente, a pesar de los esfuerzos en ese sentido, realizados por los gobiernos de los países en desarrollo.

Mi propio país se ha visto afectado debido, por un lado, a que los recursos financieros públicos que dedica a la agricultura, vía la ampliación y el mejoramiento de los servicios de apoyo a la producción, están supeditados a los procesos de renegociación de la deuda externa y que, tal como se indica en el párrafo 14 del documento, desembocan en la implementación de medidas de reajuste estructural que afectan adversamente a la ejecución de programas gubernamentales de apoyo a los sectores productivos agropecuarios y a otros de tipo social, contemplados en el Plan de Desarrollo Quinquenal del país.

Por otro lado, debemos agregar la grave situación económica producto de la aplicación, por varios países industrializados, de políticas proteccionistas de subsidios, así como de otras medidas que distorsionan los mercados. En el caso de Panamá, y a título de ejemplo, cabe destacar la disminución en casi un 40 por ciento de su cuota azucarera.

Igualmente deseamos expresar que a pesar de la gran expectativa y de las esperanzas puestas por los países en desarrollo en la nueva Ronda del GATT, visto que por primera vez la casi totalidad de productos agrícolas están contemplados en estas negociaciones, no notamos avances significativos que indiquen que las mismas alcanzarán los resultados positivos que todos esperamos.

Para terminar, nuestra delegación se une al consenso en torno a la propuesta de la Secretaría de presentar a la consideración de la Conferencia el informe sobre el reajuste agrícola cada cuatro años.

The meeting rose at 12.45 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 45,

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

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C 87/I/PV/10

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

TENTH MEETING
DIXIEME SEANCE
DECIMA SESION
(17 November 1987)

The Tenth Meeting was opened at 14.45 hours,
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dixième séance est ouverte à 14 h 45
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la décima sesión a las 14.45 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE
(suite)

PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION
(continuación)

8. Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment (cont'd)
8. Rapport sur l'état de l'Ajustement agricole international (suite)
8. Reajuste Agrícola Internacional: informe sobre la situación (cont.)

Milan KARIC (Yugoslavia): The Yugoslav delegation supports the Report and expresses its appreciation of FAO's efforts in making such a comprehensive and objective analysis.

In our opinion the objectives of international agricultural adjustment are being achieved only partially or at a very slow pace. The process of polarization in world agriculture in the first six years of the current decade has been much faster than in the previous decade. The aggregate figures for the developing countries show that, although the growth of production remained at the level of 4% in the first four years, it later decreased, so that in the 1980-1986 period it amounted to 3.6%. Such a rate of growth was primarily due to the more dynamic growth in China and India. Not counting these two countries, the developing world as a whole recorded a drop in production as compared with the previous decade.

Moreover, the growth of agricultural production is very uneven. The least developed countries of Africa and Latin America are in the most difficult position since they are facing an ever greater disparity between the growth of their populations and of food production. In the first six years of this decade 56 countries recorded a negative per capita growth rate, which is 10 countries more than in the previous decade.

The self-sufficiency of the developing countries in general, and of their grain production in particular, is further decreasing with the exception of the two most populated countries of Asia.

The Guidelines also stressed the need for developed countries to refrain from discrimination against agricultural imports from the developing countries, but this request has not been fulfilled. The growing protectionism of the developed countries is, directly and indirectly, increasingly threatening the exports of the developing countries. The stability of the international market has not been achieved.

The international economic crisis may have far-reaching negative consequences on agricultural development in many developing countries during the forthcoming decade, which will unavoidably lead to negative social trends.

Development assistance in general, including agricultural assistance to the developing countries, has decreased in recent years. In 1985 it fell 30 percent short of the already low target, which points to the fact that the terms of assistance have deteriorated both in their technical and : political aspects. Moreover, the data we have before us are incomplete since they do not include the already massive, and still increasing, net transfers from the South to the North.

However, in spite of this bleak picture, some promising initiatives have announced positive development, at least in the agricultural trade. Liberalization in agricultural trade, however, will certainly require a long period of negotiation. Therefore, my delegation supports the FAO proposal that the Report in full form be submitted in the future every four years.

Francisco ZAMARRIEGO CRESPO (España): Agradecemos y felicitamos a la Secretaría por la buena preparación del Informe, según manifestó el Jefe de la delegación española en el debate general.

Las políticas excesivamente proteccionistas practicadas en relación con los mercados agrarios, la

sobreproducción relativa y la realización de los excedentes resultantes, tienden a envilecer las relaciones económicas internacionales, pueden provocar la aparición de guerras comerciales y distorsionan la asignación de recursos a escala mundial, haciendo posible el juego de la ventaja comparativa. La consecuencia última es, inevitablemente, un reforzamiento de la propensión al aislacionismo y la búsqueda utópica de imposibles soluciones nacionales en demérito de la cooperación colectiva.

En el documento que nos ha entregado la Secretaría sobre el Reajuste Agrícola Internacional, se dice, abundando en lo anterior, que la baja de los precios de los productos básicos acompañada de un proteccionismo creciente y de un aumento de la deuda externa, ha multiplicado considerablemente las dificultades que experimentan los países en desarrollo para la financiación de las importaciones indispensables de alimentos o de insumos para su desarrollo agrícola.

Es pues necesario dar un enérgico golpe de timón y proceder a una drástica disminución del proteccionismo imperante. El panorama general que existe y que se refleja en este documento es realista, y por ende, con tintes pesimistas.

Nuestra delegación estima que, no obstante, existen esperanzadoras expectativas ante la actual Ronda Uruguay del GATT, en lo que respecta a la posible liberalización del comercio. Hace referencia el Informe, en su párrafo 120, a la entrada de España y Portugal en la Comunidad Económica Europea como un acontecimiento importante en el comercio internacional. Queremos destacar que, en ese marco, defendemos una política activa a favor de una regulación lo más racional posible de los mercados agrarios, en busca de la supresión de intervenciones y protecciones innecesarias y que acaben con las subvenciones a la producción con el fin de la producción en sí.

Dentro de la orientación número 3 del Informe, queremos referirnos a la investigación. Es preciso apoyar e impulsar la investigación, tanto la que se realiza en los Centros Internacionales como en los Servicios Nacionales de los países. Aunque en los últimos años, el grado de prioridad concedido a las inversiones en materia de investigación agraria ha aumentado, quedan aún grandes posibilidades de incrementarlas eficazmente.

No se trata solamente de aumentar los recursos dedicados a la Investigación Agraria sino de aumentar la eficacia de los actualmente disponibles, lo cual puede lograrse mejorando la cooperación y la coordinación entre los Organismos y Centros Internacionales, gubernamentales y no gubernamentales, en lo cual estimamos que la FAO debe intensificar sus esfuerzos.

Con respecto a la propuesta formulada de hacer los informes sobre la situación agrícola internacional con periodicidad cuatrienal, creemos es un margen de tiempo apropiado para poder hacer un mejor estudio de tendencias, y por ello, nos sumamos a esta propuesta.

Nguen SRISURUKSA (Thailand): This is a very important subject, although to some extent it is a duplication of other items, as other speakers have pointed out. I agree that the food and agricultural situation in many parts of the world, relevant to International Agricultural Adjustment, has changed only slowly from one country to another, and from region to region, depending upon many factors. The most important factor is the political goodwill and the willingness of the countries themselves.

Thailand is one of the developing countries to follow up the agricultural adjustment, taking into account the changing comparative advantage and the changing international economic order. We believe that, as with other aspects of agricultural policy, time is an important factor. The longer we wait to increase food and agricultural production and the income of poor farmers, the more obstacles there will be and the more difficult it will be to remove them.

In this connection, allow me to highlight our agricultural adjustment along the guidelines laid out in the document. Agriculture remains the dominant sector of Thai economy, accounting for 17 percent of GDP, 58 percent of export earnings and 61 percent of employment in 1986. Crop production is the most important agricultural component, accounting for 68 percent of agricultural GDP, followed by livestock 15 percent, fisheries 10 percent, and forestry 7 percent.

From 1961 to 1976, the Thai economy experienced a relatively high rate of growth. The annual agricultural growth rate at 1972 constant price averaged 5 percent from 1961 to 1976, and 3 percent from 1977 to 1986. In contrast, from mid-1976 until early 1986 the agricultural growth rate progressively declined, primarily caused by declining world market prices.

Agricultural growth has been accompanied by structural change due to an increase in the relative importance of several principal crops, namely cassava, maize, sugar-cane and rubber, together with increases in several minor crops such as sorghum, cotton, soybean, mungbean and pineapple. Agricultural production increased because of expansion of agricultural land, government-built irrigation facilities, construction of a comprehensive road network providing ease of access to market, private sector-provided credit inputs, mechanization and market services, and also Thai farmers' response to competitive pricing of various commodities.

Fisheries development was also seriously affected by the depletion of fish resources and the impact of the Law of the Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, enforced by neighbouring countries. On the other hand, commercial aquacultural production was stimulated by rising prices.

It is clear that agricultural production comprises not only a large share of the GDP but also it absorbs most of the rural population which in our country was 64 percent of total population in 1986. The recent growth and diversification of agricultural production has made a marked contribution towards improving the level of living of the rural population. Official statistics show that from 1976 to 1986 the percentage of poor families had dropped from 57 percent to 30 percent. This growth, however, has not been homogeneous throughout the country as per capita income in agriculture is less by six times that of the non-agricultural from 1961 to 1986. This means that past development plans benefited primarily some groups of people and did not reduce income disparities among classes and regions.

The evidence shows that marketing is considered a part of production because it is concerned with the production of time, place, form and procession utility. In other words, it is devoted most particularly to the production of services and thus adds value to farm products. In fact, however the role of marketing in producing services is not only of more importance to farmers than to the marketing operator but also stimulates demand for farm products. Therefore, agricultural production development should be followed by marketing technology development. If this is not so, farmers may not take full advantage of increased production. In this connection, it is necessary to mention that the market for farm produce in Thailand is mainly controlled by the private sector. The Thai government has always intervened to a certain extent when necessary, because of the large number of small-scale farmers, wide price and profit fluctuations, occasional disorderly marketing, as well as the poor bargaining power of the farmers. Regarding the poor bargaining power, the small farmer is the weakest link in the production - marketing chain. In this respect, the absence of any significant government support would become evident in terms of price paid by traders which would be below remunerative levels, especially in times of crisis.

Recognizing the constraints and potential identified in the previous section, agricultural development policy in earlier development plans in Thailand emphasized the fundamental necessity for infrastructure development. Subsequent development plans placed due importance on employment creation, income distribution, rural development, commodity diversification, promotion of exports, export-oriented industries, and expansion of agricultural and industrial production together. Through this agricultural development process, Thailand has sustained economic growth and has been successful in expanding production in nearly every sector of the economy.

Let me now turn to our development in 1986 and 1987. GDP in 1986 increased by 3.8 percent and is estimated to be 5.3 percent in 1987 mainly because of the good performance of the non-agricultural sector.

The GDP in the agricultural sector in 1986 went down by -0.6 percent while in 1987 it is estimated to decrease by -1.1 percent due to a continued decline in prices of some agricultural commodities and unfavourable climatic conditions. In this connection, GDP in crop and forestry decreased by -0.9 percent and 4.6 percent respectively, not only because of lower prices and unfavourable weather but also decreased logging of closed forest, mainly for security reasons. In the mean time, GDP in livestock and fishery output increased minimally by 1.1 percent and 0.9 percent respectively.

Although the GDP in the agricultural sector in 1986 decreased slightly, the GDP in 1987 is expected to decline further at -1.1 percent due mainly to a decrease in crop production caused by insufficient early rainfall. On the other hand, livestock, fishery and forestry outputs are expected to grow by 3.6 percent, 0.3 percent and 1.5 percent respectively in 1987, due mainly to an increase in swine and broiler outputs, increased freshwater fish catches and increased logging activity in re-opened reserved forests.

As mentioned earlier, many factors are considered to have had a negative impact on the growth rate of the agricultural sector. The following are key problems facing the Thai economy at the present time:

- agricultural production structure
- low prices and competition in world markets and trade barriers
- low productivity coupled with high cost of production, and
- low quality of products

Thai farmers' income is mainly derived from traditional crops, namely rice, maize, cassava and rubber. At the same time, they face high risks from climatic variations, pests and diseases, price fluctuations, shifts in market demand, etc. Thus, farm incomes are relatively low and unstable. In addition, oversupply, low prices and more competition in the world market as well as intensive and growing protectionism and subsidies by the developed world have resulted in slow growth for agricultural production and trade of Thailand. As a consequence, low farm income and rural poverty have become worse among the poorest farmers. Moreover, farmers are confronted with problems of low yields and low quality products coupled with high cost of commodity production because of high prices of inputs, high interest rates on loans, improper farming practices, depletion of soil and water resources and insufficient development of appropriate technology. It is obvious that some products - namely maize, beans, frozen seafood, fresh fruits and vegetables - are of low quality due to problems of aflatoxin, endrin, biotins, insects and pests, as well as improper packaging and handling. These are still obstacles to increased volume and value of Thai agricultural exports that must be overcome if we are to compete in world markets.

I would like to say that under existing financial constraints and the ever-changing international economic environment, future directions for Thai agricultural development seem to indicate the promotion of the production of: a) Import - substitution commodities. These are cotton, soy-bean, milk and dairy products, b) Commodities with potential for export. These are fresh and canned vegetables and fruits, frozen chicken, frozen prawns, shrimps and lobsters, c) Agro-industrial products. These are processed foods, gasohol and pulp and paper products, and d) Diversification of agricultural production. These are some of the production mentioned in a), b), c) and d) and spices and cattle, with potential for meat and black pepper.

If the above commodities programme can be implemented, it is expected that economic growth rate, on average, will increase by 5.1 percent and the agricultural sector will increase by 3 percent in 1991 as well.

To avoid duplication with other items my delegation agrees that the proposal in para. 6 should change to every four years.

Jae Ok LEE (Korea, Republic of): I would like to compliment the Secretariat on the detailed and comprehensive report which suggests 12 separate Guidelines on International Agricultural Adjustment.

On behalf of the Korean Government, I should like briefly to comment on the Guidelines and to introduce what my Government has done for agricultural adjustment in Korea.

Firstly, in connection with Guideline 4, I also think that the development in human resources and the encouragement of full and effective participation of rural people in decision-making through promotion of rural organizations is very important for the long-term rural and agricultural development. In this context, my Government has provided active future farmers with financial support and technical assistance since the first Five-Year Economic Development Plan in 1962. At present, the number of young farmers who hopefully will develop the rural sector is 40,000, one in each village. These young farmers, by transferring their knowledge and expertise to their

neighbours and by actively participating in rural workers' associations and cooperatives, carry out the role of leading Korean agriculture and rural development. We constantly monitor this project to ensure maximum utilization of the most up-to-date technology.

Secondly, in connection with Guideline 5, it is also our opinion that food production and nutrition policies should be integrated for the improvement of food consumption patterns and of food self-sufficiency. In this setting, my government has been implementing the studies on food consumption trends and making food balance sheets monthly and annually.

Thirdly, it is our point of view that agricultural policies in the developed countries should be changed, not only for the reduction in their domestic budgetary costs of agricultural support policies but also for the significant improvement of the international trading environment for agricultural products.

Despite a number of recent attempts to moderate increases in agricultural production and surpluses of a number of basic food and feed commodities, agricultural export markets are still intensively competitive, with the help of export subsidy programmes.

As one of the major food and feed importing countries, the Korean Government fully agrees with the view that international trade flows must be determined by the principle of comparative advantage so as to protect consumers as well as producers and to maximize national welfare of each individual country.

However, in the process of rapid economic growth and import liberalization during the last two decades, diverging income disparity between rural and urban sectors, and thus the huge migration of farmers into large cities, has brought the problems of traffic congestion, housing and pollution in large cities, as well as unemployment in rural areas, all of which are now considered to be obstacles to overall economic growth.

Accordingly, import liberalization policies must be implemented at a slower speed for the prevention of negative impacts on the national economy, especially on agricultural industry in newly industrialized countries.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba agradece a la Secretaría la presentación de este sexto informe sobre el reajuste agrícola internacional. En especial saludamos y agradecemos al Profesor Islam por la completa presentación del mismo, mediante la cual hizo gala, una vez más, de su alta competencia técnica.

Teniendo en cuenta que mi delegación coincide con algunos aspectos planteados por otras delegaciones, en especial Brasil, México y Colombia, nos referimos a aquellos puntos que son de gran interés para mi país.

En términos generales, consideramos que algunas de estas directrices son algo obsoletas puesto que han pasado muchos años desde que fueron aprobadas por los gobiernos, y muchos más desde que fueron concebidas, algunas en 1974 durante la Conferencia Mundial de la Alimentación. Coincidimos con la delegación de Colombia en que deben actualizarse a la luz de los acontecimientos desarrollados en el ámbito internacional.

Referente a la orientación 1. En el párrafo 22 se plantea que la producción bajó realmente en América Latina. Efectivamente, los países de nuestra región de América Latina y el Caribe enfrentan un período de dificultades sin precedentes. En ninguna otra etapa de su historia han experimentado las economías latinoamericanas y caribeñas mayores desajustes, y las perspectivas que se presentan son desalentadoras.

Consideramos necesario reiterar lo ya expresado por nuestra delegación y por otras: el hecho de que la deuda externa se ha convertido en uno de los más graves obstáculos al desarrollo regional de América Latina y el Caribe. El alto costo de su servicio y la pérdida de acceso a los mercados internacionales de capital, han transformado nuestra región en exportadora neta de recursos financieros. A nuestro entender ésta es una situación insostenible, pues, de mantenerse, prevalecerán las condiciones recesivas y continuarán precarias las posibilidades de recuperación de nuestras economías.

El párrafo 28 plantea que ha habido un ligero avance en los objetivos de reducir los recientes desequilibrios en la producción mundial. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, la situación de la alimentación en el mundo sigue caracterizándose por las tensiones y distorsiones ya expresadas por la mayoría de las delegaciones en esta Conferencia y en otros foros internacionales. Como se ha planteado en esta propia Comisión, continúa la miseria en medio de la abundancia.

Referente a la orientación 2. La delegación de Cuba apoya el párrafo 21 del documento y considera que se mantiene vigente la necesidad de continuar aumentando la corriente total de recursos financieros y de otro tipo hacia el sector de la alimentación y de la agricultura de los países en desarrollo.

En tal sentido, consideramos que, entre otras medidas, si el uso de una parte sustancial de lo que se derrocha en armamentos fuese dedicado al desarrollo, surtiría un efecto altamente positivo en las economías de todos los estados, en especial en las de los países en desarrollo; asimismo, se reducirían las tensiones existentes y se abrirían las perspectivas de un entendimiento racional sobre nuevas bases.

Referente a la orientación 4. La delegación de Cuba, considera que en algunos países se han dado pasos de avances fundamentales en la participación de la población rural en la adopción de decisiones y en la aplicación y evaluación del proceso de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, pero todavía queda mucho por hacer, en la mayoría de los países, por la plena integración de la mujer en el desarrollo económico y social. Por consiguiente, mi delegación considera totalmente vigentes las directrices planteadas en la orientación 4. Debo señalar que en mi país la mujer tiene, en todos los campos, las mismas oportunidades que el hombre.

En lo que se refiere al párrafo 79, quisiera aclarar que en Cuba la totalidad de la población, incluyendo la que reside en las más remotas zonas rurales, tiene garantizados todos los servicios de salud totalmente gratuitos. Asimismo mi país, con un alto sentido de solidaridad, presta servicios médicos, también gratuitamente, a otros países menos adelantados en este campo. Esta ayuda solidaria se presta en Asia, Africa y América Latina. También hemos ayudado a otros países de América Latina y Africa en sus tareas de alfabetización y enseñanza.

Referente a la orientación 7. La delegación de Cuba coincide con las declaraciones de otras delegaciones sobre la importancia de la Ronda de Uruguay; sin embargo, consideramos que falta mucho por hacer en favor del término de imposición de barreras de todo tipo que entorpecen el comercio de los productos agrícolas provenientes de los países en desarrollo. Esperamos que se cumplimenten los planteamientos de los párrafos 111, 112, y 113.

Referente a la orientación 8. La delegación de mi país considera que no ha existido la voluntad política necesaria por algunos países a fin de que se logre una mayor estabilidad en los mercados mundiales de productos agrícolas. Refiriéndonos, en especial, al párrafo 145, esperamos que progresen las conversaciones a fin de que se logre, lo más pronto posible, un nuevo convenio internacional del azúcar con cláusulas económicas, para lo cual mi país hace ingentes esfuerzos.

Referente a la orientación 9. Consideramos que el cumplimiento de la misma es de gran importancia para los países en desarrollo y, si bien no se han experimentado muchos adelantos en el comercio entre estos países, consideramos que se debe en gran medida a una reacción de la situación económica mundial mas bien que a políticas nacionales encaminadas a entorpecer el comercio. Este aspecto se plantea muy claramente en el párrafo 157.

Finalmente, quisiera referirme a la orientación 10. La delegación de Cuba siempre ha apoyado las medidas encaminadas a garantizar la seguridad alimentaria mundial. Sin embargo, consideramos que algunas metas para lograrlas, como por ejemplo la Reserva Alimentaria Internacional de Emergencia, son obsoletas. A nuestro entender, esa meta debe actualizarse de acuerdo con las necesidades actuales y apoyamos que la misma se canalice mayoritariamente por la vía multilateral, considerando que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos ha jugado un excelente papel en este sentido.

La delegación de Cuba, al igual que otras delegaciones, reitera su condena al uso de los alimentos como arma de presión política. Desafortunadamente, algunos países somos víctimas de la aplicación de medidas económicas coercitivas, como la aplicación del embargo y del bloqueo económico, la congelación de fondos, la suspensión de préstamos y créditos y el entorpecimiento y el boicot a la obtención de financiamiento internacional con fines políticos.

Para terminar, la delegación de Cuba quiere expresar que considera que, teniendo en cuenta la complejidad de este informe y las coordinaciones que es necesario hacer con los países a fin de conocer sus esfuerzos y acciones encaminados a cumplimentar las orientaciones, sería más conveniente hacer este estudio cada cuatro años. Por consiguiente aprobamos la propuesta de la Secretaría en este sentido.

Omoefe James OYAIDE (Nigeria): I wish first of all to congratulate the Secretariat for this report which our delegation finds very comprehensive and which was ably presented by Professor Islam. Our delegation agrees with many of the earlier speakers that the report represents a valid analysis of the trend in the implementation of the guidelines. Nigeria has made tremendous efforts in the last years to implement the guidelines. The greatest advances have been made in the past two years in implementing the guidelines relating to effective participation of the rural people in agricultural and rural development, massive development of rural infrastructures and economic and social measures to achieve a more equitable distribution of income.

In the past year, Nigeria has embarked on a programme of structural adjustment as a means of stimulating sustained economic growth and also to cope with growing external debts. In implementing the SAP programme, Nigeria has witnessed encouraging responses in the agricultural sector which have potential for broadening the economic base. It is becoming increasingly obvious, however, that the benefits of the rather painful programme of structural adjustment cannot be fully realized without free access of agricultural products to the markets of the developed world.

My delegation would like to congratulate the delegate of Australia on his brilliant intervention with which we agree completely. The effects of excessive agricultural protectionism by the United States of America, Japan and the EEC countries in particular and the increasing government price support for a growing number of agricultural products has the effect of depressing economic growth in the developing and agriculturally dependent countries.

While Nigeria shares the optimism which the inclusion of agricultural products in the new round of GATT negotiations has generated among developing countries, we would like to emphasize the need to move away from mere debates on these vital issues to concrete action. The breaking of the agricultural trade barriers and price subsidies must be effected without further delay.

In this regard, my delegation welcomes the reported move by the United States of America to reduce export subsidies on agricultural products and break down agricultural trade barriers, even though we believe also that the period of ten years mentioned by the delegate of the United States is rather on the long side. We hope that the move is not merely cosmetic but a genuine effort to eliminate agricultural protectionism.

My delegation believes that the issue of international agricultural adjustment is too important to await a four-year review. Accordingly, we would like to agree with other delegations who support a continuation of the two-yearly reviews. We would like also to suggest that this subject should remain on the agenda for further discussion in subsequent meetings of this Conference.

Finally, my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to appeal to food donor countries and agencies to adopt an approach which will permit the purchase of traditional food staples of recipient countries for their use instead of introducing new crops and changing the food habits of the people. Such staples should be purchased from regional sources, not only to reduce transportation costs but also to stimulate agricultural production in those regions and promote intra-regional trade in agricultural products.

Per Harald GRUE (Norway): My delegation would first like to congratulate the Secretariat on this comprehensive document prepared for the Conference. We also appreciated Dr Nurul Islam's introductory statement from his position now as a special Advisor.

As I have already said, my delegation found document C 87/21 was a comprehensive one. Our ensuing remarks should therefore not be taken as criticisms of this particular document. However, our feeling is that much of what is contained in document C 87/21 we can also read in papers reporting upon the State of Food and Agriculture and in the Progress Report on the WCARRD programme. This duplication of reporting is also reflected upon in paragraph 3.

Against this background the Secretariat should, in the opinion of my delegation, try to minimize duplication of information and discussions in different documents. We can therefore also go along with the proposal that the frequency of reporting upon agricultural adjustment should be changed to every four years.

Looking now more closely at the document before us, we find that there is a reasonable reporting on strategy formulation according to the different guidelines. We also find reporting on whether or not there has been progress in putting agreed guidelines into effect. To some extent we may also find reports on progress in relation to plans and targets.

What my delegation feels are lacking, however, are the conclusions which can be reached from this reporting. For example, is it possible to measure any connection between whether or not the actual guidelines are put into effect on the one hand and agricultural development on the other? Are countries with rapid increase in food production per capita characterized by general adoption of guidelines similar to FAO's, and countries with slow increase or a decrease in per capita food production characterized by not putting such guidelines into effect? In other words, is it possible to report upon and draw conclusions on the relevance of the FAO adopted guidelines in relation to agricultural development?

My delegation therefore looks forward to seeing a less descriptive and a more analytical Seventh Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KOHADU (Ghana): On behalf of my delegation, I should like to thank the Secretariat for their Sixth Progress Report on International Adjustment, and also to express our gratitude to Professor Islam, not only for his presentation which was eloquently given, but for his immense contribution to the development of African agriculture. We are happy to know that Professor Islam is still maintaining a link with FAO by being a Special Advisor to the Director-General. I hope he will continue to function in this capacity and render more useful service to Africa until the good Lord decides to withdraw him for higher services above.

It can be observed that in an attempt to implement the guidelines given in document C 87/21 a number of countries have initiated programmes to help small farmers, and there has been visible progress in most African countries. However, it cannot be said that these programmes have been adequate either in their scale or effectiveness. The difficulties being encountered have been comprehensively treated by previous speakers at this Conference. Of the difficulties being expressed, none are as devastating as: developments in external economic environment; induced inflation; crushing external debts and debt servicing obligations; protectionism; and falling primary commodity prices. I need not discuss all of them in detail. They are obvious constraints which we have to remove. We should all work together to go beyond mere rhetoric and take positive action to have them removed in the interests of global food security.

My intervention will center around Guidelines 1,2,3,4, and 12, since they seem to be interrelated.

It is significant to note that African countries have adopted far-reaching reform measures expected of them to restructure their economies. The 21st Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the OAU meeting in July 1985 in Addis Ababa, in accepting APPER, spelt out clearly what reforms need to be put in place. African governments were further urged to devote 20 to 25 percent of total public investment to the agricultural sector alone. Such investment is aimed at assisting in resuscitating the agricultural sector through improved action-orientated research, construction of dams for water harvesting, and irrigation facilities, and greater assistance to smallholders and women in the form of technical assistance, credit and essential inputs. I am happy to observe that African governments have taken up these challenges.

However, sustained agricultural growth in the medium and long-term would require continued price incentives and additional resources to overcome existing constraints, particularly the weak research base, extension and research linkage, and continued ineffectiveness in input procurement and distribution.

Guidelines 2 and 3 particularly call for increased infusion of aid for the production of food, especially by smallholders. For them, there has been a willingness of the international community to assist with solutions that tend to be hydra-headed and sometimes diffuse, thus creating a conglomeration of micro projects and crash programmes. These shortcomings are as much the responsibility of donor agencies as they are of African countries. More often than not aid agencies have resorted to micro projects with no coordination whatsoever, and they forget that the implementation of these projects also has macro-economic consequences. It is our contention that lack of development plans or food strategy programmes share some of the blame.

My delegation would therefore like to stress the importance of putting in place food strategy programmes and assisting nationals to develop the capacity and techniques of formulating and implementing them. In so doing, food strategies will become the integrating focus for directing our aid programmes.

In this connection, I would like to stress the importance of food led growth rather than export led growth. Also, I would like to put at the back burner the contentious issue of whether we should go in for self-reliance programmes or self-sufficiency, for the mere fact that we have agreed to accept or to implement reforms assumes that we are trying to find market solutions to our problems which automatically means that you go in for crops which have comparative advantage and avoid crops which really have a comparative disadvantage.

My delegation would like to re-emphasize the importance of the four "i's", especially the infrastructure component of them. Infrastructure for roads, storage and processing would help avoid post-harvest losses and increase food security. Improved access roads are by far the most important single factor. Better roads ensure national market integration targeted at three reform areas, namely, the urban food distribution system; the rural markets for assembly of agricultural projects; and the input distribution systems. Nutritional and food security considerations would therefore call for a comprehensive and coordinated market reform programme to stimulate effective interaction between rural and urban areas. These kinds of market reform measures are worth considering, for they would promote efficient use of resources, within the agricultural production and distribution system which would ultimately be passed on to consumers in the form of lower food prices.

Guideline 4 appropriately belongs to the WCARRD agenda item. However, a brief comment on it here is in order.

In Ghana women are fairly well integrated into the food production and distribution system. Most of the food market activities, that is processing, storage, transportation and distribution, are carried out by women. However, women in the food industry face particular problems. Women who operate without a man must have labour for land clearing and tree felling. Female farm owners have been observed to have smaller plots than their male counterparts, and women have generally received little extension advice and disproportionately little credit.

The deterioration in social and economic infrastructure has, among other things, included longer distances to water and higher incidence of water-borne diseases. The deteriorating economic conditions have also created great difficulties for women in meeting their cash requirements, for example, for clothing their children, purchasing household items and production and processing inputs. It is against this background that the ongoing structural adjustment programme must be judged.

As far as Guideline 4 is concerned we see clearly that action is most urgently needed in the institutional areas. Effective assistance to the rural farmers requires a shift in operational responsibility of the ministries responsible for agriculture from headquarters to the regions and districts. Such operational decentralization has to be complemented by establishing linkages with decision-making entities in the rural areas and the NGOs which are best suited for mobilizing people for participatory development, especially women and the rural youth. These reforms are currently taking place in Ghana.

Regarding the periodicity for the submission of the Report on International Agricultural Adjustment, it is the contention of my delegation that for such an important issue we should not settle on a four-year cycle. It has been said that four years is too long and we all know that in the long run we are all dead, so we don't want to die fast so that we can really identify our programmes and deal with them adequately.

Lastly, it seemed to us that there is a need to update the guidelines to include, for instance, the social costs of the ongoing structural adjustments in Africa and also the implications of the reform of state-owned organizations or state-owned enterprises which is taking place in African countries now.

Robert J. PRINS (Canada): The Canadian delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation of the document before us. We also appreciate the concise introduction to this item given by Dr Islam. We are very pleased to see Dr Islam back here at the Conference. We should like to thank him for the many years of competent service he has provided FAO member countries and would like to wish him much success in his new endeavours.

Structural changes in the farm sector have taken place and will continue to take place, with rural communities being subjected to substantial adjustment pressures.

These changes have come about as a response principally to supportive policies and ongoing technological change. International agricultural adjustment, of course, has long been a discussion item at FAO, for which we are grateful. But the discussion of this item at this Conference is particularly significant because on the one hand there is serious disarray and tension in agricultural trade while on the other hand initiatives are underway at the GATT as a result of the launching of the Uruguay Round.

As has been recognized elsewhere, the economic costs of the current situation are not insignificant for farmers, the agricultural sector and for national economies. Canada believes that agricultural trade reform is critical for the future of agricultural adjustment and for agricultural development in general.

Trade barriers and trade distorting agricultural policies are severely hurting developed and developing countries alike. Artificially depressed world prices are cutting into exporters' revenues and are reducing their ability to invest. At the same time farmers see their income shrink and cannot compete with subsidized imports.

Canada has been working to devise solutions to this crisis with other members of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporters, a group which includes the majority of developing countries. Canada appreciates that the impact of trade distortions has been particularly severe for them and that they would benefit from a more secure and predictable trade environment.

The Uruguay Round of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations represents an exceptional opportunity to achieve the kind of long-term fundamental reform needed in agricultural trade. All countries should support the growing consensus in favour of agricultural policy reform and the reversal of protectionist trends, and should encourage early progress in the Uruguay Round negotiations in agriculture. The FAO Conference should lend its full support to the Uruguay Round negotiations.

Canada has tabled its negotiating proposal at the GATT which seeks the elimination of all trade distorting subsidies and access barriers over a period to be negotiated, and a major reduction of them over the short term. Our proposal is in line with the objectives for freer trade as expressed in Guideline 7 of the Progress Report, C 87/21, before this Commission.

The emerging international principles and approaches for a more efficient and effective global marketplace for agricultural products are likely to lead to the need for much greater discipline in the use of domestic policies that have a damaging impact on trade and efficient producers. In view of these developments Canada is reviewing in detail the structure of its farm sector. The changes that are currently impacting on the sector and the consequences of alternative structural scenarios in the short run and in the long run. The current pressures on Canadian farmers, on the rural community and on rural businesses are unprecedented. It is expected that in the years ahead the numbers of our farmers leaving agriculture could well increase, particularly among those who are in the middle of their working lives. Such adjustments will result in new demands on our Government at a time when the Government is also attempting to reduce its budgetary deficit. Clearly our agri-food sector faces major challenges.

In conclusion, we would like to draw attention to the positive role FAO has been playing in the global discussions on agricultural trade and policy reform. While the GATT is the forum where actual trade negotiations are taking place, we would like to acknowledge the supportive role of FAO in assisting the GATT, the OECD, and in particular individual countries with appropriate background and other technical information, and in providing a forum for constructive discussion. We would like to encourage FAO to continue to carry out that good work. We are pleased with the supportive role that FAO has been able to play.

Finally, we would like to support the proposal that programme reports be issued less frequently to reduce duplication.

Ernst ZIMMERL (Austria) (original language German): I wish to thank and commend the Secretariat for preparation of the excellent document C 87/21, and also to commend Dr Islam for his excellent introduction.

We have already pointed out that we are in favour of four-yearly reporting on agricultural adjustment. Austria has repeatedly pointed out that in order to avoid duplication, any overlapping of work with other international organizations should be avoided. With respect to the publication on the State of Food and Agriculture we are in favour of retaining the annual publication.

With respect to paragraph 35 onwards it has been established that the OECD work on PSE and CSE values is particularly important and significant to our country. Cooperation of FAO with the OECD bodies is certainly advisable.

With regard to paragraph 48, it has been pointed out that Austria has supported the CGIAR work and has allocated US dollars 1 million per annum by way of contribution.

With regard to national pricing and income policies, we refer to OECD work particularly, the new negotiations of the ministerial mandate and also the ministerial meetings of the OECD last May.

The work done by the GATT in the Uruguay Round is being given particular attention on the part of Austria. With regard to production reduction measures to be taken by Austria, I would like to point out that in order to reduce cereal surpluses we have now stopped producing cereals over a considerable area and we will continue such action.

Furthermore, we support the policies that aim at reducing subsidization gradually as it would provide better income for other countries that are disadvantaged. In the future we should strive towards bringing about a socially orientated and environmentally friendly agricultural policy in order that the international agrarian situation can be brought to a better level.

Production of renewable forms of energy and raw material cannot only contribute to ensuring income for farmers but also can help to offset the destruction of certain areas and of forests. The question is whether the agrarian industry with all of its burdens and all of the dangers should be moved forward or whether we are going to find a healthy way to have a structured landscape and sufficient income for farmers in the future. FAO as an Organization should particularly move along those lines in the future.

In the Plenary the head of the Austrian delegation has stated that Austria in the future will further contribute to food emergency aid. I think we do this through the World Food Programme.

Furthermore, Austria welcomes the triangular transactions mentioned in paragraph 195 with regard to the purchase of food surpluses in developed countries in order to help to supply food-deficit African countries, which is already being done there with great success. The advantages listed in paragraph 195 are certainly supported by Austria.

A. SZABO (Czechoslovakia): On behalf of the Czechoslovak delegation let me add some comments concerning document C 87/21, the Sixth Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment.

We agree fully with the suggestion that the reports on progress in this field should be issued in four-year intervals since we feel that such intervals are fully sufficient. The essence of what is stated in this report is also contained in other forms regarding the status and prospects of world agriculture and food production, the World Food Report, in various reports of the Commodity Committee, and in the statistical surveys issued by the FAO. Because of this the present report is fully sufficient for giving a general picture of the progress of work in this field. In addition, the four-year interval between the reports will also provide some financial savings for the FAO, an important fact at present because of the pressures to reduce the cost items in our Organization's budget. Hence, such a decision is beneficial and savings can be realized.

Now let me present some comments on the contents of the document itself, the major part of which rightly deals with the problems of the developing countries and with efforts to improve the nutrition of their population, the provision of food, and their general economic situation, as can be seen from the text of the document.

Czechoslovakia is a country with advanced intensive agriculture and with large-capacity processing industries. Nevertheless, we still have problems in agrarian policy and agricultural economics that we try to solve with a view to our final goal, which is to reach a high effectiveness of agricultural production and a generally better quality of final product. These are in essence the main tasks for which we use our planning system, our system of economic tools, the wages and remuneration package and other organizational measures in the system of management of the agro-industrial complex.

I would like briefly to characterize these measures. In present and future stages the Czechoslovak planning and management will pursue a process of integrating the agricultural sector with other sectors of the national economy. Since Czechoslovakia is a country with a centrally planned economy, as our country is referred to in FAO's documents, it should be stressed that our system includes only two obligatory planned items for farms, the production of grain and meat. Otherwise it is entirely left to the farmers to decide what to produce.

This flexible system brings about good results. Last year agricultural production developed fully in accordance with the needs and possibilities of the national economy. Gross agricultural production grew by 0.5 percent in 1986 compared with 1985, and when the 1986 level is compared with the average for 1981/85 the increase in gross agricultural production is 4 percent; market production has increased by 1.2 percent. Hence, crops and the output of foodstuffs in Czechoslovakia have stabilized in recent years.

The successes of Czechoslovakian agriculture are due to a strong material base and in particular to the good work of qualified experts in farm management and research. In this context I would like to comment on Guideline 4 of the document. In the last paragraph it states that in countries where the production and processing of agricultural raw materials fail to reach the desired levels, an improvement can be achieved with the introduction of agricultural cooperatives.

Several times in the past Czechoslovakia has offered, and is still willing to make available to FAO and UNDP programmes a number of highly qualified specialists, agricultural organizers, economists and managers, who would be able to fulfil new tasks for agricultural adjustment in those countries that show interest in such assistance. I would like to add that these specialists have gained ample experience both in FAO field projects and in the framework of bilateral technical assistance.

Mohsen BOUJBEL (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier les conseillers techniques qui ont préparé le rapport 87/21 à l'étude actuellement.

Ma délégation, après avoir pris connaissance de ce document, voudrait avancer quelques remarques à ce propos.

Tout d'abord, nous pensons que les lignes d'orientation pour l'ajustement agricole international mériteraient une modernisation qui prendrait en considération la réalité des politiques appliquées dans nombre de pays en développement, dans le cadre de l'ajustement agricole international.

En second lieu, le rapport à l'étude, en dépit des informations précieuses et nombreuses qu'il contient, se restreint le plus souvent à décrire ce qui s'est réellement produit dans le cadre de l'ajustement agricole international. Il serait donc souhaitable qu'un tel rapport procède davantage à l'analyse de ces réalités. La FAO a un rôle primordial dans ce domaine, celui de procéder à des analyses approfondies au sujet des répercussions que peuvent avoir les politiques agricoles dans certains pays en développement.

Le paragraphe 185 relatif aux ajustements internes des pays en développement et au fait que ces politiques nécessitent un soutien de la part de la communauté internationale, mérite une pleine attention et un examen minutieux afin que nous puissions dégager les rapports étroits entre la con-joncture économique internationale et les situations internes.

En troisième lieu, nous pensons que dans pas mal de pays en développement des politiques agricoles sont actuellement dictées par des conjonctures financières, donc cela crée certaines difficultés dont souffrent tout d'abord les catégories les plus pauvres de la population. Cela se répercute forcément sur le niveau d'alimentation.

Je voudrais donc proposer à la FAO de procéder à des analyses de ce phénomène, en particulier dans le cadre de l'ajustement agricole international.

En conclusion, nous soutenons les rapports sur les suites données aux lignes d'orientation tous les quatre ans. Je vous remercie.

Âdel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): Having read this document, my delegation would like to express its complete satisfaction with it. We would also like to thank Dr Nurul Islam for his excellent introduction to the document. We support the suggestions that were put forward by some speakers concerning the need to avoid any duplication between this document and all the others that also deal with the world food situation.

We also look favourably at the progress made in the implementation of the Guidelines for International Agricultural Adjustment. We think it would be far more useful to have these reports every four years.

Daniel DANG MEKOULA (Cameroun): La délégation du Cameroun a étudié avec un grand intérêt le document que nous examinons. Ce document présente en thèmes globaux les niveaux de performance comparés du développement des secteurs agricoles et alimentaires tant dans les pays en développement que dans les pays développés. Cette vue d'ensemble complète, comme beaucoup de délégués l'ont dit, le point traitant la situation mondiale de l'alimentation.

Nous souscrivons nous aussi à la proposition du Secrétariat qui tend à porter la périodicité de présentation du rapport sur l'ajustement agricole international de deux ans à quatre ans. Ce décalage, à notre sens, devra permettre au Secrétariat de réunir et de mettre à notre disposition des informations plus détaillées dans l'espace et dans le temps, ce qui nous permettra d'apprécier les tendances.

Les douze lignes d'orientation sont pour nous autant d'axes sur lesquels nous devons greffer les politiques et stratégies du développement agricole.

Mais la stagnation des engagements publics, la diminution de la part de l'aide à des conditions de faveur, renforcées par les crises économiques qui frappent de plein fouet la quasi-totalité de nos pays sont autant de contraintes qui vont fatalement compromettre le processus timidement amorcé dans le secteur de la production alimentaire et agricole dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier.

Notre attention a été particulièrement attirée sur la ligne d'orientation n° 2 qui examine le flux des ressources financières et autres allant aux secteurs agricoles et alimentaires dans les pays en développement.

Il ne fait aucun doute que la charge de développer l'agriculture et le secteur rural aux fins d'améliorer les conditions de vie et de nutrition des populations incombe avant tout aux gouvernements concernés, notamment dans les pays à faible revenu et à déficit vivrier.

Dans le processus de mobilisation des ressources humaines et matérielles pour le développement agricole, le Gouvernement camerounais attache un grand intérêt au rajeunissement de la population rurale, c'est-à-dire à la lutte contre l'exode rural par la mise en place d'un programme de promotion des exploitations agricoles de moyenne importance désignées sous le sigle des FAMI. Le renforcement et l'encadrement du secteur traditionnel et des activités des centres de formation rurale vont bénéficier plus que par le passé de toute la sollicitude du gouvernement. Il ne fait aucun doute que la réalisation de cet ambitieux programme de relance de l'agriculture repose avant tout sur les efforts du gouvernement et la rationalisation des méthodes d'approche technique des organisations d'intervention en milieu rural.

Nous devons reconnaître que les chances de succès de ce programme dépendent largement du volume des ressources financières qu'il va falloir mobiliser dans le budget national à cette fin, tout en comptant également sur l'assistance technique et financière toujours bienvenue des pays développés et de la communauté internationale.

Mohamed El Bashir MUFARAH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): I should like to thank Dr. Nurul Islam for his presentation of this excellent Report which is so useful and so interesting to read.

Mr Chairman, if you would allow me, I should also like to touch upon certain comments involving the Guidelines. The first of these Guidelines proposes increasing productivity in the third United Nations Development Decade, in order to safeguard an annual rate of growth of at least 4 percent. Of course, those who drafted this Report understood clearly the great difficulty experienced by developing countries in attracting cash. This is a fact that must be taken into account by them, as they must take account of the world food situation. These countries must cut back the protectionism that is a feature of their policy, so as to enable the developing countries for their part to increase aid to production in fact.

Developing countries in Africa, in particular, are not short of natural resources, no more than they are short of a favourable climate or of human resources. It is money that is in short supply. In paragraph 24 of the Report it says that it is very necessary for production to increase in LDC's and to other developing countries of special categories. We need equipment for that in crops, fertili-zers, electricity supplied abundantly and on a regular basis. We also need to adopt a pricing policy which will encourage the private sector and stimulate small farmers to increase their productivity.

Table 1.2 shows the distribution of developing countries according to the rate of growth of their agricultural and per capita food production. This rate was roughly 5 percent, but, so far as the countries south of the Sahara are concerned, it was minus 5 percent. In other countries it was 3 percent.

Guideline 2 states that agricultural research should be increased at national regional and inter-national levels. If this advice were followed to the letter, we would be very satisfied because we would be able to avoid all duplication and the financing of projects that then start to rival each other. There would be a rationalization in research in many countries which afterwards would be able to exchange relevant information with each other..

This is what we have done with Egypt in so far as integration is concerned. We have also done it with Libya. Our trade with Chad, on our western borders, was perfectly normal before recent events intervened. We were also able to carry out a fair trade with Guinea, Zaire and other countries for as long as it was possible.

In other Guidelines it says that prices should be kept as stable as possible for agricultural commodities. I think that we need to set a floor price for these commodities so as to be able to guarantee some profits for our farmers, and then we can allow supply and demand to operate freely because we need to encourage our farmers and producers, and we do not want them to be discouraged by low prices. In my country we have set a floor price for commodities but there is no ceiling price so far as maize, sesame, groundnuts and rubber are concerned. We have also set a floor price for commodities, and in this way we have created a surplus in maize production in 1985 and 1986. So far as sesame seeds are concerned, we are expecting a bumper crop this year.

Livestock production could not receive its fair share of attention in the report, especially so far as improving livestock production is concerned. The same is true for plant genetic resources. I think that that has been a subject much neglected in the past. That is why we feel that the quality of natural range lands must be improved through irrigation to avoid disorder in grazing, especially in times of drought.

Paragraph 81 following Guideline 4 speaks of the role of women in agricultural production. Here I should like to say that in my country women bear great responsibility, both for producing food and for trading it. Many of them are heads of their families, and of course they bear total responsibility if their husbands die. They also share responsibility with their husband. As the Koran says, men are responsible in the first place so their responsibility is the greater in the harder tasks. For example, they are responsible for building the houses and cutting down trees. But women share in other responsibilities. Women also benefit from an equal footing under our new constitution.

Mokhtak NAANANI (Maroc): Etant le dernier ou l'avant-dernier à prendre la parole, je tâcherai d'être plus bref.

La délégation marocaine, qui a examiné avec grand intérêt le sixième rapport de la FAO sur l'ajuste-ment agricole international, se réjouit de la clarté de son contenu et voudrait, à cet effet, exprimer ses félicitations au Secrétariat ainsi qu'au Dr. Islam pour la lucidité de son exposé.

Le Maroc s'est lancé depuis 1985 dans la mise en oeuvre d'un programme d'ajustement pour le secteur agricole qui répond tout à fait aux orientations générales de l'ajustement agricole international, et je peux dire que nous commençons d'ores et déjà à cueillir les effets bénéfiques de ce programme. Néanmoins, ma délégation déplore deux faits fondamentaux qui ne peuvent qu'entraver la croissance de notre agriculture, et, d'une manière générale, celle de l'agriculture de l'ensemble des pays en développement. Ces faits sont d'une part le protectionnisme accru des pays développés et ses conséquences sur nos exportations agricoles, et d'autre part les subventions croissantes qu'accordent les pays développés tant à la production qu'à l'exportation, et qui ont pour effet une concurrence déloyale de nos produits agricoles.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation observe avec grande satisfaction les résultats positifs décrits dans le document C 87/21 et notamment pour ce qui est des échanges Sud-Sud. Nous souhaitons que cette tendance se confirme dans l'avenir, et pour cela nous lançons un appel à tous les pays membres pour qu'ils oeuvrent pour un respect de l'application des orientations de l'ajustement agricole international.

Enfin, permettez-moi d'apporter l'appui de ma délégation à la proposition consistant à présenter un rapport tous les quatre ans et non plus tous les deux ans.

Jean-Jacques RATEAU (CEE): Je vous remercie de bien vouloir me donner la parole et me permettre ainsi de remercier le Secrétariat pour le document C 87/21 sur l'ajustement agricole international qui nous a été communiqué dernièrement. Les points abordés dans ce document étant également traités dans d'autres documents de la Conférence, il me faudra peut-être revenir sur quelques-uns: des propos traités, notamment à d'autres points de l'ordre du jour de cette commission et je vous prierai de bien vouloir m'en excuser.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 6, qui traite du paramètre ESP équivalent de la subvention à la production, la Communauté considère ce paramètre de référence très utile pour apprécier l'importance de ses subventions accordées à la production agricole. Je ferai toutefois remarquer que si l'utilisation de ce paramètre montre à juste titre l'existence, dans certains pays de subventions parfois excessives, il convient néanmoins de savoir qu'il doit être utilisé avec précaution et que le niveau de ce paramètre dépend de la méthodologie utilisée. C'est ainsi qu'une aide directe aux revenus des agriculteurs non liée au volume de la production agricole et une aide à la production d'un montant égal, ayant par suite des ESP identiques, pourront avoir des effets très différents sur la production.

Par ailleurs, sans mettre en question les chiffres cités par le Secrétariat au paragraphe 36, une étude de l'OCDE en cours d'élaboration pour une période plus récente donne des chiffres, et par suite des rapports, très différents entre les pays membres de l'OCDE en ce qui concerne les ESP.

En ce qui concerne d'autres paragraphes, et plus particulièrement le paragraphe 128, nous pourrions avoir une discussion assez longue sur la notion du concept d'excédents utilisés par le Secrétariat.

En ce qui concerne le paragraphe 137 sur les produits horticoles, je voudrais informer votre commission que, depuis l'élaboration du rapport du Secrétariat, la plupart des pays méditerranéens se sont déterminés dans ce secteur et que les accords survenus ont été publiés au Journal officiel des Communautés européennes.

En ce qui concerne la ligne d'orientation n° 8, je voudrais souligner que la situation difficile que les marchés mondiaux ont connue pendant ces dernières années a mis à rude épreuve les accords internationaux sur les produits. La Communauté considère que l'expérience a confirmé l'utilité de ces accords qui ont permis d'obtenir sur les marchés des informations et des analyses qu'on n'aurait pas pu trouver ailleurs. Il s'est avéré en outre que les accords internationaux assortis des dispositions économiques ne sont fiables que si l'application de ces derniers tend à modérer l'amplitude des fluctuations de prix, sans chercher à maintenir les prix à des niveaux arbitraires.

En ce qui concerne l'accord international sur le sucre, il convient d'actualiser le paragraphe 145, en indiquant que les discussions entre les quatre principaux exportateurs mondiaux du sucre n'ayant pas permis d'aboutir à un nouvel accord international contenant *des* clauses économiques et que le nouvel accord qui entrera en application le 1er janvier prochain est essentiellement un accord administratif.

Enfin, en ce qui concerne le secteur laitier, il convient de souligner que l'arrangement international du GATT, relatif à ce secteur, dont il est fait mention au paragraphe 47, a eu des effets positifs importants sur le maintien des prix internationaux et des courants d'échange, en dépit des difficultés dont il est fait mention dans ce paragraphe.

Je pourrais bien entendu entreprendre une analyse plus précise du document qui nous a été soumis par le Secrétariat, et corriger ainsi quelques inexactitudes ou compléter les informations. J'estime cependant que ce document est un bon document d'information et de réflexion, tout en souhaitant comme certaines délégations et comme le Secrétariat lui-même l'ont fait, qu'un tel document ne soit soumis que tous les quatre ans à l'examen de la Conférence.

Pour en terminer, permettez-moi de rappeler, comme cela a déjà été présenté au GATT ces dernières semaines, des propositions susceptibles de favoriser les négociations, notamment dans le secteur des produits tropicaux. Ainsi la Communauté a fait et continue à faire dans le cadre du GATT, des propositions susceptibles d'améliorer de façon importante et à court et long terme, les problèmes décrits par le Secrétariat dans son rapport final.

Avram E. GUROFF (United States of America): I apologize for asking for the floor a second time, but I am concerned about references which have been made by a few delegates during the course of the debate to updating and modifying the International Agricultural Adjustment Guidelines. As a veteran of the very time and resource consuming exercise that took place here only four years ago, my delegation would disagree with any outcome of this debate that might mandate another exercise in revision at a time when we are all painfully aware that resources available to FAO will be scarce and there will be an extreme need to be very careful in allocating those resources to the highest priority activities and most productive activities of the Organization.

Nurul ISLAM (Special Adviser to the Director-General): I have very few questions to answer. First, a question has been raised regarding the statement in the document that higher prices in some countries did not lead to higher outputs. It was stated that this tends to de-emphasize the role of price incentive and stimulating growth. But, if one looks carefully at the same paragraph in which this statement occurs, it is stated in paragraph 34 what the likely cause was of such inadequate response to higher prices. This was due to a lack of supplementary technological packages and infrastructure. The importance of non-price factors in price policy, the effectiveness of price policy has been recognized all along. Therefore, I would not think there is any

fundamental distinction or disagreement between the delegate from the United Kingdom and the statement in the paragraph. FAO, in its earlier study on pricing policy, has elaborated in great detail the consequences of such price changes on growth and equity on the basis of the experience of a large number of countries. It is now common knowledge, I thought, that in the short run stimulating or raising prices to stimulate output adversely affects the net purchasers of food such as the landless labourer, the urban poor and small farmers who are deficit farmers, in other words net purchasers of food. Whether the stimulating effect on output of price changes in the long run offsets adequately the adverse effects on the net poor purchasers of food depends on the relative strength of the opposed tendencies, one stimulating output and employment, the other depressing the consumption of the poor in the short run.

In the same vein, one can answer the question that additional financial resources without policy reforms cannot effectively contribute to development. There is no disagreement on that either, both are needed. But in many instances in recent years, for example in Africa, significant policy reforms have been undertaken which have not been associated with a substantial increase in resource flows, with the result that the credibility of policy reforms is now suspect.

Does the document emphasize that a structural adjustment does not lay the foundation for future growth? No, it does not. It merely states that in the short run structural adjustments involving drastic curtailment of public and private investment does indeed slow down growth and even have negative results on income growth. Whether in the future, as adjustment measures take effect, growth will be stimulated, will again depend on the mobilization of additional resources from both internal sources and external or stimulating investment.

One delegate recommends that FAO should undertake studies on structural adjustment problems and their consequences. FAO has indeed been engaged in such studies and has been participating in inter-agency meetings on this subject.

The use of self-sufficiency ratios in the document has been questioned but these ratios are given in the document not as objectives of agricultural policy but as indicators or measures of the extent to which domestic production has been able to meet the requirements of food. It is not intended that all countries should strive for food self-sufficiency and the importance of trade and food security and food supplies has been referred to under the guidelines on trade.

Why were environmental issues not discussed in greater detail in the document? Because it is not one of the important elements of the guidelines, it was monitoring the guidelines as they are stated. But in spite of that, paragraph 50 deals with environmental issues in a short paragraph and the State of Food and Agriculture earlier on had detailed discussion on environmental issues on food and agriculture on which a debate was held earlier.

As regards the comments by one delegate that the producer subsidy equivalents quoted in paragraph 36 from the OECD Study are merely issued on the responsibility of the Secretary-General of OECD, it is our understanding that the general report from which the figures in paragraph 36 are quoted was approved for publication by the Council of the OECD, at the ministerial level at their meeting in May 1987. But, of course, the reports on individual countries prepared by the OECD are issued on the authority of the Secretary-General, in contrast to the general report.

Many delegations have mentioned the duplication and repetition between this document and other documents on the State of Food and Agriculture, WCARRD etc. which have been submitted to this Conference. This is indeed true and is precisely one of the reasons why the Secretariat document had suggested that the periodicity of the monitoring report on guidelines should be changed from two to four years. In fact, it is not only this problem of duplication, but also the time lag before adequate information and data are available to monitor many of the guidelines is much larger than the two-year period, the present biennial period during which the report has to be made.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Professor Islam, We now come to the end of the discussion on Agenda Item 8, Progress Report on International Agricultural Adjustment, in which 44 country delegates and one observe have participated.

The 12 guidelines adopted by the Conference in 1975 and reiterated in 1983 constitute goals and policy approaches at the national and international levels. The Member Nations have agreed to take these goals and policy approaches into consideration while formulating their own policies. It was in this context that the Conference has been reviewing for the last five sessions, this being the sixth, the progress achieved by the Member Nations in attaining these goals and incorporating these policy approaches into government policies and in their actual implementation.

Though there are in all 12 guidelines, the focus in the discussion was mainly on 10, as Guidelines 3 and 4 relate to the WCARRD Programme of Action which is coming before us as Agenda Item 9, after we complete the discussion on Agenda Item 8.

Of the ten guidelines actually under discussion, only five, namely Guidelines 1,2,7, 8 and 12 seem to have attracted the maximum attention from most of the participants in the discussion. Guideline 1, the 4% growth target in agricultural production for the developing countries, as also Guideline 2 relating to increased resource allocation, were referred to by many of the participants. It was noted that having peaked to 3.8% as against the target of 4%, in the 1980-85 quinquennium, the agricultural production growth rates have declined in the last two years. A satisfactory development, however, was that the needs of the agricultural sector have been receiving greater attention than in the past in the developing countries.

By the same token, the need for tackling the serious imbalances and policy disharmonies has also been receiving greater attention in the developed countries. Delegates will have noticed this, particularly when some of the delegates from the Pacific made their forceful and effective interventions this morning.

On Guideline 2, increased resource allocation, as pointed out by Professor Islam in his introductory remarks, the record has been mixed, though in the African countries efforts were made to allocate an increasing share of public expenditure to the agricultural sector. A suggestion has been made from : the floor that a minimum percentage of the GDP should be fixed as the floor level for allocation to the agricultural sector. It may however not be advisable to get into any quantification exercise.

In terms of the attention that they were able to garner from the participants, it must be admitted that Guidelines 5 and 6 which deal with nutritional policies, food consumption and food self-sufficiency clearly fall into the category of also-rans. It is really Guideline 7, agricultural trade and protectionism, and Guideline 8, stability of world markets for agricultural products that hogged most of the attention from the delegates who participated in the discussion. The huge economic costs of the protectionist measures are now well documented and have been highlighted in the discussions here, as they were in various other world fora by representatives and political leaders of many a Member Nation.

The increasing conflicts which marked the agricultural trade scene are also quite well known to all the participants. While the inclusion of agriculture in the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations -is a major step, we are well aware that much more remains to be done. The prospects for international commodity agreements do not look particularly bright, despite the advances made in cocoa, rubber and coffee and also in UNCTAD VII.

Everybody seems to agree that agricultural trade protectionism must be dismantled; similarly there is general agreement that fair and stable prices must be ensured for agricultural commodities. The problem, however, seems to be how exactly these goals ought to be achieved, the time frame over which these should be done and whether all countries indulging in protectionism should act together simultaneously and in unison. Considering the importance which the agricultural lobbies have in these countries, it would be reasonable to expect that the process of agreeing on the exact steps and the time schedule is bound to take some time. One can only hope that the time needed will be short rather than long.

Guideline 9 advocating greater ECDC and TCDC in food and agriculture engaged the attention of some of the delegations, particularly those from the developing countries.

Guideline 10 on food security and Guideline 11 on food aid attracted only cursory attention from the participants. On Guideline 12 it was clear that targets of external assistance to agriculture were not reached. Neither were they likely to be reached in the future as the consensus seems to be that the flow of aid is tending to level off.

On the point whether reporting on these 12 guidelines should be once in two years or once in four years, almost all the delegations have reacted, but the overwhelming majority felt that we should switch over to a four-year regimen. However, there was a minority viewpoint, voiced forcefully by three or four participants, for a two-yearly review at least of some of the guidelines, particularly in the context of the beginning of the next development decade. A possible compromise could be that three of the guidelines 7,8 and 12, could come up before the 1989 Conference, either as a part of the State of Food and Agriculture or as separate items or sub-items in the Agenda for the Conference.

The Commission will now take up Agenda Item 9 and I shall request my colleague, D. Ismael Diaz Yubero, from Spain to take over from me and conduct the proceedings.

D. Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the Chair.
D. Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence.
Ocupa la presidencia D. Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I.

PRESIDENTE: Es para mí un honor presidir el debate del nuevo punto del orden del día, el punto 9, que trata sobre el segundo informe acerca de los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que les va a presentar don Rafael Moreno, Subdirector General ad-interin del Departamento de Política Económica y Social. Este es el segundo informe en el programa de informes de progreso que se preparan cada cuatro años sobre la puesta en marcha del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural que se celebró en 1979. Tal como lo solicitó la Conferencia de la FAO en 1983, este informe trata también - y yo diría que trata sobre todo y con especial dedicación - sobre los progresos realizados respecto a la función y a la actividad de la mujer en el desarrollo rural.

El objeto del informe son los cambios en las políticas nacionales, así como los desarrollos y políticas internacionales que afectan a los objetivos, la población beneficiaria y las áreas de acción que entran en el ámbito de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Señores delegados,"pasó la palabra a don Rafael Moreno para que les haga la presentación del tema.

9. Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development
9. Deuxième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR et notamment sur le rôle des femmes dans le développement agricole
9. Segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR, en particular en lo relativo a la función de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): La

Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural propuso como objetivo específico del desarrollo rural la lucha contra la pobreza. Para lograr una continuidad en los esfuerzos realizados en este sentido, el Programa de Acción de dicha Conferencia, pedía a los países que examinaran sus políticas y los progresos realizados en la lucha contra la pobreza e informaran al respecto cada cuatro años a la Conferencia de la FAO. El primero de estos Informes, como Ud. muy bien dijo, se presentó a la Conferencia en el año 1983. El presente Informe constituye el segundo de esta serie, y está basado en cincuenta informes nacionales más otras fuentes obtenidas en los diversos países y en organismos internacionales. Este informe examina lo ocurrido entre los años 1980 y 1987, pero prestando especial atención al período de 1983-87. No obstante, como es obvio deducir, el documento que examinaremos trata los siguientes cinco temas principales.

Primero, analiza, en términos generales, la evolución de las políticas y estrategias nacionales. Segundo, evalúa los progresos realizados por las naciones en las distintas áreas específicas de acción, señaladas por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural. Tercero, tal como se estableció en la Conferencia de 1983, cuando se presentó el primer informe, se presta una especial preocupación a la función de la mujer en el desarrollo rural y agrícola. Cuarto, examina los efectos de las políticas internacionales en relación con el desarrollo rural y la reforma agraria. Y por último, teniendo en cuenta la importancia de los aspectos sociales del desarrollo rural y la urgencia con que debían formularse y aplicarse las políticas destinadas a paliar la pobreza rural, el documento presenta un diagnóstico sobre las dimensiones y tendencias actuales de la pobreza rural en el mundo.

Sin embargo, antes de entrar en el análisis más pormenorizado del contenido del documento, quisiera referirme a un punto de procedimiento, referente a la presentación de informes relativos a la implementación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

En el documento que estamos presentando, se señala que la experiencia habida con los dos primeros informes de 1983 y el de este año, ha puesto de manifiesto las dificultades que crea a los países la periodicidad cuatrienal en la presentación de los informes nacionales.

Por otra parte, la necesidad de presentar un análisis de carácter general en el actual informe, impide efectuar un análisis más detallado sobre temas concretos que son de especial relevancia para la mitigación de la pobreza rural. Por ello, es que se sugiere, al igual como se ha discutido en el caso de las medidas de ajuste agrícola, cambiar la periodicidad con que los países y la FAO deben presentar sus informes generales sobre la CMRADR, y se propone que en vez de presentar un informe cada cuatro años, se presente un informe global cada ocho años. Adicionalmente, se propone preparar un informe analítico pormenorizado sobre un tema de importancia señalado por la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural cada cuatro años en forma alternada con este procedimiento de los ocho años. De tal manera de permitir que cada cuatro años, la Conferencia General de la FAO se aboque a la discusión de un tema sustantivo señalado en el Programa de Acción, y cada ocho años tenga un informe evaluativo completo sobre lo ocurrido durante el período señalado. Se solicita a esta Comisión y a la Conferencia, un pronunciamiento sobre esta proposición.

Entrando en el análisis sustantivo de lo planteado en el documento, es necesario poner de manifiesto que lo sucedido a nivel mundial y en materia de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, entre 1983 y hoy día, no puede ser analizado sin hacer referencia concreta a la recesión económica mundial, que ha provocado graves problemas en las economías en los países en vías de desarrollo. No necesito referirme a ellos en esta presentación. Han sido extensamente discutidos estos aspectos en la presentación del tema 6.1 en esta misma Comisión.

Así como los factores económicos internacionales no han favorecido dar un impulso en el desarrollo rural en los países en desarrollo, tampoco lo han hecho los factores estructurales de las propias regiones en desarrollo. Al respecto, es necesario señalar que han persistido elevadas tasas de crecimiento demográfico, sobre todo en África y América latina, las que no encontraron una compensación adecuada en el aumento de los recursos de tierras o capitales.

Esta presión sobre los recursos se manifiesta con especial claridad en el acceso a la tierra. Al mismo tiempo que han perdurado las grandes desigualdades en cuanto se refiere al tamaño de las ex-plotaciones vigentes, se asiste a una preocupante proliferación de explotaciones muy pequeñas y marginales, y al aumento, en algunos casos explosivo, del número de campesinos sin tierra en casi todas las regiones del mundo. Por todo ello, y por el retroceso que se ha experimentado de las exportaciones agrícolas, las tasas de crecimiento de la producción de alimentos por persona han sido negativas en todas las regiones, excepto en Asia.

La conclusión importante de señalar es que la mayor parte de los países del mundo en desarrollo, no han dispuesto de los medios necesarios para emprender programas ambiciosos de lucha contra la pobreza, o se han visto, cosa que es más grave, forzados a adoptar medidas de política nacional que, en algunos casos, han provocado un agravamiento de la pobreza rural.

Por otra parte, debe señalarse que en este período se ha aumentado la preparación de planes nacionales que han tratado de mitigar la pobreza en algunos grupos especiales que requieren una cierta ayuda. Ha habido también una apreciable reorientación de políticas en la agricultura, silvicultura y pesca, señalando en estas políticas las necesidades de los pequeños agricultores, y se han evidenciado algunos intentos de lograr la participación de los sectores más débiles en algunos países en el proceso de desarrollo.

En lo que se refiere al acceso a la tierra, como ya se ha indicado, los factores demográficos, estructurales y económicos han provocado una disminución de la disponibilidad de tierras per cápita en la población agrícola de la mayor parte de los países del mundo. A pesar de esta situación, en muchos países no se observan programas importantes de reforma agraria, y en los casos de países que han mantenido sus programas de colonización, éstos han sido insuficientes para responder al aumento anual de sus poblaciones agrícolas y a su vinculación estable a los recursos productivos.

Sin embargo, algunos síntomas son positivos de mención, y se ha notado en países tales como Brasil, El Salvador en América Latina, Filipinas en el caso de Asia, donde los respectivos gobiernos han recientemente iniciado o anunciado programas que apoyan la expansión o la realización de los procesos de acceso a la tierra por los campesinos que no tienen disponibilidad de ella.

Los progresos realizados en lo que se refiere al acceso a insumos, mercados y servicios, que es otro de los campos de acción señalados por la CMRADR, desgraciadamente tampoco han sido brillantes. En realidad, dadas las dificultades económicas, la disponibilidad y utilización de insumos agrícolas ha disminuido de hecho durante este período de 1983-87 en la mayor parte de las regiones, y esto tiene especial énfasis entre los pequeños agricultores.

En el informe, se destaca la importancia del empleo rural, no agrícola, como clave en la batalla contra la pobreza rural. En la mayor parte de las regiones en desarrollo, la mano de obra no agrícola crece en la actualidad con un ritmo entre dos y cuatro veces superior al de la mano de obra agrícola. El estudio de las experiencias de algunos países, en lo que se refiere a programas de elaboración de productos agrícolas, industrialización rural, empleo rural y obras públicas, que tienen una connotación en el medio rural, demuestran que su naturaleza, alcance e intensidad no corresponden a la gravedad de la situación que se vive. Como consecuencia, un gran número de personas de las zonas rurales no tienen esperanzas de encontrar empleo en el campo. Este es uno de los principales temas que se someten a consideración en este informe a la Conferencia.

Otro tema de gran importancia, y como lo ha señalado el Sr. Presidente en su introducción, es el tema de la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo. El documento C 87/19 ilustra los progresos realizados por los países, mientras que el documento LIM/16 expone con mayor detalle los programas y actividades de la FAO en este sector. Se puede decir que la legislación de la mayor parte de los países reconoce la igualdad de la mujer en lo que se refiere a su condición jurídica, remuneración por un trabajo idéntico, acceso a la tierra, a las cooperativas, al crédito y a la educación, a la extensión y a la capacitación agrícola.

Esto refleja que los esfuerzos realizados a escala nacional e internacional, están comenzando a dar frutos, aunque con lentitud, ya que existe todavía una gran diferencia entre las intenciones, las leyes y la práctica recogida. Los planes nacionales han comenzado a señalar a las mujeres como destinatarias y protagonistas de algunos programas especiales.

Muchos países han establecido puntos de contacto en sus estructuras políticas y administrativas para orientar e integrar los problemas de la mujer en los programas de desarrollo. Otra innovación, todavía más significativa, es la aparición en estos años de organizaciones femeninas de base, cuyo objetivo es evitar la explotación, lograr el control de los recursos, facilitar el acceso a los servicios públicos y orientar sus propias actividades económicas.

Una sección completa del Capítulo IV del Informe de este tema, complementada ampliamente por el documento LIM/16, dice la relación y la forma cómo la FAO ha orientado sus programas y políticas a fin de responder a las nuevas exigencias del desarrollo, en lo que se refiere al papel de la mujer en la agricultura y desarrollo rural. Varias son las fuentes que contienen el mandato de la FAO en este campo, más allá de lo que a este respecto incluye el Programa de Acción aprobado por la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

A ello se agrega, entre otras fuentes que pueden ser mencionadas, lo aprobado en distintas oportunidades por las Conferencias Regionales de la FAO, las Estrategias sobre el futuro de la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas de Nairobi en 1985, con la que se concluyó el Decenio de las Naciones Unidas para la Mujer, y las más recientes indicaciones señaladas durante el 91° período de sesiones de la FAO, tenido a cabo recientemente, a mediados del presente año.

Sobre esta base, las nuevas direcciones programáticas de la FAO se orientan hacia dos enfoques básicos que tienen por objeto mejorar la participación de la mujer en los programas y proyectos de desarrollo.

La FAO propone proyectos dirigidos exclusivamente a la mujer, tomando como base la necesidad de medidas especiales para darle a ellas la posibilidad de obtener un trato equitativo y facilitar su acceso a los recursos. Así mismo, propone componentes en favor de la mujer dentro de los proyectos de contenido más amplio, reconociendo la necesidad de incorporar los problemas de la mujer y la participación de ésta en todos los programas y proyectos que la FAO ejecuta a nivel de campo. A pesar de que ambos enfoques básicos son actualmente válidos, hay una tendencia creciente a apoyar los esfuerzos por convertir la temática relativa a la mujer, en parte integrante de todas las actividades programadas de la FAO.

La aplicación de estos enfoques, tiene como objetivo principal dar a la Organización, mayor eficacia en sus iniciativas relacionadas con la mujer campesina y el desarrollo rural. Es importante al respecto agregar que para lograr un impacto duradero, los mismos países en desarrollo deben reforzar y subrayar la integración de la mujer en la formulación de sus planes de acción y en sus políticas nacionales. Así, los apoyos que la FAO preste a los gobiernos, servirán de complemento a las iniciativas que estos tiendan a tomar para mejorar y apoyar debidamente la contribución de la mujer a la realidad productiva de sus propios países.

Otra de las áreas principales de acción del programa de la CMRADR, es la participación de la población en las políticas y programas gubernamentales. Se ha reconocido ampliamente lo difícil que resulta fomentar la participación de los pobres marginados. Como fruto de este reconocimiento, se han realizado numerosos intentos renovadores de integrar a los campesinos pobres en grupos pequeños, homogéneos y funcionales capaces de realizar actividades de autoayuda y generadoras de ingresos. La FAO, en estos años, ha estado a la vanguardia de estos intentos que han permitido experiencias enriquecedoras en algunos países del Asia, y más recientemente, de Africa y América Central.

Otro avance significativo en este terreno, ha sido la participación creciente y fructífera de organizaciones no gubernamentales, tanto a nivel nacional como internacional, en los intentos por movilizar, organizar y financiar apoyos a los grupos de campesinos pobres interesados en realizar actividades económicas de autoayuda.

La CMRADR señaló también en el campo de la educación, extensión y capacitación agrícola, la necesidad que existía de orientar estas actividades para mejorar la situación de los campesinos más pobres. Se han realizado ciertos progresos en este sentido al adaptar los sistemas de extensión en algunos países a las necesidades de los agricultores más pequeños. Ha aumentado el número de países que realizan experimentos sobre sistemas activos de extensión, por ejemplo, recurriendo a la utilización de grupos de agricultores o sus dirigentes como agentes de extensión, lo que ha supuesto una mayor participación campesina, una reducción de los costos del sistema de extensión, y en muchos casos, es necesario señalarlo, una mayor eficacia en el funcionamiento del sistema.

Aunque aun siguen siendo minoría los sistemas de extensión agrícola que alcanzan a las numerosas mujeres y a las jóvenes campesinas que trabajan en el medio rural, está comenzando recientemente a aumentar el número de países que se preocupan de perfeccionar a su vez estos sistemas para lograr llegar a la mujer con un sistema de extensión rural debidamente orientado hacia sus necesidades y a sus sistemas productivos.

El documento que presentamos destaca también algunos problemas que creo necesario señalar en forma particularizada. Exactamente, me referiré solamente a tres de ellos. El primero que ya lo he mencionado anteriormente, se refiere a las personas que, a pesar de vivir en el medio rural, no pueden encontrar empleo en la agricultura. Para evitar una grave crisis en las zonas rurales, es preciso adoptar, con urgencia, iniciativas que den a estas personas nuevas posibilidades de empleo en el sector rural no agrícola. Esto ha sido recientemente debatido en el curso de la presentación del tema que acabamos de finalizar.

El segundo problema, se refiere al desequilibrio entre la población rural y urbana. La manutención de la pobreza y el atraso en las zonas rurales está, empujando a millones de personas hacia las ciudades. En Africa, por ejemplo, la población de sus principales ciudades se ha multiplicado más de siete veces entre 1950 y 1980. En la mayor parte de los países en desarrollo, el ritmo de crecimiento de la población urbana es entre dos y diez veces superior al ritmo de crecimiento de la población rural.

Sin embargo, se han producido dos novedades interesantes que creo útil señalar. En primer lugar, comienza a disminuir la tasa de crecimiento de la población urbana. Y en segundo lugar, en el período 1980-85, se ha reducido la disparidad entre los ingresos agrícolas y los ingresos no agrícolas per cápita. Es curiosa esta referencia. Se observa, por lo tanto, el comienzo de una tendencia a la reducción de las desigualdades intersectoriales, ya que la migración de la población rural pobre hacia los sectores urbanos, está haciendo bajar la renta per cápita de las ciudades en las cuales ellos se asientan.

Es curioso que se esté logrando uno de los principales objetivos establecidos por la CMRADR en 1979, el de reducir la disparidad de ingresos rurales con los ingresos urbanos, pero desafortunadamente con una orientación y procedimientos que no son loables. En vez de aumentar los ingresos rurales, han disminuido los promedios de los ingresos urbanos al aumentar, como ya lo he dicho, la pobreza, en dichas áreas, producto en muchos casos exclusivamente de la movilización constante de poblaciones pobres del medio rural hacia los medios urbanos. Queda así demostrada, como ya ha sido debatido, la imposibilidad de, al menos durante esta década, queda en evidencia, encontrar una solución al problema de la ciudad que no se logrará si no se tiene en cuenta indisolublemente lo que está ocurriendo en el medio rural, y viceversa.

En tercer lugar, el informe plantea la relación entre la pobreza rural y el medio ambiente. El ambiente influye en la pobreza, pero también la pobreza influye en el medio ambiente. La presión que la población ejerce sobre los recursos limitados está dando lugar, en muchas regiones del mundo, a una explotación excesiva de dichos recursos naturales, y a su consiguiente deterioro. Sin embargo, se ha comprobado la importancia que tienen diversas variables para este efecto, como el régimen de tenencia de la tierra, por ejemplo, ya que esto puede regular el impacto de la presión demográfica sobre el medio ambiente, lo que subraya la importancia e interrelación de los problemas sociales e institucionales en la conservación ambiental.

Permítame concluir esta presentación haciendo una referencia a la serie de cuestiones de política y recomendaciones que se someten a la consideración de la Conferencia y de esta Comisión, y que aparecen recogidas en los párrafos 43 a 55 del documento que estamos analizando.

Sin necesidad de entrar en un análisis específico de cada una de ellas, deseo recordar que dichas recomendaciones reiteran la filosofía que siempre han inspirado las medidas que la FAO impulsa en relación con la Declaración de Principios y el Programa de Acción aprobados con ocasión de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a Ud., Sr. Moreno, por el informe tan completo y documentado que nos ha presentado. Estoy seguro que nos va a ser mucho más fácil trabajar a todos después de haberle oído a Udo cómo llamaba la atención sobre aquellos puntos que deben preocuparnos, y que, de hecho, nos preocupan a todos los que aquí estamos reunidos, sobre el futuro de una importante parte del mundo.

Vamos a empezar a continuación el coloquio, pero antes, la Secretaría me hace llegar una nota para que les comunique que sabemos que, al menos, se va a presentar una resolución, y es posible que haya alguna más, sobre este tema. A efectos de convocar formalmente el Comité de Resoluciones pedimos que, por favor, quienes vayan a presentar estos proyectos de resolución nos lo confirmen ahora de manera firme. Tiene la palabra la representación de Suecia.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): Yes, Mr Chairman, the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, have prepared a draft resolution that we have already submitted to the Secretariat and to the Resolutions Committee. I am pleased to be able to say at this stage that the resolution has been co-sponsored by a considerable number of countries in various regions and we are confident that it will gain support of many more, hopefully the entire Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señora delegada de Suecia. Agradecemos su gentileza al anunciarnos la presentación de su resolución.

Señores, vamos abrir un coloquio. Han pedido la palabra las delegaciones de Suecia, Kuwait, Argentina, México, Estados Unidos, Japón, Tailandia, Marruecos, Perú, y Canadá. Creo que tenemos suficientes oradores para esta tarde y quizá ni siquiera sea posible agotar la lista. Tiene la palabra la señora representante de Suecia.

Mrs Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): On this item I have the privilege to speak on behalf of the Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden. Having participated actively in the WCARRD • Conference in 1979, we attach great importance to the WCARRD development strategy and have thus with great interest and care studied the second progress report now before us.

In this intervention I will, first, give some general comments and reactions to the Report. I will then address specifically the chapter of the Report dealing with the role of women in rural development .

As to some general comments, we find the document very interesting, although perhaps rather too descriptive. We also find that the analytical approach is somewhat weaker than we may have wished. The document reports very well on strategy formulation in various countries on progress made in putting WCARRD procedures into effect and to some extent on progress related to plans and targets. However, the analytical discussion of the experience made after 8 years of WCARRD follow-up and of the adequacy of the mechanisms and procedures agreed upon in WCARRD is not there. We, therefore, very much welcome the proposal of presenting in-depth analytical reports on selected WCARRD themes to future FAO Conferences in order to keep the momentum of WCARRD.

My second comment relates to the reporting as such. The reporting so far has shown the difficulties in obtaining adequately disaggregated data. Specifically as concerns the time factor or registering visible change in the rural communities. It is, therefore, suggested that reporting be lengthened from once every four years to once every eight years. With some hesitation the Nordic countries may favour this proposal. Our condition is, however, that the relevant discussions according to the WCARRD procedures are fully integrated also in other FAO documents, such as the State of Food and Agriculture and in the reports on International Agricultural Adjustment.

We certainly know and understand the difficulties for countries and thus ultimately FAO to get adequate information. That is why the Nordic countries are so strongly insisting on FAO 's statistical role in order to assist countries to improve the statistical base for planning and development. Statistics are not just figures and numbers. They tell us something about the reality behind. As to the WCARRD follow-up, the level of reporting and the magnitude of data to be supplied probably need to be looked into. Maybe, there is a need for differentiated reporting and also in some cases a somewhat lower level of ambition.

Another of the conclusions of the report is that the adverse effects of the international recession have resulted in a renewed preoccupation with growth rather than with rural poverty alleviation. Experts in our countries who have commented on the report would agree with this conclusion only to some extent, mainly regarding Africa. In our opinion the conclusion is less valid for Asia. In this context we also want to underline the conclusions in section B of the summary, paras 43 and 44, on the merits of a strategy based on small enterprises, and would strongly recommend that this Conference reconfirm its commitment to strategies and policies for broader-based growth to meet the needs of the poor rural communities. One element of such a policy is an extension service that meets the needs of the small farmers, in particular the women. Experience has shown that it is difficult to meet the needs of the rural communities. We would therefore be in favour of intensified efforts and closer links between research and extensions to meet the needs of the small farmers.

This matter is discussed to some extent in document C 87/21 on International Agricultural Adjustment and some information is given in guideline 3 on pilot projects and other efforts to reach small farmers with training and extension services. Also on this document we find the information given is of a descriptive nature and more precise data still seem to be lacking.

Another area for concern, research and action is the relation between rural poverty and the environment. Within the WCARRD concept strategies and policies have to be designed to promote a sustainable development. Also in this area much greater attention to research and action for environmental conservation and improvement in the rural areas is needed. The report from the World Commission on Environment and Development is now being widely studied within the United Nations System. Its visions must be transformed into concrete action. In this respect we feel that FAO has a vital role to play.

Finally in this part of my intervention, we also want to underline the vital role played by nongovernmental organizations in promoting improved life in rural areas.

We are of the opinion that organizations based on the free will of people who share common ideas and aspirations to unite and promote development within the communities is one of the fundamentals for a successful development. We therefore strongly support recommendations from this Conference as outlined in para 47 to urge countries to ensure the legal, political and structural prerequisites for effective participation and to encourage the role of NGOs in promoting participatory development at the grass-roots level.

In this context, we would also like to stress the need for the dissemination of experience gained through such activities for the benefit particularly of grass-roots organizations.

I will now turn to Chapter IV - the role of women in rural development.

The efforts made within the United Nations system to improve the status of women, since 1975, have been many and have had a strong support of the Nordic countries.

The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies, being translated into the Systemwide Medium-Term Plan for Women is an important tool to this end. The Report now before us is an important contribution to our understanding of the mechanisms in different societies that promote or prevent women from participating in rural development. Its findings and conclusions will, we hope, be of help to both governments and FAO in implementing systemwide plans for women.

One of the issues strongly addressed in our joint Nordic statement at the WCARRD Conference was the necessity to provide women with legal rights on equal terms with men, as to land, access to credits, public services, participation in cooperatives and organisation etc. Thus it is with great concern we note that the lack of access to land still remains the major obstacle to the full participation of women in rural development. Land ownership is often the key to having control of major decisions in rural areas as to what to grow, what techniques to use, what to consume and what to sell of the produce. Furthermore, land ownership can allow the woman farmer herself to keep the proceeds and to use them in a productive way either for the betterment of the family or the land.

Only a few countries seem to have taken steps to improve women's access to land. Most studies point to an increased landlessness among women. With this conclusion of the Report in mind, we urge governments and the FAO to address this issue with vigour as women in a number of countries have expressed a common need for legal control of land.

From women's lack of legal control of land also follows difficulties in access to cooperatives, to credit, to marketing services and to agricultural extension and training. Though considerable improvements have been made in many countries, the overall picture is not very encouraging.

We certainly know that the status of women cannot be changed over night and that centuries of inequality cannot be that easily eradicated. When judging the situation of women it is necessary to take into account the situation of society as a whole. The need to address women's issues in the context of economic development and growth has been underlined in a recent statement made by the Nordic countries in the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly. We want to underline this need also in this forum.

In particular we want to draw the attention to the effects of various adjustment policies on women. Adjustment policies are bound to have a strong social and political impact, not least if seen in the perspective of women in development. In many cases adjustment policies have considerably hit women farmers and other women in rural areas most severely. Economic recovery programmes should be based on full considerations of their effects on employment, incomes and working conditions of women and should utilize the potentials of women as producers and entrepreneurs. The Nordic countries, therefore, strongly advocate an adjustment policy with a human face.

The specific follow-up report on women in rural development shows that though life conditions for women have improved in some countries, in many more still women's lot seems to remain as precarious as has been the case for centuries. There are certainly limits as to what FAO can do to reduce this situation since so much depends on governments' commitment to, and interest in the subject of women in rural development. The Nordic countries, however, are of the opinion that a strong and vigorous FAO could greatly contribute to the advancement of women in rural areas.

Having followed FAO activities related to women for a number of years we note with satisfaction that since 1975, when, for the first time within the United Nations System, questions related to women in development were being taken seriously, FAO has developed an institutional framework and guidelines dealing with women in agricultural and rural development. Document C 87/LIM/16 is a good illustration of this. We are particularly pleased to note the emphasis given in latter years to women's role as producer, not just as consumer as was the case in the earlier years of the Organization.

As I said earlier, The Nordic countries have together with countries in other regions prepared a draft resolution which we hope will gain the support of this Conference. The purpose of the resolution is to encourage FAO to continue the cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and Systemwide Medium-Term Plan for Women and Development, and also prepare a comprehensive action plan encompassing all major sectors and programmes of our Organization for the integration of women in development. We will be pleased to discuss the resolution with interested delegations. We have already registered the interest of many delegations, and hope still more will join us.

Ms Fatma H.J. HAYAT (Kuwait)(original language Arabic): Document C 87/19 gives a very good description of the work of FAO in rural development. Despite the Nairobi Conference in 1985, on which occasion I had the honour of representing my delegation, we are still extremely worried by events. We do not feel that this is an issue which has been given sufficient attention commensurate with the importance of promoting the role of women in the rural environment. Too much is done solely to emphasize the maternal and family role of women. We must not forget the progress which some countries have recently achieved in this field, in attempting to find high-grade administrative and political posts to promote the role of women and help women to become integrated in the social and administrative process.

What exercises my delegation is the obstacles at a level of principle which continue to exist. We feel that these are obstacles in the way of women's participation which prevent the proper role of women ~~from being recognized—women as producers, quite~~ apart from women's role in the family. That is why we need to collect information and data so as to promote women's role in productive activities and to recognize and properly appreciate women's role. I would emphasize this, the basic thrust of WCARRD. We need to safeguard women's legal situation. We need to have true equality. Often there may be legal equality, but still women suffer from bias against them and from persistent discrimination. There is a very great difference between what the law says women's role should be and what happens in practice. The law confers rights on women but in many countries, including those of the Near East where I come from, where civil rights are granted to women by the law, where there is equality, it is a basic principle of Islamic law, as the delegate from Sudan said in his speech.

Even there we need to reinforce women's rights: right to access to land, right to participate in cooperatives, right to obtain credit. All these points are clearly set out in the document before us. Women must be helped to gain access to markets, particularly in those countries where women play traditionally a major role at the marketing stage. Rural women must be enabled to benefit from agricultural organization. Their potential role there is of great importance. One thing that it encourages in rural development is the proliferation of women's movements to counter exploitation. Women are a real force in the world, and they should be able to take advantage of this force to gain access to the services they need.

We should not forget women's rights at all levels: right to education, right to health, right to job possibilities.

It is quite clear that these organizations on their own cannot do the job of promoting women's rights successfully without help from governments in order to draw attention to the role of women. As you yourself said in presenting the document before us, the success of projects and programmes devoted to women largely turn on the policies pursued by governments as part of their planning in regard to women in order to recognize women's truly productive role.

It seems to me that the draft resolution before us, which was read by the representative from Sweden, endorses everything I have said. I should like in particular to emphasize point 2 of the draft resolution in document C 87/LIM/16 and points 3 and 6. When the representative of Sweden spoke in Commission II yesterday he said that they wanted to see women occupying D1 and D2 posts at the OAU.

Moisés TELIZ ORTIZ (Mexico): La Delegación de Mexico expresa su felicitación al Secretariado de esta Comisión por la presentación del Documento G 87/19 que da seguimiento a los cambios por realizar en las políticas de los países en favor de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural.

Sobre el contenido amplio y valioso de este estudio, deseo hacer referencia específica al informe que preparó y presentó Mexico para contribuir al mencionado segundo Informe. En la contribución de México se señala, en la parte relativa a la integración de la mujer al desarrollo rural, lo siguiente:

"Las estrategias que se han instrumentado para promover, impulsar y desarrollar las actividades económicas y sociales de la mujer en el campo, se encuentran enmarcadas en la Reforma Agraria Integral.

Se impulsa la participación organizada de la mujer campesina en actividades generadoras de ingresos que ayudan a elevar su nivel de vida, el de sus familias y comunidades a través de la Unidad Agrícola Industrial para la mujer campesina, cuyas siglas son UAIM, para aprovechar integralmente los recursos de que disponen los núcleos agrarios.

Se fortalece la participación de la mujer campesina en la producción alimentaria, así como en actividades que permiten el abasto comunitario integrando la producción, transformación y comercialización de productos básicos.

Por otra parte, se promueve la coordinación, continuidad y congruencia interinstitucionales de los programas instrumentados, especialmente aquéllos encaminados a lograr la participación de las mujeres del campo, mediante el otorgamiento oportuno de insumos y servicios que demanda su actividad.

Para su integración al desarrollo rural en México, también se instrumentan cursos de alfabetización para aumentar los niveles de instrucción y escolaridad de la población femenil campesina.

Se realizan cursos para fortalecer y elevar los niveles de capacitación e información de mujeres campesinas, para el desarrollo de sus actividades administrativas, contables y productivas.

Se impulsa y apoya el desarrollo de investigaciones relacionadas con las condiciones actuales de la mujer campesina.

En las comunidades de pescadores destaca la participación de la mujer, y para ello está previsto la ejecución de proyectos específicos para optimizar el desarrollo de sus actividades, a fin de complementar el ingreso familiar e incrementar su participación en las actividades productivas."

Respecto a la modificación que se propone someter a la consideración de la Conferencia para modificar el sistema de presentación de informes de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, la Delegación de México expresa su inconformidad, insistiendo en que continúe el sistema actual. Proponemos, en cambio, que en la reunión normal de cada cuatro años se presenten a la Conferencia informes especiales sobre un tema determinado de la misma, adicional al informe principal.

The meeting rose at 17.45 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 45

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.45 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/11

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

ELEVENTH MEETING
ONZIEME SEANCE
11ª SESION
(18 November 1987)

The Eleventh Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours,
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La onzième séance est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 11ª sesión a las 09.50 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

1. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
1. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
1. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
9. Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development (continued)
9. Deuxième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR, y compris le rôle des femmes dans le développement agricole (suite)
9. Segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR, en particular en lo relativo a la función de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The eleventh meeting of Commission I is called to order. We are scheduled to discuss item 9, Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development. We now resume the discussion which was started in the Session yesterday afternoon.

As of now, we have 28 speakers from the floor still to speak plus two observers. Keeping in view the limitations of time, may I request all delegates to be as brief as possible in presentations.

Secondly, the delegate from Egypt wanted to participate in the discussion but has indicated that due to the limited strength of the delegation he is unable to be present in Commission I. He has requested that his speech be included in the verbatim records and subject to your approval I suggest he may do that.

Eduardo José MICHEL (Argentina): La delegación argentina desea destacar la importancia y utilidad de los informes C 87/19 y C 87/LIM/16 preparados por la FAO, y ve con agrado la celebración de consultas intergubernamentales regionales como la realizada en agosto pasado en Uruguay, donde mi país apoyó la "Declaración de principios" y el "Programa de Acción" adoptados por la Conferencia Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Rural y Reforma Agraria, celebrada en Roma en julio de 1979.

En el marco de la política general del país, se han definido un conjunto de políticas y estrategias de desarrollo rural dirigidas, especialmente, a los pequeños productores minifundistas. Las deficiencias que caracterizan a estos productores en materia de dotación de recursos productivos, acceso a los servicios de apoyo tecnológico-financiero y condiciones de vida y de trabajo, determinan la necesidad de elaborar políticas específicas y diferenciadas de las propuestas para el resto del sector agropecuario.

El objetivo global de estas políticas es modificar la situación de pobreza de estos productores minifundistas a través de la transformación de los procesos socioeconómicos determinantes de tal situación. El elemento clave de las estrategias, es la participación sistemática de los pequeños productores en la formulación e implementación de los programas pertinentes. En efecto, las acciones a desarrollar surgen de diagnósticos y priorizaciones realizadas con la activa participación de comunidades de pequeños productores y como resultado de una elaboración colectiva realizada en el seno de esas comunidades.

Sin llegar a confundir la planificación y la ejecución de las acciones programadas, se pretende que los grupos de productores asuman un papel activo y consciente en la identificación de los proyectos relevantes y de las opciones reales, teniendo el doble significado de participar en la

formulación de una política que le concierne y comenzar a actuar en un proceso de autotransformación. A partir de estas acciones inmediatas se abren nuevos espacios para expandir esa perspectiva de autotransformación, a través de la realización de experiencias que comprenden la gestión de proyectos de incremento de la capacidad productiva, nucleamiento en organizaciones democráticas y eficientes, replanteo de las relaciones económicas y sociales con proveedores, clientes, intermediarios financieros, así como el desarrollo de nuevas capacidades productivas y culturales y nuevas formas de organización social y económica.

La prioridad asignada por la República Argentina a la política de apoyo a los pequeños productores, se ve reflejada en la creación, en el ámbito de la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca, de la Dirección Nacional de Desarrollo y Sociología Rural, que tiene como misión la formulación y ejecución de planes y programas para los productores minifundistas, como asimismo, en la esfera del Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, la creación de un programa de experimentación y adaptación de tecnología para los pequeños productores.

En los programas que se están llevando a cabo, se pone especial énfasis en posibilitar el acceso de la mujer a toda la gama de recursos como son el acceso a la capacitación, incluso en actividades tradicionalmente reservadas a los hombres (la tecnología, la comercialización, las obras de infraestructura comunitaria, etcétera) y también el acceso de la mujer a situaciones de representación y poder dentro de las organizaciones comunitarias y en la vida política y cultural del país.

Por último, señor Presidente, es muy grato para la delegación de Argentina dejar constancia, en esta ocasión, de la labor incansable que realiza la FAO en materia y considera oportuno solicitar que se continúen ampliando los estudios para la conceptualización del minifundio.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): At the outset, I should like to congratulate the Secretariat on preparing such a comprehensive report on the Progress of Action Plan of WCARRD.

I am convinced that if the farmers acquire their own land and become owner-farmers expansion of agricultural production and improvement in the living standards of the rural community can be well achieved, as is made evident in Japan's history. Therefore, Japan fundamentally supported the Action Plan adopted at the World Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

However, it is not encouraging to see that very few countries have adopted major programmes toward agrarian reform during the last four years, as seen in paragraph 13, and access to land for the majority of farmers is reported to have been aggravated. Given this situation, it is very important, I consider, for each country concerned to positively address the policy for agrarian reform by which land will be equally distributed to farmers with small- to medium-scale land, as is pointed out in paragraph 43.

In the progress report on the Role of Women in Rural Development, one can see that, while there was a significant advancement in terms of the institutionization of women, very few countries have succeeded in establishing integrated national strategies for women.

Japan recognizes that women are primarily responsible for food production in the developing world, and therefore women's participation in development programmes will result not only in increased food production, but also in the elevation of women's status.

As the new national action plan was established in my country, taking into account the achievement of the United Nations' Decade for Women, I hope such plans which put priority on rural development will be established also in developing countries.

In view of cooperation to promote the participation of women in rural development, my country bilaterally provides a training course for life improvement and extension to women officers from the governments of developing countries, and also provides funds for CIRDAP projects which aim at strengthening the roles of women.

As to community forestry, which paragraphs 49 to 52 touch upon, my country is of the view that community forestry could provide a framework for the cooperative activities done by the people of each rural community, and thereby forestry could be fostered while involving women, expanding job

opportunities and contributing to food production for the rural inhabitant. Since my country considers itself instrumental in rural development, it is implementing technical cooperation to Indonesia and other countries.

As to the recommendation made in paragraph 46 concerning the monitoring and evaluation system of the Plan of Action, one cannot expect much from it soon, because collection and analysis of relevant statistical data involves extremely time-consuming work and consequently has its own limits.

Besides, in order to establish such a system and prepare socio-economic indicators, human resources responsible for them have to be developed. FAO's assistance in this area might be useful. On our part, Japan is accepting trainees from overseas, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency, so as to provide officers for statistical treatment.

Document C 87/19 invites the Conference to approve the change of the reporting period concerning the progress of the Plan of Action, namely from every four years to every eight years. But since the Plan of Action is a very important guideline for agrarian reform and rural development, its progress of implementation, I consider, should be reviewed at least every four years. Having no comprehensive information for as long as eight years may hinder the mutual exchange of progress information among developing countries and may also be an obstacle in mobilizing the cooperation from developed countries. In conclusion, the reporting period should be as it is now.

V.K. SIBAL (India): The document Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development is extremely comprehensive and clear in its analysis. We should like to express our thanks to Mr Moreno for his introduction to the document.

We have noticed that the document is based on 50 country progress reports, and one does wish that ' the base of this document had been wider. Action in this lies in the national governments, and perhaps FAO can also do something in pursuing the matter of these reports so that more country reports can come in.

We would like to confine our comments in this intervention to the policy issues which have been raised in the documents. So far as broadening the social base of land ownership is concerned, the Indian delegation accepts the need for agrarian reform measures that will bring about a more productive and equitable distribution of land into medium and small sized holdings. In fact, ever since Independence redistributive land reform by way of acquiring surplus land from large holdings and giving it to rural eligible landless poor has been one of the important measures of land reform policy in India. However, it is true that these measures have not resulted in significant land re-distribution. We are committed to pursuing agrarian reform programmes that will bring about a more productive and equitable distribution of land. This is already reflected not only in our plan document, the Seventh Plan, but also in the twenty point programme of the Prime Minister.

So far as beneficiary orientated policies and programmes are concerned, the Indian delegation reaffirms the importance and soundness of the strategy of development based on a broad-based distribution of assets and specific target-orientated policies and programmes to safeguard vulnerable groups in the process of growth, as well as to help them in the creation of assets and employment. This strategy is already integrated in our plan document and is being vigorously pursued. In fact, India is one of the countries which have embarked upon such a strategy and have allocated substantial funds for this purpose. We shall continue to pursue this strategy to meet the challenge of rural poverty.

So far as the recommendations under issue relating to a small farm, small-scale fishery and forestry strategy is concerned, the policy of tenancy reform in India aims at providing security of tenure to tenants and sharecroppers. Redistributive land reform policies aim at providing access of rural poor to land.-. Vulnerable groups like scheduled tribes have been provided protection against alienation of their land and consolidation programmes provide opportunity to neutralise the effects of fragmentation and to enable small farmers to take advantage of development programmes. Financial assistance has been provided to assignees of surplus ceiling land for development of their land. In addition, assistance is also available to them under other rural development programmes.

Rural poor are also being assigned leases of waste land for growing crees and to share its usufructs under the tree patta scheme.

Social forestry programmes oriented to the energy needs of the rural poor have been dovetailed in rural employment programmes like the National Rural Employment Programme, the RLEGP and area development programmes like DPAP and DDP.

On the role of women in rural development, we accept the need for a full examination of women's rights to land and agree to take up this research work on a priority basis. We also agree, in principle, to the adoption of legal or other solutions to protect women's usufructuary rights to land where such exist, or to otherwise improve their access to land. However, policy interventions in this regard can be identified only after very detailed and in-depth examination of customary rights, personal law, tenurial structure and tenancy laws. While women are eligible equally to participate in employment oriented schemes along with their male counterparts in the family, there is also no bar to female heads of household being allotted land under the land distribution programme if such households are otherwise eligible.

Of course, in India there are not many households with female heads. But wherever the concerned law of inheritance provides for ownership to women, their names are recorded in revenue records as owners. In other cases it may be difficult to do so unless the law is changed (which in view of conflicting personal laws is a sensitive subject) or concerned male landholders are agreeable. However, a policy is now being implemented under which the land to be allotted by the Government would be jointly in the name of the husband and wife so that the women members of the household have equal right in the ownership of land. Under the International Rural Development Programme it has also been provided that along with the male head of the household the female member should also be entitled to assistance. In fact, it is being insisted upon that such female members should be assisted in substantial numbers in order that the benefits of the International Rural Development Programme reach them.

On the issue of future reporting to the Conference, we are in favour of the proposed change which would help in presenting a more in-depth qualitative assessment of the progress made by us in implementing the objectives set out in WCARRD Programme of Action. Four years is too short a period to report the impact of major changes in policies and programmes in such a wide area as rural development. We may also agree to an in-depth analytical report on a selected WCARRD theme every fourth year when the WCARRD main report is not presented. This means that every four years we shall either be reporting on a specific theme or presenting a country report on the overall progress made in agrarian reforms and rural development.

Mrs Marasee SURAKUL (Thailand): First of all, my delegation welcomes the documents before us. My delegation strongly supports the WCARRD Programme of Action including the Role of Women in Rural Development. As in other countries, rural women in Thailand play a triple role of housewife, mother and farmer. Traditionally they also act as family treasurer and manager of the household. Any Thai farmer must consult his wife before taking decisions on farming, while household activities are decided by the wife. Under the Constitution Thai women have many of the same legal rights as men, but traditional attitudes of both men and women assign separate roles and functions to the two sides. Although this is changing, there are still areas where women are not able to make their full contribution to the agricultural economy. Labour force participation by women is very high in Thailand, and by law they are entitled to receive equal pay for equal work and to have the same promotion rights as men.

The Sixth National Economic Social Development Plan for 1987 to 1991 gives new emphasis to rural poverty alleviation. Agricultural development has fallen below targets in recent years, and this trend must be reversed. Rural women are less productive than they could be because rural services and the transfer of new technologies seldom reach them directly.

The policies of the Fifth Plan will be continued with renewed effort to provide rural women with the support they need to increase productivity. While stressing that the family unit is the main institution upon which to build, it is confidently expected that rural women throughout Thailand will contribute increasingly to the nation's wealth and will receive their fair share of benefits.

My delegation would like to suggest that international, regional and subregional institutional coordination should be strengthened, particularly in relation to the exchange of information on the advancement of women and the establishment of collaborative arrangements to undertake activities with interrelated components. Research and policy analysis should focus greater attention on the economic role of women in society, including access to economic resources such as land and capital. Research and policy analysis related to women should be action-oriented without losing sight of key analytical considerations.

My delegation strongly supports the resolution proposed by the Nordic countries and the recommendations of FAO in the documents before us.

Mohamed BENMAKHLOUF (Maroc): Je voudrais féliciter le Secrétariat qui a su synthétiser dans un rapport aussi clair et précis, le document C 87/19, les informations relatives à la situation sur le programme d'action de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural et notamment sur le rôle des femmes dans le développement rural, sujet si complexe et tellement important pour le bien-être des populations rurales.

Mon pays, qui avait adhéré pleinement aux recommandations de la CMRADR, réunie sous les auspices de la FAO en 1979, avait intensifié ses programmes de développement agricole et rural au profit de ses populations les plus démunies dans les régions les plus déshéritées.

Des actions concrètes ont été menées et le sont encore actuellement dans les zones d'agriculture pluviale, dans le cadre de projets de développement rural intégré associant les opérations techniques, économiques et sociales dont les objectifs essentiels visent l'amélioration de la productivité des terres agricoles, en vue d'atteindre l'autosuffisance alimentaire du pays, l'amélioration des revenus des petits agriculteurs et des agriculteurs sans terre, l'amélioration des conditions de vie des populations.

Cependant, la conjoncture économique internationale défavorable, aidée par des conditions climatiques difficiles qui ont marqué le continent africain ces dernières années, a diminué beaucoup les programmes envisagés et affecté les effets attendus des programmes réalisés.

L'impact des stratégies poursuivies en matière de réforme agraire et de développement rural ne peut réellement être effectif, donc mesurable objectivement, qu'après de longues années car de telles stratégies nécessitent des changements fondamentaux dans l'optique du développement en réorientant les objectifs vers la lutte contre la pauvreté rurale et en ayant comme centre d'intérêt l'humain avant l'économique.

Aussi, ma délégation est d'accord sur la proposition contenue dans le rapport visant à rallonger la périodicité des rapports à fournir au titre de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural en la passant de quatre à huit ans et à établir des rapports analytiques en profondeur sur un thème particulier de la Conférence mondiale tous les quatre ans.

Les différentes actions développées dans le rapport C 87/19 s'inscrivent parfaitement dans la stratégie globale recommandée par la CMRADR. Leur mise en application ne peut cependant être que progressive car nécessitant des changements structurels et institutionnels qui sont à mettre en place. La redistribution des terres agricoles, dans le cadre d'une politique dynamique de réforme agraire, s'inscrit dans le cadre de ces changements.

Ma délégation accorde un intérêt particulier aux recommandations du rapport visant la promotion de politiques de développement orientées vers les groupes cibles les plus démunis et l'adoption de stratégies axées sur la petite exploitation, en raison du poids important que représentent ces groupes et ce type d'exploitation dans la plupart des pays en développement.

La participation populaire au développement constitue à notre avis le meilleur garant d'une définition objective des besoins des populations et un plus grand bénéfice des actions de développement.

Ma délégation appuie les recommandations du paragraphe B.47 du rapport concernant le rôle des femmes dans le développement rural. Nous sommes d'accord pour dire que ce rôle doit être renforcé dans le

cadre d'une stratégie globale visant la formation, l'accès aux ressources, aux facteurs de production et aux divers services, et la promotion d'activités para-agricoles au bénéfice des femmes dans le milieu rural.

Le Maroc s'associe pleinement aux recommandations du paragraphe B.49 relatif à la vulgarisation agricole et visant l'adoption d'une stratégie de vulgarisation touchant le maximum de petits exploitants sans qu'elle soit trop coûteuse. A ce titre, je voudrais signaler qu'avec la collaboration précieuse de la FAO mon pays est en train de mettre à exécution une nouvelle stratégie de vulgarisation agricole s'inscrivant parfaitement dans le cadre de ces recommandations.

Monsieur le Président, la promotion du monde rural au bénéfice des populations rurales les plus démunies ne peut, à notre avis, être appréhendée que dans le cadre d'une stratégie globale visant essentiellement la création de l'emploi pour les ruraux, hommes et femmes. L'activité agricole ne peut à elle seule absorber une population rurale en âge d'activités de plus en plus importante. La promotion de l'industrie rurale, du tourisme rural et autres activités non agricoles constitue, à notre avis, des axes d'interventions complémentaires et indispensables au développement du secteur agricole.

Enfin, permettez-moi d'appuyer les recommandations contenues dans le paragraphe B.53 concernant les facteurs internationaux affectant le développement rural et la lutte contre la pauvreté dans les pays en développement et de saluer ici les efforts continus de la FAO dans l'assistance technique qu'elle apporte aux pays en développement pour l'éradication de la faim dans le monde et la lutte contre la pauvreté, en souhaitant que cette assistance soit renforcée dans les divers domaines recommandés par la CMRADR.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Mi delegación ha estudiado con gran atención el documento C 87/19 que nos informa sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR, y felicita a la Secretaría por tan magnífica presentación. Quisiera referirme a los acontecimientos, sobre esta materia, que han sucedido en el desarrollo rural en el Perú.

Al tratar los temas sobre reforma agraria en la FAO, con toda seguridad se ha hecho referencias a este proceso, pues no podría ser de otra manera, ya que su realización se ha efectuado dentro de un marco muy radical, constituyendo una de las que más han sacudido el continente latinoamericano.

En concepto de mi delegación, la reforma agraria peruana, con sus aciertos y frustraciones, constituye quizás la mayor muestra para un estudio social, económico y político sobre los resultados en el cambio de la propiedad y tenencia de la tierra, del que deben valerse, en lo aplicable, los países en desarrollo para utilizar sus aspectos positivos y no repetir los errores cometidos.

Lo positivo radica en que, al haberse adjudicado a los campesinos las tierras de las haciendas, se ha logrado la paz social entre los campesinos que aspiraban, por años, ser los dueños de la tierra agrícola del Perú, objetivo que se logró gracias a un Gobierno fuerte que se impuso al poder económico que por muchos años gobernaba mi país.

Si la tierra repartida no fue suficiente para satisfacer a todos los campesinos, esto no se debió a la falta de voluntad de los ejecutores de la reforma, sino a la tradicional insuficiencia de tierras de cultivo o de pastos en el Perú.

Uno de los grandes errores de la reforma fue el de haber adjudicado las tierras de las ex-haciendas en cooperativas de producción, que se asemejan al sistema colectivista, y que es muy ajeno al sistema comunal del Perú. Las cooperativas que subsistieron han sido las de servicios, que son más adecuadas para el Perú y las que más éxito han tenido en el mundo.

Otro error fue el de no implementar la entrega de la tierra con labores de promoción agropecuaria, es decir, ayuda técnica, crediticia, de mercadeo, etc.

El Gobierno actual, en vista de las frustraciones del campesino, que comprendió que no es sólo suficiente ser propietario de la tierra, sino que éste debe ser el medio que permita el incremento de sus ingresos, implemento toda una política agraria para activar la producción y productividad que tienda a mejorar el ingreso campesino.

Permítame, señor Presidente, referirme sucintamente a estas medidas y a los resultados obtenidos:

Se seleccionó, por razones de insuficientes recursos económicos, una zona, la más pobre del país, ubicada en los Andes del sur del país. De inmediato se aplicaron las siguientes medidas:

1. Se establecieron precios de garantía para algo de diez productos básicos.
2. Se rebajaron drásticamente las tasas de interés hasta llegar a la tasa "cero" para agricultores muy pobres.
3. Se desgravaron totalmente numerosos insumos, equipos y maquinaria.
4. La creación de empleo rural mediante un Programa de Ayuda al Ingreso Temporal, cuya sigla es PAIT.
5. Prohibición de importaciones de algunos productos críticos que compiten con el producto campesino. Por ejemplo, la importación de productos lácteos.
6. Creación de centros de acopio e intervención del Gobierno en la compra de productos que no fueran adquiridos por los intermediarios al precio de garantía.

El resultado de estas políticas ha sido excelente, pues no sólo se ha logrado el incremento de la producción, sino que se ha logrado incrementar el ingreso campesino logrando el propósito, tantas veces acariciado por sociólogos y economistas agrícolas, de transferir el ingreso de la ciudad al campo, acompañado de medidas que permitían incrementar la demanda urbana vía incremento en sus ingresos.

Para hacer más eficiente la aplicación de las políticas de crédito, extensión, capacitación y otras, el Gobierno ha entrado en un franco proceso de descentralización. Se han creado e implementado numerosas microregiones con autonomía en sus decisiones y administración.

¿Con qué recursos financieros ha sido posible implementar estas políticas que requieren, indudablemente, subsidios del Estado? Mi país, señor Presidente, decidió pagar por el servicio de su deuda externa tan sólo el 10 por ciento del monto de sus exportaciones, sin cuya decisión hubiese sido imposible, o sumamente difícil, aplicar una política de esta naturaleza.

El Presidente de mi país ha manifestado que para el gobierno que él preside es su primera obligación la de pagar la deuda alimentaria que tiene con su pueblo, antes de pagar la deuda externa.

¿Hasta cuándo podrá seguirse con esta política a favor de los campesinos y consumidores del Perú en un mundo interrelacionado, donde las economías externas pueden influir en la economía de un país, dependiente en muchos aspectos de la economía de los países ricos?

¿Será posible mantener un ritmo de ingreso en nuestros países donde la tasa de crecimiento de la población sigue manteniéndose alto? ¿O si se tiene en cuenta que la tierra, los bosques, recursos ícticos están siendo sobrexplotados, sufren los efectos contaminantes de la industria y la explotación minera, además de ser utilizados irracionalmente?

Lo más grave de esta incertidumbre es que, a veces, se juntan problemas como la baja en los precios de los productos de exportación que soportan estos programas y que reducen las disponibilidades en moneda extranjera.

Tenemos esperanza de que los países desarrollados, basados en la experiencia de la reactivación de la agricultura peruana, apoyen políticas que permitan que el Fondo Monetario Internacional tome actitudes reales sobre la deuda externa, y permita que un flujo de préstamos para políticas agrarias pueda ampliar e intensificar políticas que eviten que el hambre, la desesperanza y la frustración conviertan a los países pobres en gérmenes de impaciencia y rebeldía, dañinos para todos: ricos y pobres.

En cuanto a la mujer campesina en el Perú, prácticamente no hay problemas porque dentro de la leyes, todas tienen igual derecho, y en mi país se realizan programas de desarrollo hacia la mujer campesina y hacia la mujer de los barrios marginales de las grandes ciudades; son programas que frecuentemente son liderados por las mismas mujeres y que están teniendo un éxito rotundo.

Petrus A.L. DE RIJK (Netherlands): The second Progress Report on the WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Rural Development, monitors the progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action adapted by the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of 1979, as well as the progress made in regard to the role of women in rural development. We appreciate this document so long as an effort is also made to quantify some very difficult to measure but very important data such as on rural poverty, urbanization and land tenure. We also thank Mr Moreno for his introduction.

Among the very important trends detected in the document are the declining differences between rural and urban incomes, and the increase in landless households. Our delegation encourages the further development of the socio-economic statistics, especially at country level. They are of crucial importance for an adequate policy design in relation to rural development.

We support the Secretariat's proposal concerning the change in periodicity of WCARRD reporting to once in eight years. As to the proposed in-depth analytical study on the selected WCARRD theme to be presented to the Conference every fourth year, we also agree with that.

In paragraph 53 of the Policy Issues and Recommendations it is stated that the greatest single factor influencing rural poverty during the period 1983 to 1987 has been the impact of the international economic recession. This serves to underline again the importance of international factors in the rural development of developing countries. It demonstrates the need for appropriate policies by the developed countries in the areas of international trade, aid and the debt crisis of the developing countries, as well as for action by the developing countries themselves in promoting economic and technical cooperation among themselves.

This conclusion is based on the analysis of the progress of the WCARRD Programme of Action including the role of women in rural development. In part V. of the Summary, in paragraph 24, the Secretariat states, "The post-1979 economic recession was a decisive factor in aggravating poverty in the developing countries during the 1980s through reductions in consumption and real wages." In paragraph 25, "In general, the barter and income terms of trade turned seriously against the developing countries during this period. Access to markets of developed countries was also reduced by increases in various non-tariff types of protection. These developments had adverse effects on agricultural export-dependent countries, including many least developed countries, and especially on their rural poor."

In our opinion, it is true that the past 1979 economic recession was a decisive factor in aggravating poverty in developing countries during the 1980s. The key question in this is, how can we realise an improved world market situation with higher and more stable prices? In his statement our Minister has posed this question. He has concluded that various studies by the OECD, the World Bank and IIASA have shown that it can only be done if trade in agricultural products is liberalized. In his opinion the targets for a new GATT agreement have to be, more access to markets, reduction of subsidies, internal as well as for export, and dismantling of non-tariff barriers.

Not all activities in the WCARRD Programme of Action are equally affected by the international economic climate. It concerns here notably the encouragement of people's participation. Our delegation supports especially the request for support in paragraph 47 of the Summary, to urge countries to ensure the legal, political and structural prerequisites for effective participation. In our opinion people's participation is a basic requirement for the development of the rural areas. That is because, first, the chance of success of development increases in the case of participation by the rural population itself. Secondly, an institutionalized organization of farmer's participants can stimulate the decision-making process concerning further development of the rural areas; for example, on land reform.

Our delegation, therefore, supports the proposal of Switzerland to create a committee on farm organizations at FAO consisting of farmer organizations organized at national or international level, which should serve as a consultative group. Such a committee could stimulate the creation of new and strengthened existing agricultural organizations in developing countries. In our opinion, the committee should include organizations not only of farmers, but also of agricultural workers, rural women and cooperatives. Such a committee could moreover, strengthen already existing FAO activities in relation to NGOs, especially the rural workers' organizations.

My delegation has read with great interest the information document LIM/16 on FAO's Programme Directions regarding Women in Agriculture and Rural Development. We have noted with satisfaction that a great deal has been done over the past ten years at all levels within and outside FAO. Perhaps the most important achievement has been the greater recognition of the vital, and, in many cases, even decisive contribution that women make to the rural economy. This is important, because without such a general awareness, understanding and recognition, it would not be accepted that projects and programmes ought to be adapted and designed to take the role of women into account.

However, more should be done. As is stated in the document, this greater recognition has not led to more equitable opportunities, benefits or decision-making powers because of a number of obstacles due to the unequal legal status of women. We should like to add that this unequal legal status is, of course, not an isolated, unexplainable phenomenon. It is a reflection of a social structure that

has not yet fully acknowledged the equal status of women in society. This is by no means restricted to any particular category of countries or regions. It is a universal problem, although one could perhaps say that in several countries women now at least have an equal status under the law. Thus the question is, how to translate this awareness of the vital economic and social role of women into concrete action at global, regional and, in particular, country level; it is also very important within FAO itself. The great number of activities is outlined in document C 87/LIM/16 and we agree essentially with all of them.

Many of these activities will have to be initiated, or at least monitored, by two units in the Women in Agricultural Production and Rural Development Service of FAO. We believe, that at present these units essentially consist of only three professional officers. We, therefore, would like to ask the Secretariat whether such a limited number of professionals would be able to deal with the anticipated activities in an efficient way.

Our second remark relates to the two-track approach, as explained in paragraph 25. One track : consists of projects exclusively aimed at women; the other to the integration of women into all of FAO's projects and programmes.

While we believe that the second track will eventually render the most satisfactory results, we are also convinced that the first track, activities specifically designed for women, should not be neglected, as long as the integration of women's components, in other projects is still only taken care of in a rather superficial and rudimentary way.

We believe it could be useful, if FAO would develop a concrete action plan, based on the outline in document C 87/LIM/16, which would constitute a detailed programme on how policy will be translated in action, in particular with regard to the Organization itself. Other UN Organizations and bilateral donors have already done this and FAO could benefit from their experience in drawing up its own plan. ~~It might be helpful if, to that effect, an expert consultation would be organised in which knowledgeable people from other UN Organizations, bilateral donors and recipient countries would get together to provide FAO with advice on how to design and, in particular, implement such a plan.~~ The Netherlands would be prepared to help with this financially, for example by providing travel and per diem for participants from developing countries.

On the last page of the document, page 14, certain premises - or perhaps they should be called restrictions - are mentioned that would determine or limit FAO's activities with regard to women in development. The first one, budgetary constraints, I shall return to in a moment. The second one, inter-agency coordination, seems to suggest that FAO's willingness to cooperate with other agencies is determined by the degree to which these agencies respect FAO's mandate. We should like to ask the Secretariat if it has any reason to believe that this would not be the case and if it does not believe that certain areas could rightly be within the mandate of several organizations and that consequently there is even more reason to work together with these organizations.

The third premise basically suggest that changes in the organizational structure and activities are not called for, except for some fine-tuning of priorities. That remains to be seen, in our view. The development of a plan of action, as suggested earlier, could very well reveal that certain changes in structure and procedure are indeed called for, and we see no reason to exclude these from the start. There is nothing wrong with change as long as it leads to improved results.

The first premise seems to indicate that a Member State should not expect extensive descriptions of women's activities in programme-planning documents, for reasons of brevity. We fully support the idea that documents should be as brief as possible, but, given the priority and innovative nature of the subject, we believe that it is important that member countries and other interested parties are adequately informed about FAO's activities in this respect.

Returning to the budgetary constraints, we should like to say two things. First, activities related to women in development are, we believe, of a priority nature and should be treated as such within the limits of the overall Regular Budget. Secondly, the Netherlands is prepared to assist FAO with extra-budgetary resources for costs of an essential regular budgetary nature if this is thought to be helpful. For instance, we should be prepared to finance an expert for one or two years who would strengthen the Inter-Divisional Working Group on Women in Development, in particular with regard to the use and implementation of the Women in Development guidelines for project preparation and implementation.

Finally, we should like to support the draft resolution on FAO activities related to the integration of women in development as presented by the Nordic countries.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of the Netherlands for that detailed intervention. I am sure that delegates will welcome the penultimate portion of his intervention in which he indicated the willingness of the Netherlands to fund some staff costs, should that be felt necessary, to give a further impetus to women's programmes through FAO.

Marcos I, NIETO LARA (Cuba): Por ser la primera ocasión en que hago uso de la palabra, me permito felicitarle a usted por la elección para dirigir los debates de esta importante Comisión.. Al mismo tiempo deseo saludar y felicitar al señor Rafael Moreno por la excelente presentación del tema y por el documento tan completo que nos ha sido presentado por la Secretaría.

Nosotros, señor Presidente, tenemos algunas preocupaciones que manifestar en esta Comisión. Realmente los esfuerzos que se vienen realizando en materia de reforma agraria, aún son insuficientes para dar verdadera respuesta a las necesidades de los países, a la eliminación de la pobreza y al Programa de Acción que fuera acordado en la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural el pasado julio de 1979. Aún subsisten, en un primer plano, las limitaciones en la mayoría de los países para el acceso a los recursos de tierra y agua por parte de los campesinos, sobre todo, de los campesinos más pobres.

En materia de acceso a insumos y créditos agrícolas se plantea una situación semejante, y ya no hablemos del continuado empobrecimiento en las actividades de salud, educación y otras que conforman parte de las acciones encaminadas a mejorar el nivel y la calidad de vida de los campesinos.

Por esta razón, señor Presidente, mi delegación considera que las adscripciones de reforma agraria se deciden en un contexto político, y, una vez más, conviene revisar el llamado para que los gobiernos, para que los países, adopten las decisiones políticas pertinentes y pongan en práctica el Programa de Acción, de acuerdo con la Declaración de Principios de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Durante estos ocho años que han transcurrido, se han presentado dos informes a la Conferencia General de la FAO y se han realizado varias consultas intergubernamentales a nivel de las regiones. Estas consultas y estos informes, entre otras cosas, nos permiten poder evaluar con plena capacidad, en qué situación estamos; y las conclusiones, señor Presidente, son realmente desalentadoras. Por lo tanto, mi delegación considera que la FAO debe jugar y tener un papel mucho más activo y mucho más dinámico en esta dirección, buscando soluciones prácticas, soluciones inmediatas, recomendaciones prácticas a los países para adoptar, en la medida de las posibilidades de la situación política de cada uno de estos países, las medidas que tiendan al cumplimiento de estos objetivos. Así ha sido recomendado en diferentes consultas que se han hecho donde, grupos de expertos, y grupos de representantes de países han examinado en detalle diferentes aspectos de los programas que se plantean en curso.

Uno de los aspectos más importantes que deseamos resaltar es la necesidad de una adecuada participación popular de las masas campesinas en el desarrollo agrícola de nuestros países y en el desarrollo de su actividad económica, social y política. Esto, según han manifestado algunos delegados, en unos casos ha tenido éxito-, y, en otros, ciertas medidas adoptadas no lo han tenido.

Nosotros queremos poner de relieve que en nuestro país se llevó a cabo una verdadera y profunda reforma agraria, que no solamente adoptó medidas en cuanto a la distribución de los fondos de tierra, sino que además encaró un programa muy amplio en la dirección de transformar las condiciones del medio rural, otorgando a los campesinos la verdadera dimensión social que merecen dentro de nuestros países. En esta dirección, señor Presidente, los resultados de la aplicación del Programa de Reforma Agraria son muy elocuentes. Nosotros nos encontramos actualmente adelantando un intenso programa de cooperativización en el país, a partir de respetar el estricto principio de voluntariedad de los campesinos para asociarse en nuevas organizaciones de producción, que tienen como finalidad principal aplicar los logros de la ciencia y de la técnica y, consecuentemente, aumentar la producción y la productividad agrícola. Esta línea, desde luego, se enmarca y se corresponde con una de las principales prioridades trazadas por la Organización. Cada día nuestros campesinos mejoran sus condiciones de vida, y mejoran sus condiciones de vida porque aumentan sus posibilidades de acceso a los mercados; tienen mercado asegurado, tienen insumos asegurados a precios realmente remunerativos y, consecuentemente, se incrementan los servicios de salud, de educación, y todos aquellos que nos permiten tender hacia la eliminación de las diferencias entre la ciudad y el campo.

En este sentido de la participación popular nosotros consideramos que la FAO debe estudiar y detenerse en examinar las posibilidades de desarrollo de formas asociativas de los campesinos, en primer lugar, para asegurar un marco organizativo que les permita un mejor acceso a los recursos de tierra y agua, a los servicios y a la comercialización agrícola, en condiciones decorosas.

Señor Presidente, en cuanto a la participación de la mujer, en Cuba es un hecho muy real y algunas cifras hablan de ello. Por ejemplo el 26 por ciento de los cooperativistas de nuestro país son mujeres, y participan en todas las actividades agrícolas siempre que sus condiciones físicas se lo permitan. Hay muchas mujeres que son propietarias de tierras, y fincas, y se ha sabido integrar plenamente la mujer en todas las actividades económicas y sociales del país.

Estamos de acuerdo con lo declarado por otras delegaciones en el sentido de que la mujer debe tomar un papel mucho más activo y no sólo por sí, sino que tenemos que otorgarle este papel y esta dimensión social que ella merece para que pueda constituirse en un factor de movilización social al interior del medio rural. En este sentido, apoyamos las proposiciones realizadas y consideramos que podría avanzarse mucho más en este campo. Habría que introducir, como un elemento nuevo, la participación de los jóvenes. Se ha puesto de manifiesto en esta reunión que a veces la migración social está dada, fundamentalmente, por grupos de personas jóvenes o por las generaciones más recientes. Otorgar una adecuada atención al problema de la evolución de la juventud en el medio rural también demandaría de nuestra atención.

Señor Presidente, se ha expresado una proposición por parte de la Secretaría; nosotros quisiéramos detenernos a examinar este punto. Si reconocemos que la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural son actividades prioritarias de los países y de la Organización, nos parece que un tiempo de examen de ocho años es un período demasiado prolongado. En ocho años pueden ocurrir muchas, pero muchas cosas. No sabemos que va a pasar en el año 1995 cuando tenemos una situación económica internacional realmente muy incierta y situaciones políticas también complejas que conforman este contexto. Quizás nosotros debiéramos examinar con detalle, posibilidades para facilitar la realización de estos informes, que habría que presentar a la Conferencia. Mi delegación reitera el criterio de que estos informes deben hacerse cada cuatro años, y si bien nuestro país también participó en la formulación del informe, o al menos presentó un reporte particular de sus experiencias, debo decir, señor Presidente, que resultó muy laborioso. Esto realmente es así; se manejan una cierta cantidad de informaciones estadísticas que, a nuestro modesto entender, nos parece que es muy difícil, para la mayoría de los países, poder manipular toda esta información con un verdadero nivel de confiabilidad. Quizás, en lugar de examinar estas actividades cada ocho años, habría que hacer un ejercicio técnico en el sentido de mejorar o disminuir la metodología de trabajo que ha sido propuesta, aliviándola, porque realmente hay problemas tan agudos, tan serios, que no se requiere de una cantidad extraordinaria de indicadores para poder tener una percepción clara de lo que está pasando. Por lo tanto, me sumo a los delegados que han expresado su criterio de mantener el período de examen cada cuatro años y, repito, sería deseable que se estudiara una metodología mucho más manejable, una metodología un poco más práctica que nos permita tener un seguimiento muy preciso, o con bastante exactitud, para poder pronunciarlos los países miembros de la Organización cada cuatro años en esta Conferencia.

Ms. Barbara MARTIN (Canada): At the outset I would like to compliment the Secretariat for the quality of the documents which are before us under this agenda item. The Second Progress Report on the Implementation of the Programme of Action developed at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 1979 is an excellent global survey and analysis of national policy as well as assessment of progress in this area. The Canadian delegation is particularly pleased to see an entire chapter devoted to an analysis of the role of women in rural development.

The second document which is before us derives from decisions taken at the 91st Council. It is an over-view of FAO's programme directions related to women in agriculture and rural development. It is a clear demonstration of the considerable capabilities of FAO staff to understand women in development issues and how to integrate these into the regular programming.

The Canadian delegation would like to use this opportunity to focus its remarks on the issue of women in development, but before doing so we would like to comment briefly on the WCARRD Programme of Action. As we said in our statement under agenda item 6.1, the State of Food and Agriculture, there are three pillars to agricultural development: appropriate national policies; a fair trade environment and effective resource transfer mechanisms.

The WCARRD report provides insights into all three, but most particularly the first, national policies. As a result of the World Conference, many countries undertook a programme which included the formulation of integrated and comprehensive world development strategies, the increased participation of primary producers in the development process and the appropriate reorganization of rural economic structures for more efficient production and an equitable distribution of social and economic benefits. The WCARRD report underlines that rural development is first and foremost dependent upon the initiative from within each country itself. But at the same time it is recognized that the international economic recession, international trade factors and the debt crisis have a bearing on a country's ability to implement many national policies. The Canadian statement under item 6.1 has already described our belief that a cooperative approach is the best way to resolve some of these difficulties.

It is distressing to note that there has been little real advance in rural poverty alleviation during the period of the report. Clearly FAO support and policy development and appropriate technical assistance are warranted.

My delegation endorses those areas of support outlined in paragraph 54 of the report, most especially in the development of agrarian reform policies and in the design of beneficiary-oriented rural development policies. We agree that there is also need to consult and collaborate with other UN agencies to develop policy guidelines to address issues surrounding rural urban imbalances, rural industrialization and non-farm employment.

The delegation of Canada recognizes the close relationship between the content and analysis contained in the WCARRD report and the report on the State of Food and Agriculture. We are concerned to reduce duplication in reporting and in this respect we support the recommendation by the Secretariat to change the periodicity of reporting under the WCARRD programme to once in every eight years.

We also support the proposal to present an in-depth analytical report on a selected theme in between. In fact, my delegation would suggest that an extensive analytical report on the role of women in rural development might be the most appropriate as the first such thematic report.

We have noted that in the WCARRD report women are among the poorest within our poverty groups, suffering even greater disabilities in regard to access to food, health, education and other services as well as in access to land, to water and to credit. We have also noted that whilst some national economic plans address women's concerns, there remains much to be done to integrate a comprehensive national strategy for women in development within the framework of most national plans.

This leads me to the focus of Canadian concerns under this agenda item. Canada's interest in taking into account women's contribution to development and ensuring that women are equal beneficiaries of development is well known. In our bilateral development assistance programming, women in development has become an established priority and we are now working closely with many countries to develop integrated programmes which tap and develop this vital resource.

It is a sad reality that it was not so long ago that we failed to recognize the significant contribution of women to planting, to cultivation and harvesting, to animal husbandry, to fish processing, to marketing etc. But now we do not believe it possible to design effective development programmes and strategies which will contribute to overall GNP growth without integrating the contribution of women. It is noteworthy that the Brundtland Commission reported that "in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia, (women) form a large agricultural labour force, while most of sub-Saharan Africa's food is grown by women".

There is now significant recognition in the international community of women's contributions to so economic growth and development. This has been evidenced here by the number of ministers and deputy ministers who made reference to it in their statements to the Plenary of this Conference.

Canada has been concerned to ensure that women are fully integrated into the programming priorities : of multilateral agencies such as the FAO. The mandate for this is clearly stated in the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies and has now been further elaborated in the system-wide medium-term plan for women in development. We are therefore particularly pleased to see the substantial and thoughtful report on FAO's programme directions for women in agricultural and rural development. As is stated in the introduction, this report is intended to facilitate guidance from this Conference on the future implementation of women in development programming and to provide the basis for a structured programme of action over the medium term. This document marks the beginning of the clear articulation of an integrated policy, drawing from the good work which has already taken place.

It is the Canadian view that women in development is an integral element of all FAO programming, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries and nutrition. For that reason, we welcome, as was noted in paragraph 25 of the report, that there is a growing trend to make women's concerns an integral part of all FAO activities. We believe this integrated approach must be actively encouraged as the dominant approach and that it must be thus appropriately reflected in specific references in the Programme of Work and Budget. In this respect, I would note that the references in the Programme of Work and Budget for the 1988-89 biennium are not as direct and strong as those made in the 1986-87 programme and we encourage a return to an expansion on the earlier programme texts.

I would also stress that the integrated approach which we advocate is aimed at ending dependence on extrabudgetary funding for women's programmes. Women in development issues should be addressed through the central programming and budgetary processes and not as supplementary activities.

Canada endorses and supports the three thrusts to integrate women's concerns into programming which had been identified by the Secretariat: revised programme design, expansion and improvement of a statistical data base and sensitization and training of FAO staff. These three thrusts provide a sound and comprehensive basis for the development of a more detailed plan of action. The objectives and general guidelines as found in paragraphs 55 and 56 provide the appropriate orientation. Awareness of the contribution of women to the economy and of the constraints which limit their full participation and limit the benefits which they can enjoy from development is half the solution to the problem. Research and the collection of disaggregated statistical data is essential to sound policy development. The FAO's technical capacity can serve well the interests of all Member States in providing the necessary supporting background information which will enable not only the FAO to develop appropriate policies and programming but also will assist governments in the development and implementation of national economic strategies which integrate women's concerns.

We therefore encourage the Director-General to continue and expand the research abilities of the FAO in this field.

Of particular interest is research related to women's rights to equal access to land ownership, and to agricultural inputs including credit. Such basic information is of crucial importance in the development of national policies which integrate women's concerns.

The Canadian delegation fully endorses the draft resolution presented by the Nordic delegations which requests the Director-General to prepare for presentation to the 94th Council a plan of action for the integration of women in development into FAO programming. My delegation believes this plan should be incorporated into the 1989/90 Programme of Work and Budget, and also that it should include a timetable for its implementation.

In view of the high quality of work which has already been produced by the Secretariat on this subject, my delegation will look forward to the results of its efforts on the plan of action.

It is our hope that in future conferences we shall be able to discuss progression in the implementation of the plan of action and general issues surrounding women in development programming under a separate agenda item as a reflection of the relevance of this issue for all FAO programming. The consensus of the 91st Council and the continuing momentum here at this Conference are a clear indication to the Secretariat of the priority which most, if not all, Member States attach to this issue.

Antoine SAINTRAINT (Belgique): Monsieur le President, je respecterai vos recommandations et je serai extrêmement bref et concis.

La délégation du Royaume de Belgique voudrait d'abord remercier la FAO, plus spécifiquement le Secrétariat, pour les excellents documents qui nous sont soumis et qui font le point de la situation. Nous marquons notre accord sur la proposition de périodicité des rapports, la portant de quatre à huit ans, étant entendu que des rapports seraient fournis tous les quatre ans, à mi-parcours, sur des thèmes spécifiques et particuliers.

Dans l'ensemble, on peut se réjouir des progrès qui ont été réalisés dans le domaine de la formation. La liaison est étroite entre la formation et tous les programmes de développement, y compris ceux plus spécifiquement consacrés au rôle des femmes dans le secteur rural.

On peut peut-être regretter que le suivi des recommandations de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural concernant la détermination d'objectifs et de cibles n'ait pas été davantage assorti de mises en oeuvre de programmes axés sur des groupes bien précis, bien définis, étant entendu que ce type d'affectation nécessite bien sûr des crédits budgétaires suffisants.

Il faut insister également sur la nécessité pour les pays de poursuivre leurs efforts pour tenter d'augmenter la part de l'agriculture dans le total des dépenses publiques. C'est un point important. Si on veut réserver une priorité à l'agriculture, à la réforme agraire et au développement rural, il faut bien sûr que dans la politique nationale la part du budget consacrée à ce secteur soit suffisante.

Les pays doivent tenter d'élaborer des stratégies de production axées principalement sur la petite exploitation. C'est le cas pour un certain nombre de pays, notamment pour l'Afrique, parce qu'il faut adapter les programmes de réforme agraire aux besoins des populations et, parmi ces populations, aux groupes les plus pauvres et les plus démunis.

On peut peut-être regretter, parce que la liaison est étroite entre une politique de réforme agraire, le développement rural et une politique de crédits, un certain recul enregistré dans plusieurs pays des crédits agricoles consentis aux petits exploitants, tout en relevant avec intérêt l'exception présentée par un certain nombre de pays dans lesquels des mesures spécifiques ont été prises pour lier le crédit à des programmes axés sur des bénéficiaires ou groupes de bénéficiaires déterminés.

La délégation de notre pays peut marquer son accord sur la recommandation visant à adopter des approches et des méthodes de vulgarisation susceptibles d'atteindre un nombre beaucoup plus important de petits agriculteurs.

Nous voudrions souligner une fois de plus l'importance qu'il y a à renforcer les liens entre la recherche et la vulgarisation. C'est un aspect qui nous tient particulièrement à coeur parce qu'il est important que la recherche scientifique soit en relation étroite avec la vulgarisation dans le secteur agricole et que les bénéfices des recherches et des découvertes, des innovations apportées dans le domaine de l'agriculture puissent profiter à l'ensemble des agriculteurs.

Il y a non seulement l'importance du renforcement entre recherche et vulgarisation mais également la nécessité d'adopter des politiques souples, efficaces et opérationnelles en matière de crédit et en matière de fourniture des éléments de production parce que, sans le crédit et sans- la fourniture d'éléments de production, les efforts déployés par les petits agriculteurs risquent souvent d'être vains.

Bien sûr, nous reconnaissons l'importance primordiale du rôle des femmes dans le développement rural. C'est évidemment un problème qui dépend des pays eux-mêmes. Je crois qu'en un nombre relativement limité d'années des progrès sensibles ont été enregistrés et que tout ce qui contribue à accélérer le processus permettant aux femmes d'occuper une place plus grande dans ce domaine doit être épaulé et soutenu.

Nous sommes bien sûr d'accord sur le rôle important que la FAO a à jouer en ce domaine et nous nous permettons d'insister sur la nécessité d'une collaboration active et efficace avec les autres organisations internationales, avec les organisation régionales et avec toutes les organisations nationales qui se préoccupent de ces problèmes.

Je vous remercie de nous avoir accordé la parole pour souligner - et je me rends compte que je suis loin d'être complet - un certain nombre de points importants qui nous tenaient particulièrement à coeur.

René LONCAN (Brazil): First of all, I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the preparation and presentation of documents C 87/19 and C 87/LIM/16 before us.

Over the last three years, the Brazilian Government has considerably increased appropriations for the agricultural sector, be it through direct credits to producers, be it through cost supporting or investment earmarked credits, besides supplying indirect investments on the sector, such as road construction, rural electrification, technical assistance, irrigation and increasing of storage facilities. These efforts greatly contributed to a 62.5 million ton grain harvest in 1986-87, which represents an increase of circa 8 million tons as compared to the previous crop of all the more common staples: only black beans registered a slightly diminished production in 1986-87, due to climatic adverse conditions, which brought about the need to import the product to correct the level of its supply.

In the sphere of reforestation, the Brazilian Government has intensified research and reforestation projects, for which it counts on the cooperation of FAO and the Government of Canada. These projects, which are developed in the north-east of the country, associate forestry activities with agriculture and cattle breeding, by cultivating essences that serve both the environmental necessities and the economic interest, since the species chosen are drought resistant and can be

used as human food supplement as well as fodder. Besides these specific development projects in the north-east, the National Forestry Research Centre maintains different lines of research all over the national territory, supported by the Brazilian Institute for Forest Development.

As for aquaculture, Brazil has been increasingly supportive of these activities, by sponsoring research and attributing credit to producers. It is noteworthy that in Brazil aquaculture is not limited to the farm sector, but it is extensively developed in other areas such as the large reservoirs and dams created for the purposes of irrigation or energy generation. Those wide water surfaces have increasingly been utilized for the multiplication of fresh water fish and shrimps.

Another aspect of aquaculture that has gained momentum in the last few years is frog breeding, which has been successfully launched and developed as a means of producing animal protein and inputs for leather and medical industries.

Land distribution is another chief concern of the Brazilian Government which has spared no effort to solve the problems of access to land ownership for landless farmers and of a fair sharing of the producing areas.

FAO has lent its help to the Ministry for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development by sending, at our request, a technical mission to Brazil, efficiently headed by Dr Rafael Moreno, to share with the Brazilian department responsible the combined experience of the Organization on the matter.

As recently as late October 1987, the Government has sent to Congress draft legislation on agrarian reform that, by rendering the criteria more acceptable and the modus faciendi more practical, will certainly speed up the solution of this important issue within the tissue of our changing society.

Regarding the role of women in rural development, the Brazilian process of development brought about an uneven growth which negatively affected the poorer sections of society, especially in rural areas; within these circumstances, women who remained in rural areas were the most affected segment of the population, since they had to multiply their activities to replace men and younger women who migrated towards overpopulated urban areas seeking better opportunities.

In spite of the multifarious roles played by peasant women in Brazil, it took the Government a long time to recognize such social reality and to start offering them support, and those women themselves are not yet in a position to acknowledge their role within the family, the producing unit or the local community.

Just recently a few movements of rural women have appeared in certain regions, aiming at showing public opinion their situation.

At Government level, certain important steps have been taken in favour of women. In 1985 the Government created the National Council for Women's Rights, and in 1985 the Ministry of Agriculture created the Programme of Support for Women, and the Ministry for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development created the Commission for Support to Rural Working Women, all these representing long overdue measures to begin correcting the distortions which have always de facto or de jure jeopardized the situation of rural women in Brazil. For these reasons, Brazil strongly supports the draft resolution presented by the Nordic countries.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, para tratar de atender su llamado hemos reducido algunas notas. Sin embargo, no podemos ser demasiado breves. Como compensación le ofrecemos no intervenir en algunos temas posteriores, y si hubiere reunión nocturna hoy, estaríamos aquí solidarios con usted sin hablar.

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que entre los hechos que más desacreditan a los organismos internacionales ante la opinión pública y mayor desaliento causan en los países del tercer mundo, esté el de convocar con frecuencia conferencias que se llevan a cabo con gran solemnidad y cuyas recomendaciones importantes suelen desaparecer, por contraste, entre el olvido y la languidez. Este sería el caso de la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural si aceptásemos la propuesta de que estos informes sólo se presenten en adelante cada ocho años.

Como dijo el colega Nieto, de Cuba, al ritmo vertiginoso que avanza el tiempo, ocho años son toda una compleja eternidad.

La Delegación de Colombia piensa que resulta inadecuado e incoherente hacer esa propuesta basada en argumentos como los que se exponen en el párrafo 2 del documento básico.

Si no hay datos suficientes, si es cierto que a los gobiernos cuesta tiempo y recursos la preparación de los informes, la FAO no debe rendirse ante la línea de menor resistencia, sino asistir a esos países y recabar también la asistencia y apoyo de organismos y de Estados donantes para que esos Estados estén en condiciones de presentar los informes.

El resultado desfavorable de este segundo informe, en vez de hacernos mirar hacia el infinito, debe llamarnos la atención para intensificar ahora los esfuerzos comunes en favor de la realización de los objetivos del Programa de Acción.

¿Cómo es posible que se pretenda alejar el conocimiento y el análisis de esta situación cuando este documento indica tantos aspectos desalentadores? Es como si dijéramos que, porque el ambiente está frío, es necesario suprimir la calefacción.

La Conferencia, recomendó un seguimiento sistemático y no dilatado en el espacio, de las actividades de reforma agraria y desarrollo rural y el párrafo 12 dice que "los progresos realizados en la puesta en práctica de esta Recomendación han sido sólo limitados".

Los párrafos 13 y 14 señalan que los procesos de reforma agraria se hallan prácticamente detenidos. Han sido muy pocos los gobiernos que, durante este período han adoptado programas significativos de reforma agraria. Se ha producido un descenso per capita de la disponibilidad de la tierra en casi todos los países.

Se ha registrado un gran incremento de las propiedades muy pequeñas y marginales, equivalentes a la condición de campesinos sin tierras.

Sobre la mujer, nos referiremos, mas adelante, al LIM/16, pero ya en los párrafos 14, 16 y 17 se dice que "el acceso de 4.a mujer a la tierra no se ha abordado explícitamente en ningún país"; "el acceso de la mujer al crédito sigue siendo sumamente limitado en todas las regiones"; "no se ha prestado suficiente atención a las necesidades de las mujeres en materia de insumos".

La parte VI, a partir del párrafo 31, demuestra que la pobreza rural se multiplica; casi mil millones de personas viven en la pobreza absoluta. La población ha crecido en 96 millones, pero no lo han hecho en la misma medida la superficie cultivable. El párrafo 37 informa que hay incremento de desempleo en las zonas rurales.

Muy limitados alcances han tenido las recomendaciones de la Conferencia, confirmando que el Programa de Acción ha quedado convertido en un texto prácticamente sin ninguna aplicación.

Ocho años después de celebrada la Conferencia, este segundo informe arroja esos hechos y cifras decepcionantes. Y cómo puede pretenderse ahora contribuir a que esas actividades se diluyan aun más, desaparezcan entre períodos cuya duración no corresponde a la necesidad de seguir insistiendo en que los objetivos del Programa de Acción deben mantenerse vivos y permanentemente latentes. Podríamos continuar durante ocho días, ocho meses u ocho años, seguir analizando los resultados desalentadores de este documento, pero tal vez, la vacilación de la Secretaría sobre la presentación cuatrienal de este informe podría contrarrestarse con la sugerencia de que, en el futuro, traten de hacer menos voluminoso y literario este documento, eviten repeticiones que se observan fácilmente, compilen y concreten adecuadamente las referencias a los mismos temas que aparecen dispersas en el documento, y así podrían presentarnos informes adecuados, austeros, breves y específicos, pero cada cuatro años.

La Primera reacción de la delegación de Colombia sobre "La Mujer en la Agricultura y el Desarrollo Rural", a la luz del documento LIM/16, es la de que han proliferado abundantemente declaraciones, Estrategias, Planes, Grupos de Acción, Seminarios, Cursos, Conferencias, y hasta cambio de nombre en el Servicio dedicado a estas actividades en el organigrama de la FAO.

Todo ello se ha multiplicado, pero el resultado práctico ha sido intrascendente; afirmación esta que podría justificar lo que se dice en el párrafo 22 del documento básico 19, en el sentido de que, cito: "sigue existiendo una gran disparidad entre la condición de jure y la condición de facto de la mujer, en cuanto a la igualdad de la condición jurídica, empleos y salarios, etc...". O sea, mucha literatura y pocas realizaciones.

Sobre la mujer en la economía rural, se hace una invocación de la vieja concepción, a través de la cual, se colocaba a la mujer limitada a sus actividades domésticas. Pero, ¿qué hace la FAO para reivindicar la verdadera condición de la mujer de acuerdo con los nuevos conceptos? Pocas sugerencias concretas aparecen en el documento. Por el contrario, el párrafo dice que "las mujeres en la práctica no han conseguido una mayor igualdad de oportunidades ni mayores beneficios o capacidades de decisiones".

En nuestro informe, deberemos refrendar la declaración explícita de la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural acerca del hecho de que la mujer debe participar activamente en el desarrollo rural, en condiciones de igualdad con el hombre y participar plenamente en el mejoramiento del nivel de vida en las zonas rurales.

Preguntamos, ¿en el marco institucional de la FAO se está haciendo algo más, distinto al cambio de nombre del Servicio?

Las funciones atribuidas al Servicio de Promoción de la Mujer en la Producción Agrícola y el Desarrollo Rural, la formulación de políticas, el desarrollo y apoyo a los proyectos técnicos de campo, la identificación y promoción de la mujer como destinataria de todos los programas de la FAO, ¿todo ello se lleva a cabo sólo aquí, en la Roma de la "dolce vita", o también en el campo, en los países en desarrollo donde realmente están las mujeres que requieren de esa asistencia y de esos servicios?

A la delegación de Colombia, le encantaría escuchar en este debate sobre la mujer, una voz femenina proveniente del podium; la voz de la competente e inteligente Dra. Ruth Finney, por ejemplo, para que responda a estos y otros interrogantes que vamos a seguir formulando. Porque nuestra preocupación sobre la posible desafortunada centralización de esas labores, no es imaginaria ni demagógica; más bien, esa preocupación nuestra podría basarse en lo que dice el párrafo 30 del documento LIM/16. Y el párrafo 30 tiene un título y una conclusión un poco maliciosos y sugestivos. Habla el párrafo 30 del ciclo, y se pregunta, ¿cuál es el impacto de ese ciclo en la vida de esas mujeres?

El párrafo 30 dice textualmente: "Se supone - se supone repito - que las mujeres son tenidas en cuenta y participan notablemente en las actividades de campo de la FAO, aunque el hecho no está plenamente documentado". ¿Comparte la Dra. Ruth esta afirmación del párrafo 30?

Acerca de "La Mujer en los Sistemas Alimentarios", "La Mujer en el Desarrollo", y "La Economía del Hogar", actividades atribuidas a ese Servicio, ¿cómo hacen llegar éstas sus beneficios, guías y orientaciones hasta las mujeres del campo? Lo que dicen al respecto los párrafos 11 a 13 es muy vago y general. Ojalá se nos dieran explicaciones más concretas.

Toda la serie de reuniones citadas se celebran en sitios tan agradables como Bellagio, diciembre de 1985, ¿o también en sitios menos elegantes y confortables en el Tercer Mundo? Suponemos que en América Latina y el Caribe van a seguirse reuniones, o mesas redondas y cuadradas, como la que tuvo lugar hace algún tiempo en Bogotá, capital de Colombia, y a la que se refirió nuestro colega de Uruguay. La delegación de Colombia atribuye gran importancia al nivel nacional de las actividades de la FAO.

Reuniones y cursos prácticos de capacitación, consultas e intercambios de experiencias entre países, esto a nivel regional está bien, pero el destinatario final debe ser el país, mediante el fortalecimiento de los medios y recursos nacionales que generalmente son limitados.

Preguntamos, ¿el material didáctico, las Conferencias, reuniones y seminarios se tendrán en todos los idiomas, incluido el olvidado castellano? Importante el reforzamiento de las instituciones nacionales y la capacitación del personal de los países en desarrollo.

Apoyamos el párrafo 43 sobre la necesidad de que la FAO ayude a los países a mejorar los servicios a favor de las campesinas, así como la mayor y más racional y efectiva participación de la mujer en las cooperativas y todas otras formas de asociaciones que las hagan más fuertes, y aseguren su más amplia capacitación, como lo dijo el colega de Cuba.

El párrafo 47 habla de que "permitan a la mujer ocupar cargos directivos". Aunque suponemos que se trata de las organizaciones de pequeños agricultores, esto nos lleva a relacionarlo con el párrafo 49 que habla del "interés de la FAO en aumentar las oportunidades de capacitación de la mujer con un incremento constante del número de alumnas en los cursos de capacitación de la FAO". Para concluir que parece un poco paradójico que esas actividades de capacitación no se reflejen en un lógico aumento del número de profesionales femeninas en la plantilla del personal de la FAO.

Este documento no contiene ninguna referencia a las mujeres profesionales que trabajan en la FAO y, desde luego, no puede contener ninguna comparación con el pasado, para comprobar si todo este empeño de la FAO, ha comenzado a tener aplicación práctica en nuestra propia Organización.

Entendemos que en todo el personal de la FAO, cerca de 7 000 funcionarios, sólo dos mujeres, por cierto inteligentes ambas, competentes, hermosas y atrayentes, pero sólo dos mujeres tienen grado D-I. ¿Podríamos acaso conocer cifras sobre funcionarios mujeres en la FAO, incremento en los últimos años y posibilidades futuras, sobre todo, de mujeres provenientes del Tercer Mundo, donde también las hay muy capacitadas y competentes?

La delegación de Colombia ha tenido el honor de asociarse a los siempre altruistas y positivos países nórdicos, para presentar un Proyecto de Resolución que pronto estará a disposición de esta Comisión para su discusión, como la anunció naturalmente la voz femenina de nuestra amiga Astrid Bergquist de Suecia. Nos proponemos así contribuir a que toda esta serie de literatura sobre la mujer pueda irse convirtiendo progresivamente en real reconocimiento de los derechos de la menospreciada condición femenina.

En la Conferencia pasada, nuestra distinguida colega y amiga Fermín Gómez de Venezuela redactó y presentó, con el apoyo de otras delegaciones, la Resolución 12/85 sobre la mujer en el medio rural. Esperamos que nuestra distinguida colega embajadora de Venezuela presentará otro Proyecto de Resolución, al cual de antemano anticipamos nuestro apoyo porque estamos seguros de que contendrá orientaciones y directrices muy útiles.

CHAIRMAN: When reacting to the suggestion in the document that the record of progress should be reviewed by the Conference, not once in four years but once in eight years the delegate from Colombia was good enough to observe that nowadays eight years is almost an eternity. I was fascinated by that observation, as I am sure a number of delegates were. I will, however, resist the temptation to apply the same yardstick to the length of time that the Colombia delegate has been associated with the FAO Headquarters which on the same time scale is much longer than an eternity, possibly three-and-a-half eternities.

I am also grateful to the delegate from Colombia for his kind offer to keep us company in the night session. May I promise him that I will insist on that when the time comes.

I thank the delegate from Colombia for his detailed intervention.

Fotis G. POULIDES (Cyprus): Cyprus participated in the WCARRD organized in Rome in 1979, as well as in the follow-up activities planned in pursuit of the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference. The first round of periodic reporting undertaken by Cyprus in the context of the WCARRD was completed in 1983 and covered the period ending 1981, while the second round of such reporting was completed in 1987 covering the period 1981-1985.

Reporting on the progress achieved in relation to the principles and the programme of action of the WCARRD has been a useful pioneer experience which strengthened national capabilities in assessing the achievements and the impact of agrarian reform and rural development policies in Cyprus. This reporting was also useful in identifying the constraints and the areas of priority for achieving the targets and objectives of the WCARRD as embodied in the national development plan.

During the period 1980-85 Cyprus has made substantial progress in agricultural and rural development. During this period Cyprus succeeded through prudent planning and the implementation of agricultural and rural development projects and programmes in improving the performance and standards of living in agriculture, and in creating the necessary conditions for further progress and prosperity.

Between 1980-85 GDP at current market prices increased from £C 73 million to £C 111 million, namely, at an annual growth rate of 8.8% in current prices or 1.5% in constant 1980 prices. Under conditions of full employment and without any landless farmers, production of major agricultural commodities has increased and this has led to increased farm incomes which sustained improved standards of living in rural areas. Increased availability of locally produced agricultural and food commodities had a favourable impact on nutrition as well as on agricultural exports.

The period under review is characterized by extensive public investments in agriculture, with development of water resources absorbing the bulk of such investments. Suffice to say that between 1980-85 a total of \$ 150 million or around one-third of the total development budget was committed for the development of the island's water resources and for improving farmers' access to irrigation water mainly through the construction of major dams and irrigation networks. As a result, the ability of the country to collect and utilize run-off water increased from 65.1 mil. m in 1980 to 151 mil. m in 1985, while, with the completion of all the on-going projects, it is expected to reach 297 mil. m by 1988. These investments had a marked effect on irrigated land which expanded from 31 700 ha in 1980 to 35 300 in 1985.

Access to land and improvement of defective land structures constituted another important element of agrarian reform and rural development policies in Cyprus. In order to ameliorate the problems created by the extreme fragmentation of agricultural land and the dispersal of agricultural plots, Cyprus has launched an intensive land consolidation scheme, particularly in areas covered by irrigation projects. During 1980-85, 18 land consolidation projects have been completed covering an area of about 5 000 ha.

During the period under review Cyprus introduced the concept of integrated rural development in its efforts towards agrarian reform and rural development. The Pitsilia Integrated Rural Development Project implemented between 1978-83 in a poor mountainous area of about 61 000 ha, encompassed in an integrated approach (directly or indirectly) various facets of the Programme of Action of the WCARRD, namely, the development and improvement of access to land and water resources, education, training and "extension, access to inputs, markets and services, integration of women in rural development, people's participation and development of non-farm economic activities. Implementation of such integrated rural development policy was met with highly encouraging results.

These constituted the most important aspects and the core of our development efforts towards agrarian reform and rural development, in the period 1980-85. I will not attempt to highlight the progress achieved in other critical areas of the broad spectrum of agrarian reform and rural development. Such developments are described in detail in our second-generation report on the WCARRD Submitted to FAO in early 1987.

However, I would like to emphasize that the declared principles and the programme of action of the WCARRD are highly relevant and conclusive to our efforts towards agrarian reform and rural development.

On this occasion, I, therefore, wish to renew my Government's full support and commitment to the principles and the national programmes of action adopted by the WCARRD.

With regard to the reporting frequency, we are in agreement with the recommendation to lengthen the periodicity from once every four years to once every eight years.

N.V.K. Keerthiratne WERAGODA (Sri Lanka): First, allow me to congratulate the FAO Secretariat for the very interesting and informative documents which they have prepared for the subject under discussion. We also wish to commend Mr Moreno for his very lucid presentation of these two documents.

What has been attempted in these two documents is a qualitative and quantitative review and analysis of agrarian reform and rural development policies and programmes since 1980, with special reference to changes after 1983.

Sri Lanka is one of the countries that adopted the Declaration of Principles and the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in July 1979. These call for growth with equity and people's participation in the development programmes, with the focus on rural policy alleviation.

Thus, in 1979 member countries agreed on a certain programme of work to achieve a given end objective. The end objective, as we see it, is the alleviation of rural poverty. All the others, such as growth with equity, people's participation in development programmes, land to the landless, etc. are all means to achieve this end.

What we are attempting to do in this discussion, with the aid of these documents provided by the FAO Secretariat, is to see whether member countries since July 1979 - that is, after eight years of adoption of the WCARRD Action Programme - have been able to alleviate poverty, in particular rural poverty. This has been discussed in the summary under Rural Poverty Dimensions and Trends, paragraphs 31 - 42. In these paragraphs several criteria, such as access to land by the rural poor, rural urban imbalance, income distribution, wages and employment, nutrition, food availability and literacy, have been discussed to see whether there is an improvement in the conditions of rural poverty in the developing countries which adopted this programme of work.

The picture that emerges in reading these twelve paragraphs from 31 - 42 in the Summary is a very dismal one. There is hardly any alleviation of rural poverty. On the contrary, the situation has worsened. For instance, paragraph 35 says that "The decline in agricultural GDP per capita in Africa and the lack of progress in the Near East and Latin America, particularly expressed during 1983-85 are likely....to have aggravated rural poverty." In terms of numbers, paragraph 31 of the document refers to the number of absolute poor in 1980 as estimated at 789 million. However, there is no subsequent figure given in the document to make a comparison to determine the increase in the numbers. It can be safely concluded that the numbers have increased by a ratio of the increase in population.

The FAO document refers to population pressure on land as a serious causative factor of rural poverty. We feel that the inclusion of a specific policy on reduction of population pressure in this WCARRD package of policies would be useful and interrelated to other policies in achieving results.

The very pertinent question to be asked is, why did we fail to achieve positive results from this Programme of Action? Are the policies and programmes not enough? Or did the countries not give sufficient priority to this area of work? Or were they following conflicting policies? Did they merely pursue growth goals measured in terms of rate of growth, increase in GDP, irrespective of equitable distribution, hoping that with growth the poor would also automatically benefit - the trickle-down effect of growth?

I am raising this issue, because, even in countries where there have been annual average growth rates in the region of 3 to 4 percent in the last few years, the conditions of the poorer sections have not improved.

Therefore, I think some diagnostic analysis by FAO in these documents would be useful for member countries in identifying whether there have been mistakes, and if so, to take the necessary corrective steps.

Let me now refer to a few programmes that we have worked out in Sri Lanka under the Mahaweli river development programme where the river water is harnessed for hydro power and irrigation water, farm families have been settled. This programme has a number of objectives, but the preservation of small peasant producers as a social class has been given high priority from the inception. The egalitarian framework of uniform holding size, similar institutional facilities and restrictive tenure are meant to prevent the emergence of a highly differentiated society within these agricultural settlements.

With regard to people's participation, we have set up agrarian services committees in the rural areas to attend to agricultural production matters, such as input servicing and marketing. These committees consist of farmer representatives and village level officials.

In Sri Lanka we have worked out several beneficiary-oriented policies and programmes, both to safeguard vulnerable groups in the process of growth, as well as to help them in the creation of assets and employment. One such scheme introduced very recently is the creation of the Farmer Pension and Social Security Benefit Scheme. The organized work force in the state and the private sector enjoy some form of retirement benefit. As a result we have found that the rural youth was reluctant to take to agriculture. They were keener to look for white collar jobs, one reason being the assurance of a retirement benefit. Therefore we introduced this Farmer Pension Benefit Scheme for the benefit of the farmers. This is a contributory scheme where the farmers have to contribute a small sum every cultivation season. The amount of payment varies according to the age at which the farmer joins: the younger the age, the less the amount payable. Any small farmer between the ages of eighteen to sixty can join this scheme. On reaching sixty years of age the farmer is entitled to a monthly pension. Those who join the scheme are provided with group insurance cover, through which the members are entitled to a death gratuity and compensation for disabilities resulting from any occupational hazards. The scheme has become very popular and, therefore, the Government has decided to extend it to small fishermen also.

The Food Stamp Scheme was introduced in 1979 to replace the free rice ration scheme that was in operation in Sri Lanka. This scheme was introduced to provide a free quota of food for the poorer sections of the population. In addition, there are special nutritional programmes to cater for the needs of the groups who are nutritionally at risk, such as lactating mothers and pre-school children.

Agricultural research and extension work in close collaboration, and a well spread-out extension network provides research information and guidance to the small farmers. Adaptive research programmes on farming systems to get the best out of small farmers are being worked out on the farmers' fields. In these programmes special attention is paid to environmental conservation and improvement in rural areas. Traditional systems of slash and burn cultivation which destroyed the environment have been eliminated and replaced with more stable farming systems. Special research programmes on conservation farming have introduced methods of avenue cropping and zero tillage practices to avoid environmental degradation in the process of food production.

All new projects have to be cleared for environmental impact. The Soil Conservation Act which has been in operation since 1951 is being amended to meet the emerging challenges with regard to preservation of the environment.

Off-farm employment and rural industrialization are very necessary, not only to supplement the meagre income resources of the rural poor but also to prevent migration to urban areas. With this end in view, practically all remote areas in Sri Lanka are provided with rural electricity schemes in the expectation that the energy base will provide the necessary catalytic effect to generate rural small-scale industries. Already, agro-based industries have sprung up in these areas.

Women in Sri Lanka have always enjoyed pride of place in society, in keeping with the social customs and traditions. They enjoy equal rights in all spheres of economic activity. There is no discrimination, legal impediment or social taboo against women participating in economic development activities.

We have made use of these social advantages in organizing the services of women, especially for family health and nutrition programmes. It has been our experience that educating the poor on nutritional needs and ways and means of meeting those needs through cheaper foods and correct food preparation methods is equally as important as increasing food production. Women's organizations have been able to do this work very effectively. The Ministry for Women's Affairs is coordinating these activities.

In conclusion, the Sri Lankan delegation endorses the proposal to change the WCARRD reporting period from four to eight years, especially taking into consideration the long gestation in the effective implementation of these policies and the time taken to quantify and document those developments for review purposes.

Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the chair,
Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vice-President de la Comisión I, assume la présidence.
Ocupa la presidencia Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I.

A. SZABO (Czechoslovakia): After studying the comprehensive document C 87/19 it would not be right not to say openly that we expected a faster progress of the reforms at the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Of course, all will depend on the sovereign political will of the member countries of FAO. It is now becoming clear that the implementation of the proposals of one of the most important conferences in the history of the FAO will require a longer time than originally expected.

However, I think that the Conference should confirm again in its conclusions the validity of the Programme of Action, the Peasant Charter, and other results of the WCARRD.

It was impossible in the past to build the highly productive agriculture of industrially advanced countries without changes affecting economic and social structures, with implications for national economies. Developing countries cannot avoid this development either.

The Czechoslovak delegation agree with the proposal that the periodicity of the WCARRD reporting be lengthened from once every four years to once every eight years on condition that an in-depth analytical report on a selected WCARRD theme is presented to the Conference every fourth year.

My delegation believes that the key to the solution of the world food problem should be sought mainly in land availability per capita of agricultural population, in removing or at least alleviating the large inequalities in the size of land holdings, in preventing further growth of landlessness, and in the mobilization of human resources through people's participation and, in particular, through participation of rural workers' and peasants' organizations. It is our opinion, therefore, that in-depth analysis of the relationship between the land-fund conditions and human resources on the one hand and the effectiveness of agricultural production on the other should be the subject of the next in-between progress report.

It should also be mentioned that, when the data in the present report are studied, the average figures for the individual regions may show some global macro-economic trends but cannot tell the reader much about the actual solutions for the WCARRD objectives. If it is impossible to process data on, let us say, 90 countries, as is the case in the study "Agriculture: Toward 2000", it would be better, in our view to choose a set of a certain number of countries that can be conditioned as major ones from the standpoint of the food problem and have adequate structures and facilities for obtaining statistical data and other economic information.

The report for the Twenty-fourth Conference, as it is now, is comprehensive but includes plenty of data which are known - for instance, from UNCTAD in Table 2 - or are repeated from other FAO documents.

Irrespective of these comments, we appreciate the Secretariat report as offering a good survey, much information, and many stimulating ideas.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra la señora embajadora de Venezuela, pero antes le querría hacer una pregunta; es si nos va a anunciar algo referente a alguna resolución o a alguna posible resolución. Por favor, conteste a esta pregunta a efectos de tomar nota en Secretaría.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Sí, es. con el objeto de referirme a una resolución que va a ser entregada a la Comisión de Resoluciones en la reunión de las 14 horas.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora delegada, tiene usted la palabra.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, empezaremos por expresar nuestra complacencia por verlo a usted ahí, presidiendo esta reunión, porque nos tomó por sorpresa. Al mismo tiempo, damos las gracias al colega doctor Rafael Moreno por el excelente trabajo que has

presentado en relación con la Conferencia de Reforma Agraria. Nos vamos a referir, sencillamente, al cuarto capítulo de ese documento que es el que se refiere a la mujer en la agricultura y en el desarrollo rural. Hemos estudiado muy detenidamente este capítulo y consideramos que contiene una serie de iniciativas y realizaciones y una rica información acerca del trabajo que está realizando la FAO en el terreno de la mujer en el desarrollo rural; pero, naturalmente, las mujeres no estamos nunca satisfechas con todo lo que se consigue, porque todavía estamos muy distantes de las verdaderas aspiraciones que tenemos en este campo. Por esa razón, yo me voy a permitir hacer algunos comentarios con relación al documento.

Nos referimos, por ejemplo, a las actividades que están orientadas, después de la Conferencia de Nairobi, a los programas que van a tener lugar con motivo de la 40 Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas y para el programa que se prevé para la próxima década y - aunque no sabemos si todavía estaremos por aquí - nos interesaría dar nuestro apoyo a ese programa que se refiere, fundamen-talmente, a la capacitación.

Consideramos que éste es el verdadero campo importante para la mujer de inmediato y en la próxima década. Tenemos todavía una gran porcentaje de mujeres analfabetas en la mayoría de los países en vías de desarrollo; mujeres analfabetas en el medio rural y también en los llamados cinturones de miseria que rodean nuestras capitales, que en el fondo son gentes del medio rural que han abandonado sus sitios de origen para venir a buscar un alivio a su miseria y que lo que encuentran allí es el agravamiento de su situación puesto que tampoco consiguen ni siquiera trabajo.

En realidad, los llamados cinturones de miseria son poblaciones marginales del medio rural que se trasladan a las ciudades y que, a pesar de que físicamente están inmediatos a la ciudad, continúan viviendo sus mismas condiciones de necesidad que tenían en el medio rural con la diferencia de que allí no tienen tampoco trabajo.

Por eso nosotros consideramos que toda esta gente debería ser estudiada con el mismo criterio con que se estudian las poblaciones del medio rural, en especial a las mujeres.

Conocemos de cerca la vida de los grupos humanos que viven en esas áreas por haber trabajado bien de cerca no solamente en mi país, sino también en otros. Sabemos que hay allí numerosos jóvenes -mujeres - que trabajan en cualquier cosa, que están expuestas fundamentalmente a coger el camino de la prostitución porque es el único que les queda cuando comprueban que no pueden conseguir ningún trabajo honesto en las actividades productivas de la ciudad.

Todo esto es crudo, y puede ofender a algunos oídos pacatos en esta reunión, pero si nosotros somos estudiosos de la realidad social de nuestros países y del mundo subdesarrollado, tenemos que com-prender que eso es así, puesto que hay en el mundo en vías de desarrollo las llamadas grandes ciudades que tienen todos los vicios de las grandes ciudades del mundo industrializado y ninguna de sus virtudes.

Por esa razón vemos con agrado que entre los programas que la FAO tiene en cartera - vamos a decir -se encuentre el del reforzamiento de las organizaciones de mujeres en el medio rural, especialmente esta iniciativa de la FAO en relación con la conveniencia o la necesidad de que las mujeres pobres tengan acceso a la tierra. No hablaría en este caso por mi país porque nuestra Ley de Reforma Agraria no establece distinciones de sexo para tener acceso a la tierra. La entrega de tierras puede tenerla cualquier jefe de familia sea hombre o mujer - no es necesario que sea hombre -, pero por lo que veo por otros cuantos países que conozco, las mujeres no tienen este derecho, y por eso respaldamos la decisión de la FAO de establecer e intensificar programas que velen por esta condición jurídica de la mujer que las capacite para estar en disponibilidad de obtener tierras para su trabajo.

Asimismo nos referimos, en las actividades de capacitación, a cuál es el papel que le corresponde a la mujer en estas organizaciones femeninas nacionales que les permita poder tener acceso también a las tecnologías, que son una realidad, y que aun cuando algunas de ellas son bastante dañinas -porque lo que hacen es quitar el trabajo a los pobres,~puesto que esa mecanización de conllevar la agricultura, esa significa agroindustria y máquina, lo cual supone desalojo de mano de obra humana -, sin embargo son una realidad que no podemos por ahora confrontar de otra manera sino incorporándonos a ellas.

Por esta razón, es conveniente preparar a las mujeres para que sean capaces de incorporarse al trabajo mecánico, comprendiendo cuál es la forma de realizarlo más eficientemente.

Esta sería la forma en que reforzaríamos las organizaciones femeninas rurales, mediante cursillos prácticos, y sobre todo dando acceso a la mujer para alcanzar una posición dirigente porque, hasta ahora, los hombres aceptan a las mujeres en las organizaciones de trabajo - vamos a decir en las organizaciones campesinas, en los sindicatos, etc. - porque las mujeres son muy buenas para mandarlas, hacer todo lo que los hombres quieren. Las tienen de segundas, pero no les dan acceso a conseguir una posición dirigente. No es una invención mía, sino que la psicología así lo demuestra, que no hay ninguna diferencia que revele que el hombre es más inteligente que la mujer. Esa es una verdad muy vieja que es de conocimiento de cualquiera que haya estudiado psicología elemental.

Por esa razón, si a las mujeres se les capacita, pueden tener la oportunidad de ser dirigentes de sus propias organizaciones con la ventaja de que, de esa manera, pueden trabajar con mayor empeño en el progreso de su grupo y, por consiguiente, de su comunidad.

La FAO ha demostrado que ha intensificado su trabajo en la investigación, puesto que la eficiencia con que ella ha atendido en el trágico espectáculo que vimos en el continente africano hace dos años, reveló cómo la FAO tenía en sus manos la información inmediata, y esto no se logra sino con un permanente equipo de investigación que este al día en todo lo que está ocurriendo en el mundo.

Pues bien, estos proyectos relacionados con la mujer y con los sistemas alimentarios reclaman una investigación de parte de la FAO.

Está ocurriendo en el mundo en este momento el fenómeno de que las poblaciones - no solamente las marginales, sino las poblaciones de medios económicos - están consumiendo alimentos que no son tales; alimentos empacados, muy bonitos en sus cajas, en sus frascos, etc., pero que están desprovistos de los verdaderos nutrientes que son capaces de beneficiarnos. Esto es producto de este nuevo fenómeno que se está produciendo en el mundo super-desarrollado que se llama la agroindustria, y que está en manos de unas pocas transnacionales o corporaciones que no puedo nombrar porque no me lo permite mi ética profesional. Por esa razón debemos alentar a esas mujeres del medio rural que no es muy

importante consumir X producto que viene en una caja muy linda con una etiqueta, sino que es preferible comer su producto local; porque estamos asistiendo a fenómenos como el que estoy leyendo en un libro impresionante que revela datos efectivos sobre eso, en donde se cita el caso por ejemplo de una familia que puede vender sus huevos y sus pollos para darle un refresco al niño de la casa porque su madre le quiere mucho. Resulta que el huevito sería más nutritivo que el refresco. Pero desgraciadamente la publicidad, la propaganda, inciden en el ánimo de estas gentes sencillas que creen todo lo que les dice algo escrito. Tenemos que salir al paso de esta campaña que va más allá de lo que yo estoy hablando, puesto que incide también en otros aspectos de la vida.

Por esa razón, nosotros estamos de acuerdo con este campo de la investigación social *in situ* - hago énfasis en que debe ser *in situ* - porque tenemos, dentro de nuestra organización, quienes están en contra de los trabajos de campo, y estos trabajos de campo son lo más necesario en una organización como la FAO que debe llegar hasta los últimos rincones de los Estados Miembros en su medio rural. Es allí donde nosotros podemos conocer las incidencias del hambre, de la desnutrición, de la vida mala, de la falta de información que esta gente tiene, y eso está dentro del campo de obligación de actuar de la FAO.

Vamos a apoyar la posición establecida y planteada por algunos colegas aquí, de que estos informes - especialmente informes de la calidad de este segundo informe sobre los progresos en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia - deben ser periódicamente presentados cada cuatro años por las razones que ya han abonado aquí otros, en cuanto a la velocidad con que se transforma el mundo y que ocho años son un mundo muy largo.

Por esa razón abogamos por la necesidad de presentar los informes cada cuatro años. Si esperamos ocho años, habrán transcurrido tantas cosas que será preciso escribir un informe dos veces más largo que éste. Se necesita ya mucha voluntad para leerse éste, y todavía será más difícil hacerlo si el informe se duplica.

No voy a extenderme mucho, aunque agradezco la generosidad del Presidente al haberme dejado hablar hasta, ahora.

Debo referirme a la Dirección de Nutrición, con relación a los programas, precisamente cayendo en el punto que yo estaba mencionando respecto a las deficiencias de nutrientes de los alimentos que consume la gente en el medio rural.

Para terminar voy a permitirme leer el texto de la resolución que he depositado en la Comisión de Resoluciones con relación a la participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Hace dos años la Delegación de Venezuela presentó una resolución que se refería a la mujer en el medio rural.

En este momento, nuestro propósito sería plantear la conveniencia de que, en el futuro, el tema de la mujer llegara a ser objeto en la FAO de una jerarquización que lo convierta en la necesidad de crear una comisión para la mujer. Así como tenemos una comisión para los productos básicos, una comisión para los cereales y una comisión para tal cosa, creo que la mujer merecería que la FAO, en un momento de su evolución, cuando su presupuesto se lo permita para empezar por allí, y cuando las situaciones estén dadas, llegue a tener una comisión para la mujer, ya que creo que es más importante producto básico que los cueros, la pesca y todas esas cosas que nosotros estudiamos para el comercio de los grandes intereses. Pero, por ahora, nos contentaremos con pedir que se convoque una reunión de expertos para ver cómo se sistematiza y se integra toda esta cantidad de acontecimientos, hechos, programas, resoluciones, etc. que la FAO va convirtiendo a través de muchos organismos, pero que no llegan a nosotros, que no podemos manejarlos sino cuando se presentan, como en este informe se ha hecho de una manera bastante precisa.

El texto sería el siguiente, que voy a leer para terminar, señor Presidente;

"Notando con satisfacción que en los documentos C 87/LIM/16 y G 87/19 se informa ampliamente acerca de la labor de la FAO, en cuanto a sus realizaciones y a las orientaciones actuales y futuras, en el sentido de reconocer explícitamente las necesidades especiales de la mujer.

Recordando, además, las Resoluciones 2/66 y 10/75 y, sobre todo, la Resolución 14/77, titulada "Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Rural", y la 12/85, titulada "La Mujer en el Medio Rural", en la cual se presta mayor atención a los programas relacionados con la capacitación;

Teniendo en cuenta que el mandato básico de la FAO y las resoluciones antes mencionadas dan gran importancia a las políticas y programas sobre la mujer, en plena conformidad con las estrategias de Nairobi, referidas a los nuevos problemas del desarrollo que plantea la función de la mujer en la economía;

Considerando que la FAO, a través de su Grupo Interdivisional de Trabajo sobre la Mujer en el Desarrollo, cumple una eficiente función al alentar a todos sus Departamentos y Direcciones a integrar los problemas de la mujer en todas sus actividades.

Recordando, asimismo, que a la FAO corresponde contribuir a la actualización de las orientaciones sobre la función de la mujer en los sistemas alimentarios y en la agricultura, que se presentará a la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, en su 42° Período de Sesiones;

Recordando también que las decisiones pertinentes que exige el plan de mediano plazo para la mujer y el desarrollo a nivel de todo el sistema para el período 1990/95, ratificado por el Consejo Económico y Social de las Naciones Unidas; que esto reclamará la coordinación de actividades de las distintas organizaciones del sistema, en el cual la FAO se ha destacado prestando apoyo técnico en la formulación de proyectos relacionados con la mujer ;

Reiterando la necesidad de reforzar a todas las organizaciones que desarrollan proyectos y programas destinados a las campesinas, y de reforzar también las formas de organización más eficientes para estimular la participación de la mujer pobre y sin tierra en programas de capacitación, a fin de que ella tenga oportunidad y garantía de fácil acceso a la tecnología en aquellos aspectos pertinentes a la actividad productiva;

Considerando, en fin, que la complejidad de los programas y diversos medios de acción de la FAO por mejorar las condiciones de vida de la mujer en el medio rural reclama cada vez una mayor colaboración por parte de los Estados Miembros ;

Solicita al Director General que convoque a una Reunión de Expertos para que, en conjunto con la Secretaría, discutan la manera de integrar y sistematizar los programas y las orientaciones necesarias para poner en práctica las estrategias de incorporación de la mujer en el proceso de desarrollo rural y en las diversas actividades de la FAO."

Aquí termina el texto de la resolución, y doy las gracias al señor Presidente por haberme concedido la palabra por tan largo tiempo.

PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, ilustre señora, por su intervención y por la claridad con que nos ha hablado a todos. Desde luego, para nosotros será también una satisfacción poder compartir estas mismas mesas en la próxima década. Creo que sería muy bueno para todos seguir disfrutando de su presencia.

Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Permítame presentarle nuestra complacencia por verle en la Presidencia. Igualmente deseamos felicitar a la Secretaría por el detallado informe sometida a nuestra consideración y, en particular, al Dr. Rafael Moreno por su excelente presentación.

Señor Presidente, reconocemos y apoyamos la importancia del seguimiento sobre los progresos alcanzados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, en vista de su objetivo encaminado a corroborar las estrategias que satisfagan las necesidades de la población rural y, en particular, de la mujer.

Coincidimos con los señalamientos ya expresados en esta sala, de que la situación de la mujer no se puede cambiar de un día para otro. Los avances positivos, tal como se refleja en el párrafo 23, así como en el 8 y subsiguientes del capítulo V del documento, plantean los obstáculos que enfrenta la situación de la mujer desde el punto de vista jurídico, como de la costumbre y los prejuicios. Estos aspectos pueden combatirse eficazmente, a juicio de nuestra delegación, si el Estado suministra los recursos necesarios a todas las instituciones y sectores que se ocupan del desarrollo rural, hacia el mejoramiento de la condición de la mujer. Estas, en muchos de nuestros países, no son discriminadas ante la ley, pero sí ante la sociedad rural.

De ahí, que este planteamiento adquiera para nosotros una importancia vital. De igual manera, destacamos las necesidades de capacitación y extensión agrícola así como las oportunidades de educación y empleo, por considerar que si bien en muchos de los casos, la mujer en el área rural tiene acceso a los servicios rurales que brindan los estados, debemos resaltar que la mujer no está plenamente capacitada como para aprovecharlos con mayor eficacia.

A tal respecto, las experiencias en nuestro país, así como en muchos otros países en desarrollo, han demostrado que la mujer debidamente educada demuestra su capacidad y disponibilidad para un rendimiento mayor.

Una muy particular consideración nos merece este aspecto relacionado con la promoción del papel de la mujer en el desarrollo rural, especialmente en nuestros países en desarrollo. En efecto, aunque reconocemos que se han logrado algunos progresos en tal sentido, estimamos que ello no es suficiente por lo que se hace necesario dar nuevos y vigorosos impulsos a los esfuerzos que para tal fin se ejecutan. Para ello, además de lo antes expresado, debe prestarse especial atención a aspectos tales como una constante y progresiva capacitación de la mujer, no sólo para mejorar sus condiciones productivas sino también, y sobre todo, para lograr que las mujeres alcancen a ocupar posiciones directivas y/o de responsabilidad, hoy en muchas partes del mundo reservadas a los hombres.

Dentro de este marco de ideas, apoyamos las orientaciones contenidas en el documento LIM/16, porque si la:FAO ha dedicado programas específicamente destinados a comunidades rurales en las cuáles la mujer ocupa el más alto porcentaje, esto es una inversión que produce un rendimiento inmediato, puesto que el aumento de la producción y la productividad en dichas comunidades, indudablemente tiene beneficio para todos.

Mi delegación desea igualmente hacer algunas consideraciones en torno a los problemas de la pobreza rural. Nos identificamos por ello, con los aspectos señalados en los párrafos 31 y 32 del documento. Para nosotros, es motivo de preocupación la intensidad de la pobreza en el medio rural, sector en que se encuentran los más pobres entre los pobres.

Ello es inadmisibile y algo debe hacerse para solucionar tal situación. Nos preocupa asimismo el crecimiento de la población agrícola que presenta un desbalance con relación a la superficie cultivable, resultando un peligroso aumento de las presiones sobre la tierra, lo que tiende a expandir la pobreza rural.

De igual manera, llamamos la atención sobre el problema de la mujer rural en el medio urbano. Consideramos que a ello también debe darse la prioridad que el mismo merece. Nuestro país, a este respecto, desarrolló programas de capacitación y de organización social tendientes a incorporar a la mujer a los planes de desarrollo social.

En Panamá, cerca del 40 por ciento de la población es rural, y ésta deriva su sustento en más de un 80 por ciento de la agricultura, utilizando para ello técnicas de producción predominantemente rudimentarias. Como elemento alternativo, Panamá en atención a este sector de nuestra población, orienta la política de desarrollo rural hacia la estructuración de un sistema de capacitación encaminado fundamentalmente a la atención de la familia en condiciones de marginalidad, para elevar su nivel de nutrición y acceso a los recursos productivos. Todo esto sobre el principio del establecimiento de una base económica que garantice el nucleamiento poblacional y el mejor aprovechamiento de la infra-estructura social.

De igual manera, se fomenta la masificación de programas agroacuícolas y agroforestales con el fin de establecer actividades económicas para el autoconsumo familiar y la obtención de ingresos que satisfagan las necesidades complementarias.

Apoyamos asimismo, de manera general, los objetivos y las metas presentados en el segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, así como los conceptos emitidos en las orientaciones de las políticas hacia grupos beneficiarios identificados, las políticas macroeconómicas en pro del desarrollo rural, aquéllas; orientadas en materia de seguridad alimentaria y nutrición, la reorientación de las políticas forestales hacia el medio rural pobre, así como la reorientación de aquéllas hacia el desarrollo pesquero en pequeña escala.

Para terminar, queremos expresar no estar de acuerdo con la propuesta en el párrafo 2 del documento en examen, y que se refiere a la recomendación de ampliar a ocho años la presentación del informe. En nuestra opinión, más que ampliar dicho período debería quizás simplificarse la metodología y los términos de referencia de la información que se solicita a los gobiernos. Finalmente, mi delegación se siente complacida en copatrocinar el texto de Resolución sobre la Mujer presentado por los países nórdicos•

WU TIANXI (China) (original language Chinese): On the basis of relevant materials provided by more than fifty countries, document C 87/19 has presented an overall reflection of the basic situations, main trends and problems with respect to the agrarian reform and rural development in many developing countries. We have learned from this document that most of these countries have adopted appropriate policies and made some progress in rural development, with their production increased and rural education and health services improved. However, progress in agrarian reform is marginal. The number of landless and near-landless farmers has shown a sharp increase; poverty is still growing; and the number of people in dire poverty has reached 789 million, which is a cause of our concern.

Years of practice have led us to such an understanding that agrarian reform and rural development are the two aspects of an integral whole which go hand in hand. The objective of reform is development. Without reforming the outmoded means of production, continuous development will be difficult even though a temporary growth can be achieved. Proceeding from this basic view, we agree in principle to the twelve policy proposals in the document designed to promote agrarian reform and rural development, such as appealing to countries concerned to consider the introduction of agrarian reform programmes and protect the unchecked interests of the vulnerable sectors in the development process and help them create wealth and employment. These proposals will serve as reference for countries when they formulate and implement strategies for agrarian reform and rural development.

We have always held that agrarian reform should be carried out in the light of actual conditions of each country, in a way that is acceptable to its people. However, at a time when countries are getting closer in their economic relations, the agrarian reform and development of a given country cannot be conducted in isolation. In areas of trade economic and technical cooperation, the international community should try to create a favourable social and economic environment in order to facilitate the agrarian reform and development of all countries. Therefore, it should be a common task for all of us to try to improve the present terms of trade for agricultural products and transfer capital and technology to developing countries.

In accordance with the requirements presented by WCARRD for monitoring, the Chinese Government has carried out a comprehensive review of the agrarian reform and rural development in the country and made sample investigations of 28 000 households. This information has already been provided to the Secretariat. Here I wish to make a few additional remarks with regard to poverty.

We believe that alleviation of rural poverty should be the central goal of agrarian reform and rural-development. On the basis of a specific analysis of the factors contributing to poverty, it is necessary to elaborate a comprehensive strategy incorporating all aspects, including social and economic aspects and implement it step by step. Since it was founded 38 years ago, the New China has introduced agrarian reform in the rural areas, set up grass-root level administrative organs and mass organization serving the interests of the farmers, and carried out large-scale socialist agricultural production and construction. Since 1979, in particular, we have corrected some errors in rural policies which occurred as a result of ultra-leftist influences and have to a large extent removed the root-causes of poverty. The problem of feeding one billion people has now been basically settled. However, for some historical reasons, there still exist some poor areas, whose population makes up 12 percent of the country's total. Unless the social and economic situation in these areas is improved, it would be difficult for China to achieve an overall and stable social and economic development, in rural areas.

For this reason, we have, since the beginning of the 1980's, formulated a national rural development programme for the poor areas. The guidelines of this programme are: starting with the introduction of reform with a view to ensuring development; helping the poor areas get better-off by relying mainly on their own efforts; strengthening the capabilities of poor areas for self-reliance and enhancing their internal vitality. On the basis of economic development integrated rural development is to be accompanied by compulsory education, promoted welfare and family planning. According to the programme it is required that during the first phase, by the end of 1990, the goal of feeding and clothing people in the poorest areas shall be achieved. In the second phase, that is, by the year 2000, all the poor areas shall have rid themselves of poverty and will gradually become more prosperous. The state will provide annually to these areas large financial aid, credits and the necessary training and promotion service with a view to accelerating their economic development.

Agrarian reform and rural development will be a long process and will embody a wide range of social and economic elements. Therefore, it is necessary, as proposed by the Secretariat, to appropriately extend the monitoring period required by WCARRD and to make analysis and evaluation on a priority basis. We agree with the arrangements made by the Secretariat for this purpose.

At the same time we have taken note of the resolution sponsored by the Nordic countries, together with others, for this Agenda item, which we think is useful to the implementation of the principle of the Nairobi Conference and at the same time facilitates women's participation in agrarian reform and rural development. Therefore, the Chinese Government wishes to support that resolution.

PRESIDENTE: Quiero decir que ha habido cuatro otros países que son Botswana, Zaire, Burkina Faso y Honduras que han pedido incluir sus declaraciones directamente en las Actas sin proceder a la lectura.

Adel Helmy EL-SAHKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): The Egyptian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the report on the second progress report on WCARRD Programme of Action including the role of women in rural development. We are happy after reviewing this report to see it reflecting the various opinions of fifty country progress reports and other national and international sources of data. We would like the periodicity of the WCARRD reporting to be lengthened from once every four years to once every eight years in order to allow the possibility of undertaking an in-depth analytical report. After reviewing the chapter on national strategies and policies, the Egyptian delegation welcomes the importance devoted to the rural areas and poverty alleviation in paragraph 5; policy shifts towards identified beneficiary groups in paragraph 6; commitment of resources to rural development in paragraph 7, as well as the efforts by many countries to reduce macro-economic policy biases against agriculture, and to further stimulate the growth of agriculture.

We have noticed that this document dealt with the role of women in rural development, paragraphs 21 to 23. In fact, we are very happy to see an increase in national and international concern with the role of women in development. In this respect, we would like to refer to the Egyptian experience. Women in Egypt enjoy equal status before the law, in employment, in wages, in access to land and in education. The Egyptian woman has the right to join the people's assembly in Egypt and to participate as members in the various women's organizations on the international and national level. Egyptian women now occupy high-ranking offices in Egypt, either in the Cabinet or in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and also in some international organizations - for example, FAO. Egyptian women participated actively in the IFAP Conference held in Kenya, which illustrated the active role played by women in international fora.

Our policy calls for significant advances to continue to be made in regard to the organization of women's lifestyles. We would like to thank the countries which offer fraternal support for women's programmes in Egypt, as well as in FAO. We have a large-scale project with the FAO, and we are looking forward to expanding the volume of FAO assistance in this respect.

We are very pleased to see paragraphs 29 and 30 indicating an increase in economic and technical cooperation programmes among developing countries, with particular reference to the promotion of a common agricultural policy in the Near East. In Egypt, we have had a successful experience in the field of agrarian reform. We have paid great attention to modifying the objectives of this reform in order to increase and to diversify the incomes of the small beneficiaries. Egypt participated actively in the first conference on agrarian reform held in 1979 and adopted the resolutions on an official and national level. In the meantime, the authorities concerned have implemented two studies on the economic and social indicators for agrarian reform in Egypt. ^{1/}

Thomas Madubeng TAUkobong (Botswana): I would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for the excellent preparation of document C 87/19 and for the in-depth introduction of the subject.

My Government in recognition of the fact that more than 80 percent of the population lives in the rural areas and were engaged in agriculture as their main means of livelihood has always given rural development and agriculture the number one priority of its development programme. In this regard we give full support to the WCARRD Programme of Action. We have recently completed a comprehensive study which has resulted in the first progress report.

Botswana has for the past six years been gripped by continuous and severe drought which has adversely affected our rural development programmes and programmes aimed at improving and increasing agri-cultural production. Despite these setbacks we continue to pursue most of the policy priorities recommended in the WCARRD Programme of Action.

With regard to policy shift towards identified beneficiary groups, my Government has formulated and implemented programmes and projects specifically aimed at assisting the resource-poor small farmers. Under the Arable Lands Development Programme (ALDP) small farmers including female headed households with less than 40 head of cattle have been provided with grants of up to 85 percent to enable them to acquire inputs necessary for improved crop production. The grants cover the purchase of animal draught power, ploughs, planters and cultivators, construction of underground water storage tanks and the purchase of materials for fencing of arable lands.

Other grant programmes are available to assist groups of small farmers in horticultural and small-stock production projects. In the last two years, a programme has been implemented to assist rain-fed arable farmers to recover from the continuous drought of the last six years. The programme has provided grants for hiring draught power for ploughing and row planting, weeding, provides free seed and fertilizer, and in addition provides grants for destumping of arable lands, fencing and the development of water sources.

In the area of fisheries, fishermen have been assisted to purchase improved boats and fishing gear. They have also received training on maintenance of boats and equipment, and on fish handling and preservation. Assistance has also been provided with marketing. Three consultancies supported by NORAD have recently been compacted on production potential, boat building and marketing.

The depletion of woodlands especially close to the urban areas and main villages has resulted in the need for a review of forestry policies. Government nurseries have been developed in strategic areas of the country in order to provide planting material for village and community woodlots and for other rural reforestation programmes. A vigorous training programme has been mounted to train staff at diploma and degree level. In addition the National Tree Planting Day has been used to create awareness and mobilize the people to plant more trees.

Women in Botswana are the backbone of subsistence production. In this respect the Government has always noted their contribution and ensured that they were fully covered by all programmes and projects that provided assistance.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Mr Chairman, my delegation feels that there can be no progress made in agriculture and rural development unless there is a strong effective extension service in place. There is therefore a need for effective training of extension workers. We support the strengthening of extension-research liaison in order to deliver improved techniques to farmers as quickly as possible. More importantly there is a need to coordinate the work and programmes of extension workers at all levels. This can be achieved by the formation of village extension teams, district and regional extension teams which are supported and guided at the national level. This is important as rural development embraces agriculture, health, education, etc. Extension workers from all these Ministries therefore need to understand each other's programmes 1/.

SAMBA MOOMI-TE-AVELELA (Zaïre), "Je voudrais, tout d'abord, féliciter tous ceux qui, de près ou de loin, ont contribué à l'élaboration des documents C 87/19 et C 87/LIM/16.

La délégation zaïroise a analysé profondément les documents cités ci-dessus. Elle approuve les idées maîtresses développées dans ces documents.

Etant donné la conjoncture difficile que traversent nos pays, la délégation du Zaïre pense qu'en ce concerne la périodicité de présentation du Rapport général de la CMRADR, la formule en deux temps qui nous est proposée par le Secrétariat devrait être mûrement analysée avant d'être appliquée.

S'agissant du Rapport proprement dit, la délégation du Zaïre saisit l'occasion qui lui est offerte pour préciser, contrairement à ce qui est dit au chapitre II, paragraphe 34, que les prix des produits vivriers au Zaïre ne sont pas imposés par l'Etat. Le Zaïre étant un pays à économie libérale concertée, tous les prix des produits vivriers sont fixés par la loi de l'offre et de la demande. L'Etat se contente de fixer les cadres de discussion au profit des producteurs.

En ce qui concerne les paragraphes 9, 10 et 52 du chapitre III, la délégation du Zaïre souligne que tout plan visant l'élargissement de la base sociale de la propriété et de l'exploitation foncière doit comporter deux volets:

- le premier volet consisterait à accélérer les procédures d'identification des terres agricoles et de délivrance des titres de propriété. C'est ainsi que, dans le cadre de la planification régionale du développement, le Conseil exécutif du Zaïre, notre gouvernement, est en train de distribuer toutes les fermes et plantations abandonnées ainsi que les domaines agricoles qui ont été saisis ou mis sous séquestre, aux paysans et aux petites et moyennes entreprises agricoles.

- le deuxième volet, par contre, consisterait en une étude détaillée et approfondie des techniques culturales convenant le mieux à certaines cultures afin de déterminer la taille optimale des exploitations à affecter à des bénéficiaires potentiels.

S'agissant du rôle de la femme dans le développement rural, la délégation du Zaïre se permet de rappeler que l'agriculture est au féminin. L'agriculture est encore au féminin dans la majorité des pays en voie de développement car, dans ces pays, c'est la femme qui cultive, désherbe, récolte et même transforme les produits agricoles. Tout ce que les hommes font, en général, c'est de donner un coup de main à l'abattage et à l'époque des labours. Dans cette optique, toute modernisation de l'agriculture passe nécessairement par la femme.

C'est pourquoi, la délégation du Zaïre qui a déjà fait siens les principes énoncés dans le Programme d'action adopté en 1979 par la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural, souligne l'importance de l'intégration de la femme dans les plans et politiques nationaux visant le relèvement de l'agriculture.-'

Arzouma KOUSSOUBE (Burkina Faso): Je joins ma voix à celle des éminents orateurs qui m'ont précédé pour adresser mes vives félicitations au Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents soumis à notre analyse.

1/ Statement inserted in the Verbatim records on request.

2/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Monsieur Le Président, ma délégation a fait une lecture attentive des documents C 87/19 et C 87/LIM/16. Outre le fait qu'elle relève l'excellente qualité de ces documents de travail, elle approuve la pertinence des conclusions tirées des différentes études contenues dans ce deuxième rapport intérimaire de la Conférence mondiale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural (CMRADR).

La question de l'élimination de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde préoccupe tous les pays du monde entier. Des stratégies et des politiques sont définies et mises sur pied de par le monde avec le concours des organisations spécialisées telles la FAO et les organisations non gouvernementales.

Au cours de la dernière décennie et plus précisément la période 1983-87, on a tenté de réduire la pauvreté dans le monde (Afrique, Amérique latine, Asie), en dépit d'une démographie galopante surtout en Afrique qui connaît une situation particulière. Le rapport intérimaire de la CMRADR nous montre que beaucoup d'actions sont menées dans ce sens. Nous nous limiterons à citer les grandes actions suivantes qui retiennent fortement notre attention:

- La réalisation des aménagements hydro-agricoles avec aménagement de terres de culture pour accueillir les paysans sans terre, les jeunes agriculteurs.
- La mise en place de la réforme agraire pour rendre disponibles les terres et faciliter leur accès aux paysans pauvres.
- Le développement d'activités non agricoles afin d'augmenter le nombre de producteurs, augmentation qui intéressait principalement les femmes.
- Les contributions de l'aide internationale au développement de même que l'aide alimentaire pour soutenir et promouvoir le développement des pays en voie de développement (PVD).
- Enfin, des actions d'organisation et de formation des producteurs pour les amener à une participation encore plus grande au processus conduisant à leur propre développement; par la participation populaire de toutes les organisations rurales.

Comme on peut le constater, le niveau de réalisation concrète de toutes ces actions est soit en recul soit en stagnation depuis la dernière situation présentée par la CMRADR en 1983. Les facteurs tels la récession mondiale, la sécheresse prolongée, la désertification et le protectionnisme plus prononcé pratiqué par les pays développés de même que la faiblesse des organes et institutions chargés de l'appui à la production, n'ont pas permis de réduire la pauvreté dans le monde entier, comme on l'aurait souhaité. Beaucoup de pays, en Afrique et en Amérique latine, connaissent à nos jours, un taux de croissance négatif ou nul du produit national brut (PNB) par habitant, comme le signale l'étude.

Monsieur le Président, ma délégation souscrit entièrement aux conclusions de ces études. Cependant, elle tient à observer en plus de ce qui est dit par ceux qui nous ont précédés, que le recul de la pauvreté dans le monde est fortement lié à l'ouverture des marchés internationaux et régionaux, aux produits des pays en voie de développement, car la politique de protectionnisme pratiquée par ces pays constitue un handicap majeur à l'expansion de l'économie encore fragile des pays en voie de développement.

Elle tient également à souligner que l'application effective de la réforme agraire est aussi un élément positif dans la lutte contre la pauvreté, dans les pays en voie de développement surtout africains, encore sous le poids des traditions et des coutumes rétrogrades. Mon pays a choisi de réaliser la réforme agraire par la réalisation de Programmes tests de gestion des terroirs villageois (PGTV) qui consistent en une détermination du terroir villageois avec la collaboration des communautés villageoises et une utilisation rationnelle des terres villageoises par cette même communauté, avec l'appui de l'encadrement technique.

La formation technique et l'organisation des producteurs agricoles sont des facteurs très importants à prendre en compte.

Enfin, le rôle des femmes dans la production agricole est un élément qui, à chaque fois, est évoqué lorsqu'il s'agit d'éliminer la pauvreté dans le monde, mais, cela a toujours été fait de façon insuffisante.

Nous reconnaissons tous le rôle combien important que jouent les femmes dans le développement agricole. Cependant, les actions menées dans ce sens restent encore très timides, non incisives. Il y a à notre avis des paramètres très déterminants mais non encore maîtrisés qui limitent la participation réelle et effective des femmes au développement surtout en Afrique.

En effet, il faudrait que les femmes se libèrent du joug de la domination des hommes. Elles doivent conquérir leur droit à la terre, au crédit agricole, aux facteurs de production, à la formation technique, à l'organisation en association de production agricole. Il ne faut pas s'attendre à une liberté cédée spontanément et facilement. Nous pensons qu'il faut créer des cadres institutionnels d'expression des femmes et également des cadres de lutte pour leur permettre de retrouver la liberté et les droits dans le domaine de la production agricole.

Nous pensons en plus que la conquête de la liberté s'accompagne de la réduction des peines domestiques des femmes. Cette réduction des peines est un préalable à leur participation au développement. Pour lever cette contrainte, l'équipement des femmes en moyens de travail domestique est indispensable. Il s'agit donc d'équiper les femmes en machines leur permettant de réduire les temps de travaux domestiques, ce qui va leur permettre de se consacrer à des activités de production.

Les équipements en machines à graines, en charrettes (à eau, pour transporter le bois), en pompes hydrauliques sont des débuts de solutions à cet épineux problème et nous pensons qu'une recherche détaillée dans le domaine des activités des femmes rurales serait indispensable. Cette recherche devra mettre en évidence les besoins des femmes, c'est-à-dire les primes aux travaux contraignants ne donnant pas assez de temps aux femmes pour s'occuper d'autre chose.

Enfin, la formation des femmes dans le domaine technique est aussi indispensable et il n'est pas opportun de nous étendre sur ce point.

Pour terminer, tout en renouvelant notre appui à ce deuxième rapport de la CMRADR, nous sommes d'accord avec la périodicité de ce rapport qui passera de quatre à huit ans avec la présentation de rapports analytiques spéciaux qui seront présentés à la Conférence à mi-parcours ^{1/}.

Sra. Mayra REINA (Honduras): En nombre de mi Delegación: Honduras, creemos que las orientaciones que la FAO ha hecho en nuestro país, han sido y continuarán siendo de gran utilidad para la mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola.

Por esto mismo, nuestro objetivo seguirá siendo el de conseguir más incentivos de parte de esta Organización y que estos vayan encaminados hacia todas las mujeres en general y muy especialmente hacia la mujer campesina, quien más que nadie contribuye con su participación al Desarrollo Agrícola de nuestro país; es esta la que con sus múltiples responsabilidades, con su fuerza física y con enorme voluntad da un aporte al hombre y a la sociedad para generar más desarrollo.

Yo creo firmemente, que Honduras es un pueblo que cuenta con mujeres de una gran calidad humana, con mujeres que aman el trabajo y el progreso. Honduras solicita e invita a la FAO a continuar contribuyendo con sus programas de políticas orientadas hacia una total participación de la mujer en el Desarrollo Agrícola y Rural en condiciones de igualdad con el hombre.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Deseamos que La FAO no cese en el esfuerzo por lograr que las medidas recomendadas en la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural para promover la integración de la mujer puedan ser una realidad en todos los países del mundo. 1/

The meeting rose at 12.50 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.50 horas

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/12

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

TWELFTH MEETING
DOUZIEME SEANCE
12ª SESION

(18 November 1987)

The Twelfth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La douzième seance est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 12ª sesión a las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 9. Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development (continued)
- 9. Deuxième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR; y compris le rôle des femmes dans le développement agricole (suite)
- 9. Segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR, en particular en lo relativo a la función de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola (continuación)

Bernardo PALESTINI (Italy): The papers we have in front of us constitute a comprehensive and valid report of the progress made in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action and FAO's programme direction on the role of women in rural development. I should like to focus attention on some points in the report, with particular reference to the experience gained in this sector by my country.

On part-time farming, the Council of Europe promoted in May 1987 a working session on pluriactivity in agriculture. Italy was present at the meeting, which enhanced the possibility of exploiting agricultural census for collecting data on the subject. In Italy, national exploitation of existing agricultural census has been able to provide the following data: the percentage of output from our pluriactive farmers on the building up of GDP; their return per hectare and per working day; the part of GDP which comes from farms which do not employ active workers for more than 200 days in a year.

On access to land and changes in land tenure, the effects of farm fractioning on rural development are known and partially criticised by those who emphasize rural mobility and reassemblment of small farms as a factor of higher productivity in agriculture. In Italy, medium size farms, expressed in hectares of arable land, according to the average data of the 1970 and 1982 census, amount to 4.9 hectares. Moreover, whilst in the northern regions there is a tendency towards farm concentration, the trend is the opposite in the southern areas.

Title of possession -ownership, tenancy - is partly responsible for the lack of mobility encountered in farmlands in the sense that there is seldom economic convenience towards other forms of farm exploitation which differ from the binomium farmer-proprietor, especially where, as is the case in Italy, rents of farmlands, as of households, are determined by law.

Farm immobility does not necessarily mean economic stagnation. In the cattle sector, there has been quite a large concentration in recent years. While in 1970 cattle farms in Italy amounted to over 960 000, in 1982 there were only 50 000 farms, owning 90 percent of the total amount of cattle. The same thing happened in regard to pig breeding. In 1982 55 000 farms controlled 8 million pigs against 4.2 million in 1970.

With regard to technical assistance, in the FAO meeting of ECA, held in Spain in October 1986, on the role of women in the rural family and in farm development, the main trend was to conceive a global approach to farm management. Technical assistance should not be limited to advice in choosing the best crops and in directing market opportunities, but should enter into the decisionmaking of the rural family itself. For Italy, and for other countries as well, this kind of

approach seemed too binding. The best way to help the rural family, in our opinion, is to provide the necessary information to enable the farmers to decide for themselves.

with regard to the role of women in rural development, the new Italian law on cooperation gives notable importance to women and development. The initiatives in favour of women in developing countries are seen not only as an object to pursue through the financing of specific projects but also as a parameter to consider in both bilateral and multilateral programmes. In this regard, the above-mentioned law establishes an office under the General Directorate for Development to deal exclusively with the problem of women and development.

Full participation of women in the process of social development of their own countries was the object of the UN Decade for Women, which ended with the Nairobi Conference in July 1985.

The studies, research and proposals that have been made to this end clearly show that this is an ambitious goal and not an easy one to pursue. In fact, woman as a social subject still remains confined in a small and poor space, in which her potential expresses itself in elementary terms. In addition, the problems of hunger and development have a major influence on those who are socially and politically weakest. We are talking of a condition that, if not dealt with, would exact from women a terrible price, springing from poverty, illness, suffering and exploitation. Italy has very clearly given her support to this line, at the Nairobi Conference, approving the forward looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000 and requesting donors to sustain developing countries in their efforts to establish political lines and specific projects for the improvement of the conditions of women.

Accordingly, the recent Italian law on cooperation and development contains the new tendencies concerning integration of women in the development process, prescribing that Italian cooperation projects must be finalized to improve the quality of life of women and children and to support promotion of women. To obtain these objectives, the recipient countries should promote political lines for: improving the laws concerning the legal status of women; creating the proper conditions to increase the productivity of women, granting them full salaries and allowing them to control their own income; improving access of women to production resources; improving the health conditions of women.

On the other hand, when establishing new projects, it is necessary to take into account the following requirements: to increase the possibility of women's education and particularly of rural women and of those who belong to the poorest suburban areas; to provide them with elementary services, such as water, housing, health schemes, schools, etc.; to promote their economic independence; to improve the quantity and quality of food; to help them in a more rational organization of domestic labour; to advise them on health and sanitary problems; and to establish and improve women's associations.

Naturally, programmes and projects which are directed principally towards women must not be studied separately, but in a global view at a national and regional level. We should try, whenever possible, to integrate all these actions in a unique project or as a component of a larger project directed to the whole population.

Last, but nonetheless important, is the training of personnel and project leaders who have to deal with the promotion of women. We are well aware of it and have taken the necessary steps.

Mrs Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): The United States appreciates the detailed and thoughtful report contained in document C 87/19. Despite all the acknowledged limitations of the data, this report gives us a wide-ranging, if not completely comprehensive picture of what has been achieved over the past eight years. It is a good piece of work.

The 1979 Conference took place as the world absorbed the impact of oil price crises of the 1970's. It also reflected the lessons of earlier development efforts, the importance of grassroots initiatives, the unreliability of policies oriented towards growth alone as a means of alleviating poverty, the fundamental role of agriculture as an engine of broad-based economic progress and the need for explicit attention to specific target groups like women, small farmers and landless rural labourers.

The goals and objectives of that period are no less valid today, even though, as this progress report shows, our ability to achieve them has been limited.

The years since the Conference in 1979 have reminded us vividly of additional lessons; for example, macro-economic policies at the national level have a decisive role in the success of programmes aimed at growth with equity. Beneficiary oriented policies are inadequate in themselves to provide sustained alleviation of poverty. Policies which reduce incentives or distort real economic costs misallocate resources and can undermine even the best planned and best supported programmes. Governments must improve the arrangements they make to assure the sustainability of essential but costly social programmes. These governments cannot bear the costs alone, beneficiaries should bear at least some of the cost of financing these services.

Countries confronted with chronic food shortages and malnutrition among their populations must develop comprehensive strategies which go beyond agricultural production to include the issues of access to food supplies and purchasing power. Finally, environmental and developmental issues are intertwined and effective long-term development policies must include environmental concerns.

Without any doubt, the recent international economic climate has taken its toll. On the other hand, some of the problems regarding, for example, land tenure, women's access to land and the allocation of public expenditures to agriculture and rural development are domestic and of much longer standing. We believe that despite the limits of the international economic climate, many more governments could have followed the example of the few who chose to take bold initiatives.

In this context, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to these members who provided detailed information to FAO. The type of specific examples included in this document can serve as useful models to all.

The report's conclusion that thus far policies have not been adequate to deal with the need for employment is valid and very worrisome. The need to find a means of livelihood for the growing rural population must be an essential focus of attention in the years to come. We would encourage FAO to work with interested governments and other donors on developing innovative, broad-based, balanced economic development strategies referred to in the document.

Regarding land ownership, agrarian reform and access to land, on which progress has been slower than one might have wished, my government believes that the use of market as opposed to administrative mechanisms is the most propitious means to ensure economically efficient and equitable distribution of land holdings.

Many countries have made significant progress in slowing the rate of growth of their populations. Nevertheless, as the document makes clear, in many others, population increases continue to outpace the ability to provide minimal acceptable standards of living for their populations. It remains essential that population planning be integrated into national planning, including the planning aimed at achieving the objectives of the WCARRD.

There are several places in the document which touch in one way or another on the issues of subsidies: for inputs, for example, or as lower than market interest rates for credit. My delegation would counsel caution here. Subsidies must be seen as short-term and their phase out planned as carefully as their use.

I am reminded of one country whose substantial accomplishments are referred to in this report where subsidies for fertilizer alone at one time accounted for three-quarters of the agricultural ministry's budget. There was very little room for that government to undertake new initiatives, or respond to new needs. Subsidies can create unhealthy and ultimately too costly dependence. They distort the real economic costs of production and consumption.

My delegation believes an inherent part of FAO's role is to help governments analyse the impacts of and alternatives to long term use of subsidies.

The special section on women is well done and provides a useful picture of what has been accomplished - and how much more needs to be done. Broad-based development will be achieved only when the needs and

role of women are explicitly taken into account in all development efforts, FAO, as others have said already earlier today, is in a position to be a leader in conceptualizing approaches to the issues of women's involvement in agriculture and rural development.

We would like to see the assessment mentioned in paragraph 36 on page 85 on the effectiveness of TAO projects involving women. We call on FAO as an institution to take to heart the statement on page 76 that the extent of women's integration will depend ultimately on the extent to which other technical units are sensitized, trained and equipped and the extent to which women in development issues are integrated into all development planning and programming.

More work like the case studies mentioned in paragraph 35 which looked at projects in which women apparently unexpectedly have become involved, must be done. We count on FAO having the initiative to do so. By the way, FAO might next consider looking at women's projects in which men have unexpectedly become involved, such as certain community development projects in Thailand and the Philippines. Surely, there are also lessons to be learned there.

In Dr Moreno's introduction, he indicated that FAO had projects directed toward women as well as women's components in other projects. Perhaps it is only a matter of semantics, but my delegation would not consider projects for women or projects with women's components integrating the issues of women's needs and roles equitably into development programming. How do projects approach facts such as the following which research has shown to be the actual case in one country? The husband decides how much of the crop to sell, but the wife decides what type of seeds to plant. He determines the purchase and use of chemical fertilizer; she the use of organic traditional fertilizer. These are the types of real questions project design must take into account and they are not addressed by women's projects or women's components of projects.

We look forward to discussing the Nordic Resolution mentioned by Sweden yesterday and would expect it to provide guidance TO FAO along these lines. We believe that these necessary activities can and should be funded from within FAO's existing resources. The role of women is not a marginal issue, it is an integral part of agriculture and rural development and should thus be part FAO's programmes.

Regarding the Secretariat's proposals that the reporting on this issue should be less frequent, we sympathize with the problem of showing much change over a four year period. Like others, we would nevertheless be reluctant to have a less frequent comprehensive report. After all, what we are measuring is progress since 1979. Four years from now will mean that we shall be measuring progress of more than a decade since the 1979 Conference. The objectives of the plan of action are too important to receive no comprehensive review for eight years. They are at the centre of FAO's concerns as an institution. The document might be somewhat shorter, to avoid repetition and duplication with other documents. On the other hand, we recommend that future reports devote greater attention to natural resources and their use, agricultural research and improved appropriate technologies.

We find the Secretariat's proposal for a deeper look at specific themes to be a good one. We would therefore suggest that consideration of such themes take place every four years in the Conference years between the comprehensive reviews.

Moses Mike MUKOLWE (Kenya): The Kenyan delegation commends the Secretariat for again compiling this second progress report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the role of women in rural development. We take the opportunity to thank Dr Moreno for his presentation.

An eight year periodicity is suggested instead of four and my delegation has some difficulty in supporting the proposal. Monitoring and evaluation is a vital tool for decision-makers, to help chart the next course of action. Eight years may be too late in relation to the subject matter involved; poverty is associated with malnutrition, hunger and, at the extreme, death. The situation is gloomy in some regions and calls for very close monitoring.

The six broad chapters of C 87/19 have summarized the analysis of events from the 50 countries which submitted their report and this is an arduous yet very important job. In Kenya we are in the process of preparing the sixth five-year National Development Plan. This facilitates the incorporation of recommendations made in our plan.

Referring to a document to come before us, Agriculture: Toward 2000, we find that nutrition is mentioned as being central to our debate. I would like to make an observation in passing on document G 87/LIM/16, paragraphs 52 to 54 which are on population and nutrition. I feel very strongly that in this area we should have emphasized the question of safe food production and safe food utilization. The nutrition section there could be expanded because we have not mentioned a lot more on the utilization of food by the producing agents.

My country was one of those which submitted a report so I need not labour the number of issues which are contained in the document. We share the views expressed by Japan and the Netherlands earlier on statistical or data collection to facilitate the analysis of socio-economic indicators for which training must be pursued at all levels including the many energy uses engaged in this field.

In the African family set-up, the division of labour was paramount in the past except that in these days of socio-economic pressures, by nature the man is in employment and the women and children stay at home or remain in the rural areas. Any stress caused by the national and international policy changes or decisions go up to a family unit whose members are engaged in the production of goods and services and are also consumers. Poverty is the sum total of all the disparities created by policies pursued nationally and internationally.

As pointed out elsewhere, farmers sometimes celebrate, particularly in my country where we have coffee and tea. If the prices are good, they celebrate, but if on the international markets they are depressed then there is a very depressed family.

As co-sponsors, we support the draft resolution proposed by the Nordic countries on increased integration of women in development as laid down by the forward-looking strategy in Nairobi.

Document C 87/LIM/16, Women in Agriculture and Rural Development, FAO's Programme Directions, reinforces the information contained in C 87/19. What remains is to turn directions into actions or realities. FAO could play a great role, as cited at paragraph 18, with the inter-agencies named and even others not named. Rural development parameters are wide, and if not well coordinated can only cause confusion. The final say is with the recipient government and how the four "i's" can operate.

Jaime GARCIA BADIAS (España): Siguiendo sus indicaciones, voy a procurar ser breve en mi exposición para favorecer, de esta forma el desarrollo del debate.

En el documento elaborado por Secretaría, se nos proporcionan unos datos que continúan preocupándonos profundamente. En resumen, hay dos aspectos que consideramos deben ser muy tenidos en cuenta.

Por una parte, el escaso porcentaje del gasto público que muchos países dedican a la agricultura. Por otra, la constatación de los siguientes hechos: la dificultad por la mujer del acceso a la tierra, la dificultad de acceso al crédito, la escasa implantación de la mujer en el ámbito de las cooperativas.

Ante estos hechos, que además tienen difícil solución por las connotaciones jurídicas, religiosas, políticas, sociales y económicas que concurren, pedimos a los países que todavía han avanzado poco, atiendan estos aspectos, y estimamos que la FAO, además debe dar prioridad a proyectos que vayan dirigidos en este sentido.

Creemos muy interesante la sugerencia de dedicar agentes de extensión agraria dirigidos específicamente a la mujer rural y a su entorno social, incluida la economía doméstica. En nuestro país, esta experiencia ha dado magníficos resultados y hemos colaborado en proyectos que en este aspecto se han realizado en América Latina.

Es cierto que el problema debe estudiarse en el contexto general. No podemos olvidar que todavía hay países en los que más de dos tercios de la población rural no tiene acceso a la tierra.

No disponemos de demasiado tiempo, y por eso vamos a limitarnos a apoyar los documentos, y muy en concreto los párrafos 43 a 54 del documento LIM/16, así como los cuatro párrafos dedicados a conclusiones. Pero nos gustaría que no se quedasen en buenas intenciones sino que se les diese la priori-

dad necesaria para lograr un máximo de eficacia en el tiempo y en los proyectos, mediante lo que nosotros definiríamos como un Programa de Formación Integral. Y nos permitimos sugerir y apoyar los Servicios de Extensión y Capacitación Agraria, dirigidos a la mujer, no sólo en los temas de producción sino en los del entorno social.

Finalmente, creemos que el gran reto de la FAO es lograr superar las desigualdades jurídicas de la mujer y la formación. Mientras no se demuestre lo contrario, es el mejor sistema.

Asefa WOLDEGIORGIS (Ethiopia): The document under discussion has adequately summarized a number of important rural development issues relative to the WCARRD Programme of Action. My delegation associates itself with most of the proposals put forward in this document.

In assessing agricultural performance, particularly at national level, the report covers a selective range of general issues and problems surrounding rural development. In view of the complex nature of these problems, which do not lend themselves to short-term measures, and considering the difficulty of obtaining adequate data in time for critical examination of the performance in agriculture, as specified in the report, and then to come up with valuable practical suggestions, we support the recommended WCARRD future reporting cycle proposed by the Secretariat, with an in-depth analytical report every four years.

With regard to people's participation in rural development activities at the grass root level, agrarian reform, access to land and other means of production to women, access to credit facilities, training and other production inputs, we trust that we have followed WCARRD recommendations in my country. An appropriate environment is created to enable women to participate fully in the social, economic and political life of the country and to reduce their economic dependence. Correspondingly, this has also laid down excellent grounds for effective utilization of technical assistance and package extension services for conservation of natural resources and rural progress.

With regard to integration of women in rural development and agrarian reform in my country, my delegation has made available some documents at the documentation desk for those who wish for more information and would like to have copies. With that in mind I do not intend to go into further detail.

Finally, the Ethiopian delegation supports the resolution put forward this morning with regard to women's rights and roles in development.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Deseo en primer lugar, expresar mi reconocimiento y agradecimiento al Sr. Moreno Rojas por la excelente presentación del tema que nos ocupa. Tenemos ante nosotros un documento muy completo y detallado, y felicitamos a la Secretaría por su elaboración.

Con relación al documento 87/19, mi delegación comparte las recomendaciones contenidas en la parte b): "Cuestiones y recomendaciones de política", especialmente las contenidas en los párrafos 46: "Seguimiento y evaluación", 48: "El papel de la mujer en el Desarrollo Rural", y 52: "Pobreza Rural y Medio Ambiente".

El documento que estamos examinando, nos demuestra la forma atenta y eficiente con que la FAO ha dado seguimiento a las cuestiones relativas a la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural. La FAO es sin duda alguna, la única Agencia de las Naciones Unidas que ha dado un seguimiento ordenado y un apoyo adecuado a los países en este importante aspecto. Hay mucho que hacer todavía en el campo de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural. Tenemos que mejorar los resultados obtenidos en la aplicación del Plan de Acción.

Por ello, la delegación de El Salvador estima que debe darse a la FAO todo el apoyo necesario para que continúe con esta cortante labor. En ese sentido, respaldamos plenamente los conceptos contenidos en el párrafo 54: "Asistencia técnica conexas de la FAO".

Con relación a la propuesta contenida en el párrafo 55, la delegación de mi país no comparte la idea de que se presente un informe cada ocho años. El mundo en que vivimos exige cambios adecuados y oportunos, y esa oportunidad podría perderse con un período tan largo como son ocho años. Preferiríamos se continúe presentando el informe de los progresos y problemas encontrados en la aplicación del Programa de Acción cada cuatro años.

En este sentido, apoyamos lo mencionado por la delegada de Panamá esta mañana sobre la conveniencia de simplificar la metodología y términos de referencia de la información que se solicita a los países. Debe presentarse siempre un análisis pormenorizado de un determinado tema. A este respecto, nos gustaría que la Secretaría preparara un informe sobre la situación general de los jóvenes en la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial, informe que tal vez podríamos analizar con el próximo informe de progresos.

Varias delegaciones han manifestado su preocupación sobre este tema en el curso de los debates de esta Comisión. Paso brevemente al documento 87/LIM/16, el cual nos permite ver lo que la FAO está haciendo en relación a la integración de la mujer en la agricultura y el desarrollo rural. Aprovecho la oportunidad para expresar mi reconocimiento a la labor que lleva a cabo la Dra. Ruth al frente del Servicio de la Promoción de la Mujer en la Producción Agrícola. Nos gustaría, sin embargo, que más que un Servicio fuera una Dirección la que se ocupase de las cuestiones de la mujer en la FAO, y que contáramos con más mujeres a nivel direccional.

Con relación al párrafo 25 del documento anteriormente mencionado, preferimos el segundo enfoque, o sea el que propone que la mujer sea parte integral de proyectos de contenido más amplio.

Es importante que se reconozca la necesidad de incorporar los problemas de la mujer y la participación de ésta en todos los programas y proyectos de la FAO. No nos agrada la idea, señor Presidente de elaborar proyectos especiales como si la mujer fuese un ser extraño. Este puede haber sido el primer paso, pero debemos pasar a su total integración. Apoyamos en este sentido la parte final del párrafo 25.

Lamentamos la información contenida en el párrafo 27. Creemos que deben incrementarse notablemente los proyectos que contengan componentes relacionados con los problemas de la mujer.

Apoyamos el párrafo 30 en cuanto a la necesidad de seguimiento y evaluación. Es lamentable que tengamos que iniciar ese párrafo con la frase "Se supone"; sería preferible contar con datos más precisos. En ese sentido, nos parece muy bien que se estudie adecuadamente la función de la mujer en el próximo censo agropecuario, como se informa en el párrafo 33.

Esperamos los resultados de los estudios sobre la mujer y los derechos sobre la tierra que se mencionan en el párrafo 44, especialmente los relativos a la región de América Latina y el Caribe.

Nos parecen adecuadas las cuestiones planteadas en los párrafos 55, 56, 57 y, especialmente, lo planteado en el párrafo 58.

Para concluir, la delegación de El Salvador desea manifestar su total apoyo al proyecto de resolución presentado el día de ayer por la delegada de Suecia en nombre de los países nórdicos. A mi delegación le hubiese gustado, incluso, ser copatrocinadora del mismo.

Sr. Enrique MONTERO CONTARDO (Chile): Las orientaciones y objetivos de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural son amplios y abarcan todos los aspectos sobre los cuales es posible y necesario actuar para iniciar y sostener el desarrollo en el ámbito rural.

Atendido el hecho de que las recomendaciones se refieren a un elevado número de países con una diversidad de realidades en cuanto a grado de adelanto, estructura social e idiosincrasia, puede entenderse que muchas de las proposiciones consideradas aisladamente no son aplicables a un país en particular. Sin embargo, en su conjunto revisten el mayor interés y merecen amplio apoyo de los países miembros.

Las recomendaciones de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural se concentran en unos pocos temas centrales, respecto de los cuales es del caso hacer algunos comentarios considerando la realidad de Chile.

En cuanto a reforma agraria, ampliación de la base social y desarrollo rural, la reforma agraria es un proceso terminado en nuestro país. En la actualidad no existen desequilibrios significativos en el tamaño de la propiedad agrícola. Por otra parte se ha desarrollado un proceso de saneamiento de los títulos de la tenencia de la tierra, que ha otorgado a los agricultores el necesario nexo legal con sus precios. Esto, a su vez, les ha dado acceso a servicios tan importantes como el crédito.

Adicionalmente, este año se ha dado inicio a un plan integral de desarrollo rural. Entendiendo el desarrollo rural como un ámbito de acción más amplio que el desarrollo agrícola, este plan ha concertado la participación de once ministerios y su objetivo central es transformar al habitante del área rural en miembro activo de la economía, elevando sus condiciones de vida.

Este programa se ha ido realizando, más que con una destinación de recursos, con una reorientación y mejor focalización del gasto fiscal hacia el ámbito rural.

En el área de la pesca, uno de los objetivos del programa ha sido procurar el bienestar y el desarrollo del subsector artesanal. Esto ha derivado en la ejecución de diversos proyectos orientados a solucionar problemas de infraestructura, tecnología y seguridad. Por otra parte, se coordinan acciones para satisfacer sus necesidades sociales, económicas y de infraestructura.

En cuanto a empleo no agrícola e industrialización rural, si bien es de interés acrecentar cada vez más la agroindustria como factor de crecimiento económico, Chile no tiene en este momento un problema de desempleo en el campo.

En cuanto a la atención precedente a grupos vulnerables, el gobierno de Chile desarrolla desde hace años un importante esfuerzo en favor de la población de menor capacidad económica. En la actualidad, aproximadamente un 60 por ciento del gasto fiscal anual se destina a financiar programas sociales en materia de vivienda, educación, salud y alimentación complementaria.

En lo relativo a la función de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola, aún cuando en nuestro país el sistema jurídico permite los mismos accesos al hombre y a la mujer, se realizan importantes acciones para acentuar esta participación en aspectos de capacitación y actividades productivas y directivas. Nuestro país está dispuesto a apoyar las resoluciones para mayores actividades y acciones al respecto.

Finalmente, en cuanto, a poder espaciar los informes de avance de las actividades relacionadas con la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural a ocho años, sentimos del caso apoyar dicha resolución.

Mohamed Hassan AL SHAMSI (United Arab Emirates) (original language Arabic): I would like to thank the Secretariat for the report on WCARRD's progress, particularly with regard to the role of women.

I would also like to address the position of women in my country. First of all I might mention a point that you all know. Since mankind was banished from the Garden of Eden mankind has had to work and woman has helped man since time immemorial. I think the most important unit in society is the family unit. Women are of considerable importance in the family unit; the family unit is of primary importance in society.

Women undertake many activities over and above the activities within the home, and I think we can say that women participate very much more than one suspects in economic and agricultural life. When referring to the role of women in my country we say that we are not merely putting forward words; we are speaking against a historical background and continuing efforts over the centuries to enable women to play their part in society.

God himself bestowed these rights upon women and it is not for us to deprive women of these rights. Secondly, Islam declares that women are the equal of men; women are not subordinated to men; women are not there to serve men. Thirdly, women constitute half of the human race and we could not allow half of the human race to remain in the shade, to remain illiterate.

Those are some of the factors that have been at the basis of our Government's activities in enabling women to play their full part in society. Before Islam the position of women was very poor, and I think we have to recognise that women at that time were not able to play their full part. Subsequently women were integrated much more effectively into society. Women were able to play their full part in society.

Women know that they represent half of the human race and we are convinced that it is women who are the teachers in society. It is women who are responsible for running the home, for raising the children. That is why the role of women has been so important since time immemorial.

Of course, women recognise the importance of knowledge and therefore seek to acquire knowledge, knowledge that will enable them to participate fully in all activities in society.

There are a number of women's associations in my country. The first one was founded in 1973, and another association was established in 1975. The women's associations are very active; they seek to promote women intellectually, spiritually, in religious circles, and these associations also seek to integrate women better in society. Women enjoy full political and economic rights, and there are women on my country's delegations in many, many bodies. All of this I think is evidence of the important role that women play in my country.

Women's rights are guaranteed by law. At the present time, for example, in a number of agricultural colleges and faculties women are well represented in the student bodies.

Patrick O'QUIN (France): C'est avec un intérêt tout particulier que ma délégation a lu les documents présentés par le Secrétariat et je tiens à le remercier du travail ainsi accompli. C'est pourquoi, conscients de l'ampleur de la tâche que représente un tel travail, nous souscrivons à la proposition qui nous a été faite de ne présenter un rapport que tous les 8 ans avec dans l'intervalle un rapport qui approfondira un point particulier. Il semble cependant que l'efficacité du travail ne s'en trou-vera renforcée que si le document intérimaire n'est pas limité à un simple bilan, mais s'attache également à une analyse des causes qui explique la situation et des contraintes qui la conditionnent.

S'agissant des différents thèmes de la CMRADR, ma délégation souscrit à l'essentiel des analyses qui sont faites et qui sont très clairement exposées dans les paragraphes 5 à 42 du résumé. C'est pourquoi, pour ne pas allonger les débats, je me bornerai à dire que nous pouvons soutenir les propositions contenues dans le chapitre B du résumé intitulé: "Questions de politique générale et recommandations".

Je soulignerai cependant que l'examen du rapport montre clairement que la lutte contre la pauvreté rurale dans ses différents aspects incombe prioritairement aux autorités des pays concernés. Ceux-ci peuvent toutefois solliciter l'appui de donateurs extérieurs et la FAO en fait partie. Mais ces donateurs ne pourront apporter qu'un soutien technique sans se substituer aux responsabilités politiques, juridiques ou économiques des dirigeants locaux. Cela est clairement souligné dans le rapport notamment aux paragraphes 44 du chapitre II, 54 du chapitre III et au paragraphe 32 du chapitre IV pour ne citer que quelques exemples.

Le rapport fait également ressortir clairement que pour lutter contre la pauvreté rurale, il n'est pas véritablement besoin de créer des mécanismes nouveaux. Mais il y a cependant une condition nécessaire, c'est que le programme soit clairement établi en fonction du groupe cible à atteindre. Rien ne sert, par exemple, de renforcer des services de vulgarisation si le message délivré par ceux-ci est inadapté aux publics auxquels il s'adresse.

J'en viendrai plus particulièrement au rôle des femmes dans le développement agricole. Ma délégation note sur ce point qu'une prise de conscience du rôle des femmes est progressivement apparue aussi bien dans les instances internationales que chez les donateurs bilatéraux.

L'image traditionnelle de la femme, cantonnée dans le rôle de mère et d'éducatrice, s'est désormais enrichie d'un objectif de promotion économique. C'est ainsi qu'il est désormais admis que le temps de travail des femmes n'a pas été diminué et a parfois même augmenté notablement du fait de l'évolution économique et sociale; que les femmes n'ont pas eu accès aux moyens de

production modernes; que l'amélioration des conditions de travail ne leur a guère profité ni en tant que productrices, ni dans leurs tâches ménagères; qu'enfin, le développement des cultures de rente a été défavorable à la progression du revenu propre des femmes.

Les différentes évaluations montrent clairement en effet la dégradation de la situation socio-économique des femmes dans une époque récente; les raisons sont connues et clairement exposées au chapitre IV et je n'y reviendrai donc pas.

Pour renverser cette tendance, il est à nos yeux indispensable - et mon pays s'efforce d'appliquer cette recommandation - de s'assurer désormais que les projets de développement ne conduisent pas à détériorer la situation économique et sociale dans la zone concernée.

Faute de pouvoir actuellement intégrer pleinement les femmes aux projets que l'on peut qualifier de traditionnels, il nous paraît nécessaire de développer systématiquement deux types d'actions: 1) lancer des projets dont les bénéficiaires directs seront les femmes et on peut citer à cet égard l'appui à des associations ou à des groupements de femmes, notamment à des groupements de production; la mise en place de moyens techniques permettant d'alléger le travail des femmes aussi bien en tant que productrices que dans leurs tâches ménagères; enfin le soutien et le mécanisme d'appui aux femmes créant de petites entreprises agricoles ou artisanales; 2) inclure dans les projets de développement des volets spécifiquement destinés aux femmes de la zone concernée. Cela exigera, à l'évidence, qu'une évaluation préalable de leur rôle et de leurs besoins soit faite afin de mettre à leur disposition les moyens de production dont elles assurent ou peuvent assurer la mise en oeuvre (intrants, crédits, équipements techniques, etc.).

Ces différentes orientations nous ont, en conséquence, incités à coparrainer la résolution présentée par la Norvège au nom des pays nordiques.

Fritz-Otto HAASE (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation welcomes the presentation of this Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development. The reports on these issues are of special importance. On the one hand, it is the first time that the issues involved are difficult as well as decisive for the future in the field of rural development. On the other hand these reports are submitted every four years only. We can largely subscribe to the statements and conclusions in the document. The report shows again that FAO is aware of its role as being the leading agency in the UN system in that special field.

Let me first and foremost make a few general remarks. We welcome the clear structure of the document before us. Compared with the last report submitted by the Secretariat at the 22nd FAO Conference in 1983 the data basis for the Second Report has been much broader. Doc. C 87/19 is based on country reports of 50 Member States as well as on other sources of information. We, however, hope that in future even more Member States in agreement with the action programme will report on that subject.

Despite the undoubtedly important role of FAO in that field it is undisputed that the individual member countries themselves have the main responsibility for rural reform and development. But we should not ignore that many developing countries are often not able to solve alone the many and often difficult problems in that special field. For this reason it will be necessary to continue to provide external assistance in the form of personnel or in any other way.

Let me now turn to a few issues in the report. We share the priorities within the framework of the action programme, in particular with regard to the request for balanced growth, the participation of the rural population in the decision-making process and the integration of women in the development process (para. 5).

Of special importance to us is that easier access to land be given to the landless and small farmers (paras. 13 seq.). But the report unfortunately also shows that only in four countries new programmes on agrarian reform or structural improvement in agriculture have been drawn up. We must also reflect on how to facilitate small farmers the access to inputs.

We welcome the progress meanwhile achieved in involving the rural population in the decision-making process, in particular by having signed the International Agreement of the International Labour Organisation on the Right of Free Education of Associations of Rural Workers".

My government is in agreement with the FAO Secretariat that the integration of women in the rural development process which has been strongly supported here from all sides is of particular importance. As regards the strengthening of the role of women in rural development and in the work of the FAO Secretariat, we support the ideas put forward by the Scandinavian countries. We feel that further efforts must be made to generally improve the legal status of women and also their role as owners of land. With regret we read in the report that hardly any country has included in its national planning a comprehensive national strategy for the integration of women in the development process (para. 21). We wish to encourage the Secretariat to continue its endeavours made so far to improve the social and economic situation of women in agricultural development. Education and extension should be in the focus of these endeavours.

The interrelation between rural poverty and environmental problems, as stated in the report, is likewise of importance to us. We should intensify our endeavours in that special field to speed up rural development in the economic and social sectors.

Of special importance to us is the development trend, as stated in the report, towards a greater self-reliance of the rural poor. We feel that the major part of planning from outside should increasingly be replaced by delegating decisions to the rural poor themselves.

We feel that the socio-economic development in the rural area must go hand in hand with an improvement in the bases of nutrition and education, in particular in those countries where there is a deficit. We feel that this will still be a long process which can only be seen in long-term dimensions. The successes outlined in the report of the Secretariat are encouraging. But we believe that in the sectors mentioned the successes should be achieved in future within a shorter period of time than it has been the case so far.

Augustyn WOS (Poland): The Polish delegation studied the documents before us with great attention and I should like to express our full satisfaction with their quality. I would also thank Mr Moreno for his excellent introduction to our debate. The Polish delegation is among those who support the proposition of the Secretariat which foresees the preparation of reports on the progress made once every eight years.

We assess the report elaborated by the Secretariat, based on numerous national reports and specialist analysis provided by other international organizations, very highly, both as regards the substantial content of the empirical material collected, as well as the meritum content of the report.

The conclusions resulting from the report are, in our opinion, decidedly pessimistic, since the progress achieved on a global scale in the area of securing for the rural population access to agricultural land, the elimination of hunger and malnutrition, the reduction of unemployment in the countryside, as well as progress in securing a growth of incomes and a more balanced division of the national income, is definitively slight.

The explanations offered concerning the causes of the present state of things and the lack of progress in the issues concerned are extensive, convincing and well documented. It may appear, thus, difficult to understand that, with such a good knowledge of the causes of the economic problems and the crisis situation in a number of countries, so little is done and undertaken on a global scale in order to improve the situation. In the Secretariat report we fail as well to find propositions which would concern the possible international actions which would serve a more rapid and efficient actualization of the WCARRD programme, or at least could constitute a starting point for discussions on this subject. One may of course propose the argument that the role and task of the Secretariat is the presentation of the actual state of things, while it is the job of Governments to formulate the propositions and to undertake international negotiations and proper actions on a national scale. Many problems concerning agricultural development and the food situation are obviously linked to the overall economic and political situation issues which are the subject of interest and actions by other agendas of the United Nations. Nevertheless, discussions on this subject, when conducted in

the forum of a FAO Conference, even when these matters exceed our terms of reference, so to speak may be most useful and serve to shape a desirable climate and to affect the opinion of the whole international public. Among the reasons which cause the aggravating problems in the agriculture of many countries - not only the developing ones by the way - one should mention, first of all, the interest rates charged on credits on international financial markets, the growth of agricultural trade protectionism and the ensuing drop of prices of agricultural products, the accumulated inter-national debt burden and the burden..of armaments expenditure. The enumerated principal causes of economic problems in today's world are not, however, independent of human will and are not by their nature natural disasters, but, on the contrary, have been caused by specific actions undertaken by Governments or economic organizations. Thus, we may term the situation as regards the international debt burden or the protection of the natural environment as a catastrophic one.

Certainly we are referring here to man-made disasters and this situation is not irreversible, provided that more confidence and cooperation is achieved on an international scale. The resolving on a global scale of the problems of international debt, both in the sense of determination of the size and the schedule of the repayments, as well as the rates of interest charged and securing the access to further credits which are necessary to finance the imported components for development, constitutes the necessary condition to overcome the present crisis, which has an impending impact both on the social and the economic development in the agricultural sector. It appears that the resolving of this problem lies in the interest of not only the countries in debt, but as well the debtor countries, thus simply waiting for the debts to be repaid, in no way makes the situation easier. One can hardly imagine that the countries in debt will be capable in a longer time period to earmark fifty percent or more of their foreign currency earnings from exports for the repayment of interest for credits taken, since this would have to result in a complete stopping of economic development, a drop of production in many branches of the economy and a drastic drop of the standard of living of the economically weakest population groups, with all of the social consequences which may result from this.

The repayment of at least a part of the international debt requires first of all easier access to the international markets for the products exported by the countries in debt, since, in any other case, they will not have the means for any repayment of the debts or even to pay the interest charged. It appears then that the concepts included in the Declaration on the Establishment of the New International Economic Order of 1974 ought to be analyzed again and, as far as possible, introduced into life in the coming years.

The interdependence between debt, economic development and armaments is clear for the majority of those engaged in research of these problems and the Governments should devote more attention to these issues.

Abdul Aziz YAACOB (Malaysia): On behalf of my delegation, let me express our appreciation of the Secretariat's effort in providing us with a comprehensive report on the progress of the WCARRD Programme of Action, and to Mr Moreno for his lucid summary.

The three main objectives of WCARRD - to have growth with equity, increased participation of the rural people and integration of women in national programmes - are still as valid as ever. We note with satisfaction the positive progress made in increasing the share of public expenditure devoted to agriculture, the greater participation of rural communities in forestry and the emphasis on small-scale fisheries.

It is unfortunate that similar progress is not achieved in other areas, such as in overcoming the problem of landlessness and inequitable land holding, the rights of women to land and access to inputs, and the availability of credits. There seems to be a lack of coherent programmes and policies to move in the direction that we have sought since 1979. We join in the concern of the report that there is little scope for a real advance in rural poverty alleviation during this period. Therefore, we fully agree with the recommendations made in the document which, on detailed examination, are very similar to the Guidelines under the International Agricultural Adjustments discussed earlier. We are glad to inform you that, as far as Malaysia is concerned, most of these recommendations are being pursued vigorously and integrated in our economic plans and National

Agricultural Policy. We are in agreement with the frequent positive references made in the report to Malaysia, which I do not wish to repeat. Neither do I wish to repeat the importance of the removal of macro-economic policy biases against agriculture which I mentioned in my previous intervention.

We should now like to share our experience in trying to meet the WCARRD objectives. Poverty eradication has been a stated goal of our national policy, known as the New Economic Policy since 1970. At that time rural poverty stood at more than 60 percent of the rural population. We are happy to say that, 15 years later, our programmes and policies to eradicate rural poverty have borne results, such that poverty now stands at less than 20 percent of the rural people. The recent recession, however, has not spared Malaysia either and has caused some setback in the progress made to eradicate rural poverty, given that Malaysia is a highly open agricultural exporting economy. Some reorientation of emphasis is felt to be in order and the recommencing of growth policies is thought necessary to provide the means to achieve and sustain the subsequent objectives of equity and distribution. Without growth, there cannot be any distribution whatsoever. Being a multiracial, multi-cultural country, Malaysia cannot afford to slacken in the progress made to alleviate poverty as the stability and foundation of the economy rests firmly on the basis of political and social stability.

While Malaysia has not undertaken comprehensive measures towards an agrarian land reform programme, our National Agricultural Policy launched in 1984, provides comprehensive guidelines for the revitalization of the agricultural sector through the efficient utilization of resources and the production of crops on a commercial basis, the opening of new land schemes for the landless and the reconsolidation and rehabilitation of existing villages to create holdings of economic size that can provide farmers with economic-scale production and income to relieve them from rural poverty. These twin-pronged approaches of new land openings and the rehabilitation of existing in situ villages have helped Malaysia to help the landless population and relieve the pressure of surplus farmers in existing farms. This perhaps provides an answer to the concern expressed in paragraph 95 of the report.

The important role that women can play in rural economic development is recognized by Malaysia. We have pursued women's integration into the mainstream agricultural development through the Special Women's Programme under the Department of Agriculture. We have not discriminated against women in their access to employment, training, land ownership, inputs, credits and other social and economic opportunities. The potential supply of labour from women is enormous, which economic planners cannot afford to ignore in designing development policies, particularly in the development of small-scale cottage industries and rural industrialization. The FAO may need to provide greater assistance to help nations identify appropriate industries that can utilize this pool of productive labour that women can supply.

Finally, on cost-saving considerations, we are in agreement with the Secretariat's recommendation that there should be comprehensive WCARRD reporting on an eight-year term, with a special theme report every four years.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation would like to make some comments on the Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action including the Role of Women in Rural Development.

From the outset, my delegation is not in a position to accept the recommendation for the reporting system to be changed from the present four-year period to eight years. The proposed period would be far too long and would jeopardize continuity in view of the likelihood of staff changes in such a long interval.

While accepting the difficulty of frequent reporting on rural development subjects, my delegation feels that the present arrangement is adequate. The arrangement as we know it is that the Conference receives a WCARRD report once every four years, while at the same time every two years a selected subject is chosen for detailed discussion by Conference. This arrangement should remain.

My delegation, while on this subject, proposes that a refinement would be the introduction of a four-year backward-rolling report: that is, in making the relevant four-year report, the analysis would include information gathered in the previous four-year report, thus covering an eight-year period for analysis.

There is no doubt that the Secretariat has done its best to try to monitor and analyze progress on the WCARRD Programme of Action, but it would appear that the Secretariat must have had a lot of difficulties in obtaining the required statistical information from a good many of the Member Nations. My delegation suspects that most of these difficulties must be found in developing countries which in the main have no adequately developed information-collection and data bank systems. For the future it would appear that one of the prerequisites for obtaining proper information from developing countries would be to assist them develop information systems. If this is not done, we shall continue to have analyses that are mainly narrative and not supported by hard data.

In spite of my foregoing comments on the lack of data in some countries, my delegation is satisfied that the overall analysis of the past trends in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action is correct.

A most disappointing and disturbing feature on world agriculture and rural development is once again highlighted by this Second Progress Report. The disturbing feature is that the rich get richer, and the poor get poorer. Furthermore, in the event of a world-wide recession, such as has been the case in the reporting period, the most vulnerable groups are (a) the poorest countries and (b) the poorest of the poor in all the countries, and almost invariably these are mostly women.

My delegation is appalled by this continuing state of affairs which the whole world had unitedly agreed to combat to bring about a generalized improved quality of life. At the first WCARRD meeting we were resolved and determined to improve the lot of the most disadvantaged groups who happen mainly to be women. At that same meeting we were fully agreed on principles of agrarian reform and on the equitable distribution of land to the masses and hoped that by this reporting time the proportion of landless people would have been reduced. We had resolved to improve the access to land and credit of women, and we had recognized the important role that women play in rural development .

What has transpired in the last four years indicates convincingly that the majority of governments only paid lip-service to the WCARRD declarations, especially with regard to all those items of reform which relate to the equitable distribution of land and other resources. There is an element of greed across the board, be it in developed or developing countries: those who have more, want more; from those who have little, even the little they have is taken away.

My delegation has therefore observed a generally poor picture of performance by almost all countries in the execution of the WCARRD Programme of Action. We are, however, delighted to note some improvements in a few limited areas, such as: (a) the introduction of community forestry in many countries; (b) shifts towards small-scale fisheries; (c) people's participation in development projects affecting them; (d) agricultural extension and training, and (e) economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

Governments must continue to rededicate themselves to the elimination of poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease. These principles can only be achieved if we all genuinely make the necessary efforts, by at least (a) making appropriate policies, both at macro and micro levels, including equitable distribution of assets and provision of adequate incentives; (b) the liberalization of international trade by removal of overt and covert tariffs; (c) allocating higher national budgetary resources to infrastructural development in rural areas; and (d) taking appropriate measures for the improvement of soil and water management for sustained agricultural and food production.

The Secretariat has proposed to Conference a number of policy issues and recommendations for scrutiny and comment. These are summarized from paragraphs 43 to 55. My delegation accepts all the recommendations but wishes to select a few for particular emphasis.

We take note of the recommendation on monitoring and evaluation at paragraph 46. We have seen how difficult it is to undertake this process. This aspect should not be left, as suggested, to individual countries to build-up an appropriate monitoring and evaluation system. It will be useful to standardize reporting systems, and in this regard FAO should assist member countries who will need such assistance.

We strongly support paragraph 49 which deals with reaching small farmers through low-cost agricultural extension. It is my delegation's conviction that group approaches to extension are the most cost-effective in developing countries. Furthermore, they are even more effective if linked or attached to service a cooperative group of farmers who have access to credit and other assets. My delegation even dares to go further by proposing that cost-effectiveness is improved by the introduction of a unified extension service in a good many small developing countries.

Paragraph 52 deals with rural poverty and the environment. This subject cannot be overemphasized, and yet it has been ignored for such a long time. The realities of the Sahel should make us see wisdom. We now have millions of environmental refugees. We must act now, and with impact, to avoid further human suffering.

As my delegation stated yesterday in our contribution to the paper on international agricultural adjustment, every agricultural project must start with a description of the present state of the environment in the project area, if not the country, and monitor the environmental effects yearly. Environmental impact assessment must be part and parcel of every rural development project.

May I conclude my remarks by stating that the WCARRD declarations are fundamental to the development of world agriculture and to the improvement of the quality of life of the poorest of the poor, who are basically the least developed countries and the majority of women of those countries.

We must give FAO the funds to undertake this task effectively in liaison with Member Nations. My country will attempt to do its best not to be found wanting in implementing WCARRD resolutions.

Finally, the Zambia delegation supports fully the draft resolution on the integration of women in development put forward by the Nordic countries.

Igor MARINCEK (Suisse): J'aimerais d'abord vous féliciter de votre élection à la présidence de cette commission. J'aimerais également remercier M. Moreno de l'introduction claire du document remis. Il s'agit d'un excellent rapport, très riche en informations, et j'aimerais féliciter le Secrétariat de son élaboration. Le rapport nous renforce dans notre opinion que la FAO est une extraordinaire source de connaissances qui mérite d'être mieux mise en valeur.

L'analyse que nous donne le document n'est pas très encourageante. Bien que la majorité des Etats Membres aient soutenu le programme d'action de la CMRADR, il semble que les gouvernements aient quelque peu perdu leur courage après l'adoption de cette résolution. La part de l'agriculture dans le total des dépenses publiques reste disproportionnellement faible dans la plupart des pays en développement, comme nous le dit le rapport. D'après le tableau 1 dans l'annexe du document, seul Chypre, parmi les pays en voie de développement, consacre à l'agriculture une part des dépenses publiques supérieure à la contribution de ce secteur au PIB du pays. A l'autre bout de la liste, nous trouvons un pays où ce rapport n'est que de 5 pour cent, c'est-à-dire vingt fois en dessous de ce que demande le programme d'action de la CMRADR. Il semble que l'on mise toujours sur le développement urbain, que, malgré toutes les déclarations, l'agriculture n'a toujours qu'une trop faible priorité dans la plupart des pays concernés.

La population urbaine a augmenté à un rythme de deux à dix fois supérieur à celui de la population rurale au cours de la période de 1969 à 1985. Et le rapport constate une dégradation de l'accès à la terre pour la majorité des agriculteurs du monde en développement. Pendant que nous, pays membres, adoptons ici, à la FAO, des grandes résolutions en faveur de la réforme et du développement rural, en faveur des petits exploitants, en faveur de l'élimination de la faim, beaucoup de ruraux du monde en développement quittent la campagne car ils n'y trouvent pas les moyens de vivre. Leur départ massif indique que les politiques agricoles déclarées et les résolutions prises à la FAO n'atteignent pas leurs objectifs. Si nous perdons la bataille du développement rural, les problèmes des villes deviendront insurmontables et nous perdrons la bataille du développement tout court. Le monde rural a donc besoin d'un cadre plus favorable si nous voulons qu'il soit capable de mobiliser ses ressources, tant humaines que matérielles pour le développement.

Un point crucial est la mise en oeuvre d'une bonne politique agricole. Pour avoir des résultats positifs, une telle politique doit être réaliste, c'est-à-dire qu'elle doit, être bien comprise et

appuyée par ceux qu'elle touche directement, les agriculteurs. Le dialogue avec eux est indispensable, si l'on veut éviter la mise en oeuvre de politiques parfaites en théorie, mais qui ne fonctionnent pas en pratique, parce qu'elles ne tiennent pas suffisamment compte des forces motrices du monde rural. C'est donc une nécessité dictée par le pragmatisme, de chercher ce genre de dialogue avec les agriculteurs par l'intermédiaire d'organisations paysannes indépendantes et représentatives de la majorité d'entre eux; dans la plupart des pays en développement, la majorité des agriculteurs, ce sont les petits exploitants.

Le document C 87/19 ne parle que peu du rôle des organisations paysannes. Pour permettre aux agriculteurs de faire entendre leur voix dans notre Organisation, mon pays a soumis une proposition concernant la création d'un comité des organisations paysannes. Ce comité aurait un statut consultatif et pourrait faire rapport au Conseil et à la Conférence. Cette proposition est présentée dans le cadre du document C 87/30 et se trouve dans l'annexe II du mémoire présenté par la Suisse. Inutile donc de le répéter ici; j'invite les autres délégués à prendre connaissance de cette proposition dans ce document. Notre proposition a par ailleurs déjà suscité l'intérêt de nombreux pays et ONG.

Ma délégation aimerait demander au Secrétariat d'étudier notre proposition concernant la création d'un tel comité, d'élaborer des options pour la réalisation de cette idée, et de présenter un rapport à ce sujet à la prochaine session du Conseil, en novembre de l'année prochaine. Dans ce processus, une première étape pourrait être la réunion d'un comité consultatif ad hoc d'experts (en anglais, un panel of experts) composé de représentants d'organisations paysannes venant des différentes régions du monde. Cette réunion pourrait étudier les différentes options élaborées par le Secrétariat et faire des recommandations à ce sujet en vue de l'élaboration du rapport adressé au Conseil. Mon pays serait disposé à apporter une contribution financière à une telle réunion d'experts, et serait heureux que d'autres pays se joignent à lui.

Nous allons bientôt entrer dans la dixième année de la Conférence Mondiale sur la Réforme Agricole et le Développement Rural. La mise en chantier d'un Comité des organisations paysannes serait une contribution concrète pour la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action de la CMRADR, de ce programme d'action que nous n'avons pas hésité à appeler "Charte Paysanne". Cette charte est à notre avis une manière de code de conduite concernant le dialogue qui doit s'établir entre gouvernements d'une part, paysans et leurs organisations d'autre part. SI nous voulons être crédibles aux yeux des paysans, il est temps de passer aux actions concrètes de mise en oeuvre du Programme d'action de la CMRADR.

Pour terminer, une remarque concernant la périodicité des rapports: je comprends la frustration du Secrétariat de devoir rapporter sur si peu de progrès en la matière. Les questions posées dans le cadre de la CMRADR sont cependant d'une importance tout à fait centrale. Rallonger la périodicité des rapports serait un faux signal à notre avis.

Finalement, mon pays appuie la résolution présentée par les pays nordiques concernant une meilleure intégration des femmes dans le développement.

O.F.J. OYAIDE (Nigeria): My delegation joins the others in congratulating the Secretariat on the second report on the WCARRD Programme of Action including the Role of Women in Rural Development. We realize the difficulty in putting together such a report because of the paucity of concrete data in most developing countries and the late submission of country reports by many.

Nigeria has made tremendous progress in the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action over the years and these are properly documented in the country report submitted to the Secretariat. Most noteworthy are measures to increase the share of national resources which are invested in the rural areas, to improve their economic, social and general well-being. Foremost among these measures was the establishment in 1986, in the office of the President, of a Directorate of Food, Roads and Rural Infrastructure to coordinate rural development nationwide and mobilize the rural population for self-development.

Since its establishment in February 1986, the Directorate has effected the construction and rehabilitation of 56 000 kilometres of rural feeder roads to open up new agricultural lands and to connect large numbers of rural communities to the national trunk road network.

The programmes of the directorate include a massive effort to provide potable water to all rural communities and to provide adult literacy and education, rural basic health facilities and shelter. A high proportion of the beneficiaries of these programmes, particularly adult education literacy campaigns are women.

Another important measure worth mentioning is the local government reform aimed at bringing government closer to the rural population and an increase in the statutory allocation of national resources to the local government. In addition to these, the land reform measures entailed in the Land Use Decree of 1978 in Nigeria have assured easy access to land by all those in need of it.

My delegation welcomes the importance accorded to the role of women in rural development. In Nigeria women play an important role in agriculture and rural development and measures have been designed to reduce the drudgery to which women are subjected in their activities. In this regard, my delegation would like to acknowledge the support of the FAO, the UNDP and the ILO for various women's programmes in Nigeria.

We wish also to draw attention to the problems of environmental degradation and pressure on cultivable land. My delegation notes with satisfaction the ongoing efforts being made by the EEC to finance programmes to check desert encroachment in Nigeria and to finance other programmes of land reclamation and rural development.

My delegation can hardly overlook the statement at paragraph 22 of chapter V of the report to the effect that "trends in export prices ~~terms of trade, access to market~~ international policies governing these are important in determining rural poverty alleviation in many developing countries."

It must be emphasized that unless the thorny issue of international agricultural commodities trade and the growing protectionism is resolved quickly, efforts of developing countries to implement the WCARRD Programme of Action will continue to be constrained by the lack of or the inadequacy of resources.

Finally, my delegation wishes to suggest that for the next report on the WCARRD Action Programme, the FAO, should take measures for on-the-spot, in-country generation of necessary data over the intervening period. This will improve on the past practice of calling for country reports just before the Conference without the requisite data to use. As for intervals for reporting, four years appears to be long enough. If there must be an increase, however, it should not exceed six years.

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): En primer lugar, permítame en nombre de la delegación de Nicaragua, felicitar a la Secretaría por el contenido y claridad del informe presentado, así como la brillante exposición que hiciera el Dr Rafael Moreno.

El desarrollo equilibrado de una sociedad exige el cumplimiento de principios sobre el respeto del derecho, la equidad y la participación popular, de manera que el crecimiento económico basado en una estrategia que recoja estos principios, lleva con seguridad a lograr objetivos de bienestar social.

En 1979, la Conferencia Mundial sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural aprobó justamente un Programa de Acción que enfatizaba sobre la necesidad de que los países incorporaran a sus objetivos y estrategias nacionales, los objetivos de crecimiento, equidad y participación popular así como la integración de la mujer.

El informe C 87/19 presenta algunos avances al respecto, pero no significativos en el cumplimiento de los propósitos que estableció la Conferencia. El principal obstáculo que se señala es la crisis económica cada día más difícil para los países en desarrollo, como resultado de la recesión internacional. La mayoría de los países han dirigido la atención al problema demográfico en lugar de enfrentar la pobreza rural.

El derecho a la tierra y a su distribución equitativa y justa es insoslayable y amerita la atención prioritaria de nuestros países, como la primera fase para el desarrollo de una economía interna más equilibrada.

La situación actual, de acuerdo al informe, es realmente crítica. Observamos en general, con algunas excepciones, tendencias hacia el latifundismo, mayor población de campesinos sin tierra, un minifundismo marginal y la baja participación de la mujer sobre los recursos.

Esto verdaderamente cierra las puertas a todo desarrollo para el logro de un nivel más favorable de bienestar social, económico y alimentario.

La población rural campesina demanda la tierra y necesita la tierra para producir alimentos y para mejorar su nivel de vida. La reforma agraria es una vía de primer orden en la lucha por enfrentar la pobreza en el campo. Otros factores deben integrarse para lograr un modelo integral de desarrollo rural; a la par que una distribución justa de la tierra se acompaña la consolidación tecnológica apoyada en un ordenamiento ecológico adecuado de los territorios, así como el aprovechamiento racional de los recursos naturales. Los bosques, el impulso a la pesca y políticas dirigidas para su aprovechamiento efectivo, son recursos importantes para mejorar los ingresos y la nutrición de las poblaciones rurales.

La política de producción en relación a precios, créditos y servicios, articulada conforme a un modelo de desarrollo y transferencia de tecnología, constituyen factores determinantes para la búsqueda de mayor volumen de alimentos, pero siempre en el marco sostenido de un programa activo de reforma agraria de alta participación popular y organización en el campo.

La mujer juega una función importante, no sólo en la actividad directa productiva, sino también como elemento de interacción de la vida orgánica colectiva. La tierra y las posibilidades de recursos y servicios ligados a programas de atención tecnológica y social a disposición de la población agrícola rural, sería el camino para enfrentar la pobreza en el campo. Esto, evidentemente, implica transformaciones estructurales a las cuales se anteponen, como barreras, los esquemas y modelos socioeconómicos tradicionales, pero muchas veces también juega como factor importante el entorno geopolítico.

La delegación nicaraguense expresa la firme convicción de cumplir con los mandatos de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural de seguir cumpliendo con los objetivos de equidad y participación popular, con la interacción plena y efectiva de la mujer.

En menos de siete años la revolución nicaraguense ha emprendido un vasto programa de reforma agraria como respuesta justa de reivindicación histórica del campesinado sobre la tierra. Se han distribuido 2.900.000 hectáreas de tierra a 103.000 familias campesinas, organizándose más de 3.000 cooperativas agrícolas en diferentes modalidades de participación y asociación.

La mujer nicaragüense en el medio rural participa en tareas productivas y organizativas y en la movilización popular alrededor de la implementación del programa de movilización popular para el abastecimiento de alimentos.

Para la consolidación productiva de la tierra en manos del campesino se implementa un programa de asistencia técnica dirigida, donde el sistema de interacción de transferencia de tecnología se articula en los servicios de acceso a la producción, como el suministro de insumos, el crédito, la mecanización, el riego, la capacitación y la gestión agraria, beneficiándose así 75 000 pequeños agricultores. Para consolidar este programa el gobierno revolucionario ha creado el Centro Nacional Internacional de Investigación de Granos Básicos, cuyos objetivos fundamentales son el mejoramiento genético, el mejoramiento de los sistemas de producción y la multiplicación de semillas de variedades mejoradas.

El esfuerzo patriótico del pueblo nicaragüense, con el apoyo de la comunidad internacional, organismos del sistema de Naciones Unidas y organismos no gubernamentales ha permitido el avance en el campo de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural. Todavía queda un camino largo por recorrer; lo importante es seguir adelante. El pueblo nicaragüense impulsa con fuerza y voluntad participativa esta línea de reivindicación del campesinado y la mujer en el campo. La reacción imperialista no hará retroceder esta marcha histórica.

La delegación nicaragüense considera de mucha utilidad el contenido del segundo informe sobre la aplicación del programa de acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural; los objetivos fijados por la Conferencia en 1979 todavía no han sido cumplidos por la mayoría de

nuestros países; sin embargo, el factor tiempo para avanzar en esta línea no es la limitación fundamental. Debemos considerar que acciones de este tipo dependen de la voluntad explícita de los gobiernos. Creemos que es deber moral seguir, sostenidamente, con los planteamientos doctrinales de la Conferencia; por ello deseamos expresar nuestra posición para mantener cada cuatro años la presentación de informes sobre la marcha de los Programas de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural.

Luka RADOJICIC (Yugoslavia): The Yugoslav delegation expresses its appreciation of FAO's efforts in preparing this report. I would like to emphasize that there is no progress with regard to the major recommendation of the WCARRD Programme of Action for a more equitable distribution of holdings and greater accessibility of basic agricultural inputs. We have witnessed negative social developments, especially in recent years. Therefore, I would like to stress that there are limits to the adjustments at the expense of the underprivileged, especially in rural areas. It seems that these limits have already been reached in a number of cases.

The Yugoslav delegation supports the proposals for reducing the frequency of reports in future to eight years, providing that certain specific subject matters are reviewed and reports on them submitted to the FAO Conference for consideration and adoption every four years.

A. H. Mofazzal KARIM (Bangladesh): My delegation congratulates the FAO Secretariat on presenting yet another comprehensive and useful report. We also thank Dr Moreno for so succinctly introducing the subject.

To do something for the disadvantaged groups in developing countries is indeed a real challenge. Even if there is a strong will of the government to improve the lot of the rural poor and other disadvantaged classes such as women, historical, socio-cultural and economic barriers as well as budgetary constraints inhibit any meaningful action. Nonetheless there have been efforts in recent times to overcome such inhibitions in my country.

The Third Five-Year Plan covering the period 1985-90 underlines the reduction of rural poverty as a fundamental objective to be achieved through the participation of the rural poor in production and distribution.

Fully cognizant of the fact that agrarian reform is a sine qua non to the development of agriculture and the amelioration of the condition of the rural poor, Bangladesh has adopted land laws incorporating reforms to arrest the growth of large holdings and protect the interest of such rural poor as the landless agricultural labourers and sharecroppers.

Specific programmes for the employment and also sustenance of the rural poor and rural women are of utmost priority in Bangladesh. The food-for-work programme and the vulnerable group development programme, for example, are specifically designed for these groups. At the same time, other programmes such as the training and visit programme in agricultural extension, agricultural cooperatives, women's cooperatives, Grameen, i.e. rural bank, meant for small income people, off-farm programmes like the setting up of small and cottage industries in rural areas and pond fishing, training and employment programmes for youth, are all meant for various target groups.

Coupled with all these there has been administrative decentralization which in particular, and others in general, are big steps forward in ensuring people's participation in economic activities.

As for women's role, through legislation as well as through many directives of the government, women's status has been redefined and their rights protected. There has been a reawakening about the role of women in society. The result is the creation of a separate ministry and a directorate of women's affairs, reservation of as many as 30 seats for women in the parliament, quota reservation to the tune of 15 percent in public sector jobs, anti-dowry laws, proliferation of women's cooperatives, women's associations, NGO's and so on. A recent decision of my Government requires that when government land is allotted to landless cultivators it must be given to the joint ownership of both the husband and the wife.

In the backdrop of all these developments my delegation would urge the international community to come forward in a big way to assist the government programmes.

The theory of trickle-down effect has proved to be wrong. Beneficiaries of that theory have been the rural rich and not the rural poor. My delegation therefore feels that unless something is designed and done specifically for the disadvantaged and target groups their destiny cannot change as a matter of course.

We support the recommendations contained in the report, but we do not agree to the proposal for an eight year periodicity for reporting. The issues involved are too urgent, too sensitive, and above all too vital to be allowed to hibernate for nearly a decade. We also welcome and support the Nordic Group proposal for better integration of women in development.

Jalaladdin HABIBI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): On behalf of the Iranian delegation and myself I should like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Secretariat for their presentation of the lucid and comprehensive documents C 87/19 and C 87/LIM/16.

Concerning this very important topic for discussion in this technical gathering, I should like to narrate very briefly what is going on in this regard in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and what is the role of women in rural development in our country. Women's activity in Iran's rural area has dated back since history has been narrated. Since very ancient days, women have played important roles in the accomplishment of agricultural activities and subsidiary occupations. They have been labouring throughout their lives in different aspects next to their men. Along with these responsibilities they had other undertakings such as carpet weaving, dairy activities, baking, etc. This process has remained intact for centuries in the economic and social structure of Iranian rural development. Today our population amounts to 50 million, out of which 45 percent are residing in rural areas, and this amounts to an 11 million population of women in these parts. Apart from children and the elderly, the rest make great contributions in sharing with men's responsibilities.

The views of the Iranian revolution which have been inspired by the principles of Islam are as follows.

In the Islamic society women benefit from specific aspects. Obedience to the mother is an indispensable practice. The Holy Prophet states that heaven lies under the feet of the mothers. Woman in the view of Islam is a very delicate being and must have a place in creation. God has allocated women to educate their offspring and therefore they have a special seat in the family.

Regarding the participation of women in daily work, Islam has faith in the doctrine that justice does not lie only in tranquility and sameness but is the provision of necessary conditions suitable to the nature of each being, and let it flourish. Therefore, the first task of women is to be a proper mother and to bring up the children for society until it is time for them to carry out jobs in accordance with their physical and spiritual stamina and tolerance. These undertakings we believe should not do any harm to their main tasks. In Islam work and adoption of responsibility applies to both men and women. Therefore, women under the present circumstances are expected to give a hand to men providing that they carry out their own tasks without fault.

In this regard our view is in close accordance with the view of Islam, namely, the participation of women in land ownership, provision of appropriate conditions for their education in order to further their economical and social security and independence.

Fortunately, after our Islamic revolution when big ownership of land was divided into small lots it enabled the majority of rural women farmers to benefit from individual land ownership. Along with this privilege they found it a distinction to have a share in the utilization of land. The Government has also paid attention to this fact and provided them with infrastructural investment, facilities and subsidies.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the content of paragraph 8 of part IV.2 of document C 87/19 refers to what we have been trying to achieve, along with some other points that I mentioned in my

report that are accomplished. We strongly desire that women in different societies join together to remove the obstacles ahead of them in order to fully implement their tasks of achieving success in the social and economic standards of their societies.

E. T. CHENGU (Zimbabwe): I would like to compliment the Secretariat for the excellent documents before us. We note the clear analysis and presentation of the agricultural reform and rural development presented in documents C 87/19 and C 87/LIM/16 on the WCARRD Programme of Action.

My country supports reforms and has undertaken many reforms in various fields such as land redistribution and resettlement, and access to inputs such as credit, seed, fertilizers and agricultural machinery.

In the land resettlement programme provision has been made for infrastructural development and provision of essential support services such as schools, hospitals, roads, clean water, housing, research and extension, as well as education and training.

The resettlement programme is a massive programme so far involving the resettlement of more than 40,000 landless families on more than 2.5 million hectares of land. Men and women have been considered as having equal access to land as long as they are household heads.

Appropriate price and marketing policies that provide incentives to small farmers and recognize their production costs and cropping situations have been introduced. In this way, therefore, the imbalance that existed between large-scale commercial and small-scale peasant farmers have been gradually redressed.

Production as a result of the reforms has risen tenfold since 1980 in the small-scale sector and this has accounted for some of our previous grain surpluses. The major sectors of cropping, livestock production and forestry have been addressed.

The important role of women in development has also been recognized and reforms for women have been started in the critical areas of constitution and legislation as it affects women, access to land by women, access to credit and inputs by women, and professional and extension support for women.

A Minister for women's affairs has been appointed, special institutions for monitoring the advancement and integration of women into the mainstream have been set up, and concrete programmes are being drawn up in many instances with the assistance of FAO.

There has been emphasis on training and group extension for women, as well as nutritional and adult literacy programmes. All of the major aspects of the recommendations have been addressed.

However, it should also be pointed out that there are certain unfavourable global and external trends in the world and in our region that make it difficult to implement agricultural reforms and rural development in our sub-region.

Zimbabwe, like other developing countries, is dependent on the export of agricultural commodities, and has suffered from the adverse terms of international trade. The high cost of agriculture inputs, the high interest rates, a high debt service ratio, falling commodity prices and competition with the growing protectionism of the high-cost big producers are factors that have all combined to make it difficult for Zimbabwe to earn the necessary foreign currency with which to implement some of its necessary reforms and rural development projects.

At home, in addition to natural hazards such as droughts, migratory pests, such as locusts, tse-tse flies, quelea birds and army worms, the rural small-scale farmers have also suffered from the South African policy of destabilization of the neighbouring frontline states. South African-sponsored bandits have unleashed terror in the countryside. Peasant farmers and rural women have been harassed, pursued and killed by South African-backed bandits. This has made it difficult to carry out rural development projects in certain parts of the sub-region.

It would be necessary for the FAO to carry out a study on the impact of the conflict on the rural women farmers in the frontline states and the disruption that this has on the educational health and the nutritional programmes of rural women.

Finally, the Zimbabwe delegation fully supports the resolution tabled by the Nordic countries on the better integration of women in development, of which Zimbabwe is the co-sponsor.

Mohammed EL Bashir MUFARAH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): Yesterday I spoke about women's economic, political family rights in Sudan. I said that one of the most important of these rights is that a woman carries her father's name even after being married. In fact, I did not want to come back to this issue but I am returning to it because of what is stated in the report on page 77, paragraph 9 of the English version, as follows: "In Sudan women are often paid less than half the rate of men for work on certain crops".

I regret to say that this is factually and logically incorrect. Agricultural work is confined to the following: land preparation, that is, plowing and weeding, seeding of land, irrigation, and in the final account the harvesting of the crop.

With regard to the work of land preparation, seeding, plowing and weeding, the wage is set on the basis of the size of the land worked on. The feddan is used in Sudan. The wage is not set according to whether the worker is male or female. In fact the wage is shared among the man and woman or the whole family on an equal basis.

As to the wage for harvesting, it is also set according to the size of the crop harvested. For instance, with cotton it depends on how many bags of cotton each worker has completed. The wage is not set according to the sex of the worker.

This rule perhaps is also applicable in the industrial sector, the textile industry or other industries where women also work, that is, in the cities.

The role of women in farm management is extremely important and in the Gezira Project, which involves the biggest irrigated land surface in Africa, more than 60% of the farms there are presently managed by women due to the fact that a great many men have immigrated to other countries seeking work. More than 20% of these lands are the property of women. They receive credit, they sell the crops and their duties and rights are the same as those for men.

Nevertheless, female membership in farm associations is still very limited, if not non-existent. However, this phenomenon will certainly disappear when more and more educated women become involved in production in the rural areas, and there is no obstacle to women achieving that.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): In Australia's view, the report on the implementation of the WCARRD Programme of Action is a reasonably balanced, comprehensive review covering a wide range of issues. Its overall thrust - which is rather depressing - is that changes are difficult to achieve. We would suggest that the international economic climate accounts for much of the delay in change. We would hope that the Uruguay Road of agricultural negotiations offer a crucial opportunity to develop long-term solutions to the current agricultural world trade crisis, by addressing the need for trade liberalization. We believe success there would help immensely.

Having said that, I should like to point out that under this item it is the role of women in rural development that is of prime interest to us. The document before us highlights the on-going problems and limited progress which is being made since WCARRD met in 1979. We note from the report that only a few countries have initiated significant nation wide policies and programmes which specifically target rural women for participation and benefits.

We realize that progress is highly dependent on social and cultural attitudes. There is a limit on external intervention and developed country policy comment, but general encouragement remains, we believe, appropriate for countries to continue moving towards improvement of the lot of women, especially in disadvantaged rural communities.

FAO's actions relating to access to cooperatives, to credit, training and marketing assistance are to be particularly encouraged, remembering that community participation is one of the prime keys to successful development. We recognize that training awards achieved by women are currently running at around 20 percent. Australia believes that higher targets in this area would be desirable.

We continue to provide a substantial proportion of official development assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, for agricultural development projects, training and research. The extent of assistance depends on not only availability of resources, but also on the priority given to this sector by developing countries in their requests in comparison to their sectors i.e. public utilities, education, health and so on.

We note that FAO acknowledges the social impacts of structural adjustment and stabilization programmes. I refer back to Doc. C 87/2. We understand a Commonwealth expert group on the Impact of Structural Adjustment of Women will be established to undertake specific investigation and report to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in 1989. The terms of reference of that group are, the extent of women's contribution to the economy, both paid and unpaid, and its implications for structural adjustment measures; to consider alternate measures which could be more socially and economically effective. We feel that the details of FAO's research, based on fifty country progress reports, should be given to the Commonwealth expert group to assist in its investigation. Australia seeks to ensure that resources are conserved by avoiding duplication of research and sharing information. We think that that would be an excellent idea of cooperation.

We are concerned that the goals and momentum are not lost if WCARRD reporting is to be reduced to once in every eight years. In that regard we fully support the United States' proposal.

Finally, Australia supports the Nordic draft resolution on this subject.

Masuhla Humphrey LETEKA (Lesotho): My delegation wishes to commend the Secretariat for the detailed and analytical document before us. The introduction of that document by Dr Moreno also highlighted some of the controversial issues embodied therein.

We endorse the proposals made in the second Progress Report on the WCARRD Programme of Action, including the role of women in rural development.

First, allow me to comment on people's participation in development, which my Government recognizes as the central issue to achieving a more coordinated rural development strategy. We are in agreement that this cannot take off without the most important element of the rural poor, namely women. The 1985 UN Conference in Nairobi, which endorsed the forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women to the year 2000, helped to reaffirm my Government's position that women form the backbone of Lesotho's economic development, especially in the rural areas.

We are confronted with a situation whereby about 65 percent of our able-bodied male population migrate into the South-African mining industries with the aim of supplementing whatever little is produced at home. This situation initially resulted in farming being left in the hands of inexperienced youth and the already-overburdened rural women. The establishment of a women's and youth bureau in the Prime Minister's office in the beginning of the 1980s marked an important turn in the operations of government and the reality that women played an important role in the production process aimed at improving the status and nutritional standards of the rural poor. The integrated rural development programmes in this bureau are monitored by women with the technical back-stopping overseen by specialists from various government departments. Women have been given the responsibility to run nutritional development programmes and the development of nutritional-related policies. Suffice it to say that the present five-year national development plan also has a special section on the role of women in the economic development of the country in the next five years.

It is also important to mention that there are many women today going into agricultural extension and it has been realized that they are more effective in working with rural households. Be that as it may, we cannot ignore the obstacles that are being encountered in achieving the envisaged goals. The problem of landlessness caused by the shortage of land in Lesotho has been quite acute. At the same time, access to land has been affected by high rates of growth of agricultural populations in the already-diminished arable land. This, coupled with the absence of appropriate technologies and farming systems, has reduced the productivity of the available land. Lesotho's traditional rural sector is still deficient in infrastructure and we would appeal to the international community and those organizations of goodwill to assist materially in the improvement of this situation.

Finally, as is reflected in the document, drought and the effects of international recession have also affected the country's ability to provide relevant rural infrastructure and social services. We believe that these developments, if put within the context of improved access to land and appropriate technology, could have favourable effects in reducing the incidence of rural poverty.

Lesotho's main problem is that of erosion and land degradation. The strategies and policies, therefore, have been geared mainly towards the protection of the land base. We maintain that there cannot be any meaningful programme in agriculture if the land base is not healthy and protected. Our main emphasis, therefore, relies on the proper and appropriate land use systems. Unlike other countries which are promoting reforestation Lesotho is promoting afforestation. Due to the unfavourable endowment of economic factors, we think that agro-forestry and soil conservation should be our main thrust. The Lesotho Government is currently advocating the concept of integrated watershed management in the overall agricultural development. We think that the development of food and agriculture is an inter-disciplinary issue which involves proper land use systems. The degradation of range land in the mountain areas of Lesotho has had a bad effect during the heavy rains in the low-lying land base. Therefore, one could not think of gully erosion control in the valleys without addressing the source of the problem in the upper parts of the area or the beginning of the watershed area.

The Lesotho delegation would, therefore, appreciate FAO's assistance in supporting this concept through the integration of women in the whole process.

We would like to support the draft resolution proposed by the Nordic countries and to support the consensus expressed by several delegations that the WCARRD Progress Report be on a four-yearly basis in order to allow continuity.

CHAIRMAN: At this point I would like to announce that the distinguished delegate from Sierra Leone has indicated that their statement on this item be inserted in the verbatims. Subject to your agreement. I will accept this proposition.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): The right and opportunity of all sectors and groups of our society to participate in, and benefit from, economic and social development has always been a cornerstone of New Zealand policy. It has had a significant influence on our development for more than a century. We also believe implicitly in sustainable agricultural production, and development must be in harmony with the environment. Therefore, the issues raised in this Report, in particular in relation to the rural poor - role of women in the environment - are especially important, and we note with concern the limited progress in some of these areas in developing countries.

Improving the living conditions and welfare of people on lower incomes in rural areas is a key element in our Overseas Development Assistance. In the Pacific region our ODA emphasis is on primary production, both for local consumption and for export. The Banana Export Scheme, which aims to help Tonga establish a commercially-viable and sustainable banana export industry is a prime example of this.

The rights of women and their role in society has long been an important principle in New Zealand. Family-owned and operated farms are a feature of New Zealand's efficient agriculture. The equal right for women in ownership of land is critical to the husband and wife partnership on which the success of these family farms is based. That is why we look closely at the likely contribution of our ODA projects in safeguarding the interests of women and increasing their capacity to contribute to development. We are disappointed to see in paragraph 22 of the Report that there is a lack of access to land, and that this still remains the major constraint to women's fuller participation in development. The fact that there are virtually no direct land rights for women and that the question of women's access to land has not been explicitly addressed in any countries, as outlined in paragraphs 13 and 14, is of particular concern. It is with these problems in mind that we support the Nordic countries resolution on women.

I mentioned earlier that environmental protection is critical to the development of sustainable agriculture. Again, we place emphasis on this in our ODA programmes, and the principles guiding our system are currently being redrafted and will refer to the need for environmental protection in development assistance activities.

We believe strongly in the need for appropriate macro-economic policy to drive successful development, and we are pleased to see from the report that many countries have moved to reduce the macro-economic policy bias against agriculture. It is of concern, however, that some of these adjustments have had adverse effects on the rural poor. This demonstrates the complexities involved in macro-economic policy and the real need of developing countries for assistance in this area. We have already expressed the view that FAO should afford higher priority to policy advice. We underline that view here.

Finally, we note reference to food aid in the report, and we must emphasize our concern that such aid is given in a form that does not disrupt normal trade and agricultural patterns and supports the purchase of food in exporting developing countries.

Ms María Luisa GAVINO (Philippines): The Philippine delegation appreciates Dr Moreno's lucid introduction of this very important item.

The Philippine delegation fully supports the WCARRD Programme of Action, especially document C 87/LIM/16, FAO's Programme Directions on Women in Agriculture and Rural Development.

In the Philippines all efforts are being exerted to hasten the development of the role and status of women. Women are viewed as both agents and targets of development where women take the lead in identifying and prioritizing their needs, mobilizing local resources, planning and implementing solutions to their problems.

I should like to add that the Philippine delegation also supports the draft resolution on this item authored by the Nordic countries.

Mme Malika SACI (Algérie): Monsieur le Président, pour répondre à votre appel, l'intervention de la délégation algérienne sera brève. Nous voudrions faire deux réflexions.

S'agissant des femmes dans le développement, les rapports que nous examinons font état de la différence entre les droits accordés et la pratique courante. Si la grande majorité des pays reconnaît l'égalité des droits, il en va différemment dans les faits, sous le poids des coutumes, des traditions et des tabous sociaux.

Dans le monde, les femmes représentent environ la moitié de la population; aussi, aucun pays ne peut assurer son développement s'il marginalise de jure ou de facto, la moitié de sa population. En ce sens, le rôle de sensibilisation et de vulgarisation de notre organisation est primordial.

L'autre remarque concerne le domaine de la FAO. En général, lorsque la récession s'installe, les femmes sont le premier groupe frappé par le chômage. Nous souhaitons que ce schéma ne se retrouve pas à la FAO, où la limitation des ressources risque d'atteindre également, en premier lieu, les programmes d'action, de coopération et d'assistance en direction des groupes cibles tels que les paysans pauvres et les femmes du monde rural.

Nous souhaitons que les ressources affectées aillent vers des actions soigneusement choisies, en évitant l'éparpillement des moyens et des domaines d'intervention.

Dans mon pays, au lendemain de la guerre de libération, des centaines de paysannes, veuves de guerre, se sont retrouvées chefs de famille. Des domaines agricoles leur ont été attribués; elles les ont gérés et y ont travaillé seules, durement, avec peu de moyens et beaucoup de foi.

Actuellement, nous mettons en route une nouvelle distribution foncière des exploitations du secteur public pour faciliter l'accès à la terre des paysans chefs de famille, homme ou femme.

Pour terminer, ma délégation appuie la proposition de la délégation vénézuélienne, et estime que la périodicité pour la présentation des rapports devrait être maintenue en l'état. La délégation algérienne appuie également la déclaration du délégué du Zimbabwe relative à la situation de l'agriculture dans les pays de la ligne de front.

Arif H. UGUR (Turkey): I should like to thank the Secretariat for the comprehensive report C 87/19 which is before us. Agrarian reform, described by Ladejinsky as an "unfinished business", by its very context has interlinked economic, social and political dimensions which in turn have significant implications for rural development.

Land reform has a long history in Turkey. The first experience, which started in 1945, involved improvement and distribution of public land. The second experience, of 1972, had a mainly equity-oriented dimension. The main features of this experience were expropriation and redistribution of private holdings. However, this law was implemented to a limited degree.

Turkey has now adopted the concept of agrarian reform, which is concerned with the intensification of land and input use to increase productivity. Redistribution of public land and consolidation of individual holdings, with or without changing the distribution of land ownership in terms of

size, are the main features of the new Agrarian Reform Act. Apart from the public land, changes in land ownership through expropriation and redistribution of private holdings are limited to the specified conditions established by the law. Efficient large farms, orchards and plantations need not be broken up. Establishment of new settlement areas, where needed, are the other major aspect of reform activities.

Rural development programmes are the major part of macro-economic development policies of the Government. In this respect, construction of rural infrastructure, such as rural roads, rural electrification, telecommunications and irrigation have been a major concern of the Government, and have been given very high priority. Large amounts of resources have been transferred to rural infrastructure in an effort to speed up agricultural and rural development and to reduce income disparities.

The Government considers rural roads more than just a component of the infrastructure that provides access to villages and settlements but also as an important stimulant to the expansion of agriculture and rural development, the growth of production, distribution and marketing of produce, and the development of market-oriented activities in general.

Rural electrification continues to form an important part of the Government's economic and social policies of providing basic services to the rural areas, especially to those villages designated as least developed. As such, the Government objectives are geared to rural development, equity considerations and poverty alleviation rather than economic efficiency. Except for small settlement areas, almost all villages will be provided with electricity and connected to telephones by the end of this year.

We share all the views expressed in the report C 87/19 on improving the position of women and assisting their integration in rural development.

In Turkey, women over the age of 15 constitute about 54 percent of the total number employed in the agricultural sector.

Turkey has signed and ratified the UN convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. More than 50 years ago women were given political, economic and social rights and equality. There is no limitation on women's access to land, cooperatives, credit and other service organizations. Land ownership rights are secured by the civil codes and inheritance law, without discrimination between sexes.

In order to improve the status of women, non-agricultural skill courses are organized by the public agencies - in carpet-making, home-canning, clothing, handicrafts, sewing and knitting. Mobile training units are organized to provide adequate agricultural and other training for women. Women's attendance at agricultural training institutions has increased within the last decade.

The past decade has brought many hopeful signs for integrated rural development projects. Although in terms of meeting the worldwide need the number of people affected is relatively small, reasonable progress has been made. The principal objectives of integrated rural development projects have been to increase output, productivity and exports, to contribute to a reduction in poverty through increased rural employment and to promote the necessary policy and institutional reforms in the rural areas.

Finally, we support the resolution prepared by the Nordic delegation.

Mme Fatma LARBI (Tunisie) (langue originale arabe): Permettez-moi tout d'abord de remercier M. Moreno pour l'excellent exposé qu'il vient de faire sur le rapport de situation du Programme d'action de la CMRADR et le rôle des femmes dans le développement rural.

Mon intervention relèvera surtout de la participation de la femme dans le développement rural, intégré en Tunisie au cours des trois décennies. C'est là le défi principal que la Tunisie a dû relever, et ceci est concrétisé dans le statut de la femme en 1957. Ce pas a permis d'intégrer la

femme dans Le processus de développement, a éliminé certaines pratiques telles que la polygamie, et a également donné à la femme les mêmes droits politiques qu'à l'homme. Ainsi, la femme est devenue le partenaire légal de l'homme pour le développement national. La femme représente maintenant le cinquième de la main-d'œuvre agricole et elle bénéficie des mêmes droits et des mêmes salaires que ceux accordés aux hommes.

Toujours dans le cadre de la participation de la femme au développement rural, un projet visant à promouvoir l'agriculture et à augmenter le revenu des familles a permis de renforcer les structures dans les villages et surtout l'infrastructure telle que l'électrification, l'eau potable, etc.

Nous voudrions appuyer les recommandations contenues dans le document C 87/19, ainsi que les processus d'évaluation et les emplois autres que les emplois ruraux.

Je voudrais enfin appuyer la proposition formulée par la Suède, et je voudrais aussi me féliciter de ce qui a été dit par la Hollande sur le renforcement des activités de la FAO, et l'aide que la Hollande fournit à la FAO dans ce secteur.

Tawfiq Ahmed Hassan AL MESH-HADANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): I would like to express gratitude to the Secretariat for the preparation of this document and, in particular, may I thank Dr Moreno for his fine presentation. The contents of this document are endorsed by my delegation because we find here a broad picture of the situation.

After carefully perusing the document I would like to make a few comments in connection particularly what is said about my country. First, in connection with access to land my government has redistributed land to those who have none and the acreage is between 8 and 30 hectares. Up to the present, we do not have landless labourers and on the basis of certain action plans, arable land has been expanded and we have been able to step up production and even export grain.

Furthermore, my government intends to rent and take in hand the land that is in private hands but which is lying idle. But this only concerns farms in excess of 120 hectares and is all part of the action plan of my government.

In paragraph 28 it is indicated that cooperatives have met with some difficulties in my country at a time when my government is trying to implement a directed economy. To do this effectively we have realized that there is a need to encourage the private sector. That is why the problem of public-held land and privately held land has been approached in the way which I have just described.

Now paragraph 38, Chapter III deals with cooperatives and it states that for the most part these are government owned or state sponsored. In fact, the government tries to give its advice to these cooperatives so that they can be as effective as possible. But the decision-making is in the hands of the cooperative participants themselves.

My next comment concerns the contents of paragraph 59 which deals with access to credit. Our policy has been to step up credit to farmers either individually or within the framework of cooperatives and this through a special bank, the Agricultural Bank.

Turning to the role of women in rural development, this is something of which we have been acutely aware for a long time now. Women enjoy all rights, be they legal rights or practice; and land has been distributed to women who are now fully-fledged members of cooperatives and members of the National Union of Women. Hence women have benefited from all these developments and they are all on an equal footing with men. They have an even higher, more lofty task as well, that of raising families.

If you look at table 2 under Chapter VI which indicates that the rural poor account for 40 percent of our population, I would like to know where the statistics come from. This may have been true

several years ago, but it is no longer the case because most of our farmers own their own land now which has enabled them to increase their incomes to build their own homes, therefore their living standards and living conditions have been substantially improved.

Finally, it is a long way to the attainment of food self-sufficiency, but we are moving steadily along this path. We would like to endorse the recommendations found in this report. We feel that the periodicity of the report should remain every four years.

Abdulmaged REGEG (Libya) (original language Arabic): I would like to congratulate the Secretariat on the preparation of this fine document. We spare no efforts in implementing the recommendations of the 1979 WCARRD, we feel that the reporting period should continue to be a four-year interval.

We are convinced that no people can be truly free if it must seek its food from beyond its borders and that is why we have been upgrading more than 2 million hectares of land, despite climatic difficulties. As you know, most of the arable land in my country is located along the coast, unfortunately during the second world war this land was mined. That means that we are trying to make the land available now. Unfortunately the governments which planted these mines in the coastal areas have not provided us with the map which would enable us to remove all these mines successfully.

We also have plans to build an artificial lake which would provide 2 million cubic metres per day for the preparation of 2 00 kilometres of land and that would make us self-sufficient in the production of both grains and meat through the conversion of 400 000 hectares of arable land.

We have made considerable strides towards development in my country. Women below the age of 25 all receive compulsory education. We have opened hundreds of vocational training institutes to make instruction available to women who in the past did not have the benefit of educational opportunities. Therefore, we are making available to them these training courses. I can assure you that women in Libya have access to all domains including access to the army. We have flight commanders who are women in Libya.

As to health care, we have dozens of mother and child care centres. They are free of charge and this kind of approach has prevailed for more than 1 500 years in Libya.

C. B. SESAY (Sierra Leone): The Sierra Leone delegation has carefully gone through the documents of the agenda item under discussion and would like to say it appreciates the efforts of the FAO in putting together such an excellent document on the second progress report on the WCARRD Programme of Action including the role of women in agricultural development.

My delegation notes with satisfaction the progress that has been made by the FAO in implementing the programme of action on the role of women in agricultural production and rural development as required by the mandate of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Sierra Leone recognizes the role of women in agricultural production and rural development, not only as extension agents but also as major producers of food crops.

Women in Sierra Leone are involved in food production not only for domestic consumption but also for the local markets. In Sierra Leone over 80 percent of the vegetables are produced by women, women are fully integrated in agriculture and rural development activities.

In cognizance of the tremendous contribution women are making in our agricultural efforts, the Government has started a pilot project called the Integrated Agricultural Development Project for Rural Women and this project is being implemented in all our districts through the assistance of the FAO and the Government of Norway. For this reason my Government is very grateful to the Norwegian Government for providing the necessary funds for this project and will be grateful for further assistance.

As the name of the project implies, the target groups of the project are rural women who are organized into groups and production targets are assigned to each group.

At present the Government has assigned over 25 staff most of whom are women to work as extension agents in the implementation of the project.

The impact created by the project over the last two years has now resulted in many more requests being made to replicate the project in other parts of the country. I am happy to say this project has been regarded as a model for at least the West African Sub-region. The project receives a large number of visitors from neighbouring countries to study, as it were, the secrets of the success of the project.

My delegation has carefully studied the draft resolution on FAO activities related to the integration of women in development and is in full support of it.

Mr Chairman, I would like through you, to seek the permission of the sponsors of the Nordic countries resolution to insert the word "resources" in paragraph 4, so that it reads: "...Plan and include resources verification and ..."
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CHAIRMAN: That brings us to the end of the list of the delegates but we have three observers who will now be requested to present their views.

Edgardo T. VALENZUELA (Observer for Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development):

ANGOC or the Asian NGO Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development would like to compliment the Secretariat for the working paper C 87/19 on this agenda item, "Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Rural Development." The Secretariat paper noted that, in relative terms, Asia has had some slight improvement in terms of rural poverty alleviation and decrease of landlessness. However, I would like to restate the fact that the majority of the rural poor population of the world can be found in the Asian Region.

Reaching out to the rural poor of Asia, whether they be landless or marginalized peasants, small farmers, rural women, rural youth, artisanal fisherfolk and forest dwellers, these should be a priority of both governmental and non-governmental agencies as a moral imperative and a human response to suffering and deprivation.

ANGOC, an autonomous Asian regional network of the major private rural development agencies in eight countries of South and Southeast Asia, would like publicly to reiterate its commitment to the philosophy and policy framework of WCARRD with its emphasis on growth with equity through people's participation.

In fact, ANGOC has been considerably involved in a pre-WCARRD, at WCARRD and in post-WCARRD follow-up programmes as ANGOC serves as a focal point for promoting NGO involvement in WCARRD follow-up in the Asian Region.

Since 1979, the activities among NGOs which ANGOC has promoted include: preparation of Specialized information and directories of NGOs in rural development work; training of NGO field workers and village volunteers to do village socio-economic surveys using rural development indicators; organization of village consultations (around 100 villages in six countries) to discuss problems and needs of villages surveyed; organization of national workshops on rural community participation; organization of country-level tripartite meetings to bring non-governmental development organizations, relevant government agencies and interested donors to dialogue on development cooperation; and organization of Asian regional workshops on selected issues such as rural community participation, rural development cooperation, and state of NGOs in rural development, etc. to exchange experiences and improve social learning among NGOs and development policymakers towards people-centered development.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

In particular, for this November 1987 Conference, ANGO has prepared a 45-page report entitled "Rural Poverty Alleviation: Issues and Strategies from an Asian NGO Perspective". It is an attempt to highlight some of the problems and issues of the rural poor from a historical perspective and provides a comment on selected government strategies or programmes on rural poverty alleviation. Also, a framework for NGO functioning in people-centered development has been discussed and an agenda for continuing NGO involvement in WCARRD follow-up has been presented. In addition, four successful experiences from NGOs in India, the Philippines, Bangladesh and Indonesia have been featured. The appendix provides a resource directory on ANGO and its network of members in eight Asian countries. This ANGO special report prepared for this occasion will be useful for development decision makers whether governmental, inter-governmental or non-governmental, particularly for those concerned with the issues of rural poverty, people-centered development, and the role which NGOs can play within the framework of follow-up to WCARRD.

Before I close, I would like to state that ANGO's other programmes include policy research and advocacy within a strategy of promoting government and NGO dialogue for joint cooperation, a development publication and information service, training, human resource development and development education with particular emphasis on development management and management development of NGOs to improve their capabilities as well as project formulation, monitoring and evaluation.

In fact, I would like categorically to state that, in the training programmes conducted by ANGO, at least half of the participants are rural women or professional women workers from development NGOs and we would like to reiterate the working paper's point that women be provided with more opportunities to participate in training programmes.

I would also like to put on record, although the item was discussed last Friday, 13 November 1987, ANGO's promotion of NGO involvement in World Food Day through the following: organization of local meetings and symposia to discuss food and hunger issues; dissemination of World Food Day materials; stimulated NGOs to use World Food Day as an occasion for tree planting, releasing of fingerlings and other action-oriented activities at village level; and organized field demonstration activities for small farmers.

ANGO maintains close contact with the World Food Day Secretariat at FAO Headquarters and ANGO also participated in the First Global Meeting on World Food Day in Milan last June 1987.

I would like to reiterate what the working document has pointed out, namely, that governments must provide the policy environment through the legal, political and structural systems, for effective participation and to encourage the role of NGOs in promoting participatory development at the grassroots level.

I would, therefore, like to congratulate the Nordic countries for their initiative with regard to the draft resolution and encourage other delegations to endorse and support the resolution on this agenda item.

Ms Lucia BRADER-BREUKEL (Observer for the Associated Country Women of the World): The Associated Country Women of the World, is an international NGO which has been acting as an advocate for rural women and their families for over 50 years. Its multimillion membership is divided into some 180 member societies in over 70 countries and in every region of the world. ACWW has held consultative status with FAO since 1947 and has been actively involved in, among others, the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

ACWW therefore welcomes the second progress report on WCARRD (C/87/19), specifically chapter IV and document C 87/LIM/16 which gives a useful overview of FAO's involvement in inter-agency efforts to improve the status of rural women.

As an organization whose membership flourishes at grassroots level, ACWW offers its support to national governments and FAO as a means of involving rural populations in their own development. Paragraph 27 of C 87/LIM/16 notes the importance of working through and with women's groups in field programmes. ACWW's national organizations may in this context be of great help. ACWW also wishes to be involved in workshops, mentioned in paragraph 39 of C 87/LIM/16, focussing on cooperation between group leaders, national machineries and line ministries. This cooperation already exists in some countries but it could be strengthened in many others.

Local women's organizations need support in projects aimed at alleviating women's workload and increasing their economic productivity. It is now recognized that this will be in the interest of the whole community and probably the only effective way to lessen rural poverty.

It has been noted that in only a limited number of countries have women farmers been specified as direct target beneficiaries of their national extension service. The 1987 ACWW Council meeting has laid stress once again on the importance of providing rural women with credit facilities, and of training women farmers, especially in appropriate technologies and management skills. How is this to happen if extension services are not available and not focussed on women's needs as producers and income earners?

Also in the field of nutrition education, grassroots level organizations could be involved at no great extra costs, using their awareness and expertise through their membership.

Finally, as some delegations have already stated, ACWW would also like to see more women at higher level decision-making positions in FAO. We recognize that this must be a worldwide problem. Or how is it to be explained that in this 24th Conference of FAO only some 60 out of more than 150 country delegations have women in their delegations? The women in these delegations total 20 percent of the delegations, which makes the direct involvement of women in this Conference at national level less than 10 percent. ACWW thinks this is a situation which certainly needs improvement.

Ms Sarojini PILLAY (Observer for The International Alliance of Women): First of all, I should like to express our appreciation of the thoroughness of the two documents under discussion. Paragraph 32 of C 87/LIM/16 is particularly heartening to my Organization.

Ensuring financial provision for the actual participation of rural women in projects designed primarily for their benefit is particularly important for the successful implementation of these projects.

Active participation of women at the project formulation stage - not only in the implementation but at the project formulation stage - is highly desirable for the realistic and meaningful designing of these projects. Women's non-governmental organizations can have a vital role to play in this context. On-job training, benefits of extension services, and above all instruction in their own rights and privileges, are urgent needs for rural women in the overall development context.

In spite of all the sentiments expressed time and again in this forum, as well as elsewhere, on the equality of women, in actual practice there is a great deal more to be done to ensure this. Equal pay for equal work still remains a theoretical axiom in many countries. Even where women are legally entitled to equal wages, agricultural and other rural women workers still receive far less than men for their labour.

A similar inequality exists in the case of land ownership and credit facilities. Non collateral credit could be extended to women, as well as to men, where collateral is absent.

Inheritance laws in many countries are still weighted heavily against women. It would seem that there is an urgent need to stimulate the political will, firstly to actively and realistically implement laws, that is existing laws, that ensure equity for women; and secondly, to bring in new legislation where necessary to ensure equal status for women in all walks and strata of society.

Traditional and social customs are heavy constraints which have precluded in the past, and still continue to preclude, women from their rightful place as equal partners in life. Legislation, however pertinent, can only be effective and ensure equality for women when men are ready and willing to concede the superior status, both economic and social, that has traditionally been theirs.

CHAIRMAN: I should now like to request Dr Moreno to reply to some of the points which have been raised during this long discussion.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social):

Permítame, en primer término, comenzar agradeciendo a usted y al señor Díaz Yubero, su Vicepresidente, por la forma como se ha conducido este debate. Creo que es innecesario reiterar el grado de interés y atención que este tema importa para todas las delegaciones aquí presentes y para los organismos no gubernamentales que han hecho uso de la palabra.

Creo que en mi comentario final me referiré sólo a aquellos puntos que tienen mayor relevancia en relación a lo que es el trabajo de la Secretaría, y contestaré a algunas de las preguntas que aquí se formularon en el curso del debate.

En primer término deseo agradecer, a nombre de la Secretaría y demás colegas, las palabras en relación a la calidad, el contenido y la introducción del documento. En honor a la verdad, es necesario señalar que la preparación de este informe ha tomado no sólo un tiempo largo sino también un esfuerzo importante tanto a nivel central, aquí en Roma, como en el contacto que se ha debido mantener con los países para, en algunos casos, apoyar la realización del informe mismo, la recolección de la información pertinente y también para sistematizar, en una forma que pudiera permitir un análisis técnico intelectualmente válido, los conceptos, las experiencias y las realidades que, como también se ha señalado en el debate, varían de país en país, incluso dentro de cada país de acuerdo con sus propias regiones o aspectos culturales o sociales en ellos vigentes.

En segundo término, quisiera referirme a algunos de los puntos centrales que aquí se han tocado.

En primer término creo que no ha existido delegación que no se haya referido al tema de la función de la mujer en el desarrollo rural. Por sí solo esto muestra el grado de prioridad e importancia que este tema va gradualmente adquiriendo en las políticas nacionales, en la percepción de un problema que envuelve a la sociedad en el tiempo en que vivimos y en la búsqueda de mecanismos que permitan abordar el reconocimiento de un sector que había sido ignorado en el mecanismo social y productivo del medio rural, para reconocerle su calidad y buscar las herramientas que tiendan a apoyar su integración más plena no sólo en sus derechos, en su forma de integrarse dentro de la sociedad, sino también para contribuir a mejorar la producción, la productividad y representarse a través de los mecanismos de decisión política y social, en los cuales el rol femenino hoy día va adquiriendo más peso.

Quiero en este sentido más tarde pedir, con la autorización del señor Presidente, a la Dra. Finney que ella conteste algunos puntos específicos relacionados con actividades en las cuales la FAO está envuelta. Pero quisiera, a este respecto, agradecer, junto con responder a la pregunta formulada por Los Países Bajos y apoyada por algunas otras intervenciones, si la FAO, con el número de funcionarios que tiene trabajando en el sector de integración de la mujer, está en condiciones o no de responder a las demandas que el tema mismo conlleva.

Debo decirle que si tuviera que dar una respuesta basada sólo en el número de funcionarías que existen a cargo y en funciones en el servicio mismo, mi respuesta obviamente sería no. No es posible, es un grupo muy pequeño, el cual se vio incluso mal aceptado por las reducciones que, dado el problema de liquidez financiera, la Organización ha experimentado; le tocó - incluso yo-diría - pagar una cuota adicional en los puestos que debieron ser congelados o postergado su reclutamiento.

Pero con el producto del esfuerzo realizado por ese otro grupo, más los mecanismos que la Organización ha puesto en marcha para integrar a otros Departamentos y Divisiones dentro de la temática de la incorporación de la mujer en los programas mismos de la Organización, ha sido posible en parte paliar esta carencia. Y a ello responde la calidad de los documentos, la diversidad de la información a que ustedes han tenido acceso y la forma cómo este programa sigue manteniéndose en funcionamiento.

A este respecto quiero señalar el funcionamiento del Comité Interdivisional de integración de la mujer en el desarrollo que prácticamente toca a todos los Departamentos y Divisiones de la casa, en los cuales, Departamentos como el Forestal, el de Pesca y en otras unidades en el Departamento de Agricultura, han constituido grupos pequeños de trabajos específicos para avocarse a la reorientación de sus programas con miras al mandato emanado de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y a la Conferencia de Nairobi que ha fijado las estrategias para el futuro en la integración del sector femenino.

Por ello mismo, agradecemos y recogemos el agradecimiento de los Países Bajos en el sentido de aportar recursos para apoyar incluso la contratación de funcionarios en Roma para completar o mejorar lo que significaría la posibilidad de un conjunto de guías que permitiese diseñar un control, así como también la incorporación de la temática de la integración de la mujer en los proyectos que van siendo desarrollados a través de los distintos programas o subprogramas en los cuales la casa está implementando su programa de campo.

En segundo término, agradecer igualmente el generoso apoyo para crear y financiar una consulta ide

expertos que pudiese recoger los elementos que aquí se han formulado a través de los distintos programas, documentos o, incluso, trabajos que están en curso por parte de la FAO con el objeto de poder llegar a una conclusión, ya sea presentada a través del Consejo de la FAO o en otros mecanismos que la Organización tiene a disposición, para integrar ya sea un plan de acción, un programa o un conjunto de actividades que permitiesen reflejar, en forma más precisa, cómo este tema está siendo incorporado dentro de la actividad central de las prioridades de la casa.

El segundo punto que quisiera yo tocar es el tema de la participación popular. Al igual que la anterior, es difícil encontrar alguna delegación que no haya hecho alguna referencia a este tema, ya sea en sus específicas menciones a las organizaciones no gubernamentales o a la participación de los sectores de pequeños agricultores o a los sectores específicos, ya sea de juventud rural u otros mecanismos como los campesinos sin tierra o sectores que van siendo afectados por la mantención de la pobreza en el medio rural.

Al igual como en el caso de los Países Bajos, quisiera dejar establecida la gratitud de la Secretaría a la representación de Suiza por el ofrecimiento aquí formulado en el sentido de financiar, si es necesario, una consulta de expertos con el objeto de estudiar la forma de cómo la participación de las organizaciones de agricultores - incluyendo representación del sector femenino, del sector campesino, de los sindicatos y de otros grupos que operan dentro del medio rural - pudiese llevar a la Organización a incorporar, dentro de su política, la percepción de cómo crear un mecanismo de relación más estable, permanente, en un grado consultivo con las organizaciones representativas de quienes trabajan efectivamente en el medio rural y agrícola.

El tercer punto que quisiera tocar son aquellas sugerencias a los elementos más bien conceptuales de la forma de analizar el tema, y en este punto quisiera señalar brevemente tres:

la necesidad reiterada, a través de distintas intervenciones, del apoyo en materia de formulación de políticas y estrategias que la FAO debe prestarles en su asistencia a los gobiernos que así lo requieren.

Al respecto, señor Presidente y miembros de la Comisión, quisiera destacar que la FAO viene ya prestando este tipo de asistencia. Para evitar alargar la introducción inicial no mencioné las que hasta el momento se han formulado: 21 misiones de alto nivel dirigidas por la FAO para asistir a los gobiernos que lo han solicitado en la reformulación de sus estrategias de desarrollo rural o de reforma agraria o ambos temas en conjunto.

El tercer elemento que quisiera señalar es el siguiente: Obvio es destacar que esta política será mantenida por la Casa en el próximo bienio como uno de los elementos centrales que emerge no sólo del debate de esta Comisión, sino también de otros temas que se han tratado en relación con la función que la Organización debe prestar o cumplir al servicio de los países.

El segundo elemento dice: Relación con los indicadores socioeconómicos. Tenemos conciencia de la dificultad que reviste para los países, sobre todo en vías de desarrollo, recoger en forma sistemática la información que permita una evaluación y seguimiento de este tema. La FAO completará en el curso del año 1988 un contexto de guías puestas al día de indicadores socioeconómicos que permitiesen, en una forma simplificada, asistir a los países en el reforzamiento de sus censos agropecuarios, en la recolección de datos y sobre todo en la desagregación de información a nivel del sector femenino, a nivel de los sectores de campesinos más pobres, que normalmente no viene siendo recogido por los censos agropecuarios que se realizan en los países.

El tercer punto que quisiera mencionar, porque creo que reviste una importancia extraordinariamente seria, es el de las consideraciones ambientales que conlleva el problema de la pobreza, y las distintas sugerencias que se han formulado en este debate en relación a incorporar un análisis social y económico al mismo tiempo que institucional sobre cómo en el concepto de una política para erradicar la pobreza e incorporar las consideraciones de acceso a la tierra, la reestructuración del sistema de propiedad y las consideraciones ambientales deben merecer un trato específico.

Quisiera detenerme aquí, para no alargar esta respuesta y pedirle, con su venia, a la Dra. Finney que ella diese respuesta a aquellas preguntas específicas que se referían a su programa de trabajo.

Ms R. FINNEY (FAO Staff): I will amplify briefly remarks with regard to two main areas. Firstly, you have raised three points concerning our approach to women in development activities, and then there was some emphasis with regard to semantic priorities, to which I will briefly turn.

The three questions with regard to our approach are as follows: the extent to which FAO activities occur at the field level and benefit rural women in addition to our placing emphasis on policy and programme advice and formulation; secondly, the extent to which FAO is in a position to monitor accurately what in fact is being accomplished both for the regular programme and the field programme; thirdly, the extent to which integration as opposed to components and separate projects is an actuality, a priority and a possibility.

With regard to the first point, our notable efforts at policy and programme levels concerning support for institutional change, both internationally, regionally and nationally should not detract from the significant impact that is occurring at field level with the support of many of the donor countries here. We have been lacking in our publicity, however, about the latter. But to give you some idea about what is going on I can tell you that an initial review of only 19 projects has shown that activities are being implemented through those projects in collaboration with 537 women's groups and are reaching 22 500 women. That is only a very small part of our total range of projects.

With regard to the second point, that means that we need to know the extent to which we can assess and report on what we are doing. For the regular programme we now have the capacity in conjunction with the PLANSYS approach to assess every single regular programme activity concerning the extent to which it is oriented towards an explicit concern for women.

In the 1986/87 budget to which this system has been applied, 31 percent of FAO's activities have an explicit concern in the regular programme.

The 1988/89 budget still needs to be assessed. All officers in the house have been trained in this system through the inter-divisional working group on women in development.

So far as the field programme is concerned we are just finalizing a system to be able to give us through the computer an assessment of the beneficiaries of projects by gender so that we will be able to report more accurately in the future and not have to rely on case studies and estimates as in this document. We appreciate your interest, however, in the case studies, which can be very informative, particularly about those projects that were not intended to include women but in fact have evolved so that they do include women, and from which guidelines can be derived building on success that has occurred in a natural way involving negotiation between the genders so that everybody wins with women in development at field level.

So far as the third point is concerned, since COAG in 1983 when the WCARRD item addressed the role of women in agriculture, FAO has taken a very strong position from the beginning of project development. There should be information on who does what, where, by gender, and this should be used in planning projects at field level, as well as the activities.

However, to fulfil this goal we also depend on cooperation and support from member countries, and to date we have had collaboration in what we call checklists on women in development with information supplied by countries as best as they could supply it on who did what, but we still have a long way to go. This is, however, where we want to head.

In the meantime we maintain our emphasis on the two-track approach of separate projects for women, larger technical projects than was the case in the past when they were relegated to women's units and regarded as welfare projects, and can be used as demonstration projects as well as attract the attention of line ministries because they see the relevance for policy goals in development.

We also have some projects with components, but we de-emphasize in favour of the integration approach about which Mr Moreno has spoken.

In the interests of time I will only very briefly mention the technical themes that I think you have raised as priorities. Throughout the discussion the technical themes that were emphasized seemed to come across very clearly as priorities as follows: women's access to land, women's access to credit - this is not necessarily in order of priority - women's access to extension and credit, to participation in rural organizations, a strengthening of their legal status in reality, not only in name, and a strong statistical basis for which planning at policy and programme level could follow.

Because these are the areas of your strongest interest, I would like for just a few of them, not all, to give some up-to-date information which is not in Document C 87/LIM/16, which is approximately only 8000 words and cannot cover all that we might like to say.

For the studies on land you will be pleased to know that six studies have just been completed in Sri Lanka, south-east Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the South Pacific regarding women's access to land rights. These studies have been planned in accordance with and to complement what ILO is doing in a similar area, so there is a strong basis there for future action. With regard to access to credit, we have just completed a five-country study concerning the institutional framework to support women's access to credit in the strongest way. With regard to extension of training we have just completed, with the participation of other agencies and the support of many of the country donors here a workshop which looks at the ways in which extension can be strengthened so that rural women can be reached more directly.

In the interest of time, I will not go into the other topics except to mention the question of local studies, which is a delicate, challenging and important point. Of course, the situation in women's legal status in any given country is not the responsibility of FAO. However, we have been asked to give assistance through women's machinery, which is a strange term; it means any unit in government which deals with the question of women has to provide checklists and guidelines which can enable women in those units to sit with men on the line ministries (or with women when they are there) and so that women's representatives on the rural organizations can begin to translate the Nairobi forward-looking strategies into specific concrete programmes of action for those countries, including the intention to tell rural women about the Nairobi forward-looking strategies and what the position is in their own countries which rural women may not know, as well as their legal status.

In conclusion, our main concern - as is yours - remains the condition of rural women. We thank you very much for your support in promoting it.

CHAIRMAN: Late in the afternoon yesterday we started the discussion on this Agenda Item 9 in which 51 countries participated, along with three Observers. I am not counting the six delegations who have given in their written intervention for inclusion in the verbatim records. With the 51, plus the three and the six, the discussion has just been concluded.

The main focus of the discussion has been weighted heavily in favour of women. For those of us who have heard the discussion so far on Agenda Item 6.1 and on International Agricultural Adjustment, Agenda Item 8, it should now be abundantly clear that many of the agenda items before the Conference overlap and that there is unavoidable duplication in the data, documentation and discussions.

The discussions brought out clearly, in a manner of speaking, that the whole range and entire gamut of the activities of FAO seem to come within the purview of WCARRD; indeed, not only the activities of FAO, but some of the UN organizations like WHO as well. Initially, one had a doubt about forestry and the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS, but on reflection - looking at page 12 of Document C 87/19 - perhaps it becomes clear that forestry is as much within the ambit of WCARRD as is the quantity of food inputs, which is of vital importance when dealing with poverty alleviation.

Foreign exchange problems, export earnings, external resources - these have all come before us for discussion, as they have also come before us in earlier documentation. In this context we must ensure that the review of the WCARRD programme is carried out with the least duplication. Duplication, if any, should be avoidable. The reviews must be carried out in the most cost-effective manner which is particularly relevant to the background of the resource crisis which FAO is passing through. The committed stance taken by the Netherlands will one hopes, find an echo from other developing countries so that within the headquarters of FAO the professional backup can be provided whatever might be the final picture which emerges on the resources front.

In the discussion in Commission I, delegates rightly gave their closest attention to the role of women. However, there are some limitations in the shape of built-in contradictions which we must recognize. Those who are familiar with the process of development at grass-root level will have no difficulty in conceding that the problems of women cannot be looked at in isolation. They are indirectly intertwined with social, political and economic factors, with history, geography, customs, mores, social milieu and the ethos in which women and, indeed, the poor rural communities, live, exist and survive - all these things are very relevant.

Similarly, the literacy and resource endowment of the areas and the public policies of the governments concerned have a serious impact for WCARRD objectives. Again, when we look at the agricultural extension system and its machinery in a developing country, the difficulty of reconciling firstly a unique national agricultural extension system which some of the international funding agencies regard

as a sine qua non for agricultural development and secondly the common need for a multi-disciplined, multi-functioning mechanism which takes a view of the farming systems and of the on-farm and off-farm activities, is a problem we must recognize. Most developing countries cannot afford to have separate hierarchies - one for agriculture and another for rural development.

Again, while agrarian reforms, land tenancy and tenure of land have a definite role in raising production levels and therefore in poverty alleviation, these have been implemented in a given socio-economic system of a developing country, but not in all cases are the circumstances conducive to an across-the-board land reform. The need for generating more venues for off-farm employment, for closing the gap between rural and urban incomes, agricultural and non-agricultural incomes, has also been emphasized. So has the vicious circle of rural poverty been given attention, and the environment. Poverty affects the environment and the environment in turn affects poverty. There is a silver lining where the intervening variables can help break the vicious circle and achieve the objectives of WCARRD.

With regard to the periodicity of the review - a review once in 4 years or a review in 8 years - many member countries have spoken in favour, while some have spoken against. We have taken a decision on this issue, to my mind, balancing three factors: first, the need to avoid duplication; second the need for having reviews at such intervals that they become meaningful and thirdly, and more importantly, the fact that it is only such reviews in an international forum which make Member Nations sit up and take notice and initiate programmes which alleviate rural poverty and achieve other WCARRD objectives. Balancing the three factors, WCARRD can come up formally for review at least once in eight years. Staff permitting, - once in four years, say - some specific aspect like poverty alleviation, and the role of women can be placed before the Conference with an in-depth analysis.

We have also had tabled two resolutions which will go through the procedures of the Resolutions Committee for clearance. Subject to this, I close the discussion on the subject and thank the delegates who have participated. I also thank the FAO headquarters staff who have assisted us. We will come back to this item after the resolutions which now have to be placed before the Resolutions Committee. They will then come back to the Commission for consideration. So the discussion, subject to this caveat, is now closed.

6. World Food and Agriculture Situation (continued)

6. Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (suite)

6. Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo (continuación)

6.3 World Food Day (cont'd)

6.3 Journée Mondiale de l'alimentation (suite)

6.3 Día Mundial de la Alimentación (continuación)

I suggest we go back to Agenda Item 6.3 on the World Food Day Delegates will be aware that a resolution has been tabled by Peru. This has gone to the Resolutions Committee and has been circulated to all delegates. Document C 87/LIM/36 will have come to the attention of delegates. Since this is a subject discussed in detail the other day when we dealt with Agenda Item 6.3, and keeping in mind the hour of the evening, if, we can generally agree with the eight effective subparagraphs in this Resolution which constitute the most effective portion of the Resolution, perhaps we can approve this by acclamation. I have been advised this was given to all delegations this

morning. I request the Secretary to read the Resolution, particularly the last paragraph where the eight effective sub-paragraphs are involved so that, subject to general approval, we can pass this by acclamation.

K. S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): "At its third meeting on 16 November 1987 and its fourth meeting on 17 November 1987, the Resolution Committee examined the Draft Resolution presented by the delegation of Peru on World Food Day.

"The text of this Resolution was found receivable and is submitted herewith to Commission I. WORLD FOOD DAY. Resolution 87" - there will be a number given to it when all the resolutions are in order. I have only to read the operative portion of the Resolution:

"Expresses its gratitude" - this is number 1 of the points at the bottom of the page - "Expresses its gratitude for the contribution of Member Governments and all non-governmental organizations helping to build support for this annual observance;

"2. Underscores the need for World Food Day activities to promote concepts of equity and human dignity, as-recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international covenants and undertakings;

"3. Urges Member Governments to make all possible efforts to establish - or to strengthen if they already exist - World Food Day National Committees, in order to pursue the positive trend of moving away from a single-day observance to a year-round programme of constructive action, and from ceremonial observances to more substantive activities addressing food-related issues;

"4. Recommends that Member Governments, non-governmental organizations and the FAO Secretariat work together as much as possible in the planning, coordination and implementation of World Food Day activities, in order to enhance the international nature of this event, following the concepts and ideas contained in document C 87/29 ("World Food Day Assessment (1981-1987) and Future Directions");

"5. Requests that the Director-General make all efforts to continue the effective coordination of WFD activities throughout the world;

"6. Recommends that the FAO Secretariat make a sustained effort to broaden international support for World Food Day through cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes and relevant international non-governmental organizations (INGOs);

"7. Encourages the FAO Secretariat to facilitate in all possible ways other initiatives for international World Food Day planning and programmes, especially in the areas of information and material exchange;

"8. Urges that Member Governments and others involved in World Food Day planning give a more prominent role to the concept of people's participation, considering also how World Food Day programmes implemented at the national level could support the goals of the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development."

CHAIRMAN: As delegates will recall, we had a fairly detailed and long discussion on Agenda Item 6.3 the other day. If delegates agree with this resolution which has been tabled by the delegate of Peru and which has been cleared by the Resolutions Committee, it could be approved after the distinguished delegate from Colombia has had his say.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Deseamos proponer una adición al párrafo 5 de este proyecto de resolución. Esperamos que no sea controvertida y sea fácil de entender. En el párrafo 5 después del punto y coma se agregaría lo siguiente: "y por que en la celebración de DMA en Roma se asegure la mayor participación posible de representantes de países en desarrollo." Esto lo dijo nuestra delegación - y entendemos que otras también -, creemos que es conveniente y ojalá que no ofrezca dificultades.

CHAIRMAN: The addition suggested by the delegate from Colombia to sub-paragraph 5 of the last paragraph would seem to imply that certain detailed indications have been given as to how functions are to be organized and what type of association is to be ensured. One view could be that these are really operational details which need not be specified in a policy resolution of this type, but I would like to hear from the distinguished delegate from Cuba.

Marcos I. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Expresamos que esta adición a nosotros no nos crea ninguna dificultad, simplemente quisiera aclarar el término de la celebración en Roma. Creo que pudiera ser un poco más específico, porque aquí se habla de una ciudad, no de una institución como sería la FAO; tal vez con-vendría señalar la sede de la FAO.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): He oído con atención la propuesta de mi querido amigo el Embajador de Colombia, el señor Bula Hoyos, pero realmente me cuesta mucho trabajo entenderla; no la entiendo fácilmente. Yo creo que es importante la presencia de los países en desarrollo en muchos actos de la FAO, en muchas reuniones y en muchas conferencias, y creo que en ese caso se les debe, incluso, subvencionar el viaje, pagarles los gastos y todo lo que sea menester; pero, precisamente, pienso que el Día Mundial de la Alimentación no es la ocasión más oportuna para tener que hacer un desembolso así, si es que eso envuelve la posibilidad de que la FAO pague esos viajes, y supongo que es así, porque se pide que se asegure la representación mayor posible de los países en desarrollo.

En definitiva, acepto la propuesta que ha hecho el representante de Cuba respecto a que no habría que hablar de Roma, sino que habría que hablar de FAO, pero, repito, no entiendo demasiado bien la propuesta. Yo le pediría al Embajador de Colombia que nos explicara un poco más que es lo que quiere decir. En principio, si solamente es la representación creo sinceramente que, por mi parte, sería difícil de aceptar.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Lamento haber retardado sus trabajos ya al final de un largo día. Sólo tratábamos de reflejar en esta adición lo que pensamos que ha surgido del debate en relación con la participación popular, que ya aparece en el párrafo 8.

Creo que la forma como habíamos redactado nuestra propuesta no contiene ninguna crítica a la Secretaría, ni indicaciones demasiado severas. Sin embargo, atendemos con mucha benevolencia las solicitudes de los colegas de Cuba y de España y podríamos proponer una ligera enmienda para ver si fuera aceptada nuestra propuesta. Diríamos simplemente: "y porque en la celebración del DMA en la sede de la FAO se trate de obtener" -en vez de asegurarse-. Esto es flexible, es amplio y estamos seguros de que el Director General ya lo está haciendo; ya se está interesando por eso, pero esto puede contribuir. Nosotros hicimos referencias a que se trajeran campesinos, dirigentes agrícolas, etcétera, pero no queremos entrar en detalles. Solamente queremos reflejar en términos amplios la idea que tenemos en mente.

Espero que la segunda parte de mi propuesta sea captada por la Secretaría y no ofrezca dificultades.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, the distinguished delegate from Colombia I am not at all sorry that you are delaying the conclusion of our work. On the other hand, I am happy that you have lived up to your promise of sitting with us in the late evening session.

Before I give the floor to the distinguished delegate of Nigeria, I would request Mr Moreno Rojas to offer his comments.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): En representación de la Secretaría, y dado que pudiese fluir de la proposición que aquí se ha hecho la imagen de que en la participación del DMA en sus ceremonias en Roma - porque obviamente, no se estará haciendo referencia a las celebraciones regionales que se han desarrollado en Ghana, en América Latina y, en el caso de Asia, en Bangkok, ya que las personas que allí han participado, sin excepción, pertenecen a los países en vías de desarrollo - quisiera, para los efectos de que esta Comisión, tenga exactamente la información, dar los nombres de las personas que han sido invitadas a participar en la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación a partir del día de su creación. En 1981 se invitó al señor Willy Brandt, que fue quien inauguró la serie de estas celebraciones; en 1982 se invitó y participaron el señor Raúl Prebisch, de Argentina y el Príncipe Talal, ambos de

países en vías de desarrollo; en 1983 concurrió invitado el señor Olaf Palmer; en el año 1984 participaron el Presidente del Senegal excelentísimo señor Diouf y la señora Ekila Liyonda, Ministra del Zaire, quienes fueron acompañados por el Presidente de la República de Italia, el señor Sandro Pertini. En el año 1985 tuvimos el honor de tener como invitado al nuevo Presidente de la República de Italia Presidente Cossiga; creo que es innecesario recalcar la importancia que reviste el país hospedante de la FAO en este caso. En el año 1986 tuvimos la presencia del Presidente del Consejo de Ministros señor Giovanni Gorla, el cual había aceptado la representación, y por razones que ella juzgó necesario atender no pudo concurrir para haber participado junto con el Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de la República de Italia, en esta celebración.

Surge claro, que durante las celebraciones de 1981 a esta parte, los países en vías de desarrollo siempre han estado y han participado en la ceremonia romana de una forma igualitaria, porque en las ceremonias regionales, en todas, los países en vías de desarrollo han estado representados con su propia jerarquía.

O.F.J. OYAIDE (Nigeria): On the basis of the explanation which Mr Moreno has just given, I am going to suggest that we leave the resolution as originally drafted and just take note of the comment that has been made and leave it at that.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Cumplí mi promesa de acompañarle en la sesión nocturna pero no la de estar en silencio; lo lamento. Creo, señor Presidente que Colombia es uno de los países de América Latina y del Caribe donde se habla mejor castellano; esa es la opinión generalizada y el señor Moreno pertenece a un país de América Latina y del Caribe, de manera que espero que haya quedado bien clara mi intención en el sentido de que la enmienda que proponía - digo proponía, y la inflexión verbal es muy importante - estaba relacionada solamente con la celebración en Roma, en la sede de la FAO. De manera que no quedan dudas.

Las referencias que nos ha dado el señor Moreno sobre las personalidades que han intervenido, obviamente son las mismas que justifican la inquietud que tenemos. No estamos en una actitud crítica a la Secretaría de la FAO y menos al Director General. En la declaración que hicimos hablamos de imponderables políticos y con eso estábamos tratando de decir lo que explícitamente manifestó el señor Moreno. Sabíamos que la distinguidísima y honorable Presidente de Filipinas había sido invitada y que a última hora no pudo asistir. Esto es todo lo que queríamos expresar, señor Presidente, pero si esto incomoda a la Secretaría, no tengo el menor inconveniente en atender el llamado del colega de Nigeria y retirar mi propuesta presentando mis excusas a usted y a la Comisión.

CHAIRMAN: Not speaking Spanish myself, I am not in a position to pronounce on your claim that the best Spanish is spoken in Latin America! I will leave it to the distinguished Vice-Chairman Mr Diaz Yubero to handle when he takes the chair a little later. For the present I am happy that you are being good enough to suggest that you withdraw your proposal for making any change. Therefore may I suggest that the resolution which was placed before us is approved by the Commission?

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, before you close the debate on this particular resolution I would like to propose an amendment. Could I ask for clarification as to whether or not the proposed amendment to the text of paragraph 5 has fallen? It has been withdrawn; thank you.

In that case I would like to add the following amendment and this again is to paragraph 5. It is: "and ensure that the nature of the ceremonies in Rome reflect the fact that the number of undernourished and malnourished people in the world is increasing in absolute if not relative terms".

CHAIRMAN: I understand the amendment that has been moved by the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom but as far as my understanding goes the factual position could vary from year to year depending on the progress of development. Incorporating it in a resolution of this type would possibly imply the prejudging of what is going to happen for the next five to ten years. Can I suggest we leave our paragraph 5 as it is?

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am concerned with modifying the proposal to take account of that, and I suggest that again the text should be "of the ceremonies in Rome should reflect the number of undernourished and malnourished people in the world".

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Yo creo que es buena la propuesta que ha hecho el representante del Reino Unido en su segunda intervención. Se puede hacer constar el número de personas que pasan hambre; se puede hacer constar la cantidad de países que están en situación de emergencia; se puede hacer constar el número de niños que han muerto este año de hambre y se pueden hacer constar muchas cosas, tantas como se quieran. Esta suele ser una cosa que se determina en cada ocasión como consecuencia de la situación que en esos momentos se está dando. Yo pediría al delegado del Reino Unido que no pongamos cortapisas, que no digamos sobre qué tiene que versar, o que es lo que hay que decir en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación, sino que pensemos que siempre existirá sentido común para decir aquello que en cada caso, en cada momento convenga más.

CHAIRMAN: May I request the distinguished delegate of the United Kingdom to indicate whether he would like to press or withdraw the amendments suggested by him.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I think at this stage I would like the meeting to consider this amendment and the reason it was proposed. Quite frankly, the reason it was proposed is that many of us do see a degree of incongruity between what happens in Rome on World Food Day, when often there is a very good lunch included in the occasion, and the plight of the hungry that World Food Day is supposed to draw attention to. My experience with nongovernmental organizations in Britain is that when this is celebrated in Britain often, if there is a lunch, it is a lunch of bread and water to draw attention to the plight of the hungry. It was this particular point that we would like to get across. We feel that there is an incongruity here between celebrating a day which is meant to try and bring plenty and relief to the world's poor and celebrating through the medium perhaps of a lunch which would feed many more people in a poor country.

So, I feel that perhaps this concept somewhere or other could be incorporated into the draft; some sense that there should be a degree of propriety between the way the Organization celebrates World Food Day and the plight of the hungry.

CHAIRMAN: I understand the sincerity and the strength of your sentiments.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Assistant Director-General a.i., Economic and Social Policy Department): I cannot avoid taking the floor and offering some points of clarification because I can see here there are two different elements. One is the way in which the world Food Day is observed here in Rome, and I can assure you that the ceremony - and I can call as witness people who are here in Rome and have attended the ceremony - is very, very solemn and is normally in the presence of the head of a state, the prime minister or a very qualified person, to address precisely on the issue of undernourishment, malnutrition and poverty. I can say, to remind you, that there has not been one single occasion on which the main thrust of the ceremony has not been centred on this.

The second element is what I would say is the lunch that has been offered, but honestly I do not see how and why it really connects with this issue. I am very sorry that the distinguished representative of the United Kingdom has not had so far the possibility of being invited to the lunch, because if he had been invited it could have been seen that the lunch has been extremely sober, precisely because the practice of the Organization is not to create antagonism. We could even offer on a future occasion the possibility to be included in the list so that he can really test by himself the way in which this type of - let us say hospitality - is handled in the house. I cannot refrain myself from saying that when you invite the head of a state, the president of a country to your house, the least you do is to offer to her or to him a dignified and sober lunch.

CHAIRMAN: Not having attended the lunch but having had some experience in the FAO Headquarters canteen, I find the menu and also the standard of the food remain the same whatever is the day or the month or the year!

Marcos I. NIETO LARA (Cuba): Pensamos que a estas alturas del debate, realmente incluir elementos específicos acá va a complicar mucho las cosas. Creo que si alguna delegación por alguna razón tiene algún sentido crítico o que quiera hacer alguna crítica, no debe ser una resolución el marco apropiado para hacerlo. Por lo tanto, pediría a la distinguida delegación del Reino Unido que tomase en consideración la declaración de España y mi propia declaración en el sentido de retirar esta moción a la resolución. Llevamos muchas horas trabajando tanto anoche como todo el día de hoy, los debates son intensos, son muy fuertes y me parece que vamos a perder mucho tiempo en estas cuestiones.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): El colega del Reino Unido ha apenas dejado entrever lo que yo tenía en mi declaración sobre este tema, y que no quise pronunciar ni tampoco lo había expresado hasta ahora. Hay insatisfacción entre los representantes permanentes por lo mal cómo se celebra el Día Mundial de la Alimentación en Roma. Creemos que en su forma actual esa celebración no deja nada, absolutamente nada. No hay la austeridad a que se refirió el señor Moreno. Se distribuyen tarje-tas de invitación en varios idiomas y en pergamino. Se hace un programa en cinco idiomas y en papel muy fino, y todo eso para una celebración de 1.47 minutos desde la última celebración, en la cual participaron eminentes representantes del gobierno italiano, importantísimos, pero que hacen declaraciones como todos los jefes de Estado de países desarrollados, sobre el alto nivel político en la situación del mundo.

Eso es lo que queremos decir, y como eso ya consta en las actas, señor Presidente, yo quisiera pedirle al colega del Reino Unido que los dos atendamos el llamado de Cuba y España y no insistamos ni en su propuesta ni en la mía porque lo importante es que el señor Moreno sepa lo que nos inquieta y estoy seguro de que el Director General va a tratar de corregir esa situación.

CHAIRMAN: Two distinct themes have emerged from the discussion. One is to associate as much as possible the representatives of the developing countries with the organization of the function. The second is that the organization of the function in the FAO Headquarters should not be ostentatious and should be in tune with the type of celebration that is being observed. I would suggest, having heard these two points, that we should leave the resolution, if all distinguished delegates agree, as it is. These two points will be taken into consideration by the FAO Secretariat in future I am sure, when they organize these celebrations.

May I then move, if the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom has no objection, that the resolution as it is be approved and we get on to the other work.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): In view of what has been said I am quite happy to withdraw my amendment on the understanding that there is a general feeling that the ceremonies should not be ostentatious and should reflect the real pain of poverty and hunger for many people. I would also add as a personal note that I was not trying to angle for an invitation to the lunch, nor was I questioning the sobriety of the occasion.

CHAIRMAN: I am sure the FAO Secretariat will have the finesse to organize a meeting to which the distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom will be invited on the next World Food Day, and would not directly send him an invitation to come all the way from London.

May I then suggest that the resolution as tabled be approved? Thank you. Distinguished delegates it is approved.

It was so decided.

Il en est ainsi décide.

Así se acuerda.

The delegation of Egypt has requested that his statement on World Food Day be included in the verba-tim report. If there are no objections it shall be done, and with this agenda item 6.3 will stand concluded.

Adel Helmy EL-SARKI (Egypt) (original language Arabic): We would like to express our appreciation to the WFD for its objectives of deepening public awareness of the nature and dimensions of the long-term world food problem; developing further the sense of national and international solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty; drawing attention to the small farmers; and encouraging economic and technical cooperation among developing countries in the field of agriculture and related subjects.

Egypt always welcomes celebrating this day. This year the WFD ceremony was based on honouring a group of selected small farmers who achieved high yields from their crops through their cooperation with governmental bodies and the application of the instructions. They were granted prizes and certificates of achievement. Some selected extensionists were honoured due to their fruitful and constructive work in respect of the transfer of technology to small farmers. Also, prizes were granted to some students who had prepared acceptable articles on the WFD.

My delegation, after considering the present and future activities of WFD, would like to welcome paragraphs 28 and 29.1/

10. Agriculture: Toward 2000

10. Agriculture: Horizon 2000

10. Agricultura: Horizonte 2000

CHAIRMAN: We have with us Dr Nurul Islam to introduce agenda item No. 10, contained in document C 87/27, entitled Agriculture: Toward 2000. All of us know Dr Islam well, and in this Commission particularly, on agenda item 8, we had an interaction with him the other day. He has been with the FAO for ten years and has ably guided the Economic and Social Policy Department as the Assistant Director-General. He has recently taken retirement and has taken a research assignment in the field of socio-economics. I will be grateful to him for introducing the subject because he has initiated, during his ten year tenure in the FAO, a number of studies which have resulted in the developing and interpretation of data which have a significant impact on the preparation of this document.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Nurul ISLAM (Special Adviser to the Director-General): Document C 87/27 is the revised and updated edition of the FAO Study Agriculture: Toward 2000. The distinguished delegates will recall that the first edition of the study presented to the 20th session of the Conference in 1979 was geared to defining the role of agriculture in the context of the new International Development Strategy of the UN. It represented FAO's contribution to the formulation of the strategy. Its main assumptions, specially regarding overall economic prospects, were those postulated for the UN development decade of the 1980s, that is high economic growth rates in the developing countries and an external environment conducive to their accelerated development. We are all aware that these conditions did not materialize in the 1980s. If anything, all developing regions except Asia suffered severe setbacks in the 1980s and the external environment became very unfavourable for their development.

Under the circumstances, a fresh look at the prospects and potentials of agriculture became necessary. This document presents our assessment. To keep my introduction as short as possible, I will not attempt to summarize the findings in the detail they deserve. These findings are summarized in Chapter I of the document. I will only highlight some of the key parameters that we consider will influence the performance of agriculture over the period up to the year 2000, in both the developing and the developed countries. Many developing countries face overall economic growth prospects which, though better than the dismal record of the 1980s, are decisively less favourable than those of the 1970s. In parallel, their population growth will continue to slow down, except in Africa. These two factors will make for less buoyant growth of demand for agricultural products. Lower demand growth will also constrain growth of their food imports and consequently that of markets for the main exporting countries of temperate zone foodstuffs, particularly those originating in the developed market economies.

For developed countries the slow-down in the demand for their exports together with continued low growth in their own domestic demand and the virtual exhaustion of the scope for further import substitution - all will combine to make it difficult for them to maintain their past growth rates of agricultural production. Adjustments in their agricultural support policies are, therefore, called for. Agricultural growth rates in the Developed Market Economies compatible with approximate world balance would be on the order of 1 percent per annum or even lower, specially if policy adjustments were to encompass some reversal in the process of ever rising self-sufficiency. The current intense policy debate concerning the search for multilateral solutions to the containment of structural surpluses and of the inherent trade conflicts demonstrates the severity of the problem.

In many developing countries per caput incomes are not projected to grow at rates anywhere near those required for improving substantially their low per caput food consumption. This is particularly so in Africa and Latin America. In parallel, slower population growth, particularly in Asia, not accompanied by faster growth in per caput incomes in the majority of the developing countries, means that their source of demand growth will also be less dynamic than in the past. Overall, therefore, the prospects for the developing countries as a whole are that although agricultural production per caput may grow at rates somewhat above longer term trends this may not be so for aggregate agricultural production.

Thus the world seems to be on a course in which inadequate growth of demand rather than constraints to increased global supply would be the dominant concern in the coming years. Yet, the prospects are that low food consumption levels and widespread undernutrition would persist in many poor countries, unless the population in these countries themselves participate in increased production or have alternative income earning opportunities. It is for this reason that all our assessments of production prospects in the developing countries are based on the assumption that raising their own production and self-sufficiency, notwithstanding ample supplies elsewhere, remains a primary policy objective.

This applies to nearly all developing countries but more so to sub-Saharan Africa. Our assessment is that this region could double its production growth rate compared with the dismal record of the past 15 years. Yet its population growth is also accelerating and the overall economic-growth prospects are not optimistic. Higher population growth is not translated into higher food demand and consumption unless incomes also increase. It is therefore possible that notwithstanding significantly higher growth rates of production, the nutritional situation will not improve to any great extent. Increasingly, the main focus of the problem of world hunger will continue to shift from Asia to Africa.

In the developing countries as a whole availability of food per capute would continue to improve though at a much slower pace than in the 1970s. Agricultural self-sufficiency of the developing countries, overall as well as that of cereals, can be expected to nearly stop declining and stabilize at around present levels. In the past food imports played an important role in raising food availabilities. Future gains will also require increased food imports though their growth would be much below historical levels. If agricultural protection in the main developed countries were to be reduced, leading to a more liberal trading environment, the degree of self-sufficiency of the developing countries could increase. In the absence of liberalization of trade, as for example, through GATT negotiations, the net agricultural trade surplus of the developing countries may continue to decline.

Our analysis of production indicates that growth in yields would continue to be the mainstay of production increases everywhere, though expansion of land under crops would continue to be an important factor mainly in some countries in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. Irrigation expansion and continuation of increases in the use of off-farm inputs and of improved seeds will be an essential component of the total package for raising production.

Sustaining the growth of production in the developing countries requires both substantial commitment of resources for investment as well as appropriate policies, both domestic and international. Considerable advances in irrigation, that is, i.e. raising the percentage of irrigated to total arable land to 20 percent in developing countries as well as doubling of use of fertilizer, improved seeds and selective and appropriate mechanization are needed. Required investment in crops and livestock by the end of the century would need to go up to 16 percent of agricultural GDP.

On the domestic front, the trend of the last few years towards policy reform which recognizes both the effects of macro-economic policies on agriculture and the importance of incentives to producers must be continued. On the international side reduction of protectionism and a more liberal trading environment are essential components of the policy package. The low world market prices resulting partly from high protection in the main importing countries and subsidized exports are a disincentive to expansion of production for export and weaken the resolve of the importing developing countries to develop their agriculture. Thus, domestic policy reform has its essential counterpart in international cooperation if it is to be successful.

Advances in agricultural production must ensure that benefits also accrue to the rural poor. Measures to improve access to agricultural assets of the existing and new entrants in the agricultural labour force as well as to provide alternative employment and income earning opportunities in the rural areas will continue to be an essential part of policies both to increase production and to reduce poverty. Agriculture must continue to provide both increased output and incomes for the poor. Without positive policies to improve distribution and the purchasing power of the poor agricultural growth will face increasing constraints. In the longer term the non-agricultural sector must bear an increasing burden of providing employment and incomes to the increasing population. The problem of rural poverty cannot be resolved in the agricultural sector alone: expansion of non-agricultural rural activities as well as urban employment is essential. Forestry and fishery also must make important contributions to the growth in income and employment. The lack of investment in infrastructure may constrain growth and lead to an increase in import dependence even in respect of those forestry products in which the countries concerned have comparative advantages. In view of rising world demand for fishery products up to the end of the century and a rising trend in real prices of fish, emphasis on better fisheries management and utilization is crucial since the prospects for significant and sustained increase in fisheries catches are limited. Aquaculture production holds greater promise and could be doubled by the end of the century.

Advances in technology in the past have underpinned a significant part of agricultural growth in both developing and developed countries. The prospects for further advances are encouraging, but much needs to be done to direct research and extension to areas, crops and farmers, which have been largely bypassed by progress. The prospects of technological advances in agriculture are good. While past results of research, some of them partially, can be applied immediately, others require adaptation. Given the time lag of 15 years or more for such adaptation, significant ready-to-use technologies will become available only towards the end of the century. The international community has the task of directing the potential of technological advance towards those ecologies and rural societies where the pay-off in terms of development and improvements in welfare would be the greatest.

Finally, the strains on the environment emanate from both successes and failures in raising agricultural production. Both developed and developing countries must pay increasing attention to environmental effects of agriculture. In the former countries the need to slow down production growth could provide welcome opportunities to counteract harmful effects of agricultural intensification. In the developing countries pressure on the environment arising from deforestation, increased irrigation and overuse of fragile soils must be offset by sustainable farming systems for tropical soils, preservation of genetic resources, efficient tropical forest management systems and integrated pest control. Appropriate rural institutions at the local level are of crucial importance for the success of such a strategy.

CHAIRMAN: We have before us the document Agriculture: Toward 2000, which is the revised version of 1987. Some delegates may have seen the 1979 version, which has been revised and updated in the presentation before us.

D. Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, took the chair.

D. Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vice-Président de la Commission I, assume la présidence.

Ocupa la presidencia D. Ismael Díaz Yubero, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I.

Jorgen Skovgaard NIELSEN (Denmark): May I first express my delegation's appreciation for a very detailed and informative report. We also thank Dr Islam for his introduction, and are happy to see him here again. We are pleased that FAO provides a service in this important area for other members of the UN family, as stated in the Programme of Work and Budget.

I will first make some comments on the report. Afterwards I will suggest some sophistications of the projection activities of FAO to become more oriented towards early warnings.

Before going into details about the future I would like to mention a few facts concerning the past. During the last 25 years the world population has grown to 1.8 billion. In the same period the food production has increased, so that it has been possible to increase the amount of food per caput. Unfortunately not all people have had sufficient access to food. This is a problem we will have to combat and hopefully solve in the future. The increase in food production is due to the increase of more arable land, use of better production techniques, more utilization of fertilizers, better seed and more irrigation. The cost of this increased production has, unfortunately, in many countries and regions affected the environmental balance.

In total, we can note an average growth in agricultural production in the developing countries of 3.5% per year. In the future the report Agriculture: Toward 2000 foresees a growth of about 3.5 percent per year. The increase in production covers the need of the still-growing population of the world, but generally the amount of food per caput will increase only marginally.

On this background we agree that today the main issues are: assurance of access to food for the total world population, of which up to 500 million are still undernourished; the need for adjustment of trade and production in order to assure a better distribution of the available food and to encourage a higher production in certain regions, especially in the sub-Saharan Africa; protection of the environment and natural resources.

Table 3.12, "Net Cereal Balances by Major Importers and Exporters", shows that the European Community of ten over 15 years has changed from being a net importer of 16 million tons to being a net exporter of 17 million tons of cereals. To give a full picture we would have liked the table to have included cereal substitutes in the balance.

In Chapter 4 dealing with expansion of agricultural land the Report seems optimistic about the possibilities of increasing arable land by some 80 million hectares before the year 2000. In this context the Report mentions the expansion of cultivated land into tropical forest areas. We strongly share the concern expressed in the Report about the rate of deforestation which is

expected to be 11 million hectares a year. In this context we could also refer to Table 9.2, "Land Availability Per Caput". Apart from Latin America there will be a steady and dramatic decline in arable land per caput in the coming years. The decrease cannot be balanced by higher yields and more intensive cropping without disturbing the ecological balance. We miss in Table 9.2 figures for arable land per caput in developed countries. We are inclined to believe that developed countries possess a reserve of land and a production potential that might be of importance to assure future food supplies. These lands are for the time being subject to different programmes set aside due to the general supply situation in several developed countries.

Chapter 7, "Issues of International Trade and Adjustment", gives a brief and rather balanced presentation of many of the problems to be discussed at the GATT trade negotiations. It should be noted, as also explained in the Report, that adjustment policies are decided and are being implemented in many developed countries including the European Economic Community. The problem before us in the GATT negotiations is to find a common denominator for different sorts of measures carried out in different countries and to agree on strategies for obtaining a balance on global markets.

Further, we are pleased that the report concludes with a chapter on the "Environmental Aspects of Agricultural Development". This subject deserves the full attention of all countries, developed and developing, as the issue is of vital if not fatal importance for the future of agricultural development.

Finally, I would like to make a few comments on a possible sophistication of projections for FAO.

Projections are by nature warnings, and they are normally self-defeating due to reactions on the market, changes in policies and unforeseeable events. What is important is to sense the changes in trends at an early time and to detect the origin of these changes. Maybe FAO could, in cooperation with other institutions, develop a sort of "early warning system" to report on important changes in trends. The origin of these trends could be, inter alia, degradation of natural resources, trade and debt-problems, policy changes in general and agricultural reforms. Very often there is overreaction on insufficient information concerning production, trade and stock level. This sometimes leads to too much expansion in production as a reaction to shortages or too harsh curtailments as a reaction to a surplus situation. The report mentions that the latter situation could evolve in the dairy sector.

To avoid such overreaction, we recommend a sophistication of FAO's projection techniques in order to detect early changes in trends. Therefore, I would like to receive the Secretariat's comments on such a proposal for an early warning system on changes in trends.

The meeting rose at 19.30 hours

La seance est levée à 19 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/13

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

THIRTEENTH MEETING
TREIZIEME SEANCE
13ª SESION

(19 November 1987)

The Thirteenth Meeting was opened at 09.55 hours,
C. S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La treizième seance est ouverte à 9 h 55:
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 13ª sesión a las 09.55 horas
bajo la presidencia de C. S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 10. Agriculture: Toward 2000 (cont'd)
- 10. AGRICULTURE: HORIZON 2000 (suite)
- 10. AGRICULTURA: HORIZONTE 2000 (continuación)

Augustyn WOS (Poland): The Polish delegation has studied the report Agriculture: Toward 2000 with the greatest attention. In our opinion, it makes a valuable contribution to international knowledge on the subject of agriculture, food economy and the prospects for the future development of global agricultural production and of international trade in agricultural products until the year 2000. We find this report one of the best produced by the FAO Secretariat for many years. I would like to congratulate the Secretariat for the work done. The methodology employed as well as the method of presentation of the research results deserve, in our opinion, the highest praise. We find of particular value the departure from the former extrapolation of trends, the results of which as a rule call for serious reservations, and the departure from the excessively optimistic views on the subject of future situation development. The realistic presentation of both the development of agricultural production and the situation concerning the international trade in food and agricultural products during the past quarter of a century constitute most valuable material, which may be used by the Governments of all countries, both developed and developing, when elaborating their own programmes of development of agriculture and determination of agricultural policies. We find particularly valuable those statements in various parts of the Report which observe that the agricultural policy of a number of countries, both developed and developing, will have to be substantially altered and modified in the future if the securing of a sufficient volume of food for all mankind and the more rational utilization of resources on a global scale become targets universally accepted. In the long term the revision of agricultural policies oriented in the direction of securing potential possibilities of achieving comparative benefits as effects of expansion and facilitation of international trade ought to prove beneficial for all countries and should serve to lower the costs related to the realization of agricultural development programmes.

When considering the long term trends in the development of agricultural production, the Polish delegation would like to draw attention to the fact that increasingly larger areas of agricultural policy decisions throughout the world to a lesser and lesser degree may be shaped and determined by the respective Governments. We observe at the same time a parallel growth of the number and power of big international corporations, in particular corporations of a supra-state character. These are corporations of private capital that very effectively control major areas of agricultural production and international markets.

An example of this may be the seed production on the basis of modern technologies and especially using genetic engineering. The latter, as we all recognize, will be of decisive importance and impact for the coming progress and growth of agricultural production in the developing countries. This and other similar areas may be controlled only in a small way by the Governments of the particular countries. This means a great new problem area for FAO, as it transfers the activities of our organization from the sphere of governmental activities to non-governmental and supra-state relations and organizations that which, as one could expect, will be an extremely important issue of future development.

To find a way for FAO to effect these new areas of operations and activities is becoming a task of major importance and the Polish delegation would like to draw attention of all delegations to this issue.

The Polish delegation does not intend to undertake discussion of the forecasts included in the presented Report since only the future may show whether they are accurate not. We cannot however refrain from one remark concerning the group of European countries with a centrally-planned economy. We believe that the forecasts concerning this group of countries are rather pessimistic and assume

a substantial scale of imports of grains also in the year 2000. In view of the profound changes taking place in the economic system of the group of countries in question, as well as in the agricultural policies and the system of price formations, we believe it fully feasible to achieve in principle full self-sufficiency in food and agricultural products by the European centrally planned-economy continues in the timeframe discussed. There should take place on the other hand, a substantial and important increase in the imports of products from the tropical zone and of protein foodstuffs, the latter being necessary to conduct rational livestock breeding. As concerns the possibilities of Polish agriculture, we are rather optimistic. We have doubts, on the other hand, concerning the present state and future development of the industries producing inputs for farming.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I would like to make three main points under this item. The first relates to the main contributions of the report, which Australia believes provides a useful basis for the discussion of some of the major food and agricultural issues to be faced over the next decade. It focuses on the plight of the poor and of many developing countries, caused in part by the policies of developed countries.

There is a particular focus on resource and aid requirements as well as the need for protection cuts in developed countries, these being linked to an extent with the projection of demand and supply. We welcome that.

The second point is the reliability of the projections. To us they appear to be more realistically based than in the 1979 report, which projected increasing agricultural commodity prices to the year 2000, which was well off the mark, obviously. The current projections are more conservative for the rates of population and income growth. However, we believe that the report still relies heavily on trend extrapolations and 'expert' judgements. It does not explicitly include major macroeconomic, price and policy variables in the analysis, and has a weak feed livestock section.

The third area of comment for Australia is the recommendation for agricultural expansion and self-sufficiency in developing countries. The very high priorities accorded by the report to such policies is possibly inappropriate for many countries. They may have an effect of agriculture being overpromoted while better investment opportunities in other sectors are missed, thus lowering potential incomes, as well as food purchasing power and food security.

Finally, the recommendation that producer prices need not reflect world prices - page 17 - where the world market for that sector is subject to heavy export subsidies could have the effects of: 1) detracting from other FAO objectives of world trade and price stability; and 2) creating substantial new areas of assisted agriculture with the attendant supply-enhancing effects.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): Japan should like first of all to commend the efforts of the Secretariat for having presented to us the revised "Agriculture Toward 2000" which encompasses a wide range of content. It is acceptable for us that the projection is based on the moderate economic growth, and the estimated annual growth of agriculture in developing countries, that is 3.0%, is deemed realistic. Consequently, this Report is of great utility value, for it will give an effective guiding index when examining the future agricultural policy of the world, especially developing countries.

However, we have not been informed as to what motivated this revision. Japan is of the view that the opinions of member countries should have been collected prior to such important work, and the Secretariat should have reflected those opinions in the Report.

Anyhow, in order to encourage effective use of the report, Japan would like to request the Secretariat newly to prepare a condensed version which is both concise and clear, taking into account the discussion here.

I should now like to make brief comments chapter by chapter.

As to chapter 7 for agricultural trade, the conclusion points out that effective regulation and discipline are required to reduce trade measures for agricultural products which cause the deterioration of the international market.

Japan's view on this matter is as follows: Policy for agricultural trade should be aimed so that, on a longer-term basis, the market principle can function effectively. Every country should undertake coordinated action in line with its responsibility toward the solution to problems, such as surplus supplies of agricultural products, increased spending of the agricultural budget and intensified competition for export. In doing so, however, may due consideration be given to various elements of agriculture, such as food supply, conservation of land and natural environment, which are not purely economic, as well as specific characteristics of agriculture which stem from the constraint related to land resources.

Chapter 11 touches on environmental problems. While I agree that agriculture and the environment are mutually complementary and dependent, I think that it is very important to develop farming systems which are in conformity with the environmental condition of each country, and to manage and operate them.

My country is of the view that, in assessing the world supply and demand of agricultural commodities, it is also important to take into consideration possible influences by decrease in forestry, progress of desertification, fluctuation of climate and others. Therefore, I consider further study on these unstable factors to be required.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): The Secretariat have made a great effort in trying to predict what the state of food and agriculture will be in the year 2000 - about 15 years from now. That the first such forecast was made in 1979, barely five years ago, and yet was already moving off-target, only serves to show how difficult the task of predicting future trends can be. In their defence, the Secretariat state that they are now making a better forecast. One might agree with them only because they are now more pessimistic than in the 1979 forecast.

I want to commend the Secretariat, Dr Islam's team, for the painstaking thoroughness they have taken in order to try to arrive at realistic predictions. In our view, a sufficient sample of both developing and developed countries has been studied to give credibility to the predictions. A study of 94 developing countries, including China, and 34 developed countries, both in the free and centrally-planned economies, is ample evidence of the sample taken.

The Zambian delegation is also satisfied with the methodology of analysis used, as given at Appendix page A5.

The study does not seem to put sufficient emphasis on predictions as to the likely weather or climatic changes in the next fifteen years. We think a statement on this should have been made in view of the sensitivity of agricultural production to this factor. Only a short mention of the subject is made under environmental considerations.

It is our experience in our region that there may be some significant adverse climatic changes in the next fifteen years. In fact, we believe, that such a change began in 1978. We are being reliably informed that such changes may also be taking place in the northern hemisphere. It seems plausible to assume adverse weather conditions, when one takes into account the current depletion of the tropical rain forests - which you all know as the lungs of the world - the slow but sure depletion of the ozone layer which is introducing the glasshouse effect, and the likely possibility of more nuclear disasters.

Therefore, in our view, from climatic trends alone the predictions so far made are over optimistic. The likely climatic effect, however, may be to sharpen or widen regional abundancies and deficits, as some regions may have a more favourable climate, while others are suffering in the reverse way, so that aggregate world production could remain as per prediction but with huge variations in individual country or a regional production.

My delegation has studied the current and predicted data on Zambia. It appears to be correct, with modest increases in production over the next fifteen years or so. We believe that in the case of Zambia, the predictions were heavily influenced by historical trends. Good weather permitting, Zambia could perform at a much faster rate than is predicted. There is sufficient evidence to show that the Zambian population is now more geared towards farming than was the case twenty years ago. This is not only due to the fact that the government now provides better producer price incentives, among other important factors, but is due to the fact that there appears to be a learning, skill-acquiring period of some 20 to 30 years, after which people gather enough farming experience and courage to adopt farming. This pattern is very noticeable in Zambia. The largest grain-producing provinces are presently the provinces where agriculture was introduced earliest by European settler communities. The least grain producing provinces are the areas where there were no European settlers many years ago. As locals are opening up new farming areas in these provinces, it is now appearing that more production is increasingly being produced.

We are now all aware of, and have already addressed, the major policy measures which are necessary to increase individual country and, therefore, aggregate world food and agricultural production. This has been discussed in the preceding documents, International Agricultural Adjustment and WCARRD. These are the same measures which are required in the next decade and a half, that is policy reforms, access of the masses to land and other assets, people's participation at grass root level, increasing the role of women in agriculture, the encouragement of regional and international trade and the removal of both formal and informal tariffs to encourage the advantages of the principles of comparative advantage.

Other important factors in the next fifteen years include the effective transfer of technology and the creation of new real capital in-flows into the South, from the North. My delegation agrees with the notion in the study that heavy investment will be required by developing countries to open up new land, and to introduce irrigation. For this to be achieved, there will be a need for the movement of capital investment from the North.

I want to be bold enough to say that in the next fifteen years the country that will implement the WCARRD Resolutions will show the greatest development and growth rates with equity. WCARRD was really the blueprint for international agricultural development.

The nightmare and the ogre that haunts food and agricultural development in the future are the trade barriers, the protectionist attitudes of the North, not only to goods from developing countries, but even to goods amongst themselves. As we all know, this leads to shrinking international trade through beggar-my-neighbour-policies. The shrinking of international trade continues and this shrinking continues to increase in each country and the economies get smaller and smaller until recessions set in. These recessions have deleterious effects on all countries, particularly on the least developed countries and the poorest of the poor, who are mostly women.

As we look to the future, let us all think about our planet - sometimes called the vanishing earth because of our own mischief. Let us protect it like a milk cow in India, so that it continues to feed us, give us manure for crops and plaster for decorating our houses.

Let us ail work as one race. with a common purpose to feed ourselves and to live comfortably? Or is it still the law of the jungle? I suppose not.

Luka RADOJICIC (Yugoslavia):" The revised study shows substantial progress as regards nutrition and moderate progress in the production sector of developing countries, along with great disparities among countries and continents. In the last 25 years developing countries recorded a production growth rate of 3.2 percent, with the growth rate in this decade being higher than in the previous one. The countries of Asia, primarily the People's Republic of China and then India, accounted for the major portion of this increase.

The crisis in Africa, however, has deteriorated. The global crisis has led to a slow down in the growth of production in Latin America and the Middle East. In the OECD countries too, the growth rate is going down.

The global recession has greatly reduced the rate of growth of international trade in agricultural products and resulted in a further growth of protectionism in the developed part of the world. In trade, the world is faced with a growing excess of supply. That is a grave structural problem which calls for readjustments without precedent.

The existing unfavourable trends within the external component of agricultural development in the countries - resources, indebtedness, protectionism, etc. - when compared with the internationally agreed objectives, are not being overcome fast enough.

The Yugoslav delegation expresses its appreciation to FAO for the quality of the study, and on the whole it supports its conclusions and recommendations. I should like to stress in particular our agreement with the orientation focus on the most acute issues in the future.

PRESIDENTE: Deseo aclarar que inmediatamente después de terminar el tema de "Agricultura 2000" se discutirán dos Resoluciones referentes a la mujer. La primera de ellas es: "Actividades de la FAO relativas a la integración de la mujer en el desarrollo", y la segunda "Participación de la mujer en el desarrollo rural". Estos dos proyectos de Resolución los tienen ustedes en el documento LIM/39, y está a disposición de todos los Delegados en todos los casilleros. Les ruego que, si es posible, los hayan leído primero, los conozcan y los hayan estudiado para poder pasar a la discusión de estas dos Resoluciones una vez terminado el tema "Agricultura: Horizonte 2000".

John Redman GOLDSACK (United Kingdom): We should like to thank the Secretariat for the update to the original of "Agriculture: Toward 2000" which now forms the version before us today. We find much in the report with which we can agree, and in this intervention we shall, bearing in mind the time constraint, touch on only three of the broad topics covered.

Environmental issues are dealt with in Chapters 1 and 11, and we welcome FAO's focus on environmental aspects of agricultural development, and the recognition of the need to address environmental issues as an integral component of agricultural development strategy.

We congratulate FAO on identifying the major global, national and local environmental issues relating to agricultural production potential and agricultural practice. We would encourage FAO to continue its efforts towards a better, more scientific understanding of the relationship between agricultural activity and environmental degradation and towards using this knowledge to improve environmental management in the agriculture sector.

We support the view that long-term benefits from environmentally benign behaviour must be brought into the cost-benefit equations in agricultural development activities in order to facilitate more sustainable use of natural resources.

We agree with the overall environmental objectives and the general thrust of the document, but do not necessarily concur with every point of detail. There are issues which we would need to consider in greater detail before offering concurrence, such as the relative importance of the factors leading to environmental problems in agricultural systems and the order in which to tackle best the crucial need for greater agricultural production and still protect the environment - that is, to first make more efficient use of land currently being used for agriculture, - before opening up new lands. Chapter 11 hardly discusses the beneficial environmental impact of improved food storage technology and the way in which better food storage can create less demand for additional land to reduce the need to overexploit existing land.

Chapter 4, on sustainable growth in production, reviews at some length the probable sources of the increased agricultural productivity projected in Chapter 3. The projections are no doubt realistic in terms of anticipated demand but they appear to us over-ambitious in relation to realistic production increases likely to be achieved in the context of the physical and human resources available. Many data are presented to support a range of conclusions, but there is no clear and concise summary of conclusions, which is required with a document as lengthy and complex as this.

However, the general conclusions are sensible and the major important constraints confronting increased agricultural production have been identified, but few fresh ideas are generated. The main focus is on sources of increased crop and livestock production, with some reference to other essential

requirements such as off-farm inputs, draught power, investment requirements, research and policy issues, etc. The document, we feel, is a little unbalanced in that inadequate attention has been paid to the problems of sustaining either present or probable future incremental production, and little reference is made to the serious environmental problems associated with de-afforestation for agricultural purposes. We think these are important weaknesses, and other omissions are the lack of discussion on training, manpower and institutional requirements to achieve the projected growth rates.

We find that Chapter 7 on issues of international trade and adjustment gives a good analysis of the current tensions in agricultural trade and their causes. We particularly welcome the emphasis on domestic policy reform and the recognition that "greater market orientation in world agriculture" is the "ultimate goal"

The United Kingdom strongly supports the objectives for agricultural reform set out in the GATT Ministerial Declaration of September 1986 and the OEGD Ministerial Council communique of May 1987. All developed countries, including net importers, must play their part in securing a concerted reduction in agricultural support, implemented in a balanced manner.

The analysis in the chapter shows that most developing countries have a keen interest in the success of these negotiations. Without reform, trade conflicts will worsen and harm developing country interests. Trade liberalization may increase import costs for temperate foodstuffs for some developing countries, but overall, taking economy-wide effects into account, developing countries stand to benefit, in some cases substantially.

Reform of developed countries' agricultural policies will also make an important contribution towards reducing the volatility of commodity prices on world markets. Given the limited success of international commodity agreements, the United Kingdom believes market intervention to support commodity prices is not a long-term answer. The IMF's Compensatory Financing Facility, which is shortly to be reviewed, and the European Community's STABEX scheme provide adequate facilities for dealing with temporary shortfalls in export earnings.

Arif H. UGUR (Turkey): I should like to thank the Secretariat for the interesting report C 87/27, "Agriculture: Toward 2000", gives a global assessment of possible future world and detailed projections for country groups and individual countries. This report will constitute a valuable document which will be referred to by policy analysts and planners.

The essential prerequisite to agricultural forecasting and planning is the availability of adequate basic agricultural statistics. The basic statistics needed for forecasting and planning include the number and distribution of farms, size and tenure of farms, land use and land classification, area irrigated and types of irrigation, crop acreages and production, livestock numbers and livestock products, poultry and fishery production, types of forests and forestry products, farm labour and farm employment, quantity and quality of farm inputs, prices of farm inputs and outputs, public and private infrastructure, and domestic and foreign demand for farm products. These basic statistics are for forecasting, planning and assessment of planned development. The development programmes, such as land reform, land development, distribution of farm inputs and farm mechanization cannot be planned with accuracy and executed with confidence unless reliable data are available.

The limited data available constitutes a serious handicap to most of the developing countries in the formulation of their policies and development plans. The paucity of data impedes the use of planning techniques and analytical tools, thereby adversely affecting allocation of scarce resources. Faulty information produces faulty analysis, which leads to faulty answers. The result is usually a misdirected and misplaced development effort. Lack of reliable data also does not permit accurate measurements of improvements.

In most countries agricultural data are provided by systems of current agricultural statistics and periodic agricultural censuses. The scope of current agricultural studies is limited to the collection of information on a few items, such as acreage and production of crops and crops forecasts. The method used for estimating crop yields relies mostly on estimation by eye and personal judgement.

In this situation, the major weaknesses of this study C 87/27 might, I presume, be the statistical data base which is provided by the developing countries and/or estimates made by FAO for the countries which failed to make data available. Nevertheless, this study will provide a broad picture of the long term to planners and policy makers, who always need to compare their projections with the projections made by the international organizations for other countries where the situation is judged to be similar.

In some cases, an approach in planning is simply to borrow some elasticity coefficients of other countries judged to be similar in their standards of living and consumption patterns. These types of studies which indicate a relatively good picture of international trade are more valuable for planners in arriving at export/import projections.

Chapter 8 of document C 87/27 discusses macroeconomic policies, structural adjustment and agriculture, which are inter-related. Like many developing countries Turkey has introduced a structural adjustment programme in the economy. This structural adjustment programme, introduced at the beginning of 1980 in Turkey, comprised a wide range of policy reforms aimed at stabilizing the economy while encouraging export promotion, an enhanced role for the private sector, especially in manufacturing, and increased reliance on market forces.

The economic recovery programme has been furthered intensified since 1984, with greater emphasis on the real exchange rates, rapid import liberalization, the improvement of domestic resource utilization, subsidy reduction and new taxes, such as value-added tax. In particular, the Government has aimed at reducing public expenditure growth and has given priority to infrastructure sectors for public investment outlets.

The emphasis in agriculture has shifted towards irrigation and agricultural services which will have the largest on sectoral productivity growth.

As indicated in the report, there might be a danger of withdrawal of the public sector, which may lead to a collapse of the particular function in some developing countries. This report pronounces very clearly that the change over from the public to the private sector must therefore be a phased one and assistance must be given to enable the private sector to become established and effective.

This is a realistic appraisal of what may happen if the right policies are not followed. This transitional issue should be recognized by the world credit organizations in imposing policy issues on the developing countries.

I would like to say a few words about Chapter 11 dealing with environmental problems caused mainly by pollution, degradation, deforestation and desertification. In the developing countries especially, natural resource systems are being increasingly depleted, soil is being eroded, forests eliminated, grassland overgrazed. Much higher priority has to be given to environmental protection which is a hard and expensive task for the developing countries.

As indicated in the Report, the population growth rate is still a major issue in solving problems, including environmental problems. If the population growth continues at the same rate, there could be nothing left for the next generations.

Every year more than 11 million hectares of forest are cleared for other uses, and in most developing countries deforestation is accelerating. In addition to the efforts made by developing countries, if every person in the developed world used one less tissues per day this would help to alleviate the problem.

In conclusion, I propose that this study should be renewed every five years on a regional basis rather than global. This would help improve the quality and usefulness of the study.

WU TIANXI (China): We did not receive the English version of document C 87/27 until shortly before we came to Rome. Now we can only make some preliminary comments on this paper as we did have time to study it carefully.

We are pleased to note that the FAO Secretariat, taking into account the suggestions made by many delegations at the 22nd Session of the Conference, has made important revisions and additions to this study. Comparing the revised version with the previous one we find three important changes. First, the revised version covers a wider geographical area. It has incorporated the data on four developing countries including China and outlined the trends of agricultural development in the developing countries of different categories.

In addition, its Third Chapter describes the trends of agricultural development in the developed countries, thus taking world agricultural issues from the macroscopic point of view of the world economy which is closely related to agriculture. Secondly, in view of the practical needs for agricultural development, the revised version .has made corresponding adjustments to its coverage.

It focuses on the development of production. Chapters 4 and 5 contain intensified studies on the growth of agricultural production. Two additional chapters are devoted to forestry and fishery which distinguish them from agriculture. There are also descriptions regarding debt, pricing policies and other problems facing many developing countries. Coverage of the complex development issues on which consensus is difficult to reach, for instance distribution and other issues having less impact for the future, for instance energy, has been adjusted or in some cases reduced. This conforms with the reality and development trend. These changes have made the study more compact, concise and meet the needs of future development.

Thirdly, the study gives additional descriptions to the two major problems of poverty and environment in the current world agricultural development. This will help us take a more comprehensive view on the favourable and unfavourable factors for agricultural development and adopt more appropriate measures to guide its development. On the whole, we think the revised study is a substantial improvement over the previous version and provides useful reference as it covers more extensive areas and provides valuable information, and the proposals contained therein are practical.

We have noted with interest that the revised study gives priority to the development of agricultural technology and a whole chapter is devoted to this issue. Inter alia, it stresses the important role that biotechnology can play in future agricultural development. This is highly necessary. However, we think that while emphasizing the role of biotechnology in increasing agricultural productivity, attention should also be paid to the extension of applied technology and training of technical staff. This will have practical significance for the promotion of agricultural development in the developing countries.

The revised study gives special coverage to poverty and environmental problems. It is apparent that the elimination of poverty is closely related to economic development. In the rural areas of many developing countries, a large number of people are afflicted by the shortage of production means, under-employment, low living standards and inadequate education. All this seriously hinders the economic development of these countries. Therefore, the eradication of poverty is a prerequisite for economic take-off. The study analyzes the relationship between poverty and development, summarises successful experience of the developing countries in their effort to get rid of poverty, and proposes a series of policy measures. These can serve as valuable reference. The revised study also describes the interaction of the environment and agricultural development. At the same time, it rightly points out various environmental problems faced by developed and developing countries in the field of agriculture. We agree to the views expressed therein. I will refrain from elaborating our views in this connection as they were already stated by the Chinese delegation during the discussion on the food and agricultural situation a few days ago.

We appreciate the sustained efforts made by the FAO Secretariat in identifying appropriate policies and technology in light of the actual situation of the world agricultural development. We shall further study the text and try to find useful reference for our own study on the prospects of China's agriculture by the year 2000.

Fritz-Otto HAASE (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The FAO Secretariat has, in presenting the revised version of *Agriculture: Toward 2000*, presented a study of which it can be proud and, which warrants our thanks. These thanks are expressed in particular to Dr Islam and his staff.

After a first reading of the Study we have the impression that the Secretariat has proceeded both methodically and pragmatically and it has adopted realistic assumptions which have led to plausible conclusions. The experience with the preceding study has been used very advantageously and it has not proved in any way a disadvantage that the projections are not based on a comprehensive, formalized, econometric model which, so far as the developing countries are concerned, would in any case in part have to be based on very unreliable data. The delegate of Turkey has just referred to this problem.

We also welcome the fact that the revised version is based on overall economic growth rates which from today's point of view are feasible. However, they seem to be nudging the upper limit of a conceivable growth rate band width. Similarly, the assumption regarding changes in the agricultural policies of the developed market economies seem sensible because there exists general agreement that the agricultural surplus production must be reduced, even though the question is still largely open as to how this should be undertaken.

It is also to be noted that with the inclusion of the People's Republic of China the study has gained in relevance and applicability.

Permit me now to make a few comments and to voice a few questions. The Study arrives at an on the whole positive development of the world food situation. The production levels projected for developing countries, however, require very considerable investment and inputs and the question arises as to how, for example in Africa south of the Sahara, these can be financed and whether, a possible review of this problem has led to a revision of the projections.

No account appears to have been taken of the problem of a possible increase in energy costs by the year 2000, nor what the consequences of these might be on the one hand on further economic growth and on the other hand on levels of demand for agricultural products to be used for industrial-technological and energy purposes.

In the Study, reference is also made to the need to improve the method for estimating the future feed grains requirements. I think we must realize that this gives rise to a very considerable measure of uncertainty in the projections for feed grain requirements and other feedstuffs also in the European centrally planned economies and the developed market economies.

The projections for demand for meat and dairy products in the developed market economies are somewhat low with per caput consumption growth rates of some 0.1 percent per annum. However, even if demand were to rise somewhat faster, this would not affect the need to slow down growth in production.

The statement made by the International Wheat Council in 1983 in its "Longer Term Outlook for Grains" is generally applicable to agricultural products. The statement says that provided adequate prices are available, the production potential is such that even in the year 2000 any conceivable increase in effective import could be met.

As in the previous study, this Study will be very much welcomed by an international public and in this connection my delegation suggests that thought be given to giving wide circulation to the report by publishing it, perhaps after further editing and abridging. Indeed, if the Organization is interested in such a publication, my country is thinking of undertaking the publication of the study in a German language version.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I think the Secretariat has done yeomen's work in putting together an array of factors that affect the supply and demand for agricultural and food products - factors we have to deal with in our attempt to achieve global food security by year 2000. The complexity and inter-action of these factors, even at the national level, present great difficulties. At the global level attempts to vigorously handle them for extrapolation purposes become almost impossible and may defy the use of the best known methodological techniques.

The factors associated with the development of historic trends are themselves very complex, namely, the rise in effective demand, the overall world economic environment, international trade, dynamics of policy attitudes in different countries, and patterns of technology and their delivery systems, among others. However, the Secretariat has almost covered all of these major areas of concern and has presented a clear and concise story in document C 87/27. The story is simply that the attainment of global food security by the year 2000 may prove illusive unless the factors that influence historical past trends are carefully studied, applied and modified where possible, so that the prospects of achieving the ultimate objective, that is food security, can be enhanced. I thank the Secretariat for the good work they have done.

Every line of the over 263-page compendium prepared by the Secretariat is important. The issues raised are many, not to mention their complexity. Time constraint does not permit me to go into detail, so I shall only single out a few of the issues for emphasis.

Attempts to provide food for over one billion more people by the year 2000 have food security implications. The question then is: how do we ensure that all people have access at all times to enough food to achieve a healthy life by the year 2000? In sub-Saharan Africa a higher degree of food self-sufficiency is required to achieve this objective. The next question we have to ask is: what should be the process? Our contention, as we have already emphasized in a previous statement, is that we have to resort to setting up plans or have to make use of food strategies - food strategies which, in the 1970s, became an article of faith but which now seem to have been put into cold storage. We feel that food strategies will direct us as to what to do with both the demand and supply side of the food balance equation. In this role, food strategies will assure the coherence of diverse technical improvements, investment in agriculture, and other factors affecting the food sector by: one, establishing a framework for food production and consumption objectives; two, specifying within this framework short to medium-term programmes and projects; and also providing a mechanism for a more effective implementation of them. In addition, my delegation feels that food strategies would provide a framework for policy reforms and for consistent and sustained donor assistance which is needed to achieve food security by the year 2000.

From a policy point of view, we feel that price and marketing policies are very relevant and at the heart of food strategy. Therefore, there is a need to address these. We need a policy mix of price, marketing, production and other factors that affect food security. As the document has also emphasized, there is a need for price policy instruments to be used, but the question is what is the scope of price policy instruments relative to non-price policy instruments, such as extension services, transportation, storage, participation of women and group action in the form of cooperatives in achieving food security?

Of all the problems facing the sub-Saharan countries none is so easily apparent, none so pervasive, as that of inflation. This has been caused by a crisis in the external economic environment, by high population growth rates, slow growth of per capita incomes, rising urbanization and uncoordinated food production and distribution systems. Here I should like to emphasize the marketing issue.

In attempting to rehabilitate the economies of sub-Saharan countries and make them self-sufficient by the year 2000, we should aim at inter-related market reforms that will ensure enhanced vertical coordination in the production and distribution systems, and thus stimulate economic growth of the relevant countries. There is a need to increase the flow of resources into building infrastructures such as storage, processing, transportation, market information, and distribution. It is our contention that reforms can play an active role in the economic rehabilitation of sub-Saharan countries by the year 2000 by changing demand and cost functions in both agriculture and manufacturing in a way favourable to expansion of general economic activities.

Key areas of priority investment in agriculture are also needed. I will just mention them here as there is not time to go into them. These are: the development of traditional farms to ensure increased productivity of small farmers; selective mechanization in view of acute structural labour shortages; small-scale cost-effective irrigation to help reduce the impact of drought; action orientated research focusing on greater yields and cropping intensities, and using the benefits of genetic research for higher output; improved management of farmers' services and inputs; and special measures for women and the landless poor.

Finally, to us in the sub-Saharan region the document before us carries the same message as the FAO document "Agriculture: The next 25 years". We feel that the two documents should be read together because they emphasize similar issues and seem to come to the same conclusions. The document "Agriculture: The next 25 years" has identified areas of emphasis which are also relevant here.

First, the trends that have caused the current food crisis in Africa have to be reversed to forestall unpredictable consequences within and outside Africa. Secondly, on the whole Africa has the potential to produce more food and agricultural products. In fact, an earlier FAO document on population supporting capacities of African countries had indicated that Africa, on the whole, has enough land for food self-sufficiency up to the year 2000. Indeed, even with the use of low level technology and inputs, the combined production of all 51 African countries could feed three times the present population. Thirdly, there is a need to adopt practical measures to mobilize and conserve Africa's physical infrastructure, land and water. Fourthly, these measures are to be complemented by others that address the four important "i's" - incentives, inputs, institutions and infrastructure. Fifthly, these measures must operate within a framework which will support sustainable growth of the sector. The framework prescribes practical structural adjustment reforms that should be put in place. We in Ghana since 1983 have made positive attempts in restructuring our economy to make far-reaching reforms which are going a long way to transform our economy. Since the introduction of these reforms positive results have been achieved in responding to them, and it is our contention that with more emphasis on them, or with more resources, including financial resources flowing into the agricultural sector, Ghana for its part will contribute its quota in achieving global food security by the year 2000.

Petrus A.L. DE RIJK (Netherlands): The document under discussion represents a global assessment of possible future world and country group production, trade and nutrition. This kind of prospective study is, in the opinion of our delegation, an important activity on which FAO rightfully embarks with a certain regularity. We refer to the recent Agricultural Commodity Projections for 1990, the AT 2000 study of 1979 and the Land, Food and People Study.

It is evident that projections of future developments are of crucial importance in order to identify and quantify problems ahead, a prerequisite for adequate policy design.

We will embark on four themes in relation to this valuable study, namely methodology, assumptions, results and conclusions and key-issues.

We note that the document is rather different from its predecessors, the former AT 2000 study and the Provisional Indicative World Plan for Agricultural Development of 1969. These earlier studies were focused on assessing the requirements to arrive at higher rates of growth for agricultural sector at the global level. The AT 2000 study of 1979 concerned the aims put forward in the UN third International Development Strategy, reflecting the aspirations of the New International Economic Order. But also trend values were projected. In the new AT 2000 study the aim is to arrive at realistic estimates of future developments. The keyword is now adjustment. This reflects itself even in the methodology. In fact the projections are not merely the results of past trends. The continuation into the future of those past trends would in many instances exacerbate present problems and disparities or imply unrealistic outcomes. Therefore the study consists of reasoned outcomes of the future. While we appreciate this approach, we would however have liked more background on how this reasoning was done. One of the trends that is considered unrealistic is the continuing growth of production in sub-Saharan Africa well below that of population. This would imply rapid growth of import requirements, that would - according to the document - be beyond what is probably feasible from the financial and infrastructural standpoints. Another reason put forward is that per caput consumption levels would not be maintained even at very low levels, which means that famine conditions would become more widespread and endemic. Based on these considerations and with reference to FAO's study on Africa a "reasoned" expected growth of agricultural production of 3.4% per year for the period 1985-2000 is presented for Africa. This is a huge increase as compared with the period 1960-1985, which was 2 percent, and it is also substantially higher than the pre-drought growth rate of 2.8%. Our delegation would have liked to see in this document a clear analysis of the conditions required and the assumption made to arrive at the quantum leap in growth for the food and agricultural sector for this most problematic region.

In this connection we would like to point out that this optimism concerning the rate of growth of agricultural production in sub-Saharan Africa does not seem in line with FAO's agricultural commodity projection to 1990, issued last year. The growth of the crucial cereals sector, for example, for the period 1980-1990 was still estimated at only 2%.

The reliability of the projections depends on the validity of the assumptions. These assumptions are not systematically listed in the document, but we recall especially: firstly, the objective of self-sufficiency for all products in deficit in all developing countries; secondly, a moderate growth in the national income; thirdly, little progress concerning the liberalization of trade in agricultural products; and fourthly, no change in the income distribution within countries.

These assumptions deserve some comments. As to the objective of self-sufficiency for all products for all developing countries, the question is prompted to what extent this is in conformity with the principle of comparative advantages. It seems to us that an increase in self-sufficiency with little regard for production costs is not always an adequate policy. It could also conflict in some cases with the process of structural adjustments that is of great importance in several countries.

The assumption of little or no progress on liberalization of trade in agricultural products and on more even income distribution are remarkable because the document stresses repeatedly the importance of both. In our opinion it would have been very useful to include in the document results on calculations concerning the impact of at least a moderate progress in both areas. The same holds for an alternative assumption concerning economic growth. Such alternative scenarios would give a indication of the sensibility of the quantitative results that are presented in the document as the most likely outcome in the year 2000. This is most important because experience has shown that the figures resulting from such projections tend to start living their own lives.

Of the quantitative results of the projections the following ones struck us in particular and have policy implications: firstly, the fact that the number of undernourished people still increases, albeit slightly, from 1985 to 2000. In spite of a decrease in the relative number, this means that the hunger problem will not be overcome until a considerable number of years into the twenty-first century; secondly, the fact that in the period 1985 to 2000 the number of people affected by undernutrition will decrease in Asia 20% but increase in Africa with almost a third. At the same time the relative number of undernourished people will be more than twice as high in Africa as in

Asia. These projections confirm the definite shift in magnitude of the hunger problem from Asia to Africa; thirdly, the fact that the net cereals deficit for sub-Saharan Africa would increase from 9 million tons in 1985 to 17 million tons in 2000, while the overall economic and balance of payments prospects are unfavourable. This means that food aid would have to play an even increasing role in this region in order to ensure that the number of undernourished people does not increase more than anticipated; fourthly, for the developed market economies as a whole the most important result of the projections is the inevitability of a long-term reduction in the rate of growth of agricultural output. The decrease in growth would be applicable to all products and with a reduction of 60%, be strongest for cereals. This means that even after the economic recession supply will tend to exceed demand. Consequently, world market prices might be under continuous pressure.

Among the results of the quantitative analysis we have missed one important element. That is an updating of the food aid requirements. In this connection we would like to point out that in the document on International Agricultural Adjustment the need for a periodical review of estimates of food aid requirements is urged.

On maybe the most important data, those concerning the estimates on the number of undernourished people, we would like to point out that the World Bank has also made estimates concerning undernourishment published in their Poverty and Hunger Report. Those estimates are substantially different from those by FAO. We would like to ask the Secretariat if FAO has taken any initiative to harmonize these estimates.

One of the questions that evidently comes up is what the value added is of this document as compared with the former AT 2000 study of 1979. In other words, where do both studies differ? We would like to touch on a few points only.

One remarkable difference is that although the projected growth rate of national income of developing countries was considerably higher in the trend projection of the former study, especially for Africa, the projected growth rate of the agricultural sector is slightly higher in the present study. Maybe the Secretariat could explain this. Interestingly enough, it appears that estimates of the total number of undernourished people in the year 2000 in the former study are rather similar with the new projections. But the number of undernourished people in the various regions is estimated rather differently now. For Asia about 30% less, but for Africa 30%, and for Latin America remarkably, almost 100% more than in the former study.

Following the results of the projections in the document a number of key issues are identified which must be tackled in order to ensure an adequate development of food and agriculture in developing countries. They also include measures to be taken in order to eliminate the hunger problem. We agree with the nature of the key issues identified and we would like to add that their relevance is different from region to region and even from country to country.

The first key issue is structural adjustment. Many developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America have to adjust first of all their sector priorities from industry to agriculture. Moreover, macro-economic policies especially in relation to exchange rates and taxes have to be modified. In the agricultural sector itself changes in the price policy and a more limited role of the public sector are required. In our opinion FAO should get more involved in the determination of policy decisions to be taken in the framework of structural adjustment, as well as in the consequences for food security. We also suggest that the Committee on World Food Security prepares a document dealing with the implications of structural adjustment on food security.

The second key-issue is trade liberalisation. As is illustrated in the document, the impact of liberalisation of trade in agricultural products is very positive for those developing countries that are net exporters, as world market prices would rise. For net importing countries the short-term effects are negative but in the long run an increase in production might result if producers were sufficiently protected. As the results of past investigations on trade liberalisation are sometimes controversial - we refer to the recent World Bank and IIASA studies -our delegation encourages FAO to continue its work in this area focusing on the position of the importing countries and especially the poorest category.

The third key issue determining growth in the agricultural sector also has to do with an improved balance of payments, namely, external financing and aid. In this connection reference should be made to the recent study of IIASA, called Hunger Amidst Abundance, in which the impact of additional capital aid and the resulting increase in economic growth on alleviation of hunger is estimated for the year 2000.

The fourth key issue is equity. As is stated in para 1.96, agricultural growth not always, although mostly, lessens rural poverty. Growth hardly trickles down if there is a very unequal distribution of land and other resources, as is the case in several countries in Asia and Latin America. In those cases land redistribution and tenancy reforms are the most fundamental of anti-poverty measures together with improved access to agricultural services. Another way of improving incomes to the poor and undernourished is by means of rural work programmes. Finally there is the possibility of food distribution schemes in order to eliminate hunger.

A fifth key issue is not mentioned as such in the document. It is a complex issue, as is illustrated in Box 3.1. But it is undeniable that the food availability per caput is determined by the growth in food production as well as in population growth. In Table 3.6 the negative impact of the high and still increasing birth rate in sub-Saharan Africa is strikingly shown. Although the highest growth rate in agriculture is projected (3.4%) this region has by far the lowest production per caput.

A last key-issue is biotechnology and is valid for all developing countries. It is of importance in our opinion that they have access to the expected first developments in the field of biotechnology. Otherwise, the possibility exists that in the longer run they might lose the comparative advantages they have in the production of certain agricultural commodities.

My last issue is concerned with the environment, but in view of the time, we will not elaborate on this. Our concerns are, however, expressed in a draft resolution proposed with Canada and Norway. Finally, we propose that this useful study have a follow-up in order to make it even more valuable. This elaboration should focus on the hunger problem and include lessons to be drawn from, first, a change in the basic assumption such as economic growth and income distribution; second, comparison of the results of this study with the former AT 2000 study; and, third, comparison of the results of this study with projections for the year 2000 by other organizations such as IFPRI, World Bank and IIASA, as well as ideas put forward in those studies for reduction of the hunger problem. In our opinion, it should also include updated estimates of food aid requirements. If time is permitted, we suggest that this elaboration could be presented as a paper to the Committee on World Food Security.

Chairat SIRIVAT (Thailand)s My delegation would like to express our deep appreciation of the Secretary's excellent document, C 87/27. The Thai delegation would like to comment on document C 87/27 first, paragraph 1.1. The study covers 94 developing countries and accounts for only two percent of the population of developing countries. Therefore, my delegation feels that it would be better to cover more countries and take an example of population in developing countries, rather than to take a number of countries, in order to produce accurate results. The Report seems to be based upon the assumption of high economic growth rates in the past which seem to be optimistic. It is indicated in paragraph 1.4 that the growth rate of developing countries during 1980-86 was low, 3.5 percent in developing countries, or 2.2 percent excluding China; and 2.5 percent in developed countries.

My delegation believes that this situation depends upon the impact of subsidies, trade-distorting measures, tariff and non-tariff barriers, which apply to many countries, especially developed countries. The numeration cannot show how it is different on an economic development level between developing countries in the different regions of the world.

Mr Chairman, I should like to draw your attention to the fact that the percentage of growth rate from countries in Asia and the Pacific region is certainly different from Latin America and Africa. Thus, the certain level of actual development in this region also makes a more significant difference. Therefore, my delegation proposes that certain aspects of growth rate among the different regions should take into account the analysis of a better outcome.

Second, in paragraph 1.21 of Document C 87/27 it says that instability, debt, recession, fluctuations in exchange rates, and good commodity prices affect trade in agriculture. My delegation agrees with this analysis. Furthermore, my delegation believes that the Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the GATT negotiations will also bring a fruitful result to enhance the International Commodity Agreement both in developed and developing countries, because they relate to the international cooperation efforts to eliminate protectionist policies, trade-distorting measures, and promote full liberalisation on trade in agriculture concerning world food security promotion.

Third, in paragraph 1.38 the regional production rates in developing countries do not include the Central and South African economy and do not show how it is predicted. My delegation, therefore, is not clear on this matter. However, paragraph 1.49 shows that the agricultural production of developed market economies will slowly expand. In contrast, agricultural exporting developed countries have a surplus. It seems that this situation has a negative effect for the exporting developing countries. So my delegation feels concerned about this outcome.

Paragraph 1.69 shows that trade conflicts become evident in industrialised countries which apply subsidised measures to maintain the present exports. At the same time, it is hard for developing countries to produce more competitive agricultural products at the low price of their farmers. In addition, the phenomenon causes more and more trade conflicts between developed countries and developing countries. My delegation would like to draw your attention to the role of GATT and the Multilateral Trade Negotiations to liberalise trade among nations and also call for a conference or meeting between developed and developing countries.

In this connection, Thailand is also one of the members of the Cairns Group which comprises 14 members whose fundamental aim is to achieve fully-liberalised trade in agriculture, to eliminate distorted agricultural policies, and to bind the necessary undertakings under GATT rules and disciplines. The Cairns Group requests the maintenance of the application of the principle of differential and more favourable treatment for developing countries, as embodied in GATT, as well as in the Punta del Este Declaration of the Uruguay Round. We also call for the improvement of market access or a more open market in developed countries; we also call for prohibitive tariff and non-tariff barriers, subsidies, government-support measures, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measurement barriers. We welcome the new initiative of the United States' proposal to phase out agricultural subsidies, import barriers and other measures, within ten years. We also welcome any initiatives in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations in GATT.

Fourth, my delegation agrees in substance with paragraph 1.85. In the near future the role of the public sector in agriculture must be reduced to maintain cost competitiveness and to induce more competition between, and effectiveness of, private sectors. I am sure many governments should have this policy as well. However, governments try to solve the remainder of rural poverty by distributing income, employment, education and food for their poorest people. Therefore, my delegation hopes that any aid and assistance, from the rich countries, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations should provide funds and other resources for the poor countries. It is clear that the developed countries cannot assist the developing countries without dedicating funds and resources to the poor.

Fifth, on figure 2.1 my delegation feels that livestock development between developed and developing countries has a wider gap. My delegation is, thus, quite surprised because FAO dedicates less resources and funds for livestock development in developing countries, while developed countries have already succeeded in this field and have the capability to export milk, meat and related livestock products. My delegation feels that FAO should pay more attention to the allocation of funds and resources to these funds. At the same time FAO should monitor and evaluate livestock projects.

Sixth, on Chapter 3 my delegation also agrees that the low world prices of cereals are more likely to moderate the cereal production growth of the developing exporting countries. Meanwhile, developing countries will be faced by an increase in hunger and malnutrition in the year 2000. The evidence shows that the developing countries will expand production by devoting more land, not by increasing yield per area; so my delegation would like to emphasize the role of FAO in the cooperation between countries to increase yield per area by using new technology, as well as development such as increasing irrigated areas, fertilizers, high-yield varieties and other approaches.

Seventh, my delegation feels that world forestry and the fisheries situation for the year 2000 is very challenging because we are now in an era when the environment has been destroyed more than ever before, therefore, forests must be improved to maintain their natural balance; fishing and aquaculture must also increase to provide protein sources for our population in the near future.

Moreover, we have to restrict every kind of activity which may destroy world nature, especially in industrial areas.

My delegation also realises the importance of the problem of indebtedness of developing countries. This must be related to low agricultural prices throughout the world, caused by heavy surpluses produced in industrial countries. Thailand always supports any measures to relieve the debt burden problem in developing countries.

Finally, my delegation would like to propose that FAO should play a greater role as the central body for developing, managing and assisting agricultural policies in the right ways. FAO must also be strengthened in order to provide future projects within the changing international environment to feed the hungry world.

Fereydun SANEI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): On behalf of the Iranian delegation and myself, I should like to extend my deep appreciation to the Secretariat for the presentation of the very lucid and elaborate document, C 87/27. The Iranian delegation entirely support "Agriculture: Toward 2000" and hope that this measure can help the developing countries to further their activities in the provision of more agricultural commodities to combat hunger and malnutrition in the years towards 2000.

In view of the fact that the most important economic element is agriculture and animal husbandry, the Islamic Republic of Iran has paid maximum attention to this sector and has drawn up objectives, policies and programmes for the years 1987 - 1996.

With regard to the comprehensive document in front of us, I should like to make the following brief comments. In relation to paragraph 186 on page 17, we fully support the document, and our Government has also taken this as a policy as follows: to refrain from direct interference in the production process of agricultural products, except in the cases of exception urgency, while, on the other hand, maximum use of public involvement in the implementation of the agricultural development programme; to encourage private sector investment and absorb scattered capital for agricultural development.

In relation to fisheries, paragraph 1.07 to 111, pages 20 to 21, we also support the document. Our Government has taken it as a policy and has drawn up such programmes as the utilization of aquatic reserves of the southern and northern seas by developing industrial fishing, utilizing internal water resources for breeding, reproduction and production of fish, and improving the conditions of traditional fishermen by strengthening and supporting fishing cooperatives. So far we have benefited from the close cooperation of FAO and UNDP in the fulfilment of common projects in those areas. We still seek more assistance to further our activities in order to obtain the maximum benefit from these natural resources.

With regard to self-sufficiency in food and agriculture, we fully support the document. In view of the great potential existing in the agricultural sector, our Government believes that agriculture must be deemed to be the pivot of economic development. Therefore, together with other programmes, such as research, training, fundamental operations with water and soil, watershed management, sand dune stabilization and desert revival, as well as agricultural products insurance, the problem of food provision could be solved.

In relation to livestock production, paragraph 4.15 on page 121, we would also support the document. Our Government has taken up policies and measures for increasing production efficiency per unit of livestock and poultry by improving rearing, keeping and breeding systems.

With regard to agricultural research, section 10 of Chapter 4, while we fully support the document, our Government has realised the need for extension of research on all aspects of agriculture and natural resources by providing credits and facilities, and the channelling of all activities on the basis of research findings to solve the problems of the agricultural development programme, if necessary. Therefore, this has been taken as a policy of the Government.

Here I should also like to raise the point that FAO should pay great attention to the introduction of research results being released in developed countries and introduce new findings in different fields of agriculture into developing countries.

Regarding irrigated and dry-farming cultivation, paragraph 4.30, since it is water in our country rather than land which is the binding constraint on food and agricultural development, policy has been drawn up for effective help from the Government in carrying out fundamental activities on land under irrigation and dry-farming cultivation and the provision of guidance and support services for producers to increase per-unit-area production. In this regard we would appeal for cooperation to FAO and those countries which have experienced expertise.

In relation to price policy, paragraph 8.32 on page 206, while we fully support the document, our Government has drawn up a policy for helping in the establishment of an efficient commercial system, with priority for cooperatives, purchasing surplus agricultural production through the network of rural cooperative unions and producers and in addition for supporting farmers through agricultural produce insurance and determination of guaranteed prices for essential agriculture products and extension of public insurance to the rural level.

Emilio PARDO (Argentina): Quisiera agradecer, en nombre de mi delegación, a la Secretaría de la FAO por la actualización que efectuara del estudio "La Agricultura: hacia el año 2 000".

Esta actualización, además del interés específico de la temática tratada, permite cotejar las variaciones del contexto económico internacional en relación a 1979 en que apareciera el mencionado trabajo, y su incidencia sobre las proyecciones y conclusiones que en aquel momento se formularan.

Sabemos de qué manera se reiteran los precedentes históricos que llaman a la humildad a los científicos y políticos sobre sus proyecciones económicas del futuro más o menos lejano.

Desde las antiguas estimaciones, felizmente no cumplidas hasta el presente, de Malthus y David Ricardo, y en épocas muchos más recientes por el Club de Roma, entre otras muchas organizaciones de esta naturaleza, resulta de interés valorizar este tipo de trabajo prospectivo con la perspectiva que les da lo que realmente sucedió.

Para hacer este tipo de trabajos resulta necesario seleccionar y manejar un acopio formidable de información de todo tipo, analizarla destacando sus aspectos más relevantes y motivadores, formular pronósticos sobre su futura evolución y esbozar guías para que gobiernos y asociaciones públicas o privadas de productores y consumidores prevean sus acciones y establezcan sus políticas y cursos de acción.

En esta dirección el trabajo de la FAO es motivador, porque además de lo señalado precedentemente, permitirá establecer lineamientos para la acción política multilateral y para la adopción de acuerdos en éste y en otros foros. Me estoy refiriendo, en este último sentido, al GATT y la UNCTAD especialmente.

La relectura de este importante documento con un intervalo de casi ocho años desde el momento de su publicación en forma abreviada, permite marcar la persistencia de viejos problemas, disipar ciertas expectativas entonces optimistas y, lamentablemente, acentuar los tintes oscuros de las previsiones negativas.

Veamos algunos detalles destacados que la Secretaría pone a nuestra consideración y que, al cotejarlos con la actualidad, resultan casi irónicos, si es que no supiéramos que la Secretaría de la FAO es demasiado seria y competente como para permitirse ironizar sobre la realidad.

En efecto, por un lado nos alegramos porque "resultaron infundados los temores de una escasez crónica de alimentos en gran parte del mundo". Pero, por otro lado, constatamos con asombro e indignación que "350 ó 510 millones de personas (según los cálculos) siguen estando gravemente desnutridas."

Nos esperamos con que los países desarrollados de economía de mercado "están viéndose obligados a modificar sus políticas a fin de resolver el problema de un crecimiento de la producción subvencionada más rápido que la demanda", y que el cambio de políticas de los países de economía centralmente planificada consiste en "otorgar menos importancia a una dirección centralizada minuciosa y en dejar que las fuerzas del mercado actúen más libremente".

Pero por otra parte, nos preocupa profundamente que los países más endeudados y dependientes de las exportaciones agrícolas (especialmente los de América Latina y África) sean aquellos que se han visto obligados a reducir sus indispensables gastos públicos en el sector agrícola y emprender reajustes dolorosos, al mismo tiempo que experimentan el impacto más directo y negativo del agravamiento de la crisis económica internacional.

Lamentablemente ya no nos asombra la información de que "las exportaciones de productos agropecuarios se convirtieran en un motor más débil e incierto de crecimiento", ni tampoco que "los productos exportados por los países desarrollados estuvieran cada vez más subvencionados y que esta competencia despiadada hiciera que los precios reales pagados en los mercados internacionales se hundieran hasta los niveles más bajos del período de la postguerra".

No podemos sino destacar lo negativo del pronóstico de que "el problema de los actuales excedentes de productos básicos se agravaría".

Prosigamos citando otras previsiones sombrías y sus principales causas originantes: "siguen disminuyendo los superávits del comercio agrícola en los países en desarrollo", causados en gran parte por las políticas de protección y la consiguiente generación de excedentes y exportaciones subvencionadas de productos competidores, como el azúcar y los aceites vegetales en muchos países desarrollados." Además, a la larga lista de exportaciones subvencionadas por los países desarrollados, se sumó, de mantenerse las tendencias de la producción y de las economías más desarrolladas, la transformación de éstas últimas en importantes exportadoras netas de aceites vegetales y semillas oleaginosas.

Al respecto, como una esperanza de que no se agrave esta situación, es que aguardamos que no se concrete la modificación del actual régimen de oleaginosos en la CEE con la introducción de un impuesto que afectará negativamente las exportaciones de los países en desarrollo, incluyendo el nuestro.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación no puede sino compartir que "en el comercio agrícola reina el desorden y la preocupación por el hecho de no haber podido llegar hasta la fecha a establecer un marco internacional eficaz y equitativo para el comercio agrícola".

También coincidimos con que "una liberalización del comercio y un mejor acceso a los mercados internacionales ofrecen mejores perspectivas de los conflictos comerciales".

Al respecto, hemos concebido grandes expectativas sobre el resultado de las presentes negociaciones comerciales multilaterales en el marco del GATT, sobre todo en el área agrícola.

En ese contexto, el Grupo Cairns, que integran países del norte y del sur, en una coincidencia de cooperación muy estimulante, ha presentado una propuesta de negociación que esperamos facilite el logro de acuerdos con las otras partes contratantes del GATT.

Estos acuerdos resultan absolutamente indispensables para encontrar, a su vez, una solución al elevado nivel de la deuda externa, que se ha convertido en "un importante problema para muchos países, sobre todo en América Latina y África, y también para los acreedores". Coincidimos, una vez más, con la Secretaría en que "el comercio agrícola podrá contribuir a generar un mayor superávit comercial en algunos de los países endeudados, pero ello dependerá en gran medida de que suban los precios de los productos básicos y se tenga mejor acceso a los mercados".

Compartimos la apreciación de que los países en desarrollo tienen que generar tecnologías simples y avanzadas, o al menos tener acceso a ellas. Para ello se necesita formar investigadores, contar con talleres y laboratorios y establecer enlaces sólidos en los centros de investigación mundial.

También estamos de acuerdo con la imprescindible necesidad de superar, o por lo menos atenuar, el problema ecológico en el desarrollo agrícola.

Pero tanto los adelantos tecnológicos, como el tratamiento y la protección del medio ambiente no son baratos, como dice el estudio.

Frente a la escasez de fondos disponibles y las insuficiencias de la inversión pública y privada en los países en desarrollo, ¿cómo afrontar las demandas presentadas para la generación y difusión de las tecnologías de avanzada?, ¿cómo prever los recursos naturales del agotamiento o de la mala utilización?

Permítame cerrar mi intervención con algunas sugerencias para la Secretaría: primero, nos parece que debió incluirse en el estudio alguna cuantificación de los costos financieros implicados en los esquemas de protección y subsidios a la producción, comercialización y almacenamiento; segundo, nos parece también que debió cuantificarse cuántos ingresos han dejado de percibir los países en desarrollo por el mantenimiento de esos esquemas de protección y de subsidio; y tercero, nos parece también que se hubiera podido efectuar algún tipo de cuantificación de la repercusión que una liberalización del comercio internacional de productos agrícolas podría haberle traído a la comunidad internacional, en términos de bienestar, generación de empleo y de inversión y crecimiento de los intercambios.

Sabemos que la Secretaría de otros foros internacionales y de otros organismos no gubernamentales han efectuado cuantificaciones de este tipo. Recordamos, asimismo un excelente trabajo efectuado por el Gobierno de Australia sobre los costos que, para el consumidor europeo, implica la política agraria común. Pero sabemos que la Secretaría de la FAO cuenta con importantes fuentes de información propia, así como con capacidad técnica realmente privilegiada. Por ello, nos interesaría una profundización del trabajo al respecto.

Sabemos - repito - que este tipo de cuantificaciones no son fáciles de realizar, pero nos atreveríamos a pronosticar sus resultados desde ya. El estudio de la FAO nos lo insinúa. Sin duda sería un mundo mucho mejor.

Guy FRADIN (France): Ma délégation n'a pas plus que les autres formulé de remarques lors de l'adoption de l'ordre du jour de notre Conférence. Pourtant, au moment d'examiner la révision de l'étude prospective de développement agricole d'ici à l'an 2000, il apparaît à notre sens une légère incohérence dans le développement logique de nos travaux. Nous pensons en effet qu'il aurait été plus opportun de débattre des grandes lignes d'évolution possible de l'agriculture mondiale au début de nos travaux avant d'examiner le programme de travail de l'Organisation à la lumière de ce débat.

Par parenthèse, Monsieur le Président, nous aurions eu ainsi plus de temps pour débattre d'un point aussi important.

C'est parce que ce point nous paraît fondamental que ma délégation regrette vivement que le document correspondant n'ait pas été disponible en temps utile, en tout cas dans sa version française. Nous n'avons pu en prendre connaissance qu'au cours de nos travaux et nous ne pouvons que déplorer la situation dans laquelle nous sommes placés pour pouvoir traiter de façon un tant soit peu sérieuse ce sujet.

Dans ces conditions, vous voudrez bien considérer les commentaires qui vont suivre comme préliminaires, résultats d'une lecture rapide car les services compétents de mon pays ne pourront examiner cette étude qu'au cours des semaines à venir.

Je souhaite donc que soit notée la demande expresse de ma délégation pour que l'examen de cette étude soit aussi réalisé au sein d'un prochain Comité de l'agriculture, éventuellement du Conseil.

Je formulerai une seule remarque sur la forme de ce document: nous pensons qu'il aurait été intéressant de le compléter par une brève comparaison avec les hypothèses et les résultats de la précédente étude.

Sur le fond de cette étude, ma délégation tient à féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité de cette mise à jour. L'analyse nous paraît équilibrée et la vision prospective raisonnable. Bien sûr, ce genre d'exercice reste délicat et ses résultats fragiles par nature, la nécessité de la mise à jour et de la révision des hypothèses de la précédente étude le montre.

Mais il est tout de même fort intéressant pour nous tous de réfléchir sur ce que pourra être probablement l'agriculture mondiale dans quinze ans.

Cette vision ne vaut évidemment que par la valeur des hypothèses qui y conduisent et, comme je l'ai dit, nous ne sommes pas en mesure de les discuter ici aujourd'hui. Mais nous notons avec satisfaction que la révision accomplie par le Secrétariat en intégrant les retournements de tendances constatés au cours des dernières années conduit à une vision plus claire que par le passé, fondée sur un seul scénario et aussi relativement optimiste quoique cet optimisme soit avec raison nuancé en fonction des secteurs et des régions.

Nous notons aussi avec satisfaction l'appréciation globalement positive qui est faite du développement agricole au cours des vingt-cinq dernières années durant lesquelles l'importance croissante de l'agriculture dans l'économie internationale et dans les économies nationales s'est affirmée. Il y a là à notre sens un progrès fondamental par rapport à la situation de ce secteur au début des années 70.

L'examen de ce bilan montre aussi, et c'est rassurant, qu'il n'y a pas fatalité du sous-développement agricole, comme en témoignent les résultats enregistrés dans certains pays ou certaines régions qui sont mentionnés dans divers paragraphes.

S'agissant des perspectives d'avenir, ma délégation a bien noté l'évaluation faite par le Secrétariat pour les pays en développement et les pays développés et résumée dans les paragraphes 1.33 à 1.50. Elle rappelle à cet égard ce qu'elle a dit à propos de l'examen de la situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture, au cours de cette Conférence comme au cours du Conseil de juin dernier. Ne convient-il pas de s'interroger plus avant sur les conséquences que pourraient avoir à moyen terme les mesures de compression de l'offre que sont amenés à prendre actuellement les pays grands producteurs? Au paragraphe 1.50, le Secrétariat fait fort justement remarquer que la croissance de la production dans ces pays doit ralentir mais ne pas s'arrêter. Il serait sans doute opportun de suivre l'évolution possible et probable de cette production avec attention.

Le point relatif au commerce international m'est aussi l'occasion de rappeler la déclaration de ma délégation au sujet de l'ajustement agricole international et dans laquelle a été soulignée l'approche que nous faisons de ces problèmes. Je n'y reviendrai pas en détail et me contenterai de deux remarques:

- la première à partir du paragraphe 1.74 sur la libération des échanges entre pays en développement. C'est un objectif important vers lequel il faut tendre. Pourtant, nous estimons qu'il serait normal que les pays les plus défavorisés aient la possibilité d'abriter leur économie agricole face à des pays qui disposeraient d'avantages comparatifs plus importants que les leurs.

- deuxième remarque, à partir des paragraphes 1.72 et 1.46. Nous sommes favorables à la plus grande ouverture possible des marchés des pays industrialisés aux pays en développement, et notamment aux plus pauvres. Cependant, nous pensons qu'il ne faut pas surestimer les conséquences positives de cette ouverture, car, comme le remarque le document, la demande en matières de produits alimentaires est inélastique et les marchés des pays consommateurs sont souvent saturés.

Nous avons apprécié, Monsieur le Président, la prise en compte de l'influence importante et réciproque des politiques macro-économiques et des politiques agricoles. Nous avons bien sûr noté avec satisfaction, de même, le paragraphe 3.56 sur la nécessité de l'adoption de politiques agricoles appropriées. Je rappelle à cet égard le sens de la proposition faite par notre Ministre de l'Agriculture en séance plénière de financer un fonds fiduciaire à la FAO dans ce domaine. La France souhaite ainsi participer à l'effort des formations des cadres des pays en développement chargés de la définition et de la mise en oeuvre de politiques agricoles ainsi que de ceux qui devront en tenir compte dans les politiques d'ajustement.

En outre, Monsieur le Président, ma délégation a identifié sommairement quelques points qui, à notre sens, pourraient faire l'objet d'une réflexion accrue de la part du Secrétariat. Ce sont des points d'ordre général, je pense par exemple à la place croissante des échanges internationaux dans les approvisionnements alimentaires mentionnés au paragraphe 2.24 ou aux orientations générales des politiques agricoles. Ce sont aussi des points plus techniques, comme la fragilité des sols et la reconstitution de leur fertilité, la reproductibilité des systèmes de production ou la possibilité d'extension des cultures irriguées. Mais nous aurons l'occasion d'y revenir lors d'un examen futur détaillé.

Avant de conclure, je voudrais insister sur la grande qualité du chapitre VIII, qui présente avec beaucoup de clarté et d'équilibre les contraintes auxquelles doivent faire face les pays en développement confrontés aux problèmes d'ajustement. Ma délégation souscrit, pour le moment, aux analyses et conclusions de ce chapitre.

Sans préjuger des résultats d'un examen plus attentif de notre part nous pensons qu'en réalisant cette étude la FAO joue exactement le rôle qui doit être le sien dans le domaine du développement agricole. Ma délégation s'en félicite et félicite le Secrétariat pour ses efforts. Nous pensons cependant qu'il serait opportun de donner des suites concrètes à ce travail, d'une part au niveau de notre organisation en utilisant les résultats les plus évidents pour guider son activité, d'autre part, au niveau des pays en essayant de mettre à leur disposition un certain nombre de conclusions susceptibles de leur permettre de définir les instruments de leurs politiques.

Moses Mike MUKOLWE (Kenya): The Kenya delegation welcomes the second revised version of document C 87/27 on Agriculture: Toward 2000 up-dating that of 1981.

We commend both the Secretariat and Dr Islam who presented it at this session. There could be none better than Dr Islam who has, for the last ten years, grappled with the development of the two versions. We wish him well and hope the work will be continued in future with further improvements.

In order to influence the future, one should look at the past and at the part played by agriculture in enhancing the rise of incomes, expansion of trade and trade terms, policy issues applied to agriculture and their implications, and the spread of technology. The trend comparison of each commodity production can give some broad indications in their adjustments. We fully endorse the statement at paragraph 1.7 of the document before us on policy reforms. In our earlier intervention we made reference to the priority programme of the development of agriculture in Africa, particularly in the Sub-Sahara where the international community is focusing, and we must pull ourselves out of this critical situation.

Kenya has chosen to pursue long term, that is about fifteen to twenty years, targeted commodity projections and the interplay of socio-economic issues in their development. Our economic management is subject to thorough scrutiny in the allocation of scarce resources in order to balance and spread the benefits equitably in the country. The adjustments have come about through analysis of the achievements set in each Five-Year Development Plan and the establishment of each year's socio-economic indicators.

In our view, nutrition, as well as health, is crucial in the face of a rising population. Income upward growth, employment generation and other social advancements will have come through improvement in the agricultural sector and related industries. We reaffirm our commitment to furthering agriculture and food production in particular. However, access to markets, favourable trade terms, stable and steadily increasing prices, coupled with the inflow of investment resources from the international scene, can enhance our economic management.

Rain-fed agriculture will require intensification of commodity production and yield increase - hence the use of off-farm inputs. Investment in irrigation and resource base - that is soil, water and afforestation - conservation is going to be a massive investment. Environmental problems and desertification in particular are areas of great concern. The prime mover should be research to generate technologies in all agro-ecological zones of the country. We observe Zambia's comments about the study and long-term climatic conditions. We support this sort of approach in our region.

The interventions to sustain the above remain critical on our part, and therefore we need FAO's and overall international support.

Concerning Chapters 1 to 4, we feel we have covered them in our debate very effectively.

As to Chapter 5 on forestry, great concern is on water catchment areas and planting of indigenous trees, including agro-forestry. We support the Tropical Forest Action Plan and genetic diversity conservation.

Concerning Chapter 6 on fisheries, much is needed to realise full participation and exploitation of the exclusive economic zone. Rational use of fishing rights in deep waters - of course with ethics - has to be observed by those with the resources to venture into such areas.

Chapters 7 and 8 are even more crucial for the balancing of world resource use.

Chapter 9 has been aggravated by the trends in Chapters 7 and 8, thus creating mounting poverty. The debt burden does not augur well for the poverty stricken.

Chapter 10 directs us into the future. Land use and farming system developments remain a new challenge, and our hope is that mankind will realise it now.

Chapter 11 spells out the danger if global environmental factors are disregarded. This could lead to the total annihilation of mankind in this, our one and only planet.

As to the last paragraph, 11.70, the cost may be prohibitive for the 75 to 100 years indicated to protect the environment. This could be damaged forever.

Paragraphs 11.71 and 11.72 end the Chapter and the document, but on a light touch. Future work should concern efficient water, energy, food and commodity production on a renewable approach without degradation of base resources. This is not just a technical shift for FAO and farmers' participation but for all inter-agencies and the entire international community.

In conclusion, guidelines for future farming must be laid down, and the setting up of institutions to establish ethics to bring about a balance, is long overdue.

We wish to support the comments made by the delegate of the Netherlands and others on the environment and other production factors.

Roberto NICOLAI (Italie): Je voudrais remercier le Secrétariat pour l'excellent document qui nous a été remis concernant la mise à jour de l'étude "Agriculture: Horizon 2000".

Gomme l'a déjà rappelé notre Président du Conseil à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation, en tenant compte de l'importance de plus en plus grande de l'interdépendance mondiale, une collaboration plus étroite est nécessaire entre pays industrialisés et pays en voie de développement pour un effort conjoint en vue de l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition, et pour rendre ainsi possible le développement équilibré de la société internationale. Il nous semble que la présentation du document "Horizon 2000" se place selon ces lignes.

A cet égard, concernant notamment les problèmes évoqués au chapitre VII, un effort conjoint et la coopération de toutes les parties sont nécessaires afin de remédier à la crise qui frappe le commerce international des produits agricoles, crise accentuée entre autres par le déséquilibre entre l'offre et la demande ainsi que la concurrence croissante entre les pays exportateurs. Il nous semble donc que le problème de fond repose dans l'ajustement des politiques agricoles respectives, dans une perspective à plus long terme.

Le phénomène de caractère général prend une dimension et un aspect tout particuliers en ce qui concerne certains produits d'une très grande importance pour l'alimentation, tels que les céréales, les produits laitiers, le sucre, la viande bovine, et leurs excédents dans certains pays à économie développée et dans certains pays en voie de développement. Ces surplus structurels manifesteraient une tendance à l'accroissement si la situation actuelle devait persister.

Ainsi que cela a déjà été rappelé, les négociations Uruguay-Round, amorcées tout récemment à Genève, pourraient représenter le siège efficace pour atteindre ces résultats.

En effet, il faut observer qu'un des objectifs essentiels énoncés dans la déclaration de Punta del Este consiste à assurer une plus grande libéralisation et une expansion du commerce mondial au profit de tous les pays, notamment les moins développés et surtout une amélioration de l'accès aux marchés.

Par conséquent, nous estimons que les négociations auprès du GATT devraient s'inspirer des lignes directrices ci-après:

- engagement de toutes les parties contractantes à ne pas introduire de nouvelles mesures de protectionnisme et à éliminer les mesures contraires aux règles du GATT;
- concertation entre les principaux pays producteurs et exportateurs pour limiter les productions excédentaires. Une discipline concertée au niveau international devrait permettre d'ajuster de façon plus réaliste l'offre à la demande par des mesures permettant au marché de jouer un rôle plus significatif;
- réalisation d'une plus grande libération du commerce par la suppression - au moins - de ces entraves li plus directement et nettement freinent les échanges internationaux de produits agricoles;

- une réduction progressive équilibrée et réciproque de ces mesures d'aide qui, plus directement, puissent se répercuter sur les échanges internationaux. Cependant, il faut souligner la légitimité de ces interventions d'Etat visant à moderniser les structures d'entreprise, des aides aux investissements, du crédit agricole facilité, sans lesquels aucune évolution ne pourrait se vérifier dans l'agriculture.

Cette manoeuvre pourrait produire des effets favorables, surtout à l'égard des pays en développement, qui pourront recevoir des avantages concrets par le redressement des marchés mondiaux, à savoir la hausse des prix et l'augmentation prévue découlant des exportations.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Mi delegación agradece a la Secretaría y en especial al Profesor Islam por la preparación y presentación de este estudio: "Agricultura hacia el año 2000". La delegación de Cuba considera de gran importancia este estudio. La publicación del mismo, como ya lo han expresado otras delegaciones, es una de las más completas presentadas por la Secretaría de la FAO en los últimos años.

Sobre el mismo, haremos unos breves comentarios. Encontramos algunas incongruencias en importantes planteamientos que se hacen en el informe. De una parte, se nos informa que son positivos los resultados generales registrados en el sector agrícola en los últimos 25 años. Si bien mi delegación considera que ha habido mejoras considerables, no nos parece totalmente correcta la calificación, de positivos los resultados, debido a que todavía no se ha resuelto el gravísimo problema como el acceso a los alimentos de los sectores más pobres de la población. Así mismo, continúan siendo necesarios los ajustes fundamentales en el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas. La situación que se presenta nuevamente en las zona subsahariana y que fue analizada en el tema del Estado Mundial de la Agricultura y la Alimentación son muestra de 1º que al respecto señalamos.

El propio documento indica que de mantenerse en el futuro las tendencias actuales, se agravarán en muchos casos los problemas y las disparidades actuales, o se llegarán a resultados poco realistas. Las perspectivas del crecimiento del comercio internacional de la mayor parte de productos agrícolas hasta el final de siglo, también han empeorado en comparación con la evaluación anterior, las cuales eran ya bastante desalentadoras.

No nos extenderemos en este aspecto, y apoyamos los planteamientos que al respecto hizo anteriormente la distinguida delegación de Argentina. Mi delegación considera que tampoco podemos perder de vista las consecuencias de la deuda externa ya que el pago de sus servicios conlleva, entre otros aspectos, a una limitación de las posibilidades de importación de elementos fundamentales para el desarrollo agrícola por parte de los países subdesarrollados.

A este respecto, la delegación de Cuba quisiera preguntar a la Secretaría si fuese posible que en un próximo análisis de la situación agrícola y alimentaria, se contemplara un capítulo referente a las consecuencias negativas de la deuda externa en la producción agrícola y alimentaria en los países subdesarrollados.

Otros órganos del Sistema de Naciones Unidas así como Organismos Regionales han analizado, de manera especial, este actualísimo problema. La FAO, si bien ha tratado del mismo en diferentes informes, no ha hecho un debate específico sobre la deuda externa y su influencia nefasta en la alimentación y la agricultura de los países subdesarrollados. En algunas Regiones, como la de América Latina y el Caribe, la situación es insostenible.

A nuestro entender, una variante pudiera ser comenzar a analizar este tema en las próximas conferencias regionales; sugerencia que nos permitimos hacer a la Secretaría y nos gustaría conocer su criterio al respecto.

Pensamos también, señor Presidente, que es necesario incrementar las informaciones sobre medio ambiente, forestación, capacitación de personal, capacitación de los jóvenes en el desarrollo económico y social en general, y en el desarrollo rural en particular.

Otro aspecto fundamental para el incremento de la producción es el referente a todo tipo de ayuda financiera a los países en desarrollo. Algunas regiones, como la nuestra de América Latina y el Caribe, han sido muy deficientes en este aspecto, y así lo reconoce el documento. Un elemento directamente relacionado con este tema es la deficiencia de los presupuestos de los organismos especializados de Naciones Unidas, como el nuestro, la FAO, que en dos bienios ha sido regido por el crecimiento cero; y la FAO, señor Presidente debe seguir prestando su valiosa ayuda a los países subdesarrollados.

Finalmente, quisiera expresar que hemos notado poca conexión entre la cooperación técnica entre países en desarrollo y aspectos de gran importancia y de difícil aplicación como son, por ejemplo, el uso de la biotecnología en la reproducción y la salud de los animales así como en el mejoramiento de los cultivos.

La delegación de Cuba reitera sus elogios a los esfuerzos realizados en la elaboración de este importante documento. Sin embargo, consideramos que en futuras oportunidades estos estudios deberían llegar con más anterioridad a nuestros países para que puedan ser analizados con mayor profundidad por nuestros especialistas y técnicos. Muchas gracias.

The meeting rose at 12.30 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.30 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/14

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FOURTEENTH MEETING
QUATORZIEME SEANCE
14ª SESION

(19 November 1987)

The Fourteenth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quatorzième séance est ouverte à 14 h 50
sous la présidence de C. S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I.

Se abre la 14 sesión a las 14.50 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y EOLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 10. Agriculture: Toward 2000 (cont'd)
- 10. Agriculture: Horizon 2000 (suite)
- 10. Agricultura: Horizonte 2000 (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: The fourteenth meeting of Commission I is called to order.

Tomas BERGENDAL (Sweden): Document C 87/27 is of high quality. It may be of interest to the Secretariat to know that the document is used as an important source of reference in the daily work of institutions in my country. This being so, allow me to present some observations intended to improve future versions.

Firstly, in the document it is difficult in many instances readily to understand what are meant to be general observations and estimates or forecasts, on the one hand, and what are meant to be recommendations having a bearing on FAO's work, on the other hand. An improvement in this respect is recommended.

Secondly, as regards conclusions and recommendations, we should like to see a more systematic reference to relevant executed or planned activities of FAO. This would more clearly show the impact of FAO's analytical work on its various programmes and the budget.

Finally, we welcome the inclusion in this version of the environmental aspects in Chapter 11.

Ousseini SIDIBE (Niger): Ma délégation tient à marquer sa satisfaction au Secrétariat pour le document important qui nous est soumis, je veux parler de l'édition du document Agriculture: Horizon 2000, document assez clair et assez complet. Nous sommes satisfaits du diagnostic de l'agriculture subsaharienne développé dans le document.

Nous sommes également satisfaits des projections sur le développement de l'agriculture à moyen et même à long terme. L'analyse réalisée dans le document correspond en de nombreux points à notre propre politique de développement rural, politique adoptée après les longues années de sécheresse qui ont sévi dans mon pays depuis 1968. En effet, les nombreux cycles de sécheresse qu'a connus mon pays nous ont renforcés dans notre détermination de développer davantage notre agriculture par la mobilisation et la responsabilisation des populations en vue de l'exploitation de toutes nos potentialités agricoles existantes pour assurer notre autosuffisance alimentaire:

- 1) en favorisant l'émergence d'une agriculture de surplus
- 2) en préservant et en restaurant les équilibres écologiques
- 3) en gérant rationnellement le complexe cheptel-pâturage-points d'eau
- 4) en satisfaisant les besoins de la population en bois, énergie et produits de cueillette
- 5) en protégeant, développant et exploitant rationnellement les potentiels fauniques et halieutiques
- 6) en développant et intensifiant la recherche agricole.

C'est donc conformément à notre propre politique et stratégie que nous soutenons le document Agriculture: Horizon 2000.

Ce document a le mérite, entre autres, de souligner l'importance de la relation entre l'augmentation de la production et de la productivité agricole et les équilibres écologiques et, de manière plus globale, la protection de l'environnement.

Toutefois, ma délégation souhaite voir prendre en compte davantage la question complexe de la formation, de l'information et de l'encadrement des paysans et les mesures appropriées pour faire périodiquement le point sur le développement agricole dans l'ensemble des pays de la FAO, en ayant pour base les analyses pertinentes du document Agriculture: Horizon 2000.

Enfin il est très important pour nous - vous le devinez aisément - de voir figurer et analyser la question de la dette, combien importante et contraignante pour le développement de notre agriculture.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier la FAO pour le document qui nous a été présenté. Je serai bref mais il s'agit incontestablement d'un point substantiel et important des débats de notre commission. Comme la délégation du Royaume de Belgique l'avait annoncé auparavant, l'intervention présente vise à couvrir trois points de l'ordre du jour. En effet, selon notre délégation, le fil conducteur des points suivants:

- Situation mondiale de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture,
- Ajustement agricole international,
- Agriculture: Horizon 2000,

s'appelle libéralisation de l'agriculture et ses conséquences pour les marchés agricoles internationaux.

Ce fil conducteur qui constitue implicitement la solution à nos maux d'aujourd'hui soulève beaucoup d'espoir. Cependant, à notre avis, il serait peut-être opportun, voire essentiel, de manier le concept avec une certaine prudence.

Notre réflexion s'insère bien sûr dans le contexte irréfutable de la situation démontrée par les analyses, à savoir une offre excédentaire par rapport à la demande. Il ne faut pas oublier toutefois que ce déséquilibre s'exprime uniquement vis-à-vis de la demande dite solvable.

La situation est inique dans la mesure où les populations souffrent de la faim et ne peuvent satisfaire à leurs besoins faute de moyens financiers.

Il faut changer cette situation mais si on effectue une analyse plus élaborée de l'offre et de ses perspectives dans les pays développés on en mesure toute la complexité. Surcapacité certes mais les différents rapports négligent ou parlent avec une modestie beaucoup trop grande de deux points essentiels à nos yeux: c'est d'abord la problématique du produit dit de substitution. Leur apparition a été observée dans de multiples secteurs: dans le cas du sucre, en quelques années seulement, on a vu la production des sucres de substitution équivaloir pratiquement les exportations totales en sucre blanc et roux sur le marché libre.

Pour ce qui concerne les produits laitiers, les laits et les fromages de synthèse ont été stimulés par l'extension de l'alimentation fast food, ils prennent déjà quelque 300 000 tonnes uniquement au sein de la Communauté économique européenne et on estime actuellement qu'aux Etats-Unis, autour de l'an 2000, une grande partie de la production fromagère destinée aux préparations alimentaires-sera à base de lait de soja.

A cette perspective s'ajoute celle de l'emploi de la somatotropine dans la production laitière classique, mais peut-on l'appeler encore ainsi; cette production et cet emploi permettront une hausse considérable des rendements laitiers par animal, toutes choses restant égales.

Dans le domaine de la viande, les produits de remplacement à base de soja s'imposent actuellement de plus en plus et que dire des produits de substitution des céréales dont la plus célèbre est le corn-glucose-feed.

Ceci ne se fera que dans la perspective d'une libéralisation, laquelle sera concrétisée au dire des études empiriques citées par le Secrétariat en une réallocation des ressources en agriculture

couplée à une hausse des prix sur les marchés internationaux. Seulement, il se trouve que les produits de substitution précités ont pour la plupart des prix de revient difficilement évaluables car ils sont produits à partir de résidus, ils sont des résidus. Ils seront par conséquent encore plus compétitifs à l'avenir induisant une situation à moyen et long terme qui ne sera peut-être réellement en conformité qu'avec celle indiquée dans les documents du Secrétariat.

L'autre facteur fondamental dont on néglige de tenir compte au niveau des marchés agricoles est le problème du mouvement erratique des changes à la baisse comme à la hausse, et qui joue également un rôle important dans le déséquilibre desdits marchés. Ceci n'a du reste pas échappé, à Monsieur le Directeur général Saouma, qui cite cet élément à juste titre dans sa considération initiale.

Il faut rappeler avec insistance que la dérive à long terme et les fortes oscillations à court terme des taux de change brouillent les signaux émis sous forme de prix sur les marchés internationaux et par conséquent altèrent leur position souhaitée d'étalon.

Sachant en plus que les flux commerciaux agricoles sont caractérisés par une éminente hétérogénéité et interchangeabilité, il n'est pas étonnant que ce cocktail rende difficile une organisation durable et fiable des marchés internationaux.

C'est pourquoi, selon nous, on ne peut envisager la libéralisation de l'agriculture que de manière concertée, équilibrée et multiproduits pour éviter des dérives. Tous les pays ont une responsabilité dans la situation actuelle.

Je pourrais vous parler de bien d'autres problèmes mais je n'en aborderai plus qu'un, celui du fameux ESP, équivalent subventions à la production, dont la paternité est revendiquée par plusieurs; en réalité, le concept de base de cet équivalent subventions à la production date de la période qui précède le Kennedy Round et il avait été imaginé à l'époque par le Comité agricole du GATT. Il a été repris ensuite par la FAO mais dans une conception beaucoup plus simple que celle conçue actuellement par l'OCDE. Dans cette dernière conception, on a voulu dépasser le stade du seul soutien par les prix qui ne constitue en fait que la partie émergée de l'iceberg du soutien agricole car on a observé que, dans les pays développés du groupe CARIS, l'agriculture n'est pas exempte de soutien, lequel s'exprime dans des formes élaborées, boards nationaux ou provinciaux, systèmes de double prix, glissement monétaire, commerce d'Etat, subventions au transport (et c'est un facteur important) et subventions aux facteurs de production.

Voilà la raison pour laquelle l'Organisation de coopération et de développement économique se distingue fondamentalement de ses frères et rend compte de la situation complexe de l'agriculture d'aujourd'hui. C'est cette version qui devait être utilisée lors de la négociation de l'Uruguay Round.

Il serait souhaitable que les deux points majeurs que je viens de citer soient incorporés dans le rapport de notre commission et soient étudiés par la suite au Comité des produits et dans ce groupe spécialisé. Il s'agit de points particulièrement importants.

Je me permets d'attirer l'attention de notre commission sur ces différents points en espérant que dans l'avenir nous pourrions nous pencher sur les différents aspects de ces problèmes de façon à arriver à un équilibre mondial souhaitable et indispensable.

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): The US delegation believes that Agriculture: Toward 2000 represents a very substantial contribution to a better understanding of the continuing evolution of world agriculture. The report documents the substantial progress made in improving the nutritional status of millions of people around the world as well as the potential for making further gains. It also highlights the stubborn persistence of hunger among an unacceptably large part of the world's population.

The US delegation agrees that efforts to improve this situation involve the need by many developing countries to bring about structural adjustments of their economies which redress the disadvantages sometimes imposed by past development strategies. We also applaud the aim of reducing the inconsistencies which often exist between macro-economic and agricultural policies and of avoiding too great or too long a divergence of producer prices from long-term international price trends.

We believe that the report is right not to expect so great an increase in external assistance to agriculture as in the 1970s and in urging more efficient use of all financial resources and particularly of encouraging private savings and of channelling these into rural investments. At the same time, small farmers will often need help if they are to be assimilated into the marketing system.

The US delegation is also pleased that the report gives more emphasis to environmental issues, noting that environmental issues are moving to the fore in considerations of development strategies because of their bearing on natural resource capacity. The US delegation believes that the projections also carry out a very timely exploration of the dangerous consequences of the projected expansion of agricultural surpluses for several commodities in the developed countries, most particularly in the United States and the European Community, supported by protectionist agricultural trade policies. The projections very correctly point out that continuation of present policies implies a need for radical policy adjustments.

The report indicates the likely ineffectiveness of unilateral reductions in production by residual suppliers of, for instance, grain by the United States or of dairy products by the EC. It correctly judges that the United States is unwilling to bear the sole burden of adjustment by being the only country to cut back supplies to make a permanent sharp reduction in planted area and to accept a sharp drop in its share of the world market. The report warns of the increased potential for dangerous trade conflict among developed countries and speaks of the benefits which could be obtained from trade liberalization and enhanced access to international markets.

The Secretariat also indicates that developed countries have a particular responsibility to unwind the major distortions of agricultural trade which have resulted from the pursuit of policies which encourage excessive production. It also advocates that the developed countries should work together and share the cost of holding production below potential.

The US Government agrees that a cooperative approach is essential and for that reason offered its comprehensive proposal presented at the MTN to phase out all agricultural subsidies which directly or indirectly affect trade and to eliminate trade barriers. The US Delegation also believes that the developing countries have responsibilities as well as much to gain from actively participating in this trade liberalization process.

Agriculture: Toward 2000 points out that the benefits of trade liberalization would tend to be larger if all market economies were to participate in such liberalization. The projections provide evidence that widespread agricultural trade liberalization might lead to higher prices paid by developing countries for some imported temperate zone products but that their increases in export revenues from other products would more than compensate for such increases.

Furthermore, the developing countries are estimated to improve their terms of trade because of an expected fall in the real price of manufactured and equipment goods imported from developed countries because of liberalization in their agricultural sectors. Of great importance in reducing hunger, all developing country regions are estimated to see a rise in rural incomes.

I should like to close with a few comments of a technical nature about the projections. One need not accept each and every assumption, element of methodology or conclusion of these projections to see their value. The Secretariat has been professionally diligent in pointing out that its

assumptions reflect its evaluation of possible policy stances based upon past trends and elements of judgement. Consequently, it has emphasized that the projection results represent only one possible trade outcome and that the scope for different results is large. It has also been diligent in pointing out some of the limitations of its methodology. For instance, it acknowledges that the absence of projections of the oilseed sector in relation to demand for feed grains is a serious shortcoming.

The Secretariat notes other potential difficulties such as those associated with projecting the import demands of developing countries for grains because of uncertainties in anticipating the future evolution of their livestock sectors.

No doubt some other difficulties arise from the fact that prices have less direct influence in the Secretariat's methodology than they would in a more formal mathematical approach in which prices are directly instrumental in simultaneously determining the level of supply and demand, and in allowing for cross-effects among commodities.

The United States has noted some places in the report where more recent information could be incorporated, and would be happy to cooperate in providing new data. However, we do not believe that such revisions would have any significant impact upon the major conclusions of the report. We encourage, further effort by FAO to improve their projections, and would be happy to share the results of our own efforts with the Secretariat.

Along those lines, in closing, we would also like to support the comments made by several other delegations, including Turkey and the Federal Republic of Germany, about the importance of improving the data bases, especially in the developing countries, as another means of improving such projections as we have been discussing here today.

Igor MARINCER (Suisse): J'aimerais d'abord remercier le Professeur Nurul Islam de son introduction claire dans l'édition revue de l'étude "Agriculture: horizon 2000". Malheureusement, nous n'avons reçu le document que quelques jours avant la Conférence, il ne nous était donc pas possible de l'étudier en détail.

Mon pays salue la continuation du travail de la FAO dans cette étude importante. Il s'agit là d'une activité classique, qui est tout à fait centrale pour le rôle de la FAO en tant que centre d'information. Le document offre une multitude de données intéressantes.

Un premier regard dans le document nous donne l'impression que les hypothèses sous-jacentes, les hypothèses de travail, sortent moins clairement que dans la version précédente de l'étude. Une grande clarté à ce sujet est cependant une condition préalable pour rendre l'étude facilement lisible et compréhensible. Pour atteindre les milieux responsables des politiques, et pour ainsi assurer un impact maximum, l'étude qui est devant nous doit se prêter à servir de référence aux conseillers en matière de politique.

Dans sa dernière version, l'étude présentait un scénario de tendance ainsi qu'un autre scénario normatif. Ce scénario normatif, qui se basait sur une croissance économique de 7 pour cent était peu réaliste. Il est donc positif qu'on ait choisi un scénario plus réaliste et nous nous félicitons du fait que les hypothèses de croissance soient maintenant également différenciées selon les régions.

Les projections de base sur la croissance du PIB que nous trouvons dans le tableau 2 à 3.2 nous semblent cependant assez optimistes. Vu la grande insécurité concernant le développement de l'économie mondiale, vu également les faibles performances des dernières années, nous doutons que ces hypothèses soient vraiment réalistes. Il serait par ailleurs souhaitable que les risques écologiques associés aux divers scénarios de croissance soient étudiés de plus près.

Monsieur le Président, le rapport semble assez timide dans ses conclusions en matière de politique. L'analyse et le diagnostic sont certes indispensables, mais il est tout aussi important de nous présenter en même temps des propositions pour réagir aux problèmes qui se dessinent à long terme, qui se dessinent à l'horizon de l'an 2000 et au-delà.

Face aux résultats de l'analyse de cette étude, quelles sont les conclusions que la FAO tire pour son propre rôle, son orientation à long terme, ses activités à moyen terme? C'est exactement pour répondre à cette question que mon pays pense qu'un examen de la FAO est nécessaire. L'étude nous confirme dans notre thèse qu'il est indispensable que la FAO joue de son influence dans les domaines les plus difficiles du développement de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation, surtout dans les pays où la situation est la plus critique. Ces domaines sont, à notre avis, la formulation et la mise en oeuvre de politiques agricoles visant la sécurité alimentaire. Nos propositions de réforme qui sont présentées dans le document C 87/30, vont dans cette direction, et visent à renforcer la FAO en améliorant sa contribution dans le domaine qui est le sien.

Andrés DE LEON LLAMAZARES (España): La delegación española ha analizado con interés el documento que nos ha sido suministrado por FAO. sobre Agricultura: Horizonte 2000, en el corto período de tiempo de que se ha dispuesto para ello, y seguirá analizándolo con más detenimiento por considerarlo una aportación muy valiosa e importante en el momento actual para clarificar y orientar la evolución futura del comercio agrario mundial, de la producción y el consumo alimentarios y de su impacto medioambiental.

Es un documento más realista y fundamentado que su predecesor de 1979, y sus conclusiones generales y sectoriales mucho más útiles para formular los problemas del uso agrario de los recursos y de la producción, distribución y consumo de alimentos, fibras, madera, etcétera. Asimismo permite definir, evaluar e instaurar de forma más precisa, las posibles soluciones de esos problemas.

En esta primera lectura y en honor a la brevedad que nos ha pedido el señor Presidente, sólo queremos apuntar que el impacto de la biotecnología como base de nuevas demandas no alimentarias de los productos agrarios, así como el de las disponibilidades energéticas, no parecen suficientemente tratados en el modelo desarrollado, aún cuando también es cierto que este modelo es abierto y estamos seguros de que admitirá, en ocasiones futuras, un ajuste más fino de los parámetros básicos sobre los que se sustenta, como el PIB, la evolución demográfica, y la incorporación de nuevos parámetros y sus efectos.

En consecuencia, señor Presidente, mi delegación quiere felicitar a la FAO por el trabajo realizado y exhortarla a que continúe en esa línea de desarrollo y mejora de este modelo que cabe calificar de único. Asimismo mi delegación quiere asociarse a la petición formulada por la República Federal de Alemania para que, en la forma que estime más adecuada, este documento sea objeto de publicación y difusión en los ambientes agrarios, económicos, e, incluso, entre el gran público.

Almar SAGELVMO (Norway): Norway has participated actively and with great interest in FAO's discussions on the item Agriculture: Toward 2000. We found the report presented to the 1979 Conference comprehensive and very useful, and we have strongly supported FAO's further work in this field. The Norwegian delegation has also studied the revised and updated version of AT 2000 carefully. In our opinion, the present document is even further improved compared with the 1979 version, and we are sure that the study will get worldwide attention.

In Norway we have recently established a public committee to review national agricultural policy and prepare overall guidelines for the coming ten to fifteen years. My Ministry will see to that and the public committee will take due note of the results in FAO's AT 2000.

AT 2000 and similar analyses are more or less built on past trends. We are looking at history to address the future. However, the future will never copy history. Extrapolation of past trends will therefore have to be justified by critical analysis of a complex nature. In this respect we would have liked to have seen the study AT 2000 more clearly outlining what are statistical trends and what is further analysis.

Having said that, it seems to my delegation that AT 2000 may lead to realistic conclusions about the future agricultural and nutritional situation. The overall assessments seem to be positive, but there will still be huge problems to solve. These problems will call upon the capabilities of both developed and developing countries to be addressed properly. There will be a need for policy change. In most developing countries national policies until quite recently gave priority to

industrialization. The threat of food shortages, balance of payments problems and debt crisis have led to policy reforms which recognize the essential role of agriculture in economic growth. However, there is still a need for increased weight to be put on the agricultural sector.

Concerning the policy issue, the Norwegian delegation has noted with special interest paragraph 1.97 which states that land redistribution and tenancy reforms are the most fundamental of anti-poverty measures.

My delegation would also like to highlight the need for technological development. As stated in paragraph 1.112, technological change in the agricultural production pattern has been a prerequisite to meet the challenges arising from the increase in world population, and we could do nothing but agree with the text in the same paragraph which says that there is an urgent need to develop and promote technologies that increase or sustain productivity at lower cost and do not harm the environment.

In 1986 FAO submitted the study Africa - The Next 25 Years to the African Regional Conference. We are also aware that a similar study will be prepared covering Latin America. The Norwegian delegation will strongly recommend that the FAO makes further analyses of this kind and maybe also assists member countries in making studies at national and even sub-national level.

Abdul Aziz YAACOB (Malaysia): Let me express my appreciation to the Secretariat and to Dr Islam for the effort put into revising this massive study, which yet still remains high in clarity.

In addressing "Agriculture : Toward 2000" we are moving into the realm of projections, of assumptions, the considerations employed, and their implications for national and international strategies. The data and assumptions employed are crucial bases for any projection exercise. They indicate the soundness of the projections that resulted. Can we accept the basis of the forecasting exercise? If we do, we can proceed with some level of confidence in the projections made and address the implications for strategies and policies.

Forecasting is never a perfect exercise, especially if the starting bases are overly optimistic. However, the new downward revisions to more moderate economic growth rates that are employed compared to the previous study, as shown in the Appendix, make us more confident in accepting the general foundations from which the future to the year 2000 is attempted. We are agreeable to this fresh look and the scenario of a slower expansion in demand facing agriculture. We appreciate the Secretariat's awareness of the danger of overreliance on the trend approach to extrapolate into the future in respect of developed countries' performance and of commodities. The marrying of macro and micro approaches through sectoral considerations provides the required adjustments to the basic trend approach.

Can we accept the assumption governing the projection? The main premises are the realization of a freer market, greater capital availability for agricultural commodities and infrastructure investments, the need for an agrarian land reform, a greater stress on extension's role in disseminating appropriate agricultural technology among these rural populations, and the correct priority in national policies given to agriculture aimed at efficiency in production, greater employment of rural and women labour, and the use of aid as no more than an interim measure.

The realization of the projections of agriculture in the year 2000 hinges crucially on the realization of the above assumptions and strategies that ensued. My delegation has some reservation on the use of national self-sufficiency goals of developing countries as starting points for initial assumption. Countries such as Malaysia place more emphasis on food security than on self-sufficiency. Otherwise we can go along with the assumptions adopted in the study.

The Malaysian delegation wholly supports the recommendations on policy and directions for agriculture and food production that countries need to adopt, which include the need for policy changes to give high priority to agricultural production. Malaysia formalized this recommendation in 1984 in the form of the National Agricultural Policy.

We also agree with the recommendation on the need for developed market economies to make the necessary policy reforms in order to solve problems of markets for the exports of developing countries. FAO's view that a slowing down in the developed countries' agricultural production is itself a necessary

requirement to solving not only their current surplus problem, but more importantly, - such a strategy provides the solution to the recovery of agricultural production, prices and incomes of producers in developing countries, meets with our approval. Therefore, we fully support the recommendation for elimination of protectionism and the creation of a freer export market for agricultural products in the world economy. We believe that with the present stance of virtually all countries to dismantle trade and non-trade barriers, and with greater international and regional capital flow and cooperation there is a good chance of reaching the projections, given the will of nations.

We wholly agree with the Secretariat's view that the solution to agricultural sector problems requires the complementation of rural industrialization. But the success of rural industrialization and agro-based industries cannot occur under cover of protection on an open-ended basis as this breeds inefficiency and incompetiveness. For agro-industry to succeed it must be cost competitive. Success of industries will mean higher demand for agriculture's output. But the very macro policies that initially allow the start-up industries cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely as they will definitely breed biases against agriculture itself in the long run. The thrust of agriculture toward the year 2000 must also call for the removal of each macro policy bias. The success of agro-industry must depend on its ability to penetrate into international markets, and this cannot occur with protectionism.

We note with satisfaction the progress in agricultural production in the last decade despite the setback of recession in the mid-eighties. Agriculture's resilience will be further tested to the year 2000 as world population may have increased by an additional one billion people. Widespread hunger will occur unless agricultural and food production more that match the population increase.

The conclusion of the Secretariat's assessment that the future of agriculture's success must come from improved productivity rather than expanding the cultivated area meets with our approval as it not only takes into account the ecological consideration but provides the basis with which the income of farmers can be increased. This strategy provides the most pragmatic approach for countries that suffer from increasing landlessness, declining agricultural terms of trade, and for countries such as Malaysia, the rising cost of labour that threatens to make agriculture less cost competitive. The potential of biotechnology to revolutionize food production can put the Malthusian prognosis off for a long time to come, but this will require national and international funding support in research and development aimed at increasing agricultural food production.

Malaysia not only accords high priority and funding to agricultural research, we believe that we have one of the best research facilities for palm oil, rubber, and certain food crops. We are also supporting a research project to conserve our tropical forests and adoption of FAO's Tropical Forest-ation Plan. We are also increasing allocations to enhance our fisheries resources. Therefore, we are in full accord with the recommendation to place emphasis on conservation and ecology as stated in the study.

Commenting on national requirements, the amount of \$1 500 billion of real investments estimated by the year 2000 as shown in Table 4.10 will require a concerted effort to mobilize resources to meet the capital demand. Only the formulation of appropriate national policies can provide the basis from which savings can be generated to meet the investment requirements. Capital assistance and aid can contribute to the investment requirements, but must remain interim in nature. This must be understood by every developing nation if it wishes eventually to be self-reliant and to source funds independently by itself. The solution does not lie elsewhere but must come from the nation itself.

May I suggest that a breakdown of investments required in support services may provide useful guidance compared to the total figures as currently provided by the report.

Jean BANTSIMBA (Congo): La delegation de mon pays a noté avec un vif intérêt les données relatives aux tendances et aux projections que présente le document C 87/27 qui reflètent le sérieux et l'habileté avec lesquels l'étude a été menée.

L'examen de ce dossier lui suggère d'attirer particulièrement l'attention sur le fait que l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire et agricole de l'Afrique au sud du Sahara dépend pour une bonne part:

- de la volonté des pays à traduire dans les faits les recommandations de la Conférence régionale de Yamsoukro;

- de l'augmentation de la productivité agricole grâce à une recherche adaptée et liée à une vulgarisation répondant aux besoins des petits agriculteurs;
- de la mise en place des systèmes d'incitation appropriés;
- de la réduction des inégalités ville-campagne qui aggravent l'exode rural.

Notre délégation pense également que l'environnement économique international constitue un facteur important pour la dynamique de la production alimentaire et agricole dans les pays en développement. Il sera difficile pour ces pays de disposer des moyens nécessaires au financement de l'agriculture tant que subsisteront les principales tares du système économique mondial actuel qui ont été suffisamment relevées dans la série des documents que nous avons examinés et qui concernaient les points 8 et 9 de l'ordre du jour.

Compte tenu de ce qui précède, notre délégation estime que l'élimination des déséquilibres nutritionnels et de la faim dans les pays en développement dépendra à la fois du sérieux et de la rigueur que ces pays mettront dans la recherche de solutions et de l'attitude des pays nantis vis-à-vis de la nécessité d'établir un ordre économique mondial au bénéfice de tous.

Mohamed El Bashir MUFABAH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): This document is very comprehensive indeed as far as some of the very important issues are concerned, namely, food and agriculture. I will be basing my comments on our experience in the Sudan, which may be similar to that of some sub-Saharan African countries.

In 1.14 mention was made of an increased productivity from 1969 to 1971 and a recession in 1983/85.

I think the increase was due to two main reasons: the utilization of fertilizers and the mechanization of agriculture.

Regarding the period 1983/85, the drop was due to the prevailing drought at that time. Given that more than 80 percent of the agriculture produced in my country depends upon rainfall, we were greatly affected and the country lost 50 percent of its need of millet, arabic gum, sesame and some other cereals and crops. The number of cattle and animal lost was at around 80 percent as far as cattle and cows, 50 percent of goats, and 70 percent of the equines. Yet nomadic flocks that represent some 80 percent of our wealth were not really affected because they moved to more prosperous areas where it was left dry.

Here I think that it is important for any planner such as this forum to take into account the cycles of drought because it seems that they follow a given pattern. According to my personal experience since I first worked in this field, three waves of drought have occurred at regular intervals. Firstly, there was the drought of 1961/62. Then a new cycle was launched in 1973/74, approximately 11 years after the first wave. Then again we were attacked in 1983/84. That was approximately 10 years after the second wave. We were told that there was a wave of drought in 1938.

Paragraph 1.16 of the document mentions the dependence or the increased reliance of developing countries on the inputs of food. It is true, we cannot deny it, that this is one of the vestiges of colonialism, as it were, because at the time importance was given to crops like cotton which were manufactured and used in the cities; and dairy products, meat production, egg production, were neglected. Of course we recognise the importance of being able to rely on ourselves as far as food production is concerned. Then there was a food security programme adopted by the League of Arab States, of which my country is a member and which held a conference on that issue last January. My country's government adopted the following measures to achieve this goal: first, to increase the area cultivated with wheat; second, to increase dairy production and productivity; third, to compensate growers for the loss due to droughts, so as to encourage them to resume growing and breeding animals.

In fact, there are some factors which can worsen the situation. One can mention, for example, the continuing production of cultivable land in the north of the country; second, the inability of governments to reclaim land in areas where food production can depend only on rainfall. Another shortcoming is the migration towards the cities.

In paragraph 1.25 mention is made of the fact that agricultural exports became a weaker and more uncertain means of growth. Here I should say that these exports are very difficult to sell to

markets, because a great measure of our infrastructure is geared now to production in irrigated plots of land in the Sudan. Until the end of the 1940s the earnings were quite interesting, but then these were on the wane because of the competition from synthetic fibres. We believe that international cooperation in agricultural and economic activities should be looked upon as equally important for the maintenance of peace and avoiding wars.

According to paragraph 1.36, people who suffered malnutrition in developing countries stood at approximately between 335-500 million people in 1979/1981. The number increased in the first half of the 1980s, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, because of the drought and because of the rapid population growth.

Mention must be made about the migration to cities which led to a reduction in agricultural production.

Therefore, I think that the Conference might like to adopt a recommendation addressed to sub-Saharan Africa, where a balance should be established between food production in cities and in the rural areas. Youth should be encouraged to go back to their villages to participate in this process. It is up to the international community to continue its contribution and to help save millions of people from famine, as was the case in some sub-Saharan African countries a few years ago.

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): The revised FAO study of Agriculture: Toward 2000 represents a significant and timely focus on the problems and prospects for agriculture over the remaining years of this century. We compliment the Secretariat for what is a most comprehensive and useful review. We agree with the general analysis of the global agricultural situation and outlook for the year 2000, and we note the impressive gains in agricultural production and productivity in many parts of the world. Technological developments and more rational policies have helped many developing countries to increase domestic self-sufficiency levels of food.

These developments are encouraging, but problems remain in particular areas, notably sub-Saharan Africa. It is worrying to read in the report that the growth of production in sub-Saharan Africa could continue to be well below that of population growth, implying rapid growth of imports beyond what is probably feasible if per caput consumption levels were to be maintained even at the current very low levels. That famine conditions could become more widespread and endemic is an alarm that we must all heed. We believe FAO should give even greater attention to improving the outlook for agriculture in this region.

Many of the present-day problems for global agriculture can be attributed to a distorted policy environment and excessive intervention in agriculture. Governments of developed countries have, for a variety of reasons, provided high levels of support to agriculture and insulated producers from competition. As has so often been stated in the last few days, this has led to the generation of enormous surpluses which have been sold on international markets, depressing prices to very low levels.

New Zealand is painfully aware of these problems. As the report points out in para. 7.23, dairy products are among the most protected of all temperate zone agricultural products. The surpluses so encouraged and high export subsidies have led to a collapse in butter prices, for instance, to less than half the level prevailing in the early 1980s. For our farmers this has meant significant reductions in their milk price which was already less than a quarter of that prevailing in most developed countries.

Similar problems are faced by our meat industry, and of course for developing countries the product list is endless.

The effect on developing countries is obvious and we are pleased to see the report emphasizes the need for rational agricultural policies in both developed and developing countries and the need to reduce protection and liberalize trade in agriculture in the new GATT round.

We have already emphasized the need for progress in the GATT round and we hope that a strong statement calling for reform will be made by this Conference. Unless all countries act together to adjust their policies, the outlook for agriculture is indeed very gloomy. But on the brighter side, we note that a number of studies on reform of trade and assistance policies, including the recent one published by OECD, conclude quite clearly that if countries work in concert and reduce protectionist support across the board, both developed and developing countries will benefit. On this general area I must mention that I heard it argued earlier in this debate that countries, which, for some reason, are less advantaged for climatic or other reasons should be allowed to have some protection continued. We oppose that view. Surely trade is based on the fact that because

some countries have a comparative advantage of some kind, and can produce things more cheaply, than all will benefit. Are we really questioning the merits of trade in this way? We believe that would be counter-productive for both developed and developing countries.

Reform of trade distorting policies is only one side of the policy reform equation. It must be associated with appropriate reform of national economic policies. Many developed and developing countries are faced with the need to make substantial structural adjustment to correct the distortion of past policies. Policies should be based on overall macro-economic objectives. In developing and low-cost producing countries, the removal of bias against agriculture will allow comparative advantage to prevail and encourage better resource allocation, increased output, and competitive efficiencies in agriculture. For high cost producing countries, adjustment should remove bias towards agriculture with consequential economic benefits for other sectors of their economies.

Reform of trade and national economic policies will result in some pain. In high cost producing developed countries the initial adjustment burden will fall more heavily on farmers. In developing countries and low cost producing countries like New Zealand the burden will fall on manufacturing and other sectors which have enjoyed more favourable treatment in the past, but we believe this pain is worth while and everyone, particularly developed countries, will benefit in the long term. New Zealand's own experience with protection highlights the problems created by policies aimed at encouraging industry. Such policies tax agriculture and artificially raise the profitability of the manufacturing sector. Like New Zealand, developing countries will, we believe, need to dismantle these support structures and allow agriculture to compete and grow on equal terms.

The New Zealand Minister of Agriculture made it quite clear in his statement to Plenary last week that it is a responsibility of all national governments to put in place a market-related policy structure. He highlighted New Zealand's commitment to put its house in order and the fact that action has already been taken to remove distorting assistance and import protection across all sectors of the New Zealand economy.

In the case of agriculture, price supports and import subsidies have been removed and indirect support through government services scaled down. Import protection for manufacturers is being progressively removed, opening the way for more competitive imports. Our financial sector has been deregulated and all foreign exchange controls removed. New opportunities for imports from other countries are already opening up. We welcome that despite the painful adjustment required of certain sectors of our economy. But reciprocal reform is needed from all our trading partners if the full benefit of open two-way trade is to be achieved.

I mentioned in our statement on agricultural adjustment, the importance of rational pricing policy, and we note that this is underlined in the study. In developed countries, producer prices have largely been determined on income adequacy criteria. This has generated huge surpluses and seriously distorted international market prices. A few moments ago we heard the delegate from Belgium highlighting the alternatives that exist for agricultural products, and the fact that there are such substitutes means that we must have realistic prices for farm products, and indeed we should be encouraging low-cost producers. If we do not, their manufacturers will yet again gain at the expense of our farmers. We note, also, that in many developing countries protectionist pricing policies have been incoherent and often undermined by general economic policies like high exchange rates, protection of industry, and incoherent fiscal policies. This has undermined farmers' incentive to produce. We are pleased therefore, to see, however, there is evidence of change and many developing countries have achieved an impressive transformation of the agricultural supply/demand situation by following rational pricing and general economic policies.

I conclude by emphasizing the single most important challenge facing all food producers and consumers - the need for early progress to be made on agriculture in the current GATT round.

Mansur SUGHAYER (Libya) (original language Arabic): I am very glad to take part in the work here. I share the views of those who have spoken before, who have paid tribute to this document "Agriculture: Toward 2000" in its corrected edition. I should like to congratulate the Secretariat. The Organization's ability in analysing and forecasting the outlook for agriculture is excellent. This section is one which is very particular to this Organization. We do not have time now to deal with all the various aspects of the document. I am tempted to deal with all the subjects covered, but I will resist the temptation. Therefore, I shall just make a few comments.

Firstly, we agree in general with the nature of the study and the main conclusions which emerge from it. We note with some concern that the theories, or premises, which were the basis of the previous study are, in fact, too optimistic.

Secondly, Chapter 10, on technological developments of the future, raises very specific major problems. While we agree that biotechnology can help developing countries and give them advantages, these advantages may conceal some dangers for developing countries and their agriculture, and this leads me to stress the fact that the Organization should continue the studies on biotechnology,

should try to define what the real meaning of biotechnology is for developing countries, and should try to define the needs of these countries so that this new science could benefit all countries.

Thirdly, and finally, I should particularly like to congratulate the authors of this document on Chapter 11 on environmental aspects of agricultural development. This is a subject that concerns us all, particularly the balance between supply and demand and the possibility of supplying food commodities to the population. All this is extremely important for us, because the basic problem in the environment is linked with policies followed by various countries. There are many and varied technical problems, but we can make great progress if we establish appropriate policies. Developing countries need a lot of training, information and studies in order to be able to preserve their natural resources and to be able to change the course of history in the use of natural products.

This is an excellent document, and we hope it will be acceptable to all.

Mokhtar NAANANI (Maroc): Ma delegation est heureuse de présenter ses compliments à l'équipe du docteur Islam pour l'excellente qualité de la version révisée: Agriculture: Horizon 2000. Certes, une prévision n'a de sens que dans l'environnement des hypothèses sous-jacentes à son élaboration et elle demeure tributaire de la disponibilité et de la qualité des informations chiffrées qui lui servent de support. Néanmoins, ma délégation est convaincue que l'étude qui nous est présentée constitue un cadre indispensable à toute analyse et orientation du développement du secteur agricole, que ce soit dans les pays développés ou dans les pays en voie de développement.

Ma délégation est très satisfaite des améliorations qui ont été apportées à l'étude de 1979, plus particulièrement celle relative à la demande alimentaire, qui était largement surestimée. Ces améliorations ou rectifications se sont avérées nécessaires, eu égard aux bouleversements qu'a connus notre planète depuis 1979, récession, prix de l'énergie, protectionnisme etc.

Ma délégation est persuadée que, dans les quelques années à venir, d'autres transformations de l'économie mondiale se produiront et justifieront une nouvelle rectification des tirs.

Aussi, Monsieur le Président, voudrais-je supporter la délégation de Turquie, qui a suggéré l'actualisation périodique, tous les cinq ans par exemple, de l'étude "Agriculture: Horizon 2000", afin d'intégrer les nouveaux changements socio-politico-économiques à travers le monde.

Dans ce cadre, ma délégation souhaite que ce travail de révision périodique se fasse en étroite collaboration avec les pays membres, pour qu'ils soient associés aux différentes étapes de l'étude. Cette collaboration contribuera à harmoniser les chiffres retenus par l'étude et ceux officiels des pays membres.

Asefa WOLDEGIORGIS (Ethiopia): My delegation has studied the 1987 revised version of "Agriculture: Toward 2000" with great interest. We should like to congratulate the FAO Secretariat on both the quality of the content and the methodology employed in the presentation. This revised version under discussion touches on a number of issues of great concern in world agricultural development. The projections on important key issues are much better than, and show substantial progress as compared with, those of the 1979 forecasts.

In as much as agrarian reform or rural reform policies undertaken now will not show results for several years, considering the lack of accurate data in some countries necessary for proper analysis, and taking into account the variation of problems from region to region and from country to country, we appreciate the difficulty in making accurate projections on all key issues of agriculture in all countries. Bearing this in mind, my delegation's remarks will be limited to a few key issues.

With regard to agricultural expansion and food self-sufficiency, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the projections show much emphasis on rain-fed agriculture, assuming favourable weather conditions. One cannot be too optimistic here until the available irrigable lands come under crops. Irrigation needs much capital movement, and it is in this area that the study needs more emphasis.

Secondly, while the industrialized countries have their animal resources well-developed, it is in the developed countries, particularly Africa, where this resource is not contributing sufficiently to the national economies. We feel this sector deserves more attention and better treatment and support with more projects and funds to enhance development, including application of biotechnology.

As far as agricultural research is concerned, the report underlines the growing dependence of the agriculture of developing countries on research. In this connection, the long-term orientation and the medium-term activities on livestock research, particularly research on livestock nutrition, needs adequate emphasis in the report.

My country has formulated, and just embarked upon, a ten-year agricultural development plan and a three-year programme for food self-sufficiency. In this connection, and in conclusion, I wish to express our support for FAO's strategies in the revised version.

Mme Cristina Isabel DUARTE (Cap-Vert): Parler de l'agriculture à l'horizon 2000 oblige nécessairement à une réflexion sur la famine dans le monde et plus particulièrement en Afrique subsaharienne.

La forte croissance démographique liée à une absence et/ou au manque d'exploitation des ressources a mené à une situation de déséquilibre comme nous le démontre la famine.

La famine en Afrique ne constitue pas seulement une catastrophe de caractère naturel, mais elle est avant tout un mécanisme d'assainissement économique. Les décennies soixante/soixante-dix ont été caractérisées par une absence de politique démographique; on a agi essentiellement sur l'un des bras de la balance, concrètement dans le combat de la mortalité en négligeant le contrôle de la naissance. Ceci a fait que l'Afrique a connu une véritable explosion démographique, sans précédent dans l'histoire. En parallèle, le niveau d'exploitation des ressources s'est maintenu ou n'a pas accompagné l'accroissement démographique.

Le déséquilibre résultant pourrait être redressé par trois moyens:

- en augmentant considérablement le niveau d'exploitation des ressources;
- en contrôlant par des mesures rigides la croissance démographique;
- par ces deux mesures simultanément.

La pratique nous démontre que l'absence d'une de ces deux mesures a fait que la famine a assumé le statut de mécanisme économique visant l'établissement de l'équilibre.

Qui oserait dire qu'en plein milieu du vingtième siècle l'histoire de l'humanité assisterait de nouveau à l'histoire du Moyen-Age, la famine, comme mécanisme économique?

Dans l'Afrique subsaharienne, le nombre de sous-alimentés augmentera de 140 à 200 millions jusqu'à l'année 2000. Si l'on tient compte qu'un sous-alimenté est un affamé mais pas un homme, la situation est très peu encourageante, et nous estimons n'être pas du tout pessimistes en affirmant que l'Afrique, dans les quinze prochaines années devra cohabiter avec la faim dans sa variante d'authentique mécanisme économique.

Gérard VIATTE (Observateur de l'Organisation de Coopération et de Développement économiques): Vous nous avez exhortés à la brièveté, et je vais donc abrégier la déclaration que j'avais préparée, tout en vous demandant quelque indulgence puisque c'est en fait la seule déclaration que l'OCDE fera dans l'ensemble de cette Conférence de la FAO.

Si j'ai proposé de m'adresser à vous ce soir, c'est pour deux raisons: les thèmes dont votre commission a traité (situation de l'agriculture, ajustement agricole, et le présente rapport "Agriculture: Horizon 2000) sont d'une très grande importance pour l'ensemble des pays développés à économie de marché et vous l'avez remarqué en écoutant les divers pays membres de l'OCDE au cours de ces débats; deuxièmement, les problèmes relatifs à la politique et aux échanges agricoles ont pris ces derniers mois un relief particulier dans les pays développés et au sein de l'OCDE en particulier, tout en étant situés - et là j'insiste beaucoup - dans le contexte macro-économique général et notamment dans le contexte de l'ajustement structurel auquel toutes nos économies, qu'elles soient développées ou en voie de développement, sont actuellement confrontées.

La crise structurelle qui frappe actuellement l'agriculture des pays développés, et qui se manifeste notamment par les excédents que nous connaissons tous a été largement analysée; on en a analysé les symptômes, les causes et je n'y reviendrai pas. Je me bornerai à indiquer que, pour l'ensemble et dans les grandes lignes, notre analyse rejoint de très près celle de votre rapport "Agriculture: Horizon 2000", et je profiterai de l'occasion pour me féliciter de l'excellente collaboration qui s'est instaurée entre l'OCDE et le Secrétariat de la FAO, et notamment M. Islam et ses collaborateurs, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit d'étudier les problèmes propres aux pays développés membres de l'OCDE.

Je ne reviendrai donc pas sur l'analyse approfondie des causes de cette situation, mais je soulignerai un facteur qui est essentiel, c'est de reconnaître que, au-delà des causes technologiques et économiques qui sont bien connues, les politiques elles-mêmes ont largement contribué à l'aggravation du déséquilibre entre l'offre et la demande.

Nous avons clairement identifié le rôle joué par les politiques agricoles et par l'ensemble des politiques qui affectent l'agriculture dans l'étude que nous venons de publier, "Politiques nationales et échanges agricoles", qui a été présentée au Conseil des ministres au mois de mai et qui est complétée par une série d'études nationales; cette étude est d'ailleurs largement citée dans votre rapport "Horizon 2000".

Ces travaux ont été menés en recourant à des instruments d'analyse quantitative sur deux points: d'une part la mesure du soutien accordé à l'agriculture et là nous avons utilisé ce concept dont on parle beaucoup et dont on a parlé toute cette semaine ici-même, à savoir le concept des équivalents subventions producteurs ou produce subsid, équivalent (PSE), que nous avons élargi, développé et approfondi pour les pays membres de l'Organisation, en partant des travaux effectués antérieurement par certains chercheurs universitaires et dans certaines organisations telles que la FAO.

Pour notre part, nous avons développé ces calculs en insistant notamment sur les différentes composantes du soutien afin de montrer que ce n'était pas un élément unique mais qu'il ressortait de différentes causes, et aussi en analysant la distribution de ce soutien entre produits.

Second instrument d'analyse, un modèle aussi simple que possible qui nous a permis de mesurer les effets d'une réduction du soutien à l'agriculture.

Si la cause essentielle ou une des causes essentielles du déséquilibre auquel nous sommes confrontés est constituée par les politiques, cela veut dire également que le remède à ce déséquilibre devra être trouvé dans une réorientation de ces politiques et c'est la conclusion majeure à laquelle est arrivé le Conseil des ministres de l'OCDE lors de sa réunion de mai 1987 et qui a affirmé qu'une réforme concertée des politiques agricoles sera mise en oeuvre d'une manière équilibrée. Mais il ne suffit pas d'affirmer au niveau le plus élevé une telle volonté de réforme, encore faut-il en définir les principes et ils ont été effectivement définis par le conseil d'une manière relativement détaillée. Je les résumerai en style télégraphique, pour ne pas abuser de votre temps:

1 - le fondement de cette réforme doit être de permettre aux signaux du marché d'influencer l'orientation de la production agricole;

2 - cette orientation à long terme étant définie, il faut prendre sans attendre des mesures d'urgence pour maîtriser l'offre;

3 - en poursuivant cet objectif d'orientation de la production, il faut tenir compte aussi des considérations relatives à la sécurité alimentaire, à la protection de l'environnement ou à l'emploi;

4 - lorsque les problèmes sociaux, ou des problèmes de revenus résultent de cette orientation des politiques, il faut envisager la possibilité de recourir à des méthodes nouvelles de soutien de revenu, le cas échéant, pour certains groupes d'agriculteurs par des aides directes au revenu qui ne soient pas liées à la production;

5 - cette réorientation des politiques nationales doit trouver son prolongement sur le plan international et, à cet égard, les négociations du GATT pourront jouer un rôle décisif. Et en outre, il

est important que, dans le court terme et dans l'immédiat, des mesures soient prises pour éviter une détérioration plus prononcée des marchés nationaux;

6 - sixième et dernier principe que je mentionnerai brièvement, mais j'y insisterai avec force dans cette enceinte de la FAO, c'est que les ministres de l'OCDE ont souligné l'importance que cette réforme de leur politique pourrait représenter pour les pays en développement. En effet, les pays en développement exportateurs de produits agricoles trouveront avantage au redressement des marchés mondiaux. Les pays en développement importateurs de produits agricoles se verront incités à asseoir leur développement économique sur des bases plus solides, en renforçant leur propre secteur agricole.

Ayant défini ces principes, il est évident qu'une telle réforme, qui est manifestement très ambitieuse ne pourra être réalisée que progressivement et qu'elle prendra du temps. D'ailleurs, j'ai noté le même sens du réalisme dans l'étude de la FAO "Horizon 2000" où il est écrit clairement, que l'ajuste-ment attendu des pays développés est un ralentissement de la croissance de la production mais non pas un arrêt complet de cette croissance.

Cela dit, il ne suffit pas de se mettre d'accord sur des principes, encore faut-il les mettre en oeuvre de manière concrète. A cet égard, et je crois que c'est là la tâche essentielle des pays et de la communauté internationale aujourd'hui, il faut réaliser une convergence des efforts nationaux de réajustement qui sont en tout état de cause nécessaires pour des raisons internes, d'une part, et des efforts internationaux qui ont lieu notamment dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round, d'autre part. Pour ce qui la concerne, l'OCDE a été chargée d'approfondir ses travaux, de les actualiser, et surtout

d'assurer le suivi (ce qu'on a appelé en anglais le monitoring) de la mise en oeuvre des principes et actions sur lesquels le Conseil ministériel s'était mis d'accord.

Dans le contexte de la poursuite de nos travaux, je signalerai notamment que nous actualisons et approfondissons le calcul des ESP, et nous disposons maintenant de données détaillées qui vont jusqu'en 1986. J'ajouterai à cet égard qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement de mettre en oeuvre et d'améliorer les calculs, mais qu'il s'agit aussi de réfléchir aux divers problèmes méthodologiques qui se posent lorsque l'on met en oeuvre un tel instrument, surtout lorsque la possibilité de recourir à un tel instrument est envisagée dans le cadre de négociations.

Le problème agricole restera donc à l'ordre du jour des gouvernements de l'OCDE, qui reviendra sur cette question lors du conseil ministériel de 1988.

Je vous signalerai aussi dans ce contexte que nous entreprenons actuellement une analyse plus fine de l'incidence sur les pays en développement d'une réduction du soutien à l'agriculture dans les pays développés avec l'aide de notre modèle multiproduits/multipays. Je fais cette remarque, Monsieur le Président, parce que j'ai noté, au cours de la journée, que plusieurs délégations ont exprimé de l'intérêt pour une meilleure connaissance des effets d'une réduction de la protection des pays développés sur les pays en voie de développement.

En conclusion, il apparaît que la réorientation des politiques agricoles des pays développés s'en-gage, me semble-t-il, sur une base analytique plus sûre que dans le passé et sur une volonté politique mieux affirmée. La tâche des organisations internationales est, en fonction de leur responsabilité et de leurs compétences propres, d'en assurer la convergence sur le plan international, car un tel effort de réforme des politiques agricoles ne peut, en tout état de cause, être que multilatéral .

Idris M. NUR (Observer for the Organization of African Unity): First, I would like to pay tribute to the Secretariat of the FAO for the efforts undertaken in the preparation of document C 87/27 entitled Agriculture: Toward 2000. The least I can say is that this document is qualified to go into the archives of history.

Secondly, please consider my comments on C 87/27 as constructive criticism, they are meant to improve the quality of the document. I should like to make nine comments.

Comment number one: time and time again throughout the document Africa is classified as "sub-Saharan Africa". May we know the criterion used for classifying Africa, north and south of the Sahara? This classification is non-scientific, it is being used in a scientific document and it does not match the one used by the OAU or the Economic Commission for Africa. According to the map of the world, there is only one Africa, but according to this document there are two Africas. No explanation was given in the document as to why the FAO Secretariat used this type of classification.

Food and agriculture cannot be classified as north or south of the Sahara. It can be classified on the basis of ecology as ecology affects food and agriculture, both in quality and quantity. Half of Africa's nations are partly or completely in arid or semi-arid zones. The arid lands of Africa fall into three broad geographic sub-regions: first, the North African sub-region comprising some 46 million hectares of arid lands between isohyets of 100 and 400 millimetres; secondly, the West African sub-region which occupies an area of some 140 million hectares located between isohyets of 200 and 600 millimetres; thirdly, the East and Southern African sub-regions arid lands occupy an area of 223.4 million hectares, located between isohyets of 200 and 600 millimetres, while the desert covers some 155 million hectares in the area receiving less than 20 millimetres of average precipitation.

Comment number two: with respect to the question of surplus in agricultural produce and food products, as indicated in a number of pages of the document, including pages 9, 59 and 90, my delegation believes that the document did not go to sufficient length with respect to the question of surplus in agricultural produce. It is noticeable that the encouraging situation of having surplus food material from the developed and developing countries resulted in negative returns and a policy of price war. The reason for such a situation is the status of surplus grain in the world market which has led to unfavourable prices.

Outlets for surplus agricultural products are not easy to find or economic to handle. Most of the traditional markets could not be approached as the latter have reached the stage of food self-sufficiency. How can we tackle the problem of having surplus in agricultural produce? My delegation thinks that the question of having surplus in agricultural produce could be tackled in two ways, by diversification of agriculture and by concentration on animal husbandry. But the implementation of the said two measures will give rise to another problem in due course, by having surplus from another source. Thus the problem of surpluses will continue, and instead of having a surplus in grain only there will be a surplus in other types of foodstuffs. My delegation hopes that the FAO Secretariat will comment on this point also.

Comment number three: On page 12 and other subsequent pages of the document reference has been made to the question of intensification and diversification of agriculture. No mention has been made of the requirements of intensification on vertical expansion and of diversification on horizontal expansion. It is a fact that the coefficient of variability, that is the c.v., of the number of crops grown in a country's economy affects the stability of aggregate income, which also affects diversification. How about diversification in horticultural crops, and vegetables? Regional cooperation in the area of diversification will lead to economic returns and division of labour.

Comment number four: in several parts of the document reference has been made to biotechnology. Biotechnology is the fastest growing industry in the world today. Its new interventions could totally transform major industries, agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry. There are no regulations or mechanisms in most Third World countries for the testing and marketing of biotechnological products. There are also certain hazards accompanying biotechnology. Third World countries could plug in to adaptable technology that is based on their social and cultural needs and not determined by pursuit of profits. On the other hand, biotechnology could bring about products which could compete with and substitute for some of the crops grown in the Third World, for example crops like indigo, coffee, oil crops. This will uproot the export base and will drastically affect the economic structure of these countries.

Comment number five: the discussion on the question of agricultural research was highlighted in the document in a number of pages, including pages 153, 235 and Chapter 10. Farming requires factors of production, for example improved seeds, research, extension, fertilizers, technology, marketing, etc., delivered at the right time to the right place and in the right quantity. Thus agricultural research is only one of the inputs, and it needs the reaction of the other elements contained in the package of improved production.

African agricultural research is, however, extensive and impressive, both from the point of view of depth of coverage and that of analytical content. It could be said that the actual problem is the communication and application of available knowledge by farmers; in other words, the dissemination of available information on the outcome of research to the farmers is a crucial problem that calls for immediate action in Africa.

While tackling the prominent problem of agricultural extension in Africa, there is need for investigation of the situation where male extension workers are expected to advise the women farmers. Women farmers occupy a dominant role in Africa's agricultural development and production. We should stress the following points in relation to agricultural extension. In Africa we need: effective extension programmes; extension workers who start from the ground upwards; qualified extension workers; extensive national campaigns to be conducted every season for increasing the production of major crops.

I should also like to refer to page 243 of the English text, paragraph 10.53. Whenever extension workers start supplying farmers with inputs like fertilizers, seeds, etc., as stated in the document, extension will move its value as an educational institution. In reality, extension is education, and on writing the word "extension" and below it the word "education" you will see that they are similar. Extension should always be confined to educating the rural people; supplying inputs to farmers should be the work of other institutions.

The success of African countries in injecting and promoting appropriate and suitable technology in rural areas will depend upon their success in developing adequate infrastructure facilities such as transportation, storage, handling, processing and distribution systems, which are necessary software components of technology.

Equally important in the development and application of suitable technology in Africa is the creation of a conducive environment that encourages rural people effectively to use their resources and skills and increase their technological competence to enable them fully to participate in and contribute to the process of change.

Agricultural cooperative organizations can often facilitate the use of improved technologies. Apart from marketing and input supply, they make possible the joint use of farm machinery and of post-harvest equipment for such purposes as threshing, drying and milling.

Land tenure systems are in general less of an obstacle to technological improvement in Africa than to the rest of the developing world. There are problems in some areas, however, including nomadic grazing rights, insecure tenure that limits both the possibility of obtaining credit and the incentive to carry out improvement. The division and fragmentation of holdings on inheritance, and the frequently small, scattered and irregular plots inhibit the use of almost any mechanical equipment.

Comment number six: in some pages, like page 124 of the document, reference has been made to the use of organic manures. Experience has shown that on using organic manure, for improving the nutrient status of the soil and under specific humid conditions termites will build up and will attack and damage the standing crop or crops. This constitutes one of the disadvantages of the use of organic manures. It is worth mentioning that the primary factor limiting plant growth in most African soils is phosphorus deficiency.

Comment number seven: on the question of macroeconomics referred to in Chapter 8, page 200 of the English text of the document, the basic problems of African agricultural development reside in the subsistence sector where the macroeconomic imperatives of demand, the supply situation and the structure are not known with any degree of accuracy. This sector constitutes some 58 percent of the total agricultural production, the percentage varying according to the degree of modernization of the economy.

Comment number eight: agricultural mechanization has been referred to in page 142 of the document, at paragraph 4.73. There are usually four recognized sources of energy supply to agriculture: manual, animal, intermediate mechanization and advanced mechanization. Agriculture in Africa is at various stages of the first two sources and cannot meet the demands of the population. African agriculture cannot by-pass intermediate mechanization because farm sizes are small, farmers are poor, many farms are inaccessible, and modern machines are meant for advanced steps in advanced mechanization. To narrow the energy gap we need to obtain machinery for the intermediate mechanization. Manufacturers of agricultural machinery manufacture for their own markets machinery which is too advanced for African agriculture. African agriculture needs a full line of economical, simplified and compact farm machinery so articulated that each unit is harmoniously linked to the other, and the machines must be low cost, multi-purpose and easy to maintain. This situation calls for joint action by the governments of developing countries for the establishment of factories for the production of appropriate machinery for the intermediate mechanization of agriculture.

We also need to intensify the use of improved hand tools and draught animals, establish fixed and mobile repair units, and arrange for the supply of spare parts. Cooperative ownership and management of machinery should be encouraged.

It is worth mentioning that mechanization schemes using tractors have met with limited success in the humid tropics due to the high capital costs relative to available resources, the scale of farmers operations, and the lack of know-how in equipment use and maintenance.

Comment number nine: my delegation would have liked to see in document C 87/27 one section on follow-up and on ensuring that Member Nations are prepared and up-to-date with the situation, and also one or more paragraphs on the following: regional cooperation and its role in increasing food and agricultural production, for example in technology, diversification of agriculture, etc.; untapped resources for securing more food; brain drain and proposals to reverse it so as to retain trained manpower in the area of food, agriculture and economic development; strengthening subject matter specialists; residual effect of mineral fertilizers; reference should be made to the operational studies that have been adopted in the different regions, for example in Africa reference could be made to AFPLAN, African Agriculture in the Next 25 Years, WCARRD, LPA (Lagos Plan of Action), APPER (Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990), UNPAAERD (United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990). This document stresses the same issues as that of the document "Agriculture: Toward 2000".

Climatic changes have become the order of the day in Africa and they drastically affect food and agriculture production. The drought comes in cycles every eleven years. The other point is that 11 million hectares of tropical forest are lost every year. This will result in desertification or desert creep that ultimately results in arid conditions.

I would like to conclude my comments by stating that it is important to prepare studies in the sectors of food and agriculture, but it is equally important to resolve the problems identified by the study.

Nurul ISLAM (Special Adviser to the Director-General): We are very grateful to the delegates for their very helpful comments and suggestions on the study "Agriculture: Toward 2000".

The study, as some delegates emphasized, is not a forecast or a prediction of the future. It is a projection based upon certain well stated, clarified assumptions. Therefore, on the basis of these assumptions, it is an attempt to derive a reasoned estimate of future development in world food and agriculture. The methodology used in the current study is roughly the same as that used in the earlier study. The basic approach of the revision "Agriculture: Toward 2000" was not to repeat all of the quantitative exercises that had been done in the earlier study, but to be selective. The emphasis was on important policy issues that were considered to be of critical importance in the next 15 to 20 years. Even so, not all the issues were taken up for detailed consideration, only a few.

There are other publications undertaken in the last two or three years that have covered some of the other issues in greater detail. This refers to the three particular issues selected for special treatment, which were environment, technological development for the future and policy issues for the 1980s and beyond. Any such selection would be partly arbitrary but in the judgment of the Secretariat these issues deserve fuller treatment than others. Of course, time and resources available at the disposal of the study also greatly influenced the choice of subjects to be emphasized. That is why, for example, food aid requirement estimates were not repeated this time, nor detailed treatment of the requirements of manpower, training, etc. The food aid requirement exercise is usually undertaken in the course of our ongoing work periodically on food aid and food security.

Again, in the recently completed study on Africa some of the issues relating to Africa have been discussed in much greater detail, for example, population problems and the African agricultural rural development issues have been discussed in detail in the African studies. Again, in the Latin American studies to be submitted next year to the Conference, some of the issues will be discussed in greater detail than in the present study. My comments so far are just to explain why some issues are emphasized and some others are left out.

One delegate has suggested that FAO should undertake an analysis of deviations from the trend projections, periodically, analysis of the cause of deviation from the trend, and the consequences of such deviations for the future. This is indeed a welcome suggestion and some attempt is made, rough and ready, in the State of Food and Agriculture looking at current developments in the light of this kind of framework, but more work hopefully can be done in this regard.

A question has been asked about the rate of growth in agricultural production that has been projected in the study at 3.4 percent which is not too optimistic even for Africa. At this rate of growth, if you measure it from the average of 1983/85, this is how it appears. But if it is measured from the post-drought period after 1985 the rate of growth post-drought in the study would appear to be 3.1. And the rate of growth achieved by African agriculture during the 1961/70 period was 2.8. So the increase is a very modest one. On a per capita basis there is no increase at all; the rate of growth of production barely keeps up with the increase in population. These details are worked out in the early African study and the consequences and requirements of such a rate of growth are spelled out in greater detail in the study. Therefore, they are not taken up in the current study.

Reference was made to the need for FAO to undertake a quantification of the impact of liberalization of trade in developed countries on developing countries and the world trade food security. As you will recall, earlier this year in the Committee on Food Security such a comprehensive review of

existing studies quantifying such effects was presented and was discussed. The current report summarizes these findings and updates them.

Questions have been asked about the possibility for us to compare the earlier A T 2000 and the present one in terms of some basic assumptions. I can illustrate by referring to some of the key parameters of the earlier study and compare them with the current one. For example, population growth, assumed in the earlier study was 2.4 percent. The revised projections of populations undertaken in the United Nations bring it down to 2.2 percent. So this assumption has changed in the new study.

Referring to DGP growth rates, there are two scenarios, as you will recall, in the earlier study. In the optimistic scenario the rate of growth postulated was 7 percent consistent with the new international development strategy for the third development decade. The less optimistic scenario assumed 5.7 percent. In the current study in the light of later development and studies undertaken not by FAO but by other agencies about the future prospects of world economic growth and the developing countries' income growth, the rate assumed was 4.4 percent as against 7 and 5.7 percent. For developed market economy countries GDP growth assumed in the earlier study was 3.1 percent, and the current one 3.3 percent. For the centrally-planned economies the rate of growth assumed for the earlier study was 4.2 percent, 3.5 percent, and the current one 3.7 percent. These are illustrative of the differences in assumptions made in the two studies.

A suggestion was made that there should have been a greater in-depth treatment of the effect of debt on the food and agriculture sector. There is a short treatment in the document on pages 203 and 204, and it has been suggested by some delegates that consideration should be given to a fuller treatment of the subject in any of the forthcoming issues of the State of Food and Agriculture. The Secretariat has taken note of the suggestion.

The forthcoming study on Latin American food and agriculture will deal with the impact of debt and structural adjustment on Latin American food and agriculture.

A question was asked as to why self-sufficiency, or that at least it appears from the reading of the document it is suggested that all countries at all times should try to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. That is not the objective of the study. The method of analysis in arriving at the estimates is as follows: given the expected increase in demand arising out of assumed increase in population, the question has been posed as to how each of the countries can meet its demand requirements consistently with (1) its agro-ecological characteristics and (2) reasonable costs. So it is not uniform advice that all countries should achieve self-sufficiency. The intention is to estimate the possibilities of increasing food production in each of these countries consistently with these two constraints. The results have been presented in terms of self-sufficiency ratios to illustrate or to emphasize as an indicator how much of the requirements will be met from domestic production. In fact, as you look into the figures you will find the import requirements for food by the developing countries as a whole go up over the next ten, fifteen years.

Why is the estimate of the undernourished population in the A T 2000 current study different from the World Bank estimate of undernourished population? This is due to the differences in the minimum requirement level or cut-off point used for classifying when an individual is undernourished and also due to the difference in the methodology of taking into account the distribution of dietary energy within a country in the analysis. If you will recall, the World Bank publication in a footnote points out these differences. Therefore, there should be no occasion for misunderstanding. Because of the many uncertainties and difficulties in setting up this cut-off point for estimating the undernourished population, FAO has taken a rather conservative approach in its assessment and used cut-off points which are lower than that of the World Bank. The difference between the fourth and the fifth World Food Survey from which the estimates are derived in terms of methodology and data is due to the differences in the methodology between these two studies as well as in the expansion and modification of the data base.

A large number of suggestions have been made for further studies. The Secretariat has taken careful note of the suggestions made by the delegates. For example, a suggestion has been made that we should study more carefully the impact of environmental degradation, deforestation, etc., on the future of food and agriculture. There was a suggestion that the long-term changes in climate and the impact on food and agriculture sector should be studied.

Suggestions have been made that lack of data seriously constrains a study such as this. This is indeed true, and it was pointed out in the last study also that this is a very serious stumbling block in the way of any such study relating to developing countries. Lack of adequate and reliable data continues to be serious and unless the basic statistical systems and data collection are greatly expanded and improved in the developing countries, these studies will remain subject to serious deficiencies. This data requirement also constrains very significantly the methodology, the degree of sophistication of methodology which can be applied for undertaking such a study. For example, income distribution. Suggestions have been made, questions have been raised, that the study does not incorporate in the framework of analysis consequences for income distribution growth, or the consequences of the impact of income distribution and growth, interrelations between the two. Such sophisticated analysis could not be carried out with the present state of data and the methodology that we have at our disposal.

Questions have been raised about centrally-planned economies, that our estimates may be too pessimistic. It is quite conceivable that we have not done any original study country by country of these centrally-planned economies in Europe. We have based our findings basically on existing studies made by others on the centrally-planned economies of Europe.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you Dr Nurul Islam.

In this discussion which started late yesterday evening 34 representatives and two observers have participated.

Guy FRADIN (France): Excusez-moi, Monsieur le President, de reprendre la parole et merci de me l'avoir donnée.

Avant que vous ne fassiez votre synthèse, je voulais quand même demander à nouveau une précision au Secrétariat: ma délégation a exprimé son désappointement d'avoir reçu le document en français extrêmement tard et de n'avoir pu, travailler. J'ai présenté une demande concernant l'examen ultérieur de ce document, qu'en est-il? Le Secrétariat a-t-il une réaction là-dessus?

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): La única reacción que podemos tener es pedir las excusas debidas, dado que efectivamente hubo un retardo en el despacho y en la edición final de alguna versión, como aquí ha sido previsamente señalado. Nos excusamos; ha sido un retraso involuntario involuntario; estuvo más allá de la capacidad de control de la Secretaría, y el punto es válidamente planteado por la Delegación de Francia y otras delegaciones que aquí lo han hecho ver durante el debate.

CHAIRMAN: I would supplement what Dr Moreno has said by adding that, in case any delegates feel that on careful study of the documentation there are some essential comments to furnish, these could be made available to the Secretariat so that they could be incorporated into any further documentation FAO brings out.

Summing up the discussion, the general consensus was that there was a lot of appreciation for the document, and especially for the more extensive country coverage and the inclusion of national topics. It was clear that the FAO Secretariat had benefited from the experience it had had in preparing the first Report in 1979. Therefore, as we all expected, the second Report was better.

An anxiety expressed by everybody referred to the shortage of food, particularly in some of the developing countries, where, to make up the shortage, agricultural activities possibly have to be extended more and more to ecologically-fragile zones, thereby jeopardizing the environment. Many delegates stressed the importance of environmental and climatic factors. They noted with approval the chapter on Environmental Aspects of Agricultural Development, and they also suggested that the links between resource speculation such as deforestation, climate, poverty and agricultural production growth should be more closely explored.

As has happened in discussion in Commission I, when we considered the earlier agenda items, the issues of international trade and policy reform also drew particular attention. A number of delegates expressed concern that the under-nourished were anticipated to be greater at 2000 than today, and that for some regions the changes indicated gave cause for great concern. In general the delegates were distressed to note that food security was unlikely to be realised during this century.

The impact of macro-economic policies, debt management and structural adjustment on the demand for agricultural products and the performance of the agricultural sector was referred to by several delegates, as also was the role of the public sector. A number of delegates drew attention to the assumption and methodology of the debt study and to the differences between these and those used in the earlier survey, leading to more realistic conclusions.

Dr Islam has referred to some of the changes and the methodology that was adopted in some detail in his reply to the debate. However, some delegates suggested that analysis of alternate assumptions concerning key variables would have been helpful better to understand prospects for the future. Among the topics suggested for deeper analysis were the impact of alternative rates of economic growth, higher energy costs, alternative levels of financial resources from external and internal sources for agricultural development.

There is also a lot of emphasis on the need for improving data base and data collection. There is a general feeling that the study deserves to be published as was the earlier study. There is also a feeling that, based on the findings of the study and its conclusions, the need for re-orienting the activities, policies and programmes of FAO also requires to be gone into.

There is a general feeling that some follow-up action on the Report is warranted, particularly in the background of regional studies such as those on Africa and Latin America which have already been launched. There is also a feeling that biotechnology and research require greater emphasis.

In concluding the discussion, I do hope that delegates will agree with me when I express the hope that, just as the 1979 study proved to be incorrect in certain respects, the present "Agriculture: Toward 2000" will also prove to be wrong. I hope the rates of agricultural production will be higher than anticipated. I hope that the population growth rates will be lower than anticipated. I hope the consumption and demand patterns, particularly in developing countries, will be higher than has been anticipated. I will be happy to see that the population of under-nourished people will be lower than has been predicted. If all these hopes are realised, I am confident that in the third conference after this there will be a need to bring up yet another "Agriculture: Toward 2000".

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): Habiéndose terminado la discusión de este tema quisiera solamente hacer constar, a nombre de la Organización, nuestra gratitud al Profesor Nurul Islam por haber aceptado venir desde su nuevo cargo en el IFPRI en Washington, para acompañarnos en el debate de los temas en los cuales el ha tenido la responsabilidad de conducir por largos años las investigaciones, al mismo tiempo que ha sido la persona que ha representado a la Organización en los debates de la Conferencia.

Quisiera colocar, no sólo en el verbatim, sino expresar en esta Comisión y a través de ella a la Conferencia, la gratitud y el aprecio que la Organización le expresa por haber tenido el gesto de querer compartir con nosotros su conocimiento y su experiencia en los temas que son largamente por él conocidos.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

9. Second Progress Report on WCARRD Programme of Action, including the Role of Women in Agricultural Development (cont'd)
9. Deuxième rapport intérimaire sur le Programme d'action de la CMRADR y compris des femmes dans le développement agricole (suite)
9. Segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la CMRADR, en particular en lo relativo a la función, de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola (continuación)

CHAIRMAN: I would now suggest that we go back to agenda Item 9. I would draw delegates' attention to document C 87/LIM/39 which contains appendices A and B which present the resolutions cleared by the Resolutions' Committee. We will now take up those two resolutions so that our discussions on agenda item 9 can be completed. There are two possible approaches we can take: one, we can take appendix A and appendix B separately and pass both the resolutions if the Commission feels that both those resolutions deserve to be passed. The second alternative is to try to see whether what has been expressed in both those resolutions could not be brought into one resolution if the Commission feel that would be better. These are the alternatives I would request you to consider.

Tawfiq Ahmed Hassan AL MESH-HADANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): Having gone through appendices A and B, I have noticed that both the items cover the same subject. Looking at paragraph 4 of appendix A and the last paragraph of appendix B, in substance they say the same thing. The only difference is one of wording. Therefore, we could merge both Resolutions into one before we decide upon it.

Patrick O'QUIN (France): Oui, Monsieur le Président, je souhaiterais effectivement soutenir la proposition qui vient juste d'être faite. Je crois que notre commission avait montré une grande unanimité lors des débats consacrés à ce point, et je crois qu'il serait un petit peu dommage de présenter deux résolutions, ce qui laisserait supposer que nous nous sommes séparés sur ce point, alors que cela ne me paraît pas refléter la teneur des débats.

CHAIRMAN: If the general consensus is that, instead of two resolutions, we should have one, then we have two courses of action open to us: one, to try to debate in this group of 158 nations how exactly these two resolutions should be merged into one; the second alternative is to indicate these guidelines to our Drafting Committee which, if need be, in consultation with the sponsors of the two resolutions, will finalize a common draft which could then come before the Commission. May I request your reactions.

Tawfiq Ahmed Hassan AL MESH- HADANI (Iraq) (original language Arabic): I would rather have the Drafting Committee look into the marriage of both Draft Resolutions.

CHAIRMAN: Do I take it that the Commission agrees?

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Con todas mis excusas, yo no estoy de acuerdo con que estas dos resoluciones puedan ser resumidas en una sola, porque la finalidad con que se presenta esta resolución, que tiene un sólo artículo resolutivo, es buscar hacia el futuro - y así lo dije en mi intervención de ayer - la posibilidad de que la FAO, que hasta ahora ha venido teniendo muy dispersa, en muchos programas, la atención a la mujer, tuviera en el futuro, no ahora, porque su presupuesto no se lo permite, una Comisión de la Mujer que pudiera integrar todos los programas que ahora están dispersos en muchos programas y muchas comisiones. Esta es la finalidad de esa resolución.

La otra resolución está pidiendo muchas cosas, unas que se están cumpliendo por la FAO, y otras que están reclamando gastos presupuestarios que la FAO no puede hacer, como incluir varias mujeres en las oficinas o en programas de capacitación, cosas que, a mi juicio, son útiles pero que no creo que sean prácticas porque la FAO está siendo víctima de una reducción de presupuesto que le haría no poder cumplirlo.

Por ello creemos que mezclar una cosa con otra, diluiría el objetivo de esta resolución que es muy concreta, que tiene una sola finalidad, y, al mismo tiempo, perturbaría, digamos, la posibilidad de lograr este objetivo porque los otros no se si van a poder ser atendidos por la FAO.

En todo caso, la Asamblea es soberana y ella decidirá, pero será con mi voto en contra. Gracias.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate from Venezuela has made the point that she would rather the two resolutions stood alone, separately. One possibility is that the operational points in Appendix A, which are six, and the operational point in Appendix B, which is one, should be merged together into one common resolution which could be hammered out by the Drafting Committee, if need be, in consultation with the sponsors of the resolutions at Appendix A and Appendix B. The second possibility, as urged by the delegate from Venezuela, could be to leave them apart and consider and deal with them separately. The matter is before the house.

Ms Susan ULBAEK (Denmark): The Nordic countries see no problem with merging the two resolutions. We think they go very well in line. We are asking for an action plan, and the delegate from Venezuela is asking for a meeting to discuss this action plan. We think they could go very well together.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other views?

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Con todo respeto a la distinguida delegación de Dinamarca, yo debo aclarar que en mi resolución no estoy pidiendo un plan de acción. Nosotros no sabemos qué podría hacer una reunión de expertos - que es lo que yo pido - con el problema de la mujer que FAO confronta. La FAO tiene numerosos programas; ha tomado en el curso de más de 10 años numerosas resoluciones con diferentes orientaciones para ocuparse del problema de la mujer, y todavía tenemos una serie de aspectos en la vida de la mujer en el medio rural, que es a la cual nos concretamos en cuanto a la posibilidad de su mejoramiento, que no se han cumplido.

La mujer se siente víctima de discriminación en muchísimos países en donde ella recibe la peor carga, porque lleva la doble carga de madre, dueña de casa, productora, trabajadora, y en algunos casos, casi de bestia de carga, con mi respeto y admiración para ella. Pero en otras partes, la mujer todavía sigue siendo analfabeta, no tomada en cuenta para nada; ella no puede ser propietaria de tierra, ella no puede recibir créditos porque está en una posición capitidismínuida, porque tiene un marido, un hermano, un tío, en definitiva cualquier masculino, que la domina. Todas éstas son situaciones que deben ser estudiadas en un contexto de dar a la mujer un mejoramiento global de su vida. Por ello, cuando pido una reunión de expertos no estoy pidiendo un plan de acción, porque un plan de acción no resuelve esto; pido la posibilidad de que se estudie - pero eso sería cuando existiera la reunión de expertos - la perspectiva de que los estudios de la situación de la mujer se enfoquen para la creación de una Comisión de la Mujer en la FAO así como tenemos la Comisión de Productos Básicos, la Comisión que estudia los cereales, y todas esas comisiones que la FAO tiene. Yo sé que en este momento no es posible que la pidamos, pero cuando se logre esa reunión de expertos no vamos a pedir un plan de acción más-porque ya hay varios planes de acción aquí, en diferentes resoluciones - vamos a pedir algo permanente, un órgano nuevo creado en la FAO para atender a las necesidades de la mujer en el globo y que no pueden ser atendidas en un solo plan de acción. Lo que pido es algo más concreto y más contundente, más efectivo y eficiente. Por esa razón es por lo que pido la reunión de expertos, porque no parece que eso se vaya a resolver en una sola reunión; pudiera ser que esa reunión crease un órgano para dedicárselo antes de que se haga la comisión. Esa era la razón por la cual yo decidí que fuera una sola parte resolutive, en

vez de diluirla en cuatro o cinco, y que se dedicara exclusivamente a la posibilidad de lograr esto para la mujer, para darle la importancia que nosotros consideramos que ella debe tener dentro de la atención que la FAO debe prestarle.

CHAIRMAN: I do not want to appear to be an MCP, but I must confess that I am at a loss, as I am sure many other delegates would be, to know what we should do when two distinguished women delegates are not able to agree on the role of women in development as embodied in these two resolutions.

Patrick O'QUIN (France): J'en viens presque à regretter, tout à l'heure, la proposition que j'ai faite en soutenant un de nos collègues, en entendant les explications données par le représentant du Venezuela. En France, on dit traditionnellement que, lorsque l'on veut enterrer un problème on crée une commission. Je crains que la proposition qui soit faite soit exactement de cet ordre-là.

Deuxièmement, je crois également qu'il n'est pas dans le rôle de la FAO de se transformer en organisation consacrée à la condition féminine. Une commission de la femme au sein de la FAO ne me paraît pas trouver sa place logique, ni normale. La FAO doit se consacrer plutôt à des programmes qui soient des programmes convaincants et c'est pour cela qu'en tout état de cause si l'on devait fusionner les deux textes, il serait pour ma délégation, inacceptable, de voir créer une commission de la femme au sein de cette Organisation.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I should like to request the two sponsors of the resolution to agree to the merger. Going through the two resolutions, there are clearly common areas of concern. I think we all share these concerns. We are prepared to help to rehabilitate women to enable them to become more useful at home and in the field. We also share the concern that the FAO is seriously looking at ways of cutting down costs. Some delegates will know that Commission II is having problems in adopting the Programme of Work and Budget. In the interests of economy and the interests of women, these two resolutions should be merged. My delegation would like to be associated with a merged resolution and is willing to sponsor it.

Raul LOPEZ LIRA (Mexico): Dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas hay varias resoluciones tendentes a fortalecer la posición de la mujer, y, sobre todo, a reconocer la importante labor que tiene la mujer en todas nuestras economías. Por tal motivo, yo quisiera apoyar la proposición de la Embajadora de Venezuela.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Mr Chairman, I know that your remark was made with the best will in the world, but we must get over pointing out whether or not two women who are proposing resolutions can agree. These two resolutions were both proposed by delegations. I do not think there were any similar comments made in other Commissions, where agreement has also been very difficult to reach, and most of the speakers have been male. I think it is an indication of how hard it is for all of us to work out how to address these kinds of problems.

My delegation would suggest that this is not a problem of merging two resolutions. I think it is much more a question of substance than a question of format: does all of this fit in one resolution or does it not? Listening to what the delegate of Venezuela has said, I think what she is proposing is an alternative to some of the proposals in the Nordic resolution. It would seem to me that would be a matter of greater concern to this body than whether we have one resolution or two. I think we need to look at the resolutions, talk about what they mean and ask ourselves what it is that we want the FAO to do.

From her remarks, I do not think it is readily apparent to the delegate of Venezuela that what she is proposing could be incorporated under a plan of action. As I understand her resolution, what she is proposing is a meeting of experts to develop a plan of action, or a series of actions. Maybe she does not want to call it a plan of action. I think we need to deal with the substance, and perhaps that will get us out of some of the difficulties we are in as to whether we need one resolution or two. I do not know whether we should be dealing with that issue of substance in such a large body as this one or whether some other sort of arrangement should be made. I leave that to others to consider.

CHAIRMAN: I should like to offer a sincere apology to all the distinguished lady delegates if I did sound like an MCP. I prefaced my remarks by saying that I did not want to do that. If I did, my apologies are there to all the lady delegates.

The proposal before us is: shall we debate here each of these resolutions and try to finalize them, or shall we refer them to a smaller group, possibly the Drafting Committee? What is the sense of the house?

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): He leído los dos proyectos de resolución atentamente y tengo que decir que estoy perfectamente de acuerdo con los dos. Creo que los dos proyectos de resolución entran totalmente dentro de las competencias de la FAO a pesar de que por alguna delegación no se haya juzgado de esta forma.

El problema, quizás, no sea en estos momentos tanto el de si se trata de una o dos resoluciones, sino de un problema de fondo, como me parece que acaba de decir la delegada de Estados Unidos. Quizás el problema sería ver la posibilidad de, dando una nueva redacción sobre todo a los considerandos previos, incluir también las partes dispositivas de las dos resoluciones. Pero creo que esto no tiene ninguna importancia. Si esto no se consigue, por mi parte yo estoy dispuesto a votar las dos resoluciones independientemente una de la otra, porque aunque son cosas que tienen algunas similitudes, son también suficientemente distintas y además con las dos estoy total y absolutamente de acuerdo.

Tawfiq Ahmed AL MESH-HADANI (Iraq)(original language Arabic): My proposal to merge both draft resolutions was merely a procedural proposal. Perhaps I do not agree on the substance of some of the paragraphs in the first draft resolution because of the financial implications of such paragraphs. But when I said that we needed to merge both draft resolutions before we submitted them to the Drafting Committee, I made that proposal because I thought that would make life easier for us all, so that both draft resolutions can be transmitted to the Drafting Committee and be discussed there.

CHAIRMAN: The issues before us are first: what are the substantive portions of the two resolutions? Do they meet with general approval? Secondly, should they be combined into one or should they stand apart? If they are to be combined into one, who is to do the combining? These are the three issues. I take it that the general feeling seems to be that because of the specific views expressed by the sponsors of the resolutions, the Commission may consider these two resolutions separately. Would that meet with general approval? If so, we can take each of these resolutions one by one, discuss them, take a view and pass them.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Acabo de leer los dos textos de las resoluciones y me parecen realmente distintos, como lo manifiesta la ilustre delegada de Venezuela. Además, de acuerdo con el primer párrafo del Comité de Resoluciones, se dice lo siguiente: "Los textos de estas resoluciones se consideraron procedentes y se transmiten con la presente a la Comisión I para debate." Con ello prácticamente se da cierta diferenciación a las dos resoluciones porque creo que la Comisión de Resoluciones hubiese optado por recomendar que se unan, de haber aprobado una de ellas. No sé cuál sea el procedimiento, cuál sea la hermenéutica, pero mi delegación apoya a la de Venezuela porque considera que ambas resoluciones son distintas: una pide un plan de acción y la otra pide una reunión de expertos.

CHAIRMAN: As far as I can understand the delegate of Peru, the Resolutions Committee only pronounces on the question of whether these resolutions are receivable or not. It is up to the Commission to decide to pass as many resolutions as it wishes. That seems to be right. I take it that the sense of the house is that we should take these resolutions separately, discuss them and decide on them. Does this meet with general approval? If so, we shall take Appendix A first. Are there any views on Appendix A or shall we adopt it as it is?

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): I have only one question with respect to Appendix A, just for clarification. Paragraph 4 says "include verification and monitoring procedures". I need to be advised as to what is envisaged by this phrase. It sounds to me as if FAO might be expected to assume a policeman's role. Is this the case? I can see very strange situations arising with disagreements between the governments, if they are to verify these things.

My other request for clarification is with respect to paragraph 6. If there is the consideration of gender, I need it to be clarified. I wonder whether this will have an impact on regional or geographic representation within the Organization, given that some regions and countries have more trained manpower than others.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): As we said in our statement on the Programme of Action for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, we can support this resolution if it is carried out within existing resources. So my delegation would like to see an addition to paragraph 4 which indicates that the work described there would be carried out within existing resources. I might add that we would imagine that if FAO is doing its existing work without doing this sort of thing, maybe there are some faults in what they are doing.

CHAIRMAN: Are there any other views? The proposals before us are first, Appendix A, paragraph 4, whether "verification and" can be omitted. Secondly, at the end of paragraph 4 we should add a suitable clause qualifying that these functions are to be carried out within the existing resources.

Ms Susan ULBAEK (Denmark): The delegate of Swaziland asked why the word "verification" is there. I do not think he really wanted to delete the word, but perhaps I am mistaken. The reason for "verification" is to enable Member States, not FAO, to see what FAO is doing. Of course, if we are doing verification and monitoring, it is a kind of evaluation. FAO will be better able to learn from its experiences in the future.

Concerning regional division of staff members, that was not in the proposal. Does the delegate want it inserted or was he just asking about it? I would like to associate myself with the views of the delegate of the United States because the Nordic countries find that the integration of women is an essential issue which should be part of whatever FAO is doing. The discussion here yesterday showed that many countries share our view. This implies that funding of the Action Plan should be financed within the Regular Programme. If we accept any kind of extra-budgetary financing of something like that, it is the same as agreeing to the issue of the integration of women as some kind of appendix to FAO's activities. That is certainly not the intention of the resolution.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I find a great deal of substance in the US position that whatever has been said in paragraph 4 should be dealt within the existing resources. However, having said that, I find it difficult to associate this with paragraph 6, which seems to be indicating that FAO should take steps to make sure that positions are created for women. If new positions are going to be created, that implies that additional resources should be forthcoming unless, as I am told, some men will be laid off and women take their jobs. This is not precisely what we have in mind. There-fore, much as I support the US position, I find it difficult to correlate that with paragraph 6.

CHAIRMAN: As far as I understand paragraph 6, it does not envisage an increase in the number of positions per se. It only envisages that among the existing positions representation for women, particularly at the professional level, both at Headquarters and at the field level, would be in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Forward-Looking Strategies. From this it would follow that paragraph 6 by itself does not have any specific financial implications, whereas in relation to paragraph 4 that apprehension is possibly valid.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I read paragraph 6 Mr Chairman, the way you did. But if it is necessary to clarify the matter, to allay the concern of the delegate of Ghana, under paragraph 6 we could insert the word "existing" so that the second line would read "within the existing FAO staff". Women have waited a long time for equality in hiring, they are not requesting that any men be fired so that women be employed.

Chairman: Are there any other views? We have three proposals: First, on the point raised by the delegate of Swaziland on "verification" in paragraph 4, the clarification is that "verification" relates not to the work being done by the member countries or any policing action, as feared by the delegate, but verification of the work being done with FAO itself.

Secondly, at the end of paragraph 4 we should add a phrase which would ensure that these activities would be within the framework of the existing budgetary allocations. In paragraph 6, line 2, after the words "employed within the" we should add the word "existing" and then read on, "FAO staff". Would these proposals meet with general approval so that we can take this resolution as approved and go to the resolution in Appendix B? I take it that the sense of the house is that we approve this resolution in its modified form. If there is any dissent could I hear it? Then this resolution is approved.

Are there any viewpoints on the resolution in Appendix B, or shall we pass the resolution as it is?

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I would assume that this resolution also has budgetary implications and so I think we would need to find a place in which to insert that concern about existing resources within the operative paragraph. Having decided on the previous resolution, it would seem to me at least a valid point to note or call attention to that resolution as well in the preamble. So I would propose those two changes, otherwise I think things will not be kept consistent and in tandem.

CHAIRMAN: May I point out that the Resolutions Committee in its Sixth Report has mentioned financial implications only in relation to Appendix A and not Appendix B?

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I could make several points on this since I attended that Resolutions Committee meeting, but I should hate to usurp the position of the Chairman of that Committee.

It is my understanding that the discussion of the financial implications of the Nordic resolution was not - I repeat not - part of the formal discussion of the Nordic resolution: number one. Number two: for reasons known to the Committee the discussion of the resolution proposed by Venezuela which was available only in an informal way in one language, was extremely cursory and many of us had great difficulty in understanding it. We did not want to hold up the resolution, because we knew both of them should be considered here, to have a detailed discussion. So I am not sure that we can make too much of the point that what is on the cover of C 87/LIM/39 should preclude the addition of such a point in the resolution.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): La Secretaría se había abstenido de participar en esta discusión dada la expresión de voluntades que había sido recogida en el debate que aquí se está llevando a efecto. Pero quisiera ofrecer algunos puntos adicionales a los que aquí se han entregado respecto de cuáles serían las implicaciones de las dos resoluciones. Obviamente, tal como está indicado en el informe del Comité de Resoluciones, la resolución del Apéndice a) tiene en dos párrafos una implicancia desde el punto de vista financiero. El párrafo cuarto, como ha sido sugerido, se ha agregado dentro de los recursos.

Pero quiero destacar que el párrafo que tiene un costo realmente muy elevado dependiendo del nivel de actividad que se desea llevar, es el párrafo cinco de la resolución, Apéndice a). Cualquier programa de capacitación que involucre y entrene, al menos, a 1 500 ó 2 000 funcionarios de la FAO, cualquiera que sea el plazo en que ese entrenamiento se realice, obviamente eso cuesta recursos materiales desde el punto de vista de reuniones, desde el punto de vista de los costos que suponen sus pasajes y otros elementos que están anexos.

Obviamente nosotros creemos entender el espíritu con el que esto se ha formulado, pero este punto número 5 ha tenido una implicación, desde el punto de vista de recursos, que al menos en el programa de presupuesto del año 1988/89 no estaba contemplada, como es una acción de capacitación de esta naturaleza.

Por supuesto, si la Comisión y la Conferencia lo resolviesen, podría tener un análisis distinto, pero el impacto desde el punto de vista financiero, es éste.

Volviendo ahora o tomando el Apéndice b), obviamente la realización de una reunión, aunque sea a nivel de expertos y no obstante que el Comité de Resoluciones explícitamente no lo hubiese señalado, también involucra un costo.

A este respecto, quiero señalar que en el curso del debate del día de ayer, se ha formulado, incluso por una delegación que está aquí presente, la proposición de financiar una reunión análoga a la que aquí está presentada. No estoy yo en condiciones de decir si esto ha sido hecho teniendo en cuenta

o no lo que aquí está formulado, pero contestando a la pregunta suya, Sr. Presidente, y haciendo abstracción del debate que se ha resuelto en el día de ayer y lo que está en el Verbatim, obviamente el párrafo número uno de la Resolución del Apéndice b) involucra un costo; una reunión de expertos no se hace sin recursos. En consecuencia, la Casa también debe avocarse a analizar ese mismo tema.

CHAIRMAN: The point that has been made is that Appendix B also has financial implications, so the point made by the delegate of the United States about the cost implications being referred to in the resolution as we did in the case of Appendix A is valid.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Other United Nations bodies have been asked to do this kind of plan of action. This is essential to the adequacy of FAO's programmes; it is not extra.

I am tempted to ask the Secretariat what kinds of programmes they will continue to have of this sort of training is not undertaken. This is not something extra; this is part of what the programme should be doing. I know that this is going to cost money, but it seems that it might be wiser to do less better than more less well, as has been done until now. I think the argument is being made that this training is necessary to improve programmes and projects.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Evidentemente, podemos hacer tantas contracciones como queramos, pero va a ser difícil que limitemos la posibilidad de incrementar un gasto si encargamos cosas a la FAO; es decir, si la FAO tiene que hacer una reunión, tiene que hacer unas reuniones de capacitación, una reunión de expertos, etc... para no entrar en todos los puntos en general, muchos de estos puntos cuestan dinero, Sr. Presidente.

Es evidente que cuesta dinero. Toda reunión de expertos tiene un costo, como es claro, y como todos lo sabemos y como todos estamos acostumbrados a asistir a muchas reuniones, y todas cuestan dinero. El problema es que creo que cuando aceptamos esa Resolución es siendo conscientes de que una parte del dinero de la FAO se tendrá que dedicar a estas funciones. Quizás hay un problema de aprobación de Presupuesto para el año próximo, para el bienio siguiente, que, es inmediata la aprobación puesto que seguramente será mañana o en los próximos días, aunque estas cosas no se contemplan, pero no se contemplan específicamente.

Sin embargo, creo que de una forma un poco abstracta, en muchos o algunos de los capítulos podrían entrar los gastos correspondientes a esto. Evidentemente, eso va dentro de la política de apretarse el cinturón por parte de FAO. Pero yo creo que no sería necesario hacer ninguna llamada a que no se va a incrementar el presupuesto o los recursos presupuestarios ordinarios disponibles, etc. Creo que será necesario dentro del presupuesto aprobado, si es posible, en el que se apruebe del próximo bienio, y si no fuera posible, para el siguiente, preparar los fondos necesarios para poder llevar a efecto estas dos Resoluciones. En el momento en que se hayan aprobado, empezará a obligar a todos, a todos incluida lógicamente la FAO.

No creo que debamos entrar, en estos momentos, en la necesidad de tener los dólares o las libras necesarias ya individualizadas sino en la aprobación, y con las disponibilidades que pueda tener la FAO, ir tomando las medidas necesarias para ir cumpliendo lo que esta resolución obliga, a partir del momento de su aprobación.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): Could we have some explanation of the words "production technology" at the end of the paragraph beginning "Reaffirming"? I should like to know what those words refer to. When I have heard the answer I may make further comments.

Yan HEIDSMA (Netherlands): I just wanted to react to what Dr Moreno said, and also I should like to touch upon one or two other things which have been stated by delegations here.

Having read the two resolutions and having studied the resolution put forward by Venezuela before dealing with it in the Committee here, my delegation came to the conclusion that these two resolutions would have to be read in conjunction with each other, and that basically what is stated in paragraph 4 in Appendix A, which deals with the plan of action - the drawing up of this plan of action could be assisted by the activity foreseen in paragraph 1 of the resolution in Appendix B which talks about the meeting of experts.

With regard to the training programme in paragraph 5 of the first resolution, we very much agree with what has been said by the United States and by Spain. My delegation has always seen this as an ongoing activity which ought to be reinforced, perhaps, over the next biennium, but we do not think that this would necessarily lead to an increase in the overall budget. We could envisage, though, that it might lead to some rearrangement of activities within the existing budget line or budget chapter under which these activities would have to be carried out.

As far as the meeting of experts is concerned, my delegation announced a few days ago that we would be prepared to support a meeting of experts of this kind, and when I read the text I come very much to the conclusion that this is indeed the sort of meeting we had in mind. However, I did not say, as Dr Moreno seemed to imply, that the Netherlands would finance this meeting in toto. That is not the case. We are prepared to contribute to the meeting, and we can discuss at some later stage to what extent that would be possible. That is all I wanted to say in this connection.

Ms Bárbara MARTIN (Canada): At this stage I should simply like to associate the Canadian delegation with the remarks made by the United States, Spain and the Netherlands. We are firmly of the conviction that this Conference is a priority-setting exercise. The Programme of Work and Budget has not yet been adopted. This is our opportunity to indicate that women in development is clearly a priority with all delegations represented here. Therefore, it is simply a matter of reallocation within the budget and not a matter of extra-budgetary resources.

CHAIRMAN: We now have three issues to deal with on Appendix B.

The suggestion is that in paragraph 2 of Appendix B beginning "Recalling" we should also refer to the earlier resolution at Appendix A so that that also comes into the recalling process.

At the penultimate paragraph on this page starting with "Reaffirming" the delegate of Ghana wanted clarification as to what is meant by "production technology".

Then on page B2, the suggestion is to enter a caveat suggesting that this also should be within the budgetary allocations with no extra expenditure.

May I request a clarification of the two words "production technology"?

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN GOMEZ (Venezuela): Quiero explicarle a la delegación de Ghana que esta parte no corresponde a la parte resolutive de la Resolución. Estamos hablando de las cosas, de las actividades que ya la FAO tiene y de los propósitos que ya la FAO tiene, y que están expresados en su documento C 28/LIM/16 en donde habla- de los programas que está llevando adelante en capacitación para que la mujer tenga la garantía de fácil acceso a la tecnología en los aspectos pertinentes a la actividad productiva. Es decir, que esta mujer del medio rural que actualmente no puede ser eficiente porque ella no ha sido capacitada para ello, ya la FAO se está ocupando de este aspecto, y así lo demuestra en su documento que ha sido presentado, que espero que la delegación de Ghana pueda leerlo.

Allí se explica cómo la FAO ha tenido sus diferentes actividades y programas de capacitación con este propósito. Eso es lo que nosotros estamos apoyando, y con el propósito de apoyar esto es que precisamente vamos a pedir esa reunión de expertos. Y también de paso, quiero explicar a quienes están confundiendo la proposición de esta Resolución con el Plan de Acción, que no es lo mismo.

Estamos hablando de una reunión de expertos que tendría por finalidad estudiar todo el material y las actividades que la FAO está llevando a cabo en relación con la mujer, para que estudiando eso, pudiera organizarse, sugerirse o desembocar para el futuro en la posibilidad de dedicar un órgano especial para ello. Y no como ahora se hace en que en cada Comisión de la FAO hay una atención a la mujer.

Yo creo que la mujer necesita programas específicos en cuanto a la posibilidad de que sea integrada al desarrollo rural. No es cuestión de un cursito hoy, otro acá y otro allá en un plan de acción que se diluye sino en un proceso continuado orgánico; y por ello, pienso yo que es conveniente tener una reunión de expertos que lo estudie, lo analice en toda su extensión el panorama de actividades de la FAO.

Nosotros sí creemos que la mujer merece que la FAO le preste una atención puesto que la industria y la agroindustria, y las actividades de las grandes corporaciones y de todos los que se dedican a la explotación de la agricultura, tienen necesidad de la mano de obra de la mujer, que dicho sea de paso, está tratada en condiciones inferiores porque no la tratan como trabajador calificado; en la mayoría de las industrias y en la mayoría de las actividades de trabajo en el campo, la mujer está considerada en muchos casos igual que los niños porque no se les dá en salarios ni en categorías la misma estimación que al hombre.

Esta es una reivindicación que hasta ahora la FAO ha venido satisfaciendo mediante la capacitación de la mujer para que ella pueda rendir su actividad en iguales condiciones que el hombre. Y por eso es por lo que yo hago referencia aquí, reiterando lo que la FAO hace en los cursos de capacitación dando a la mujer acceso a la tecnología para que no lo haga de una manera empírica, sino que pueda ser un trabajador más eficiente. Eso es lo que significa el acceso a la tecnología en los aspectos pertinentes a la actividad productiva.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITTELLIANNIBALDI (Italie): Madame la déléguée du Venezuela a répondu à une grande partie des questions pour lesquelles j'avais demandé la parole. Moi aussi, je me demandais s'il était vraiment nécessaire de prévoir une résolution à part, c'est-à-dire deux résolutions qui ont pour objet le même objet mais on ne peut pas parler de femme-objet! Serait-il possible de réunir les deux textes pour avoir quelque chose de complet?

Madame l'honorable déléguée du Venezuela a expliqué qu'elle voudrait avoir quelque chose de très particulier en ce qui concerne le problème de la femme dans le développement rural, quelqu'un qui peut voir toute chose avec l'expérience et la compétence nécessaires pourrait donner des conseils sur l'ensemble de la situation.

Je suis tout à fait d'accord sur la nécessité d'envisager une réunion d'experts mais quand même je continue de me demander s'il ne serait pas possible de suggérer au Secrétariat d'envisager une seule résolution sur la femme, qui prévoit le rôle de la femme dans le développement, en particulier, étant donné que nous sommes à la FAO, le rôle de la femme dans le développement rural et de prévoir dans les plans d'action du Directeur général la possibilité d'envisager une réunion d'experts le cas échéant qui examine, qui suggère toutes les solutions qui pourraient être nécessaires pour résoudre ces problèmes qui, naturellement peuvent ressortir du Programme ordinaire de la FAO. Je suis tout à fait d'accord qu'une des premières priorités de la FAO devrait être pour la femme, non pas dans les textes, non pas dans les documents mais dans les faits. Mais si quelqu'un, quelque part, veut contribuer ou aider la FAO pour un sujet si important que celui de la femme, je pense qu'on ne devrait pas l'en empêcher.

CHAIRMAN: We have indeed gone into this question earlier as to whether we should have one or two resolutions. The considered view of the house is that we should have two resolutions. We have passed the resolution in Appendix A and we are now on Appendix B. I suggest that we finalize this resolution.

Ms Susan ULBAEK (Denmark): I would like to say that I support convening a meeting as suggested by Venezuela. However, I have one small problem with the fourth preambular paragraph. As I read it, it implies that FAO is already now dealing with all aspects of women effectively and that we do not need a meeting nor an action plan. Perhaps we could change the fourth preambular paragraph. On the other hand, perhaps I am not reading it correctly.

CHAIRMAN: Paragraph 4 says that FAO effectively encourages; : it does not say that FAO succeeds.

Laughter

Rires

Risas

In so far as production technology is concerned, may I ask the delegate from Ghana not to press the point further and to leave the last clause intact?

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I have listened attentively to the explanation, but I still have a feeling that the whole paragraph seems to be a little bit limiting. In agriculture when we talk about production technology it seems to mean production input such as new seeds, fertilizers, etc. so that by mentioning production it seems we are limiting ourselves to production activities. In west Africa, for instance, marketing activity, distribution, processing take up a large portion of the activities engaged in by women. That is the reason why I find this terminology a little bit limiting unless the production activities include technology that will create marketing services, etc.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): May I suggest a solution to the problem of paragraph 4? Maybe we could simply drop the word "effectively", because I think you are right that maybe FAO does not succeed, in which case it has not been effective, although it may have tried. Perhaps the problems could be solved by dropping the word "effectively".

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): I want to give our support to what has just been said by the delegate from Denmark. I do believe that both Venezuela, the Nordic countries and all of the others that support one or the other of the resolutions have closed positions and the best solution at this moment would be for the Danish and Venezuelandelelegates to get together and discuss it and later we could come back to this resolution.

CHAIRMAN: I think we have gone into this aspect. May I request the delegates not to reopen it so that we can proceed with our agenda. There are three propositions. Do I take it from the delegate of Venezuela that she has no objection to referring in paragraph 2 to the earlier resolution that has been passed in Appendix A?

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, entiendo que nosotros ya hemos aprobado la primera resolución que consideramos, y estamos discutiendo ahora la otra resolución. Con la excusa del señor delegado del Brasil no me explico ahora tenemos que volver atrás; si nosotros ya aprobamos una resolución y la Asamblea había decidido que se aprobaran las dos, no sé porqué ahora vamos a regresar al punto de partida; por esa razón yo insisto en que si me piden aclarar... .

CHAIRMAN: May I clarify the position. The delegate from the United States has suggested that in paragraph 2 where we are recalling resolutions 2/66, 10/75, 14/77 and 12/85 a reference could possibly be made to the earlier resolution also in paragraph 2. That is the suggestion being made. We are not going back to Appendix A.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo no había escuchado que la delegación de los Estados Unidos de América quisiera incorporar aquí, en este segundo párrafo, la resolución de Dinamarca; si ellos quieren poner allí la resolución de Dinamarca, yo no tengo inconveniente, pero eso no va a influir en esa resolución porque eso sería completamente diferente. El propósito de esta resolución, señor Presidente, tal como está presentada, es dar énfasis a una parte resolutiva sólo para la creación de una reunión de expertos, de manera que no se diluya con todas las otras peticiones que hace la resolución de Dinamarca, que yo respeto, y con la que estoy de acuerdo, pero yo considero que no hay objeción para que se aprueben las dos, porque no tenemos porqué mezclar una cosa con otra, y si se había decidido ya aprobar la resolución de Dinamarca, creo que se debería discutir y aprobar la de Venezuela como está ya en proceso, sin darle muchas vueltas.

Ismael DIAZ YUBERO (España): Yo creo que son dos cosas, las que se están tratando, completamente distintas. Hemos tomado ya una decisión y yo creo absolutamente que no sería bueno mezclar un tema con otro.

Evidentemente, se trata de una parte expositiva, pero, repito, es expositiva y es muy importante; es decir, la parte expositiva de una resolución no es parte sustantiva, y quizá en la parte expositiva se podría decir también o hacer una referencia a que existe otra resolución, igual que se habla de que hay ya otra resolución sobre la integración de la mujer, u otras resoluciones a las que se hace aquí referencia. Pero creo que eso no tiene importancia, como creo que tampoco tiene mucha importancia

que se quite o se ponga la palabra "eficiente" en el cuarto considerando, en el cuarto párrafo; que se discuta el fácil acceso a la tecnología o que se discutan cualquiera de los aspectos que están antes del último párrafo porque, señor Presidente, todo esto no tiene más validez que como información. Realmente, de lo que se trata en esta resolución - y es un tema completamente distinto a lo que hemos aprobado anteriormente, y completamente distinto a todos los demás aspectos que también hemos tratado anteriormente es de que se convoque una reunión de expertos para tratar un tema concreto sobre la integración de la mujer en la agricultura. Quizás algunas veces caemos en algunas concepciones un poco machistas y algunas veces hasta me he podido casi sonrojar cuando se ha querido echar una mano al papel de la mujer y se ha dicho que ya es hora de que en los despachos haya menos bigotes y más "minigonnas". Yo, verdaderamente, me avergüenzo de oír estas cosas; creo que no se debería decir; creo que es un tema muy serio el que estamos discutiendo, y lo único que pide esta resolución es que nos atengamos a su último párrafo en el que solicita la convocatoria de una reunión de expertos para tratar, precisamente, estos temas.

Mme Anna Teresa FRITTELLI-ANNIBALDI (Italie): La proposition de la déléguée des Etats-Unis de rappeler les résolutions déjà approuvées dans l'annexe B me satisferrait dans le doute que j'avais d'une liaison entre les deux résolutions qui ont été prises par la même Conférence, sur les mêmes sujets qui ne sont pas liés entre eux.

CHAIRMAN: We now have to deal with four paragraphs in Appendix B. In paragraph 2 one suggestion is that while we are "recalling" we will make a reference to the Resolution in Appendix A which has just now been adopted. The second suggestion is that no such reference be made. Which do we accept?

In view of the strong views expressed by the Venezuelan delegate, may I suggest to the Commission that we leave the wording as it is, without modification?

Ms. Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I am sorry, I do not like to delay the proceedings, but I think this Commission would look very foolish if we did not have one resolution refer to the other. I also think this Commission would look even more foolish if we had a resolution saying that we consider that FAO has effectively encouraged its departments and divisions to take women's problems into consideration.

CHAIRMAN: May I interrupt you? We shall be coming to paragraph 4 separately.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, excúseme pero por más fuerte que yo haya hablado, porque mi voz es así y además tengo micrófono, no he dicho que me oponga a que se haga mención aquí a la resolución que se acaba de aprobar, porque aunque se haya aprobado hace cinco minutos ya está aprobada, y entonces ya no hay más que agregar aquí. Además de las resoluciones 2/66, 10/75, la resolución 17/77, titulada "Integración de la Mujer en el Desarrollo Rural", la 2/85, titulada "La Mujer en el Medio Rural", que es, por cierto, una resolución de Venezuela, aprobada en la Conferencia pasada, hay que agregar aquí la de Dinamarca que ya ha sido aprobada. No hay problema en esto y nosotros estamos de acuerdo con ello.

CHAIRMAN: There is no issue then on paragraph 2. We will go to paragraph 4. The suggestion is in line 2 after "development" to delete the word "effectively". Does this meet with general approval?

All right, we come to the last but one paragraph on this page. There are three suggestions: one is to leave the paragraph as it is, "... in order that they may be assured of easy access to production technology". The second alternative is that we delete this particular clause, and leave the paragraph after "programmes". The third suggestion is that if we are keeping this we also add "as well as processing and marketing improvements". Which of the three alternatives should we adopt? May I suggest that we leave it as it is with no changes? Does that meet with general approval? Is there any dissent?

We will take it then that the penultimate paragraph is left as it is on page B1.

We now go to page B2, the operative paragraph. Here the suggestion has been made that we should qualify this in relation to budgetary allocations, as we did in the case of Appendix A. Does that meet with general approval? Is there any dissent? Then we approve this paragraph with this particular addition.

That means that we have completed the approval of Resolution Appendix A and Appendix B. This also means that we have effectively completed our deliberations on agenda Item 9.

The delegations of Cape Verde and Angola have asked for their statements under Item 9 on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be included in the verbatim record. I hear no objection and that will be done.

Mme Cristina Isabel DUARTE (Cap-Vert): La délégation du Cap-Vert aimerait souligner quelques aspects, notamment la Réforme agraire, son rôle et sa fonction dans le développement rural.

Les études réalisées dans le domaine de l'histoire agraire africaine ont déjà démontré que l'actuelle structure agraire constitue un obstacle au développement rural. Ce que l'histoire nous montre c'est que la campagne, tout au long de plusieurs décennies, finance un développement urbain, quelquefois destructurant et que la détérioration des termes de l'échange interne, c'est-à-dire entre le monde rural et le monde urbain, est tout simplement un des mécanismes de financement du développement urbain en extorquant les excédents agricoles. C'est dans ce contexte que la disparité des prix est avant tout un mécanisme de transfert de ressources basé sur une structure agraire obsolète.

En concevant la Réforme agraire comme ensemble de mesures qui visent avant tout à modifier cette situation! en élargissant la base sociale de la propriété, il reste donc évident que l'un des aspects cruciaux de ce processus relève d'une effective capacité financière de la population rurale, vue qu'elle constitue l'autre visage de la décentralisation des décisions soutenues par certains.

D'autre part, la réforme agraire en tant que telle implique nécessairement un changement des vecteurs structurels déterminés.

Permettez-mot très brièvement de parler de la courte expérience du Cap-Vert dans ce domaine.

La situation agraire du Cap-Vert est caractérisée par un pourcentage élevé d'exploitation indirecte de la terre, essentiellement métayage et fermage. 40 pour cent des exploitants ne possèdent pas la surface minimale de terre.

En 1982, a été publiée la Loi de Base de Réforme agraire dont l'objectif principal est à court terme le changement de la structure agraire et des relations de production dans les zones rurales passant d'une situation semi-féodale, dans plusieurs zones du pays, à l'usufruit complet de la terre par les paysans ("posse útil").

La courte expérience déjà accumulée nous dit que la concession de l'usufruit "util" de terre au paysan en soi n'élimine pas les relations structurelles de dépendance. Ceci parce que ces mêmes rapports de dépendance s'établissent non seulement autour du milieu de production - la terre - mais également autour des autres moyens de production motopompes, puits, forages, etc.

C'est dans ce contexte qu'un usufruit utile effectif de développement rural de la part des paysans passe non seulement par un usufruit "utile" de la terre mais aussi par des possibilités financières à travers une mise en valeur des termes de l'échange interne du crédit et par un usufruit "utile" de connaissance.

En ce qui concerne l'expérience cap-verdienne, j'aimerais vous parler des coûts financiers de la Réforme agraire. Dans notre pays, ce processus est soumis au principe politique de l'Unité Nationale et de la stabilité politique, en l'absence desquelles- le développement devient presque impossible. Ceci implique qu'une partie des terres soit acquise par l'Etat et distribuée ultérieurement en usufruit "utile". Par ailleurs, ceci nous a amenés à identifier un projet dans le cadre du Deuxième Plan National de Développement intitulé "Fonds de la Réforme agraire" dont le financement est refusé par les donateurs, ceux-là mêmes qui dans les Conférences mondiales défendent la mise en service de la Réforme agraire et la stabilité politique comme conditions du développement rural.

Toute cette problématique nous conduit à réfléchir sur le rythme de mise en place du processus de la Réforme agraire et, par conséquent, au rythme qui devra être celui du système de suivi de ce même processus. Le processus de la Réforme agraire est en soi un processus lent et il en va donc de même pour celui du développement rural. C'est dans ce cadre que la délégation du Cap-Vert comprend la proposition de changement de périodicité pour la publication du rapport de suivi.

En ce qui concerne cet aspect, nous pensons qu'orateur ne devrait, pas réduire la périodicité des "outputs" du système de suivi à la périodicité d'un rapport, étant donné qu'il constitue l'un des aspects particuliers de ce même système.

Pour terminer, la délégation cap-verdienne aimerait se référer très brièvement à l'intégration de la femme dans le développement rural. La réalité nous montre que la femme est intégrée dans le monde rural mais pas dans le développement rural. La marginalisation de la femme dans le processus de développement n'est pas purement une discrimination sexuelle, elle est avant tout une discrimination sociale dans sa variante sexuelle. Par conséquent, son intégration constitue l'un des aspects de l'effort de mise en valeur des petits paysans.

C'est dans ce cadre que toutes les mesures préconisées et visant à toucher ce groupe du monde rural devraient envisager de préférence la composante féminine afin d'atteindre l'objectif Intégration de la femme dans le Développement Rural. Le rythme de mise en place des mesures citées détermine en partie le rythme de matérialisation de cet objectif. 1/

Mme Josefa COELHO DA CRUZ (Angola): En premier lieu, nous voulons profiter de cette occasion pour féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité du document qui nous est soumis pour analyse.

Nous apprécions l'évaluation qui est faite de la situation de l'évolution des politiques nationales et internationales ainsi que le progrès réalisé afin d'atteindre les objectifs préconisés par la CMRADR.

Il est regrettable de constater qu'en Afrique le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées a augmenté sensiblement malgré les efforts déployés pour garantir la sécurité alimentaire et la nutrition.

Ceci est dû, Monsieur le Président, à plusieurs facteurs, indépendamment des calamités naturelles.

Les pays de l'Afrique australe vivent une instabilité permanente suite à la politique déstabilisatrice du régime d'Apartheid de l'Afrique du Sud qui constitue un grand handicap pour le développement agricole et la sécurité alimentaire des pays de la ligne de FRONT.

Concernant le système de vulgarisation agricole et de formation, nous ne pouvons que manifester notre satisfaction pour les progrès accomplis à un certain rythme qui répond aux besoins des petits cultivateurs.

Le rôle joué par la femme dans le développement rural est fondamental, car il constitue un élément de base.

Sur ce point, nous appuyons les programmes et les moyens mis à la disposition par la FAO pour l'amélioration des conditions de vie de la femme dans les zones rurales, comme il est préconisé dans une des résolutions arrêtées à la Conférence pour la Décennie de la Femme tenue à Nairobi, en 1985, pour l'exécution des stratégies prospectives d'action de Nairobi,

Nous encourageons aussi les gouvernements à déployer les efforts en vue d'intégrer la femme dans tous les domaines du développement car il existe encore dans plusieurs parties du monde des discriminations envers la femme.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Nous appuyons également le chapitre IV, paragraphe 3, car l'accès à la terre, à la coopération et aux crédits ne doit pas constituer un obstacle.

Dans mon pays, une grande partie de la production agricole est produite par la femme paysanne. Dans le passé, son accession à l'éducation était presque impossible; elle était liée au ménage et à la petite agriculture.

Après l'indépendance, fut promulguée une loi qui reconnaissait l'égalité de tous, indépendamment de son sexe, sa race, sa religion ou son origine sociale.

L'OMA, Organisation de la femme angolaise, est une institution chargée dans mon pays de la promotion de la femme; son objectif principal est l'encadrement de toutes les femmes angolaises quelles que soient leurs convictions politiques et religieuses pour compléter leur émancipation.

Les activités dans les zones rurales sont les suivantes: stimuler la participation des femmes dans les coopératives et dans les associations de paysans; améliorer le niveau de l'éducation sanitaire; appuyer le développement de la force de production à la campagne par l'application des nouvelles formes d'organisation.

L'accès des pays en développement aux marchés des pays développés est handicapé par le protectionnisme.

Sur ce point, soulignons la nécessité de renforcer les négociations commerciales multilatérales du GATT entamées en Uruguay en 1986, dont le but est la libéralisation complète du commerce des produits tropicaux.

La situation que nous venons de décrire ci-dessus n'a pas évolué suite à la carence du personnel qualifié et aux difficultés dues aux transports et aux moyens de communication.

La production agricole a considérablement baissé dans notre pays et, de pays exportateur, il est actuellement devenu un pays importateur pour la satisfaction des besoins de sa population.

Par conséquent, nous observons maintenant une tendance à la récession de quelques produits de base tels que les céréales, les oléagineux, les fruits, les légumes, le coton et les légumineuses; et aussi une croissance sensible de la production des tubercules et du café.

Les indicateurs de commercialisation nous permettent de constater qu'il y a eu une croissance évidente dans la production en 1987.

Ceci est le résultat de l'utilisation des semences améliorées et des fertilisants.

Ces produits sont fournis par l'Etat dans le cadre de ses fonctions de prestataire de service qui commencent à avoir une incidence sur les secteurs étatiques.

Par conséquent, il s'est avéré qu'une amélioration de la distribution des moyens de production, en particulier aux entreprises familiales, permettrait une augmentation des revenus.

Quant aux conditions de vie de la population rurale, il existe une loi qui détermine que la terre est la propriété exclusive de l'Etat et appartient à celui qui l'occupe en la travaillant.

Pour le développement rural de la République Populaire Angolaise, celle-ci s'est assignée comme objectif principal de créer des coopératives et de regrouper les paysans isolés en associations afin de faciliter l'assistance technico-matérielle qui permettra d'accroître la production et la productivité ^{1/}.

1/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

CHAIRMAN: May I now suggest that as it is possible that the voting may take place in the Plenary tomorrow and so that we lose as little time as possible, might I suggest that the paper on pesticides could be introduced for discussion?

N.MUKUTU (Zambia): In view of the fact that our Commission is well ahead on time and with regard to the need to give the Drafting Committee sometime to finish its work today, my delegation proposed that this Commission should adjourn discussion of the item until tomorrow morning. My delegation, is aware that many delegates want to contribute to the debate on this item. However, due to the smallness of some of the delegations who are now busy working in Commission II, we find it preferable that the Commission resume the meeting tomorrow.

Mr Chairman, with your permission, I beg to move.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): Mr Chairman, I should like to support the motion put forward by the delegate of Zambia. I think the reasons he put forward are quite valid. It is now late in the afternoon. Many of the delegations have worked late into the night, especially those who are working on the Drafting Committee and the room is half empty. Many delegations wish to contribute to the discussion on this item and I would beg your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, if the motion of Zambia could be followed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: May I take it that the sense of the house is that we adjourn now and meet again at 9.30 tomorrow morning?

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): I would support the motion, but I would also add the rider that I do not see why this Commission should have to hold over its work tomorrow while the vote is held in Plenary. That really concerns the work of Commission II and if the work was to be held up in any Commission, it should be that one.

I am fully in favour of breaking now because I think we should. We are up with our work, but we should not get behind tomorrow because of that vote.

CHAIRMAN: The Commission stands adjourned until tomorrow morning at 9.30.

The meeting rose at 18.25 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25 horas

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/15

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

FIFTEENTH MEETING
QUINZIEME SEANCE
15ª SESION

(20 November 1987)

The Fifteenth Meeting was opened at 9.50 hours,
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La quinzième seance est ouverte à 9 h 50
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 15ª sesión a las 9.50 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D'ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 11 Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides
- 11 Rapport intérimaire sur l'application du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides
- 11 Informe sobre la aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y la Utilización de Plaguicidas

CHAIRMAN: We will take up for consideration Item 11, Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Before I request the Assistant Director-General, Mr Bonte-Friedheim, to present the subject for discussion, I would like to inform the delegates that the Plenary is scheduled to meet for their Sixteenth meeting at 10.00 hours in the Plenary Hall when the Programme of Work and Budget 1988/89 and Medium-Term Objectives will be approved by a roll call vote. To participate in the roll call vote it will be necessary for me to leave the Green Room to be present in the Plenary Hall. The Vice-Chairman, the delegate from Spain, who is the only Vice-Chairman available, has indicated that he also must be present in the Plenary Hall for the roll call vote. Therefore, after the presentation is completed by Mr Bonte-Friedheim, and depending on the necessary quorum and progress of work in the Plenary, we may have to recess this meeting and reassemble after the roll call vote is completed.

Paul Noel BAIGENT (New Zealand): I must record my regret that that to be the decision. I expressed my concern about this last night. There should be sufficient members here to continue this discussion. I simply wish to put on record that concern.

CHAIRMAN: I did not understand the suggestion being made, but your concern will be recorded. May I know what the suggestion is?

Paul Noel BAIGENT (New Zealand): I expressed last night the wish that, given that we need to press forward with our work, there should be no need for this Commission to adjourn while the Plenary is in session, as it concerns Commission II and not Commission I. I am now placing on record my regret that that has to occur.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): In front of you, you will now have a paper that was originally prepared for the Council as document CL 92/2, and together with relevant parts of the Council Report has been reproduced as Conference document C 87/LIM/25. The Council in its deliberations recommended that this topic, the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, be added to the agenda of this 24th Session of the Conference.

It might be useful as an introduction to recall the main events that led to the establishment of the Code and its unanimous adoption by the 23th Conference in 1985.

The origin of the Code dates back to 1981 when the FAO Director-General suggested that such a Code would help to overcome a number of difficulties associated with pesticides. Subsequently the Second Government Consultation on International Harmonization of Pesticide Registration Requirements, convened by the FAO Secretariat in 1982, recommended that the Director-General, in consultation with appropriate UN organizations and bodies and international organizations outside the UN System, should prepare a Code of Conduct.

A first draft was prepared by the FAO Secretariat and was submitted to the FAO Panel of Experts on Pesticide Specifications, Registration Requirements and Application Standards. The Expert Panel reviewed the draft, added new parameters to it, strengthened its overall coverage, and unanimously agreed that the safe use and control of export of pesticides could best be dealt with through the adoption of an International Code of Conduct.

The Code went through a further process of consultations with about 90 FAO field experts in plant protection and their national counterparts, working in some 75 developing countries, and their comments were invited. A consensus of their comments was incorporated in a subsequent draft.

In September 1983 an informal consultation was held to discuss further the development of the Code. The following organizations participated: ILO, UNEP, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO, the UN Centre on Transnational Corporations, Council of Europe, EEC, OECD and GIFAP, which is the International Group on National Associations of Agrochemical Manufacturers. The text of subsequent versions of the Code incorporated a consensus of the major concerns expressed during this consultation.

In September 1984 the Code was formally submitted by the FAO Secretariat to member Countries for consideration by appropriate national authorities, including agriculture, health, environment and trade authorities. The views of UN agencies and other international organizations were also again solicited. Eighty-eight countries responded to the Director-General's request for comments.

A revised draft was prepared, based on views expressed by all parties mentioned above, and was submitted to the 8th Session of the COAG in March- 1985. COAG Committee on Agriculture gave broad general support to the Code and agreed that it be presented to the Council. It was left up to the Director-General to reconcile a number of opposing views expressed during the Session, while maintaining the consensus achieved.

A slightly revised version of the Code was then submitted to the 87th Session of the Council in June 1985.

The Council in its Session recalled that the Code was the end result of wide and extensive consultations with Member Countries, appropriate UN organizations, other international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, including international environmental groups, and the pesticide industry -over a period of more than three years. The main aim, as recommended by the Council, was further to clarify and improve the text, and not weaken its substance. However, in order to meet certain suggestions and to promote a consensus in the Conference, a few changes had been introduced in response to the Council's recommendations.

It was felt by the Council that the presented draft version of the Code struck a satisfactory balance among the diversity of views expressed by Member Countries and, above all, that it was technically sound and feasible to apply. The Council unanimously agreed that the Code should be considered as a dynamic text which must be brought up-to-date, from time to time as required, taking into account technical, economic and social requirements.

In order to facilitate Conference discussions, the Director-General submitted a slightly revised draft to the Eighty-eighth Session of the Council, immediately prior to the 23rd Conference. That Council again endorsed the draft, which was then submitted to the Conference in November 1985.

The Conference adopted a resolution incorporating a voluntary International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides as set up in the Annex of that Resolution. Furthermore, the Conference recommended that all FAO Member Nations promote the use of the Code, it requested governments to monitor the observance of the Code, in collaboration with the Director-General, who would report periodically to the Committee on Agriculture. The Conference invited UN agencies and other international organizations to collaborate in promoting the principles of the Code within their respective spheres of competence.

The usefulness of the Code Lies in its adoption by all Governments, by non-governmental organizations, by UN Agencies and by the pesticide industry. The text of the Code provides basic rules to enable countries to control pesticides more efficiently and assess the hazards which could result from their use or mis-use.

One of the issues raised in the report of the 92nd Council Session on this subject and submitted to this Conference covers the improved exchange of information on export and import of pesticides through Prior Informed Consent, otherwise known as PIC. PIC deals with the export and import of pesticides that are banned or severely restricted in use in the exporting country. Under PIC, no export of such pesticides can take place without the exporting country notifying the importing country of the domestic regulatory status of the pesticide and the hazard which led to restrictions in use. The exporter has to await the explicit consent of the importing country.

Prior Informed Consent was included in one of the earlier versions of the Code. However, it was deleted after this draft was circulated and commented upon by all Member Countries as comments and discussions revealed clearly that a consensus could not be reached. The amended Code was studied carefully by the Eight Session of the Committee on Agriculture in March 1985, as already reported. As a result of the discussions a number of further changes were introduced to the text, but due to lack of general agreement, the Prior Informed Consent clause was not reintroduced. The Code now stipulates the obligation of the exporting party to provide the necessary information, the reasons for a ban or restriction, I refer to Articles 9.1 and 9.3 of the current text of the Code. The approved Code does not explicitly require the country of import to confirm its agreement to the importation of the product, following receipt of relevant information.

During the final acceptance of the text by the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference two years ago, many delegates again stressed the importance of Prior Informed Consent and this was reported as follows: "While recognizing the significant improvements introduced in the text, the majority expressed deep concern that the principle of "Prior Informed Consent" no longer appeared in the present version of the Code. They feared that this could lead to an increased flow of highly toxic compounds, banned or severely restricted in the countries of manufacture, to developing countries which were not equipped to handle safely their supply and use. These members, however, recognized the need not to delay the adoption of the Code and accordingly, urged that the principle of "Prior Informed Consent" be considered for inclusion in any future first revision of the Code.

The Conference, in noting the additional proposals for amendments, recognized the dynamic nature of the Code, the need for monitoring its observance and for periodical revisions effectively to meet changed conditions. It therefore recommended that such revisions be made after some experience had been gained in the implementation of the Code. Most members suggested there be a first revision within the next biennium".

Since the adoption of the Code, the principle of Prior Informed Consent has been discussed in various international fora, and it may be helpful to present a brief overview of the results of these discussions.

The most important were probably the discussions, with the FAO Secretariat's participation, of the so-called "London Guidelines" organized by UNEP in February 1987. That meeting concentrated on the preparation of Guidelines on the Exchange of Information relating to trade in, and use and handling of, potentially harmful chemicals, including pesticides. The Guidelines outline the establishment of procedures for the effective use of information on chemicals by Governments, but they do not include the Prior Informed Consent concept. They are complementary to the provisions of Article 9 of the FAO Code and include the statement that the FAO Code "provides the primary guidance for the management of pesticides internationally".

At its 14th meeting in June 1987, the Governing Council of UNEP decided inter alia with respect to Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade:

"3. Requests the Executive Director to convene an ad hoc Working Group of Experts with a view to:

- (a) developing modalities of Prior Informed Consent and other approaches which could usefully supplement the modalities of the London Guidelines;
- (b) recommending measures for incorporating the principle of Prior Informed Consent into the I Guidelines;
- (c) reporting on its findings to the next regular Session of the Governing Council".

The next and fourth session of this UNEP Working Group is scheduled for March 1988.

I now come to some other international" discussions.

The OECD had already, in 1985, approved the Prior Informed Consent principle for the export of toxic wastes, but this does not apply to the export of pesticides.

The EEC Commission's proposal for a notification procedure included a "Prior Informed Choice" clause. The clause foresaw that, if an importing country did not reply to an export notification within 90 days, which was subsequently reduced to 60 days, the export could go ahead. The Commission's draft was not accepted by the EEC Council of Ministers and the principle of "Prior Informed Choice" was removed.

So far, the Netherlands is the only country that has taken specific steps. It has adopted a "voluntary reporting scheme" which applies to the export of banned and severely restricted substances. In this case the import notification and request for consent is made directly by the exporter to the importing country. According to our information the Dutch Government invited 160 countries to participate in this voluntary reporting scheme. Fifty-one countries indicated interest in receiving export notification, but only 19 of these wished to take part in the Prior Informed Consent part. These 19 countries are: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Malta, Mozambique, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Nauru, the Republic of Vanuatu, St. Christopher and Nevis, Anguilla, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago and Zimbabwe. The scheme started to operate in June 1986.

Up to June of this year, during the period of one year, 8 notifications had been made by the exporters, but in five cases reminders were needed before an answer was received. In one case the import was refused, because the importing country was concerned about residues which might prevent export of their produce.

I now want to return to the questionnaire which was sent by the FAO Secretariat to member countries, and the replies received to two questions regarding the exchange of information. The first question, referring to Article 9.1, asked whether the importing country was receiving notification from the exporting country with respect to the reasons for the banning or restricting of use of certain pesticides. Of the replies from the developing countries, 65 percent indicated that they received such notification. With reference to Article 9.8 of the Code, information was sought whether national procedures for the receipt and handling of such notification from exporting countries existed in the importing countries. Of the replies from developing countries 43 percent were positive - they had such procedures - while 28 percent stated that it was planned to establish such facilities. Such facilities were not yet proposed in 22 percent of the developing countries which had completed the questionnaire.

As noted before the report of the 23rd Conference stated that the main concern over the absence of the Prior Informed Consent, the PIC clause in the Code was the fear that the omission of this principle "could lead to an increased flow of highly toxic compounds, banned or severely restricted in the countries of manufacture, to developing countries which were not equipped to handle safely their supply and use". We in the Secretariat have no reason to believe that this has happened; on the contrary the Code has in fact made countries much better aware of these problems and they may consequently have taken appropriate action. The replies to the FAO questionnaire show that over 70 percent of developing countries do apply restrictions on the use of such products, and 70 percent also indicated that prohibitions can be enforced.

May I finally state the Secretariat's position with regard to the Code and the discussions at this 24th Conference.

The Secretariat is proud of its achievements in the preparation of the Code and its adoption by consensus at the 23rd Conference Session. The Code is being supported by all parties concerned - international organizations, national Governments, industry and trade. A number of Governments have not only used the Code as the basis for their national legislation, but have also implemented a number of clauses of the Code.

As requested at the Ninth Session of COAG and at the 91st Council Session, in June, the FAO Secretariat reported on the progress in the implementation of the Code to the 92nd Session of the Council. During the last 18 months FAO undertook a detailed survey of the situation in developing countries. At the same time, the Secretariat negotiated with international donor organizations and national donor Governments the possible financing of technical assistance programmes to support developing countries in their ability to fully implement the Code, and, as we have reported to Council, we have been partly successful in this.

Following the decision of the 92nd Council Session two weeks ago, the Secretariat was not in a position to review prior to this meeting today the proposals for amendment with technical experts and other parties who had supported the Code and whose endorsement is required to reach a new consensus. The Secretariat again underlines the voluntary nature of the present Code.

We believe that more time is required to evaluate the effects the present Code has in exporting and in importing countries. Furthermore, technical discussions and negotiations will be required for amendments to be introduced through the normal channels - the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), Council and Conference.

With regard to PIC, the Secretariat takes the following position.

Firstly, every country under its own laws has the right to establish unilaterally the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) clause which then becomes mandatory for all imports of those pesticides which are severely restricted or banned in the exporting country; we strongly advise all countries concerned about possible negative effects of pesticide imports to take such unilateral action. The Secretariat is willing to establish a register of all countries that have applied in their own countries the PIC clause and to inform exporting countries, industries and other interested parties in each case.

Secondly, the Secretariat is also suggesting that the negotiation of the PIC clause into the Code should be preceded by consultations with GATT to ensure that the provisions are consistent with its principles. From a preliminary analysis it seems that PIC might be incompatible with GATT's regulations for a number of reasons. Under GATT, restrictions on imports are only permissible if they are applied equally to all exporters. A pesticide produced in two countries, but only banned in one of them, under the PIC principles could be freely exported from the second country without any restrictions.

Thirdly, there are a number of pesticides which are produced for export only and are therefore never registered in the producing country. They might or might not be harmful. Similarly, pesticides are being exported for which applications for registration are pending. Prior Informed Consent cannot deal with these cases.

In closing I should like to read part of the introduction as printed in the Code. I quote:

"The role of the exporting country needs to be considered. Much emphasis has been given recently to the desirability of regulating the export of pesticides from producing countries. It is generally accepted that no company should trade in pesticides without a proper and thorough evaluation of the pesticide, including any risks. However, the fact that a product is not used or registered in a particular exporting country is not necessarily a valid reason for prohibiting the export of that pesticide. Developing countries are mostly situated in tropical and semi-tropical regions. Their climatic, ecological, agronomic, social, economic and environmental conditions and therefore their pest problems are usually quite different from those prevailing in countries in which pesticides are manufactured and exported. The government of the exporting country, therefore, is in no position to judge the suitability, efficacy, safety or fate of the pesticide under the conditions in the country where it may ultimately be used. Such a judgement must, therefore, be made by the responsible authority in the importing country in consultation with industry and other government authorities in the light of the scientific evaluation that has been made and a detailed knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the country of proposed use".

It is certainly hoped that my rather lengthy introduction will provide the Conference with sufficient background information for a thorough discussion on this important item.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr Bonte Friedheim, for that detailed presentation and for having brought out in very clear and unambiguous terms the position of the Secretariat on Prior Informed Consent. You have indicated that PIC could result in certain problems, and these are particularly relevant in the context of the document C 87/LIM/39, which delegates must have seen, where in Appendix C we have a resolution presented by the delegations of Colombia, Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia on this item.

The Assistant Director-General has clearly brought out certain difficulties that might arise in implementing PIC, particularly where pesticides are produced only for export or where they are produced in two countries, with their being banned in one country but with no such restrictions in the other, how it conflicts with GATT, and, thirdly, where registrations in the country of manufacture are still pending.

I would request delegations to take the resolution into consideration in the presentations that they will be making.

May I request the delegate from Lebanon to state his views?

Amin ABDEL-MALEK (Lebanon): The Lebanese delegation is very pleased to note the various activities undertaken with respect to the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and considers that the Code is one of the best examples of new initiatives undertaken by FAO in recent years. It addresses problems that are of major concern to all parties involved and the result will, in the end, directly benefit small farmers. In addition, this work is clearly in line with the various efforts to reduce environmental pollution.

It is certainly useful that the Conference should discuss the matter again, but this should not detract from the significance of the progress made.

It is quite clear to us that such a voluntary Code can only serve its important purpose if it is supported by everybody concerned. We realize that there is considerable scope for improvement, and this is normal, because the important matters dealt with in the Code cannot be solved in one or two years' time. It will be a long process. If this were not the case, it would not have taken us so long to adopt the Code in its present form. Therefore, we should like, to maintain the text as it is, but request the Secretariat to look for practical arrangements to accommodate the wishes of certain member countries, in particular with respect to the matter of information exchange.

The Lebanese delegation maintains its position concerning the Code of Conduct which is a very important activity of FAO, and considers that we should avoid taking hasty decisions without a proper study of the matter by the appropriate technical bodies.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation is delighted with the detailed explanation given by Mr Bonte-Friedheim and the elaborate information given. However, my delegation is dismayed to observe that the Secretariat appears to be decided as to its own views. My delegation has followed the papers under discussion and is concerned that there is a need for an element of PIC to be inserted. In this regard, my delegation is presenting a resolution, which is supported by Colombia, Ecuador, Lesotho, Philippines and Venezuela.

There are some occasions when developed countries have confrontations with developing countries. Most of the time, however, there is harmony between the two groups. We, the sponsors of this resolution on pesticides, believe firmly that this is one of the occasions when we are united on a common principle. We have followed environmental concerns in the developed countries. We have noted that the majority of people in these developed countries are not only concerned about the use of dangerous pesticides in their own countries but are even more concerned about the export

of dangerous chemicals to developing countries. These concerns are fully supported by us, the importers. We are fully aware that, for one reason or another, a number of factories have a surplus of some of these pesticides. It is useful to observe that these dangerous pesticides are also produced in some developing countries, so this is not a question of the north versus the south. Our concern is not the issue of who produces and distributes them. The issue is that, if they are pronounced dangerous in one country, then that country should consult the other formally before such pesticides are exported.

The sponsors of this resolution are aware that for some crops in some developing countries alternative substitutes have not been found to replace some of these pesticides in crop protection. Such countries will therefore be willing to import limited quantities of the pesticides provided they have been consulted in the first instance.

It has come to our attention that one of the main concerns of those who are against the introduction of the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the implementation of the International Code of : Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is that the introduction of PIC will not deter those who are determined to off-load the pesticides into the developing countries. In fact, they argue that PIC will encourage more importation of dangerous pesticides through illegal channels, thus jeopardizing business opportunities of those who are prepared to operate ethically.

We are also aware of arguments by some people, mostly those who represent companies or affiliates of particular companies dealing with pesticides that the introduction of PIC will contradict some of the provisions of GATT. We have researched thoroughly the provisions of GATT and are unanimous that the introduction of PIC is allowed under those provisions. It is useful to observe that knowledge of the articles of GATT is not limited to a few people, we are all member countries of GATT and read the articles.

The purpose of this resolution is to appeal to the conscience of all people, to mankind, to remember that we are all made of the same flesh, the same organic and chemical composition. What is dangerous to somebody in Europe or Asia is also equally dangerous to somebody in Latin America, the Caribbean or Africa. Dangerous pesticides are much worse in the developing countries where people are mostly illiterate and do not appreciate fully the implications and the requirements for proper care and adequate application rates.

In recent years in my own country it has become dangerous to eat vegetables, it has become dangerous to eat dried fish because the fishermen just dip the fish in the pesticide for preservation. Vegetables are now sprayed, prior to being sold in the markets.

We are reliably informed that it is now dangerous to eat fish from Lake Kariba, one of the biggest man-made lakes in the world. The lake is now full of DDT taken there by rivers and streams flowing from farming areas in both Zambia and Zimbabwe. Birds whose habitat is Lake Kariba are now laying infertile eggs or hatching deformed chicks.

We, the sponsors, are certain that our recommendations to include the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides represents the wishes of the majority of mankind and that this august gathering in Commission I will give this resolution its unequivocal support.

I reserve my right to come back on this issue since I have further information to support my statement.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Malaysia has made available his intervention on Item 11 and this will be incorporated in the verbatim report, subject to our approval.

Dato'Abu Bakar MAHMUD (Malaysia): My delegation wishes to congratulate the Secretariat for preparing the brief but informative report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

My delegation *is* totally in agreement with the report that the Implementation of the Code has been and shall continue to be useful in assisting member countries to improve the safe and effective use of pesticides. On account of the dynamic nature of the Code, there is the need for monitoring its observance by all concerned parties and for periodic revisions to effectively meet changing conditions.

To date, my country has registered a total of 1 200 pesticides, comprising about 200 active ingredients. Mishandling and misuse of pesticides has been of great concern to us. In view of this, there is now an ongoing campaign (launched in August 1984), on the safe and proper handling and effective application of pesticides in the country. The mass-media, as well as the extension agents in the country are mobilised to educate users of pesticides not only to minimize hazards to themselves, but to produce crops that comply with the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs), stipulated under the country's Food Regulations. These MRL's are based on those set by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. My delegation, therefore, fully supports the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides passed by the Conference in 1985.

I am happy to note that steps have been and are being taken to implement various sections of the Code with the collaboration of the government, the pesticide industry, the consumers and environmental groups and research institutions. It is our view that slowness in the implementation of the Code is attributable to its voluntary nature, and that success would largely depend on the mutual trust and confidence of all those concerned.

Malaysia has supported the principle of Prior Informed Consent in a global effort to ensure safe distribution and use of pesticides. We do not depart from this position of support, in principle. However, it is my delegation's view that any proposed implementation of the PIC within the present Code should require an in-depth study on all aspects and facets as to how the PIC could be put into practice. The PIC is indeed a very complex mechanism to adopt and practise, not only because of the parties involved, but because of its implications on trade and investments in relation to pesticides.

PIC might not be achieved in totality, but various forms or modalities of it could be implemented in stages. Malaysia's experience in controlling and regulating the entry of pesticides into the country since 1976, through the Regulation of Pesticides under our Pesticides Act (1974) is worthy of mention. Through this National Registration Scheme detailed information on pesticides is provided to the Pesticide Board, before any product could be registered and subsequently imported. To all intents and purposes, our National Registration Scheme is a form of PIC itself. It might, therefore, be worthwhile to member countries, which have not done so, to contemplate on initiating such a Scheme for a start. My country would be ever willing to share our experiences with any country interested in this matter. 1_/

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): No sé si se trata propiamente de una moción de orden, o es una moción que busca una aclaración. No estoy segura de haber entendido cómo se va a desarrollar nuestro debate en esta mañana. La Plenaria ha comenzado ya la discusión del tema ¿Hemos decidido que vamos a suspender para ir a la Plenaria o no? Hay muchas delegaciones que únicamente tienen un representante.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of Venezuela's point of order is anticipating what I was about to announce. We shall now recess and re-assemble at 2.30 p.m. If we should be able to re-assemble earlier, the time for the meeting will be announced to the Chairman of the Conference in the Plenary Meeting. The Session is recessed.

The meeting rose at 10.30 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.30 horas

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION

C
C 87/I/PV/16

Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SIXTEENTH MEETING
SEIZIEME SEANCE
16ª SESION
(20 November 1987)

The Sixteenth Meeting was opened at 15.15 hours
C.S. Sastry, Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La seizième séance est ouverte à 15 h 15
sous la présidence de C.S. Sastry, Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 16ª "sesión a las 15.15 horas
bajo la presidencia de C.S. Sastry, Presidente de la Comisión I

- I. MAJOR TRENDS AND POLICIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDANCES ET POLITIQUES EN MATIERE D' ALIMENTATION ET D'AGRICULTURE (suite)
- I. PRINCIPALES TENDENCIAS Y POLITICAS EN LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION (continuación)
- 11. Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (continued)
- 11. Rapport intérimaire sur l'application du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides (suite)
- 11. Informe sobre la aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y la Utilización de Plaguicidas (continuación)

Mohamed Lamine CONTE (Guinée): Le document C 87/LIM/25 soumis à notre examen est complet et fait une analyse approfondie des différents articles.

Après étude, ma. délégation remercie le Secrétariat pour la qualité et la présentation de ce document. Elle appuie de façon générale les recommandations contenues dans le Code de conduite.

L'étude aborde les démarches à suivre pour résoudre un problème assez complexe. En effet, le but visé par le Code de conduite est d'attirer l'attention des Etats Membres sur la gravité de certaines pratiques et les moyens d'y remédier. Depuis la publication du Code de conduite et malgré l'inexistence de la législation nationale, et de laboratoire approprié pour faire certaines analyses de qualité afin de déterminer la stabilité des pesticides stockés dans les conditions tropicales, mon gouvernement a adopté certaines dispositions pour assurer l'application effective du Code de conduite, à savoir:

- inventaire et enregistrement des pesticides utilisés en Guinée;
- réglementation de la distribution et de l'utilisation des pesticides;
- création d'un service de contrôle et d'homologation des produits;
- interdiction du transport des pesticides par des transporteurs non agréés.

Par ailleurs, notre attention est particulièrement attirée par la question de la formation. Ma délégation attache un grand intérêt à la qualification du personnel d'encadrement à travers l'organisation périodique des séminaires au niveau régional et national. Il est évident que, sans formation solide des cadres nationaux chargés de la supervision et de l'encadrement des petits exploitants, il est impossible d'appréhender tous les aspects de la question.

Ma délégation approuve les chapitres 9, 13 et 14 du document et sollicite l'assistance de la FAO pour la réalisation des dispositions envisagées. S'agissant du chapitre 12, page 3, C 92.2, ma délégation est d'accord sur le renforcement des structures nationales. Concernant l'expérimentation des pesticides, chapitre 11, page 6, annexe A, ma délégation sollicite la collaboration des pays exportateurs pour la conduite des essais.

Il est indéniable que le Code de conduite correctement appliqué, tous les Etats Membres tireront des avantages certains: sauvegarde des vies humaines de l'intoxication, obtention de rendements élevés.

En conclusion, ma délégation voudrait assurer Monsieur le Directeur général de l'appui de mon gouvernement pour l'application et le respect du contenu du Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Leif FOBVELL (Norway): On this agenda item I have the pleasure to speak on behalf of the four Nordic countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. These Nordic countries welcome the fact that the 24th Conference has the opportunity to discuss the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We consider protection against the hazards of pesticides upon individual users and upon the environment as a whole to be extremely important. We appreciate this discussion because we recognize that the dynamic character of the distribution and use of pesticides makes it appropriate from time to time to review the progress made and to consider further improvements to the Code of Conduct.

The four Nordic countries have taken due note of the draft resolution on this item proposed by the delegations of Colombia, the Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia. The resolution invites this Conference to amend Article 9.3 of the Code of Conduct to incorporate the principle of Prior Informed Consent. The principle of Prior Informed Consent urges exporters of pesticides to make all relevant information on the actual pesticides available to importing countries. So far, experience has shown that developing countries especially are facing huge difficulties in establishing effective control measures concerning imported pesticides. One reason for this is that promotion and advertising materials describing pesticides still seem to fall short of the Guidelines laid down in the FAO Code of Conduct. Prior Informed Consent might therefore be a substantial help to importing countries, and particularly to developing countries, in dealing with the influx of hazardous pesticides. Thus the inclusion of the principle of Prior Informed Consent in FAO's Code of Conduct may be a relevant measure in order to protect both the environment and individual users.

Against the background just outlined, the Nordic countries will associate themselves with the intention of the resolution proposed by Colombia, the Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia, namely that the principle of "prior informed consent" should be incorporated in the Code of Conduct on Pesticides. As will be recalled, the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference also urged that the principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated in the first revision of the Code within the next biennium. The Nordic countries are ready to give their acceptance to the proposed amendment to Article 9.3. Having stated our acceptance of this proposed resolution, the Nordic countries nevertheless feel it very important that this Conference should be able to reach a general consensus on this matter. In our opinion, the impact of international guidelines such as the Code of Conduct, depends on positive acceptance by member countries. Although we accept the proposed amendment to Article 9.3, we may also, if necessary, reach a general consensus that a thorough preparation of the text at technical level is carried out and presented to the 25th Conference. If this Conference should adopt such a procedure, we would take it for granted that in this undertaking FAO will collaborate closely with other appropriate UN agencies, in particular UNEP, WHO, UNIDO and ILO.

Almir F. DE SA BARBUDA (Brazil): Let me first congratulate Dr Bonte-Friedheim for the useful presentation of this item of the agenda and thank him for the explanations given in regard to the adoption of the PIC principle and its consequences in relation to GATT rules. We took note of this argument put forward during the last session of the Conference by a delegate from a major pesticide-producing country, but we regret that we disagree in this regard. The Brazilian delegation was among those which urged during the 23rd Session of the Conference that the first revision of this Code should be made during the current biennium. Again, during the last Session of the Council, we joined many other countries in recommending that discussions on this issue should be added to the agenda of this Conference and that the introduction of the concept of the PIC principle to the Code be reexamined by Member Nations. We are convinced that its inclusion in the Code will contribute to the safer Use of pesticides, reducing hazards to human health and the environment. At this point I should like to welcome the support given by the Nordic countries to this resolution. We believe that we should approve this resolution now and not lose any more time by delaying its approval until the next Conference. To us it seems highly contradictory that some of the industrialized countries which always show a deep concern for the environment and urge a high priority for its protection should invoke reasons of excessive bureaucracy or of commercial interests to prevent the adoption of this principle.

I should like at this point to quote some part of the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development. In its Chapters V and VIII it recommends that "industrialized countries must tighten controls on pesticide exports" and that the major chemical producing countries should, among other steps, "strictly regulate the export to developing countries of those chemicals for which authorization for domestic sale has not been sought or given, by extending requirements for prior notification and information exchange to them."

The report further notes that chemical control agencies of industrialized countries already share test results and notify each other of new restrictions on chemicals. As a rule, developing countries do not share in this system. Furthermore, it also seems contradictory that such countries that usually encourage the environmental activities of NGOs ignore the appeals in regard to the introduction of the PIC principle into the Code. On the other hand, we have just learned of discussions currently being held in Brussels by the European Community on the adoption of this principle. Countries opposed to the principle argue that the EEC cannot bring in controls while the other major producing

countries are free to export banned pesticides. This is, in our view, another reason for the inclusion at FAO at international level of the principle which should be respected by all member countries.

The "SUNS", the Special United Nations Service, has just released a study on these discussion within the EC.

Finally, I would like to say that as regards the Progress Report prepared by the Secretariat, the replies to the questionnaire confirm the need for increasing FAO's assistance in the establishment of registration and control schemes and the strengthening of technical and physical national facilities to monitor the provisions of the Code.

We would like to stress that we consider the Code of Conduct one of the most important initiatives of FAO. In addition to the monitoring of the implementation of the Code, the Organization should, in our view, promote gradually and systematically the substitution of chemical pesticides by natural systems of pest control.

Turning to the resolution, I should not need to say that we strongly support the initiative but I have an addition to propose to the text. It would be an addition in the fifth paragraph in the introductory part of the resolution after the sentence starting "taking into account", we should add another sentence as follows: "Recalling that the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development has recommended that 'industrialised countries must tighten controls on pesticide exports', and that the major chemical-producing-countries should, among other steps, 'strictly regulate the export to developing countries of those chemicals for which authorization for domestic sale has not been sought or given, by extending requirements for prior notification and information exchange to them".

Finally, for the sake of clarity I would propose a change in the last sentence of the Resolution, which commences with the words, "If an export...", the addition of two small words so that it would read, "If an export of a banned or severely restricted pesticide is to occur...". That is just for the sake of clarity.

CHAIRMAN: In Appendix C of document C 87/LIM/39 which is also under consideration by the Commission, two changes have been suggested by the delegate from Brazil. One is that in the fifth paragraph, recalling what the Brundtland Commission has said, effectively in the operational portion, instead of "restricted pesticide occurs" it should read "restricted pesticide is to occur". That is the alteration recommended by Brazil.

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Mi delegación agradece la excelente introducción del Dr. Bonté Friedheim y desea explicar cuál es el sistema normativo de la República de Argentina para la comercialización y distribución de plaguicidas. Todos los plaguicidas, ya sean en su forma técnica o formulada, se encuentran registrados en la Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca. La obtención de este registro es obligatoria e imprescindible y puede ser cancelado si este organismo lo considerara conveniente. Para su comercialización, el número de registro es exigido por inspectores que controlan firmemente la distribución.

Mi delegación considera que el Código Internacional de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas y su cumplimiento tienen un trasfondo moral sumamente importante. Es por ello que, con el fin de cumplir con esa obligación moral y ética es que nuestro país desea adherirse al Proyecto de Resolución respectiva con cierto párrafo adicional en la enmienda del Artículo 9.3 del Código mencionado. El proyecto de enmienda dice: "Si se produce...", con la digamos si la sugerencia de Brasil, se produjera, la cual apoya, ..." la exportación de un plaguicida prohibido o severamente limitado, el país exportador deberá asegurarse de que se han tomado las medidas necesarias para facilitar la información pertinente a la correspondiente autoridad nacional del país, y de lograr el consentimiento previo de la autoridad nacional competente del país importador".

Mi delegación desearía adicionar un texto a continuación de la palabra "importador" que diga: "sin que ello implique demoras adicionales en los trámites de importación correspondientes". La razón de esta adición se basa en la necesidad de incrementar un sistema que no burocratice las operaciones comerciales ni que afecte la fluidez comercial de insumos necesarios para el producto final. Por todo ello, mi delegación está en un todo de acuerdo en la necesidad de que se implemente este sistema que, en definitiva, garantizará la salud de nuestros pueblos.

Benson MBOGOH (Kenya): My delegation would like to compliment the Secretariat on the Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. In our view it presents a clear analysis of the constraints faced in the implementation of the Code and offers very useful suggestions for improvements.

The application of chemicals for the control of pests will continue to be an important agricultural practice as long as non-chemical methods so far developed offer no adequate solution to the pest problems. At present the use of pesticides in developing countries, in particular, is very low, principally because of the low level of agricultural technology prevailing in this region.

However, with substantial improvement in technologies and production growth projected to reach the order of 60 percent of the current levels in the year 2000, assuming these projections hold, of course, a great increase in the volume of pesticides should be expected in this region in the next 15 years.

This trend has some very serious implications for the distribution and use of this input. First, there is the health and environmental implication. Secondly, the risks of the development of chemical-induced resistance in pests and its consequences on production; thirdly, there is the education and extension support needed for the farmers, the majority, of whom are illiterate or semi-literate. Fourthly, there is the question of ethics in the pesticide trade which has to be addressed.

My delegation is convinced that in this Code lies a very strong instrument by which effectively to address the above concerns, at any rate under the present circumstances. We therefore wish to urge FAO to continue to seek international commitment to its implementation. In this context, and recognizing the important role of the agro-chemical industry, we propose that FAO continue its efforts to seek the firm cooperation of the agro-chemical industries, both through GIFAP and with individual exporting countries, in an effort to ensure the practical elimination of all unethical tendencies wherever they exist.

In this connection, the Kenyan delegation fully endorses the position in the proposed resolution jointly put forward by Zambia, the Philippines, Colombia, and Venezuela, to incorporate the principle of "Prior Information and Consent" in purchase agreements for all pesticides.

My country, Kenya, in support of the principle and practice of this Code, has already taken measures to rationalize pesticide distribution and use. A National Pesticide Control Board has been established to monitor the supply, demand and distribution of pesticides, and enforce appropriate quality standards and monitor the development of hazardous health and environmental effects associated with pesticide use.

Finally, being aware of the potentially deleterious effects of the extensive use of chemicals on humans, plant life and the environment in general, we would like to see more investment in research and development of safer and less hazardous ways of controlling disease and pests in agriculture. Areas of research to be explored in this connection would include, for example, integrated pest management techniques, biological control, development of disease and pest resistance in crops and livestock. We are aware that a number of agencies and governments are already engaged in some of this work such as ODA, and the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Entomology in Kenya. FAO should intensify its support of such programmes in collaboration with other agencies.

CHAIRMAN: May I take the liberty of reminding delegates that we have already 27 more participants in the discussion. Since we have already had the discussion in the last Conference and also in the recent Council and considering that the introduction given by the Assistant Director-General Mr Bonte-Friedheim spelled out clearly the issues, the pros and cons, may I request delegates to be as brief as possible, reacting mainly to the issues for our consideration, including the Resolution for adoption before us.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Mi delegación ve con satisfacción que la Resolución sometida a la consideración de esta Sala, está logrando uno de sus objetivos; o sea el de llegar a un debate franco, abierto y completo sobre el problema de los pesticidas que han sido prohibidos o severamente limitados.

Con su venia, voy a referirme a la introducción del tema presentado por la Secretaría, para aclarar algunos puntos sobre los cuales puede que haya alguna confusión.

En primer lugar, me disculpará, por favor, si al citar partes del texto de la declaración introductoria, tendré que revertir al inglés ya que no tengo la traducción en español. El Secretario dijo: el Dr. Bonte Friedheim dijo: "The Conference, in noting the additional proposals for amendments, recognize the dynamic nature of the Code, the need for monitoring its observance and for periodical revisions to effectively meet changed conditions."

Además citó partes. Esto es una situación del Informe de la Conferencia, de la 23 Conferencia durante la cual fue adoptado el Código. A este respecto, queremos aclarar que en realidad las condiciones, con respecto al problema que plantea la Resolución, o sea el principio de consentimiento previo, no han cambiado; no existen condiciones nuevas; no estamos discutiendo de condiciones nuevas aquí. Las condiciones que han hecho el PIC necesario existían en 1983, existían en 1985 y siguen existiendo en 1987. Los países que deseamos la inclusión de PIC en el Código, somos los que más fuertemente apoyamos el Código. Cuando se tuvieron las discusiones sobre la adopción del Código en la Conferencia de 1985, muchas delegaciones, la mayoría de ellas según el Informe, deseaban que se incluyera entonces el principio PIC.

Nosotros dejamos de un lado este deseo, en aras de la adopción del Código por consenso; no existe prueba más fuerte de que nosotros somos los principales sostenedores del Código. Entre otras cosas, habiendo reconocido que el Informe recoge el deseo de la mayoría de las Delegaciones, nosotros estamos aquí sencillamente para ratificar un acuerdo ya tomado hace dos años en la Conferencia pasada. En el Informe consta claramente que el principio PIC se incluiría en la primera revisión, la cual debería llevarse a cabo durante el bienio siguiente.

Mi próxima observación se refiere a lo mencionado por el Dr. Bonte Friedheim con relación al PNUMA. Es cierto que en junio de 1987, el PNUMA decidió adoptar el principio del consentimiento previo; estamos hablando aquí de un principio. Ese principio ha sido aceptado, repito, por el PNUMA. Esta Organización ha decidido que el PIC debe ser incluido en sus directivas sobre el intercambio de información en el comercio y la utilización de productos químicos potencialmente dañinos, incluyendo los pesticidas. Se nos ha recordado cómo en estas directivas, se considera el Código de conducta de la FAO como el instrumento guía principal para el manejo de los pesticidas a nivel internacional.

Esto es cierto, y así lo reconocemos. Y entonces, nos preguntamos, ¿cómo puede la FAO quedar atrás respecto a lo que se está haciendo y decidiendo ya en otros foros? Lo único que pedimos aquí, es que nosotros adoptemos el principio. Solicitamos porque así lo creemos racional y conveniente, asimismo, que luego de haber adoptado aquí el principio, repito, la FAO coordine estrechamente sus actividades con el PNUMA y se valga, previamente de la reunión de marzo prevista para la incorporación de PIC en las directivas, de todas las consultaciones técnicas que crea necesarias y oportunas; naturalmente, en las cuales, las partes interesadas, o sea países exportadores, países importadores y otras industrias y organizaciones no gubernamentales tengan igual oportunidad de estar representadas.

Repetimos, que creemos conveniente se estreche la colaboración con el PNUMA para determinar las efectivas modalidades para implementar luego el PIC. Las sugerencias que surgirán serán luego dadas a conocer a los Estados Miembros a través de los canales normales, o sea las próximas sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, del Consejo y de la Conferencia.

En la declaración introductoria se hizo una referencia también al único ejemplo de aplicación práctica del principio PIC en un país, porque existen ya ejemplos de aplicación PIC a nivel de organizaciones internacionales o a nivel de acuerdos internacionales. Queremos referirnos a éste que es específicamente el esquema voluntario de la aplicación del principio PIC adoptado por los Países Bajos.

Y deseamos aclarar lo siguiente. En primer lugar, el Gobierno de los Países Bajos en calidad de promotor del esquema ha enviado, según se nos dice, la invitación a participar en él a 160 países con el deseo, evidentemente, de dar la información a nivel global, para luego proceder a su implementación práctica por parte de la industria.

Ante todo, queremos decir que los canales de información utilizados no han demostrado ser los más efectivos para que la información llegue realmente a las personas directamente interesadas en los países importadores, en muchos de los cuales, entre otras cosas, aún no existe una autoridad nacional designada específicamente para asumirse la responsabilidad en materia de pesticidas.

En segundo lugar, habría que ver, de estos 160 países, cuántos son los que efectivamente importan pesticidas desde los Países Bajos, y por lo tanto, tienen real interés en el esquema, y cuántos entre aquéllos que recibieron la información a tiempo, han efectivamente comprendido la importancia y el valor del mismo.

Cabe recordar además que, concretamente, han sido sólo ocho las notificaciones enviadas por la industria. De estas ocho, aunque con la necesidad de una notificación ulterior recordatoria, cinco sí recibieron respuesta. No creo que se pueda considerar estos ejemplos como una razón para no adoptar el principio de consentimiento previo. Más bien, mi delegación cree que el esquema de notificación voluntaria adoptado por los Países Bajos beneficiaría enormemente del impulso que a este principio le podrían dar el PNUMA y la FAO en su calidad de Organización de portada internacional.

Más allá, la Secretaría se refirió específicamente al documento que constituye la esencia de nuestros trabajos aquí; el documento se basa, como todos sabemos, en un cuestionario enviado por la FAO a todos los países miembros para saber cuál es la situación real acerca de todo el problema de los pesticidas, el comercio de los pesticidas. El documento dice:

"of the replies from developing countries 65 percent indicated that they received such notification".

Se refiere a. una notificación relativa a procedimientos de prohibición, de registro, de control, o de limitación en un país que produce pesticida. En este caso me surge una duda; parecería un número muy alto pero, en realidad, si vamos a leer el documento un poquito más a fondo vemos que el cuestionario fue contestado por el 55 por ciento de los países a los cuales se les ha enviado. En total, si sacamos el 55 por ciento del 65 por ciento, pienso que estamos hablando en realidad de un 30 por ciento solamente de países en desarrollo que han respondido afirmativamente que sí reciben notificaciones. Me parece que en realidad es una cantidad mínima. Hay dos terceras partes de países en desarrollo de los cuales desconocemos su situación con respecto a una notificación.

En el párrafo 17 del mismo documento se dice -y esta vez lo cito yo-, que las dos terceras partes de los países en desarrollo no están satisfechas con las prácticas comerciales seguidas en la exportación de plaguicidas a su país. Esto nos da un cuadro bastante claro de cuál es la situación real.

Siguiendo siempre con su venia, señor Presidente, me permito citar una ulterior parte y es la siguiente:

"The Report of the 23rd Conference stated that the main concern over the absence of the prior informed consent clause in the Code was the fear that the omission of this principle could lead to an increased flow of highly toxic compounds banned or severely restricted in the countries of manufacture to developing countries which were not equipped to handle safely their supply and use. We have no reason to believe that this has happened."

Contrariamente a lo que la Secretaría piensa., nosotros, los países en desarrollo, sí tememos, y en algunos casos sabemos, que puede ocurrir esto; pero no es eso lo que nos preocupa en este momento. Lo que nos preocupa no es el aumento futuro de los productos tóxicos; nosotros estamos preocupados por el actual flujo de estos tóxicos y es a éste al que nos estamos dirigiendo en este momento.

Para seguir específicamente refiriéndose al principio PIC, la Secretaría estableció su posición:

"Every country under its own laws has the right to establish unilaterally the prior informed consent clause which then becomes mandatory for all imports of these pesticides which are severely restricted or banned in the exporting country. We strongly advise all countries concerned about possible negative effects of pesticide imports to take such unilateral action."

Aquí tenemos dos observaciones que hacer, que son fundamentales. En primer lugar todos nosotros apoyamos y adoptamos el Código, por considerarlo un instrumento necesario y muy valioso para reglamentar el comercio internacional de plaguicidas y establecer una normativa estable aceptada por todos y por la cual todas las partes interesadas se puedan regir.

En segundo lugar, si la Secretaría fuertemente aconseja a los países que así lo deseen para que establezcan unilateralmente el principio PIC en relación a sus importaciones de plaguicidas prohibidos o simplemente severamente limitados, ¿Cuál es la dificultad para la inclusión del principio en el Código, en caso de que la mayoría de los Estados Miembros así lo requieran? No puedo entender cuál pueda ser.

Siguiendo más adelante, la Secretaría menciona posibles dudas o inconsistencias con las disposiciones del GATT:

"... analysis it seems that PIC might be incompatible with GATT regulations for a number of regions."

Muy brevemente señor Presidente, queremos decir a este respecto que las disposiciones del GATT, como todos sabemos, admiten en el artículo 20 que puede haber excepciones a la normativa comercial establecida en el GATT cuando se trate de productos que son peligrosos para la vida y la salud humana y vegetal. Este es el caso; estamos hablando de productos altamente tóxicos que han sido prohibidos o severamente limitados en los países de producción y exportación. Además, cuando un país decide no aceptar un producto por considerarlo demasiado peligroso yo no creo realmente que lo debería aceptar otro país. Si el país es consciente de que ese producto es peligroso para sus campesinos por una serie de razones, no lo comprará ni de a, ni de b, ni de c; el producto sigue siendo el mismo de cualquier fuente que provenga.

Quiero referirme ahora a un punto planteado por el señor Bonte Friedheim. Dice .que el hecho de que un pesticida haya sido prohibido o severamente limitado en el país exportador se debe a condiciones agroecológicas y sociales presentes en ese país, las cuales no siempre se encuentran en el país receptor. Si bien esto, en principio, es muy cierto, ya que estamos hablando de países desarrollados con climas muy atemperados y de países en desarrollo, con climas preferentemente tropicales, hay que considerar lo siguiente: el efecto de la aplicación de un pesticida en un país tropical no ha sido suficiente investigado, por lo cual, es tan posible que sus efectos no sean tan nefastos, como lo son en el país exportador, como que lo sean mucho más. Falta investigación sobre este punto. No está dicho que un plaguicida que tenga efectos nefastos en un país de clima atemperado, actúe mucho mejor en un país de clima tropical. Puede que tenga efectos más dañinos en un clima tropical. Esto en relación, únicamente, con el potencial de contaminación ambiental. Pero un producto que es tóxico

para el ser humano -y en este caso estamos enfrentando el segundo problema que estos plaguicidas • tienen en cuanto posibles contaminantes ambientales y en cuanto peligrosos para la salud humana-, repito, un producto que es tóxico para un ser humano, lo es para cualquier ser humano, independientemente de cuál es su nacionalidad, su color de piel o el país de proveniencia, y, si lo consideramos peligroso para el ser humano en el país exportador, con más razón en los países en desarrollo donde las condiciones sociales, culturales, y el elevado grado de analfabetismo, impiden su utilización segura y con un mínimo- nivel de riesgos, poniendo, por lo tanto a nuestros campesinos en riesgo del envenenamiento y de la muerte.

Para finalizar la intervención de mi delegación, quiero, solamente, resumir un poquito cuáles fueron las ideas que llevaron a la presentación de esta resolución.

En primer lugar, nosotros reconocemos y felicitamos a la Secretaría por toda la labor que ha hecho, y que ha hecho posible que se llegue a la adopción de un Código de esta naturaleza que es un instrumento bastante único en el panorama mundial y que lo tenemos gracias a los esfuerzos de la Secretaría.

En segundo lugar, nosotros somos plenamente conscientes del carácter voluntario del Código; no estamos forzando nada; este proyecto será inclusive para aquel que mantiene su carácter voluntario, y nosotros creemos, que, en realidad, es la buena voluntad de todas las partes interesadas el elemento que mayormente puede hacer que funcione un código de esta naturaleza y es con esta buena voluntad con la que nosotros contamos.

Un otro punto es que, como usted habrá notado, en mi intervención he hablado siempre de plaguicidas prohibidos y seriamente limitados en los países de importación, y la resolución, mi intervención y las intervenciones de todas las delegaciones que la apoyan, se dirige única y exclusivamente a estos pesticidas; no estamos poniendo bajo acusación a toda la categoría de pesticidas; no estamos diciendo que esto se debería aplicar a todos los pesticidas. Existen miles de formulaciones que son muy efectivas; estamos sólo rechazando un concepto de doble estándar en relación a los pesticidas que han demostrado ser altamente tóxicos. Si son prohibidos en unos países no deben ser vendidos a otros sin que, por lo menos estos países lo acepten.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, nosotros no tenemos ningún inconveniente para apoyar plenamente las enmiendas propuestas por la delegación de Brasil.

CHAIRMAN: I thank the delegate of Venezuela for that detailed intervention, which is an effective and eloquent exposition from one of the sponsors of the resolution. However, on the GATT point I have the feeling that what the delegate is talking about and what Dr Bonte-Friedheim referred to were possibly different things, but I am sure that Dr Bonte-Friedheim will answer that when the opportunity arises.

Two representatives, one from Burma and one from Equatorial Guinea, have requested that the interventions which they would have delivered here be incorporated in the verbatim records. With your permission, I will agree to that. I also hope that because of the paucity of time this example will be followed by more delegations.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): My delegation has already expressed its view at the last Council, but let me briefly intervene once again.

Although my delegation appreciates the goodwill of the countries that proposed the revision of the Code, we do not feel it necessary to insert the new sentence because the Code is a voluntary guideline and not an international convention so as to legally bind member countries. Therefore, its adoption should be flexible for all countries.

Clearly in this case I consider that the decision of whether prior consent is needed or not is subject to decision of importing countries. Furthermore, as only two years have passed since the Code was put into effect, there should be a longer period of time to observe the progress of its implementation. In addition, we have not been informed if any inconveniences have occurred or are occurring due to lack of the proposed prior consent in the Code. My delegation considers that it is too early to discuss the revision of the Code, and therefore is not in a position to positively support the revision.

Japan earnestly acknowledges the significance of the existing Code. Therefore, Japan has just begun a contribution by way of a trust fund to FAO for a project to help developing countries to follow up the Code. The project will commence in the near future in Asia.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I should like to say that the Secretariat can indeed be very proud of its achievement in establishing this Code, which I think has given a lot of good effects, particularly for the safe use of pesticides. I should also like to commend the Secretariat for the initiative taken to promote the implementation of the Code and to assess its impact. And I should also like to express my appreciation for the efforts taken by the Secretariat to establish and to strengthen national pesticide regulatory arrangements and to develop national strategies in the field of pesticides, particularly in relation to the Code, by encouraging projects and the engagement of consultants.

Furthermore, I should like to thank Japan for financing the regional project for Asia that envisages the provision of training and strengthening of national infrastructures, including expert services and laboratory facilities.

I should also like to thank the Government of Netherlands for pioneering an integrated pest control project in the Philippines, which has been doing very well.

These projects and the initiatives of the Secretariat can only lead to the development of policies that will promote the most important objective of the Code, which is the safe and efficient use of pesticides as envisaged in the Code.

With regard to the Code itself, I should like to refer to the report of the previous session of the FAO Conference which approved the international code on the use of pesticides, and particularly that portion regarding Prior Informed Consent. As previously quoted by the Assistant Director-General, paragraphs 300 to 303 of the report of the previous Conference, states: "that while recognizing improvement has been introduced in the text, the majority of members" - I repeat, the majority - "expressed deep concern that the principle of Prior Informed Consent appeared no longer in the present version of the Code. They urge that the principle of Prior Informed Consent be considered for inclusion in the first revision of the Code. Most members suggested that there be a first revision within the next biennium." These three sentences which I quoted from the report indicate that even two years ago the majority wanted to introduce the principle of Prior Informed Consent, and they indicated that the first revision should be done in the next biennium. Now is the next biennium, but now that the next biennium is here, we are being told that we should wait. We are being told that we should wait until tomorrow, and when tomorrow comes we are told tomorrow. I think this is not a very serious way of proceeding.

I think that I should congratulate the Secretariat for its extensive presentation of this item. I should like to refer to the concluding paragraph wherein it stated that the conditions of developing countries situated in tropical and semi-tropical regions have different climatic, ecological, agronomic, social, economic and environmental conditions, and therefore their pest problems are usually quite different from those prevailing in countries in which pesticides are manufactured. I agree up to that point, when it concludes that therefore exporting countries are not in a position to judge the suitability or the efficacy, I agree. Perhaps the pesticides that are effective in the developed countries may not be effective in our developing countries. But when they say that they cannot judge the safety of the pesticides, I disagree, because if pesticides are harmful to human beings, toxic to human beings in the country of manufacture they are also going to be toxic and

harmful to human beings in the developing countries. The human beings in the developed countries are not different from the human beings that are in the developing countries. If pesticides will poison people in the developed countries, they will also poison people in the developing countries. I think there is a fault of logic here.

It is precisely because of the importance of safeguarding the environment and safeguarding human life that we are persevering to stress the importance of incorporating Prior Informed Consent into the Code. If pesticides are severely restricted in countries of manufacture, it is because these pesticides are dangerous and can cause harm to human beings and to the environment. If they are dangerous and harmful in the developed countries where they are manufactured, they are all the more dangerous in the developing countries. In the developed countries the farmers are usually better trained. For example, their farmers usually have to obtain a sort of licence and undergo a training course before they are allowed to use certain kinds of pesticides as here in this country. Despite the fact that the farmers are better equipped to handle pesticides, it is not a rare occurrence that we hear about ecological disasters. I hesitate to cite examples of our host country but I am more familiar with what is going on in this country. For example, in the month of March early this year we read in the papers about the alarm raised in the territory of Alexandria, Vercelli, Novara and Perugia with a population of 500 000 people because the water supplies had been contaminated by pesticides.

In Vigevano, a town near Milano, the municipal services began to drill 250 meters deep in search of uncontaminated water because the shallower water tables were already contaminated with pesticides.

We have heard about the irreversible contamination of the great River Po by atrozine. As is well known, the River Po irrigates the Po Valley and provides water to many municipalities. Atrozine is a herbicide applied to corn in the spring, and when the rains come some is washed off into the River Po. Therefore, many ecological disasters have been caused in towns along the river and in the water supply of many municipalities along the river basin.

For the reasons that it is dangerous to human life and can be dangerous to the environment, we think prior informed consent is important to increase awareness and would help all countries to become aware of the danger of some pesticides. We are not asking that the pesticides be banned in the country of manufacture, the principle of Prior Informed Consent does not prohibit their export to developing countries. But prior consent of the appropriate authority in the importing countries must be obtained because human life and ecology have to be protected.

It has been said that the regulations of GATT would be violated if prior informed consent were introduced into the Code because it would constitute an arbitrary discrimination between countries. I do not believe that that can be so, first of all, because the Code is a voluntary Code of Conduct; it does not bind a country. If the importing countries are consistent in applying refusals to import a particular pesticide from any exporting country, then there can be no GATT violation.

UNEP has decided to incorporate this principle in its guidelines. I understand the European Parliament has recently passed a resolution approving the principle of Prior Informed Consent so that it would be applied by 31 December 1988.

I think I should like to appeal to all the members of this Commission to vote for the resolution because I believe that the safe use of pesticides should prevail over commercial interests and the desire for gain and profit.

CHAIRMAN: Congo has requested that their written intervention be included in the verbatim record although not delivered in the meeting. I will agree to this proposition subject to approval of the meeting.

POINT OF ORDER
POINT D'ORDRE
PUNTO DE ORDEN

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I hope that when these statements are submitted for inclusion in the Report, although they have not been read in the hall, the contents of the statements will be taken into account in arriving at this Commission's decisions.

CHAIRMAN: I understand that this is a very well-established procedure in FAO. I do not think we are striking new ground.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): Australia has supported the development of the Code and we are encouraged by the results of the preliminary survey and its implications. After a recent review of our position, Australia supports the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent in the Code of Conduct to ensure that developing countries are not subjected to malpractice in the distribution and use of pesticides.

Having said that, we are concerned that, in introducing Prior Informed Consent, encumbrances are not placed on those countries where there are developed regulatory schemes already in place. We also recognize that this issue of Prior Informed Consent is rather more complicated than may appear on the surface. We believe that much more thought must be given to it, particularly in terms of its practical application, and the consequences both to industry and to agriculture in the importing countries. For instance, we believe there is a need to develop procedures for ensuring Prior Informed Consent from importing countries, and also to identify specific training needs to introduce Prior Informed Consent and/or extension of current training programmes to facilitate the implementation of the Code. Thus, we would urge the Secretariat to examine and report on the matters relating to the practical implementation of Prior Informed Consent among member countries. Lastly, Australia supports the Resolution on this item as it stands before the Commission.

Nguen SRISURUKSA (Thailand): The subject of pesticides which is being discussed is of great importance, because it is not only related to increased food and agricultural production, but is also harmful to human beings, especially the farmers who use them. The evidence shows that a large number of farmers in developing countries, for instance in my country's experience, who do not know how to use pesticides properly and effectively, die each year.

In this respect, I should like to draw your attention, Mr Chairman, to the fact that the World Health Organization estimates that at least ten thousand people die each year in Third World countries after accidental exposure to pesticides.

The global problems related to the mis-use, and over-use of pesticides have become widely recognized and documented in recent years. This recognition has led to strong public demand for a solution in the form of an exchange of information, assistance in the development of legislation in developing countries, guidelines on advertising and labelling, both in importing and exporting countries; particular emphasis should be given to countries importing pesticides. In Thailand, for instance, we imported thirty thousand tons of pesticides in 1984, while twenty thousand tons were imported in 1977. Of that total, 99 percent is used by our farmers for farming. This statistic shows how important farm pesticides are for increasing food and agricultural production. It is also expected that a large amount of pesticide is going to be imported by our country in the future. We, therefore, take this input into account with great interest and concern.

Although the Poisonous Articles Act was passed in 1967 and amended in 1973, the main aims of the Act which are to prevent danger to people, animals, crops and others from pesticides, are still not covered in many respects as indicated in the FAO Code of Conduct. We are, therefore, willing to take the FAO Code into account.

My delegation has considered the Resolution presented by the delegations of Colombia, Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia regarding Item 11, which appears in document C 87/LIM/39, Appendix C, "Code of Conduct on Distribution and Use of Pesticides". My delegation is well aware of the great importance and high concern of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Therefore, my delegation strongly supports the above-mentioned draft Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate from El Salvador has also indicated that their intervention be included in the verbatim records without being read out in this room.

Raul LOPEZ LIRA (México): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Ante todo quiero pedir disculpas por mi retraso. De acuerdo con su sugerencia sobre pasar por escrito el texto, voy a someterlo por escrito. Sin embargo quisiera, antes de dejar el uso de la palabra, hacer mías las palabras de Venezuela y Filipinas y expresar que nuestra opinión es favorable a la inclusión del principio del consentimiento previo, por lo cual apoyamos el proyecto de resolución que está en la mesa. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Permítaseme felicitarlo por su designación como Presidente de esta Comisión, al igual que a la Secretaría por la presentación del documento base, el C 87/LIM/25, a pesar de haber contado con muy poco tiempo para su integración en esta Conferencia.

Mi Gobierno concede gran importancia a la observancia del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas como iniciativa internacional para la regulación del uso de los productos químicos plaguicidas.

Partiendo de la base de que existe un consenso generalizado, tanto en países desarrollados como en los que estamos en desarrollo, de los beneficios del Código de Conducta, es necesario canalizar esfuerzos para que aquellos países que no están en condiciones de aplicarlo, se les proporcione la asistencia necesaria para que a la brevedad puedan incorporarlo a sus procedimientos regulatorios. De esta manera, podrán estos países disfrutar también de los beneficios que reporta el empleo racional de plaguicidas, sin arriesgar su salud ni afectar negativamente las relaciones ecológicas.

A continuación me permito hacer algunos comentarios generales sobre el Código y algunos aspectos fitosanitarios en general, para luego comentar la situación de México.

La delegación mexicana le da gran importancia a este tema y coincide totalmente con "La Conferencia que en 1985 reconoció el carácter dinámico del Código, la necesidad de supervisar su cumplimiento y de efectuar revisiones periódicas para adaptarlo de manera eficaz a nuevas condiciones". En efecto, el Código no necesita cambiar cada caso, sino su aplicación deberá adaptarse a las condiciones de cada agroecosistema, considerando que la importancia económica y ecológica de los cultivos y de sus plagas varían no sólo entre países sino dentro de un país entre regiones. De la misma manera, deben adaptarse las modalidades de control fitosanitario.

Consideramos necesario que los países en desarrollo profundicemos en el conocimiento del concepto y de las prácticas del Manejo Integrado de Plagas, enfermedades y malezas de nuestros cultivos para las diversas áreas agroecológicas, como una manera efectiva de evitar o atenuar la dependencia del control químico. En esta materia, la FAO podría constituir un importante apoyo con especialistas calificados en Manejo Integrado de Plagas a los países que así lo requieran.

Asimismo, consideramos necesario mantener activo el flujo de información tanto de nuevos plaguicidas como de nuevas tácticas no químicas que puedan resolver problemas fitosanitarios. Apoyamos la recomendación de promover que el contenido del Código de Conducta que nos ocupa, sea enseñado en las facultades, escuelas o universidades donde se forman especialistas en áreas fitosanitarias. Asimismo, sentimos que debe hacerse un esfuerzo mayor para la capacitación de los médicos, en las áreas de diagnóstico y terapia de intoxicaciones por plaguicidas.

Dados los beneficios y rentabilidad de las empresas productoras por un amplio uso que La producción agrícola requiere que éstos sean empleados en forma segura, adecuada, racional. Lo anterior conlleva a que los países establezcan actividades o campañas permanentes de información sobre cómo evitar los peligros o resultados indeseables del empleo de plaguicidas. Las circunstancias en que éstos pueden ser muy peligrosos, son múltiples: durante su fabricación, formulación, distribución, transporte, almacenamiento, venta, aplicación, etc.

Al respecto, en México se tiene una campaña permanente para lograr que el uso de plaguicidas sea seguro, en la que participa el gobierno federal y los gobiernos estatales en el área agrícola, de salud pública y de protección ambiental. Toman parte también varias universidades, la Asociación Mexicana de Fabricantes y Formuladores de Plaguicidas, la Confederación de Asociaciones de Pilotos y la Asociación Nacional de Ingenieros Agrónomos Especialistas en Parasitología (IAP).

México, país en desarrollo, ha estado especialmente activo en la década actual para poner orden en los aspectos que aborda el Código de Conducta en discusión. Existe en nuestro país el conocimiento, la convicción, la voluntad y las leyes y normas que regulan el registro y uso de los plaguicidas. Pero también existen infractores a estas leyes, como los hay ahora mismo frente a los letreros de no fumar o de no estacionarse en lugares prohibidos o a la luz roja del semáforo.

En nuestro país la producción, formulación, distribución, venta, aplicación, publicidad, etc. de los plaguicidas ha sido ampliamente analizada y plasmada en su Ley General de Sanidad Fitopecuaria y su Reglamento respectivo de 1984. Asimismo, hay control por parte de las Leyes de Salud y de Protección Ambiental. Las fallas o deficiencias que pueda adolecer su puesta en práctica están en proceso de superación. Requerimos reforzar cualitativa y cuantitativamente nuestros cuadros de técnicos de asistencia técnica y de supervisión, que se someten constantemente a cursos de actualización. Rechazamos la aseveración que hace el Centro de Enlace para el Medio Ambiente, organización no gubernamental internacional, de la existencia de retraso entre la legislación de otros países y el correspondiente cambio de las leyes en México. Para la observancia de los preceptos del manejo de plaguicidas a nivel oficial, la Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos tiene una importante Dirección General de Sanidad y Protección Agropecuaria y Forestal en su nivel central y las correspondientes Delegaciones en cada estado del país. Y, repito, además se está generalizando la conciencia del problema de los usos, beneficios y peligros de los plaguicidas por parte de otras Secretarías de estado, particularmente la de Desarrollo Urbano y Ecología y la de Salubridad y Asistencia Pública, universidades, asociaciones científicas y profesionales y la industria de plaguicidas.

México tiene zonas de alta tecnificación agrícola donde produce hortalizas y algodón, ambos motivo de exportación, sujetos al ataque de múltiples plagas y enfermedades que frecuentemente ponen en peligro la cantidad y calidad de la cosecha. Para su control, desafortunada pero necesariamente, todavía requiere de varias aplicaciones de insecticidas, fungicidas y/o herbicidas. En estas zonas, sobre todo es donde se dan casos de que se aplique un plaguicida en un cultivo donde no está aprobado su uso, o en dosis o frecuencias mayores de las necesarias o sin la protección corporal debida a los aplicadores. Estas infracciones, cuando se detectan, son motivos de sanciones diversas. Es un hecho también que nos falta más personal para la asistencia técnica, la supervisión, la persuasión o la aplicación del peso de la ley.

Un problema de consideración que encontramos es en la detección de residuos de plaguicidas en productos agrícolas o en el suelo. Esta es el área en donde se requiere de un mayor número de laboratorios de análisis de residuos, así como la capacitación o actualización de un mayor número de técnicos de alta calificación para dichos análisis.

Concluimos expresando nuestro voto de confianza al Código Internacional de Conducta sobre la Distribución y Uso de Plaguicidas, seguros de los beneficios que su implementación traerá a los países donde aún no han alcanzado el control de la problemática multifacética del manejo de los plaguicidas.

Expresamos asimismo, nuestra opinión favorable a la inclusión del principio del Consentimiento Previo de las disposiciones del Código relativas al intercambio de informaciones. 1/

Ousseini SIDIBE (Niger): Ma délégation a suivi avec un vif intérêt la présentation du document C 87/LIM/25 sur le Rapport de situation sur l'application volontaire du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation de pesticides élaboré par le Secrétariat auquel ma délégation tient à exprimer toute sa satisfaction.

Dans son introduction, le Secrétariat a répondu à plusieurs questions que posait ma délégation; néanmoins, au risque de nous répéter vis-à-vis de ceux qui nous ont précédés, nous tenons à faire part des constatations suivantes:

Le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation de pesticides a permis a de nombreux pays d'Afrique subsaharienne de prendre des dispositions techniques de contrôle de distribution de pesticides. Pour nombre de nos pays, le Code international constitue un document d'information et a inauguré un début de cycle de formation et de sensibilisation des vulgarisateurs et des paysans. Le Code a aussi permis d'instaurer un début d'échange d'informations et même d'expériences entre nos pays en matière d'harmonisation, d'homologation, de contrôle des pesticides et d'identification des laboratoires pouvant être utilisés soit pour des analyses, soit pour assurer une formation aux cadres de nos Etats. Cette situation est d'ailleurs confirmée par le paragraphe 47 du document C 87/LIM/25 et nous notons les possibilités de renforcement de capacités nationales par la formation des cadres, la mise à disposition de matériel et d'équipements de laboratoires, services d'experts, etc.

Ceci signifie en clair que, par le biais du Code et de tout ce qu'il a suscité, les Etats seront appuyés pour mieux organiser leurs structures et prendre toutes les dispositions tant en amont qu'en aval pour pouvoir être en mesure d'appliquer le Code.

Le Code même a été adopté depuis 1985. Les discussions présentes portent essentiellement sur les résultats obtenus à l'issue de l'application du Code dans certains Etats et sa mise à jour périodique.

S'agissant du premier point, ma délégation pense qu'il faudrait encourager la FAO à faire adopter et appliquer le Code dans les pays qui n'en ont pas encore. Pour les pays qui possèdent des Codes, examiner les voies et moyens pour assurer l'harmonisation nécessaire de leur Code avec celui dont nous discutons actuellement.

Pour ce qui est du second point, il faudrait souligner que les propositions actuelles d'amendement du Code, propositions faites tant par le Secrétariat que par les Etats, gagneraient, dans la nouvelle version, à être corroborées par la collecte et l'examen des propositions d'autres Etats et organisations.

En toute logique, après l'application du Code dans nombre des pays, il apparaîtra certainement d'autres propositions du Code.

Marcos I. NIETO LARA. (Cuba): Gracias, señor Presidente. En primer lugar quisiera agradecer al Dr. Bonte Friedheim su exposición que nos ha permitido obtener suficientes elementos de juicio para nuestro debate. También expreso mi agradecimiento a la Secretaría por haber preparado un documento viable y suficientemente claro que nos permita este debate a pesar de que hubo premura en su preparación, por cuanto fue una decisión del último Consejo que se trajera a la Conferencia.

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

Como se recordará, en el 92º período de sesiones del Consejo, la delegación de Cuba pidió que este tema fuera incluido en los debates de este período de sesiones de la Conferencia, consciente de la importancia de este tema y por los valiosos resultados alcanzados para toda la comunidad, pero de manera particular para los países en desarrollo.

Desde que se inició el análisis del Código internacional de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, mi país ha brindado todo su apoyo reconociendo los beneficios que, de la aplicación del mismo, se derivan.

Reconocemos también los esfuerzos realizados por el Director General para introducir progresivamente mejoras a este Código. Mi país es también un importante importador y consumidor de productos plaguicidas, y en atención a la salud de las personas, de la protección del medio ambiente y del equilibrio biológico, ha establecido un sistema de control y una legislación que exige el cumplimiento de las medidas expuestas en el Código.

En consecuencia, señor Presidente, mi delegación opina que la FAO merece nuestro respaldo para que siga asistiendo a los países en materia de legislación y capacitación en cuanto a importaciones, manejo y uso de pesticidas.

Señor Presidente, mi delegación deplora que, a pesar del llamado que implica el Código para la salud de las personas, se hayan detectado violaciones a causa de intereses puramente comerciales.

Para concluir, señor Presidente, la delegación de Cuba apoya la resolución que se somete a nuestra consideración incluyendo el principio de conocimiento previo, el cual sin duda constituirá una importante mejora al Código.

Esperamos que no se dilate más la aplicación de estas mejoras y nos asociamos a lo expresado por las delegaciones de Venezuela y Filipinas en el sentido de que esto debe ser decidido por esta Conferencia y que se actúe con prontitud en beneficio de que cada día mueran menos personas a consecuencia de un uso indiscriminado y del mal manejo de los pesticidas.

Peter A. WIESMANN (Suisse): J'aimerais tout d'abord remercier M. Bonte-Friedheim pour son excellente introduction dans le sujet à l'ordre du jour.

Nous avons réfléchi aussi sur ces propositions de résolution mais, après mûre réflexion, nous soutenons plutôt ce qu'a proposé le Secrétariat. Pour le moment, nous voyons que beaucoup de problèmes subsistent dans ce domaine, nous ne les nions pas du tout mais pour des questions pratiques et actuellement, après seulement deux ans d'expérience avec ce code, la proposition avancée par M. Bonte-Friedheim au nom du Secrétariat nous convient entièrement.

Ms Patricia WEST (United Kingdom): As the United Kingdom delegate has already pointed out in' the discussions on the implementation of the Pesticides Code which took place in the 92nd Session of the Council, we regard it as extremely important that adequate safeguards are provided both for man and the environment against pesticides misuse. For this reason the United Kingdom was very closely involved in the preparation of the Code and will continue to play a positive role in discussions on it.

We recognize that the resolution put forward in the names of Colombia, the Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia stems from their very real concern at the safety hazards that exist in the use of pesticides and from their laudable wish to protect vulnerable markets. But we feel that any consideration of the introduction of Prior Informed Consent at this stage would be premature. We think it would be preferable to wait until more experience is available of the operation of the export notification schemes and the UNEP/London Guidelines so as to be able to judge whether or how these can be improved.

The UNEP Working Group is due to meet in 1988 to consider how Prior Informed Consent may be incorporated into the London Guidelines and we suggest that the results for their deliberations be awaited before any decision is taken.

Furthermore, it is clear to us from the Progress Report, document CL 92/2, that many developing countries do not have the technical capacity or approved legislative authority to enable them to regulate the distribution or the use of pesticides. Until they can do so and can enforce the existing Code in its entirety, it seems to the United Kingdom that the most urgent need is to provide training and resources to regulators and operators of pesticides on their appropriate choice and correct use. We think this is extremely important and that the international community should concentrate on this aspect at present rather than try to introduce further bureaucratic controls which could cause practical problems and lead to a distortion of trade.

Finally I would point out that agreement on the Code of Practice was reached in 1985 only after long and detailed technical discussion and consultation. It does not appear to the UK practical to think that it can be amended in the way suggested without further similar consultation.

We would instead request that any consideration of Prior Informed Consent should first take place in a technical working party which should report to COAG and from there to Council and Conference on the lines suggested by the Deputy Director-General during the discussion at Council prior to this Conference and reiterated by Dr Bonte-Friedheim in his introduction to this item. We think this procedure is preferable to any attempt to amend a document like the Code of Practice in the way presently proposed. The UK therefore opposes this resolution.

John COOK (United States of America): The United States is very sensitive to the human health and environmental safety implications of pesticides, not only from a national but also from an international perspective. Recognizing the global significance of agriculture and the attendant need for plant protection products, the United States amended its law regulating pesticides in 1972. That amendment required that the enforcement agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, notify all governments when a major regulatory action is taken by the U.S. Government to ban or severely restrict a pesticide product for human health or environmental safety reasons. The law was further amended in 1979 to add an export notification requirement by which other governments are notified, before shipment, that pesticide products not registered in the United States will be shipped to their countries. According to that law, the products will be labelled as not registered in the United States, and they will also be labelled in the language of the importing country, with any labelling requirements imposed by the importing country.

Consequently, as information and export notification guidelines emerged for international consideration in the OECD, UNEP, and the FAO, the United States was supportive of such initiatives.

It is important to recognize the procedure by which such guidelines were formulated, because it was that procedure which makes them acceptable, and which has offered the best chance for them to be implemented by member countries. That procedure was one of consultation and consensus. Under that procedure, when technical questions and uncertain matters arose, they were assigned to appropriate expert groups for investigation and deliberation to provide advice and recommendations on which reasonable judgments could be made and reasonable decisions could be reached by consensus.

The FAO Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides evolved under the same procedure, and it exists as a viable international code because it was developed through consultation and consensus. It would be an affront to the integrity of the Code to seek abrupt changes without first following the established procedures of seeking the advice of an expert group.

The matter of Prior Informed Consent deserves the attention of an expert group to conduct a thorough examination of its possible merits and potential effectiveness. The Governing Council of the UN Environmental Programme has recognized this and has already decided to convene such a group in March of next year to evaluate the concept of Prior Informed Consent and other modes of export notification. It would seem imprudent for FAO to amend its Code at this time, without awaiting the conclusions and recommendations of the UNEP expert group.

Pending consideration of the concept of Prior Informed Consent by the UNEP expert group, countries that feel an urgent need for additional protection regarding the importation of pesticides could address that need by adopting their own national regulations on pesticide importation. In fact, that is what provisions of the Code already encourage individual Member States to do - that is, to adopt national regulations considered necessary to provide adequate protection on the importation of pesticides in view of the particular circumstances of their countries.

The United States recognizes the limitations that some countries may experience in amplifying and effecting domestic regulatory procedures on the use of pesticides. For that reason, the United States Government presently has under proposal a project for providing technical assistance to developing countries on formulating pesticide regulatory procedures. This project would be carried out in collaboration with international and multilateral organizations, including FAO. Under this project, workshops would be established in Africa, the Latin America and Caribbean Region and the Asia/Pacific Region to provide training to those attending on formulation and effective implementation of pesticide regulations. The first workshop is proposed for March 1988. The tentative list of countries to be invited to these workshops includes 16 countries from the Asia/Pacific Region, 25 countries from the Latin America and Caribbean Region, and 20 countries from Africa.

We believe that the approaches we have mentioned - that is, the US project for training workshops on pesticides, the initiatives that member countries can take on their own to adopt domestic guidelines and regulations on pesticide importation and use, and the planned evaluation by a UNEP expert group of the concept of Prior Informed Consent - are the best measures that can be taken at this time to strengthen, international cooperation and provide for the best protection of member countries in regard to the distribution and use of pesticides.

A final point, but perhaps the most telling argument against the adoption of Prior Informed Consent into the Code of Conduct, concerns the evident violations of Article 20 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade that could result, and the implications of such violations for member countries of FAO which also subscribe to the GATT. Mr Bonte-Friedheim has already made reference to the GATT in his presentation, and I would like to reinforce his comments. The United States Government has carefully studied the implications of Prior Informed Consent in relation to the GATT and has concluded that inclusion of Prior Informed Consent into the Code of Conduct would put countries subscribing to the GATT in a position in which they could not effectively follow the Prior Informed Consent procedure without in the process violating the provisions of Article 20 of the GATT. As a consequence, such countries', in order to fulfil, their commitments under the GATT, would be forced to ignore the Prior Informed Consent procedure. The result, if Prior Informed Consent were to be included in the Code, would be a general weakening of observance of the Code because of the reservation that GATT countries would be forced to take on the Prior Informed Consent provision.

The Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides was adopted in its present form by consensus, and, according to the results of the study conducted by the Secretariat, the Code has has a commendable record of success in its implementation and effectiveness during the two years since its adoption.

To amend the Code with the controversial provision of Prior Informed Consent, with such an amendment lacking the strong consensus with which the Code was originally adopted would result in a weakening rather than strengthening of the Code and that would not be in the interests of member countries.

The United States concurs in general with the presentation by the Secretariat on the Code of Conduct and on the question of Prior Informed Consent. For the reasons which we have just provided, the United States opposes the resolution to amend the Code by the inclusion of the provision on Prior Informed Consent.

CHAIRMAN: Nicaragua has indicated that, with the approval of the Commission, its intervention will not be delivered but will be included in the verbatim report.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): First of all we would like to thank Mr Bonte-Friedheim for his introduction and also the Secretariat for preparing the document before us. I have a very detailed statement before me regarding the document and various items but I would like to set it aside for the time being and only go into the most important points. Perhaps later on I might ask for the floor once again.

One of the points which we wished to take up has already been touched upon by other delegations, and therefore only the most important points will be dealt with now. My delegation considers the proposed amendment to the Code of Conduct without a further examination is not necessary and hardly enforceable. The proposal goes far beyond the present Code of Conduct, it concerns so many matters of principle that it must be examined thoroughly from the technical point of view. This could take place, for instance, on the occasion of the next meeting of the Committee on Agriculture. We understand that some countries are worried about the fact that in this particular field not enough has been done so far. On the other hand, my country has already incorporated the Code of Conduct adopted two years ago with our full support by consensus into our national legislation so that we have complied with the objective of this important international instrument. Member States and the Secretariat of FAO were notified of this fact.

The experience which has been gained elsewhere seems to be good, as shown by the replies to the questionnaire. Therefore we think that we should not amend the provisions, of the Code of Conduct but I think we should see to it that the Code should be applied consequently and everywhere in its existing form. The suggested amendment could also lead to the fact that countries which so far have stayed away could refrain from acceding to the Code of Conduct.

I think that the text adopted at the last FAO Conference makes it an obligation to see to it that all the information on the products concerned should be available above all to importing countries. The responsibility as to whether and which products a country would like to import must remain with the government of the importing country concerned.

For these reasons, my delegation is not in a position to give its agreement to the Draft Resolution. If there were a majority in favour, we would have to voice a reservation.

Mme Maria de Lourdes MARTINS DUARTE (Cap-Vert): L'utilité du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides n'a jamais été contestée, et il est même reconnu comme un moyen d'aide inestimable pour tous les pays. Toutefois, les pays en développement rencontrent des difficultés dans son application, dues au besoin d'assistance technique, de formation du personnel concerné, et de moyens matériels.

Depuis son adoption en 1985 il a été, en effet, convenu de la nécessité de suivre de très près son application et de procéder à des révisions périodiques. L'analyse de la récente enquête menée par la FAO a permis de faire un premier inventaire des domaines qui manquent dans l'amélioration, tels que législations appropriées, amélioration des pratiques commerciales, formation, etc. et ma délégation, à l'instar d'autres et de l'avis de la Quatre-vingt-douzième session du Conseil, est elle aussi convaincue qu'il est temps d'amender le code, en vue d'introduire la notion "d'information et de consentement préalables".

Dans ce contexte, la délégation du Cap-Vert souscrit à la résolution, objet de l'annexe C du document C 87/LIM/39 présentée par les délégations de la Colombie, des Philippines, du Venezuela et de la Zambie.

Mme Malika SACI (Algérie): La délégation algérienne voudrait dire combien elle apprécie la présentation du point 11 faite par M. Bonté-Friedheim.

L'adoption du Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides en 1985 a été unanime, comme a été unanimement reconnu son caractère dynamique.

Lors de la vingt-troisième Conférence (je cite) "La majorité a vivement regretté que le principe d'information et de consentement préalables n'apparaisse plus dans la version finale du code". Il était instamment demandé donc que ce concept soit retenu. Le caractère perfectible du code doit nous aider à l'amender pour l'adapter à la situation et à l'évolution des technologies. Cette adaptation doit en particulier aider les pays en voie de développement qui n'ont pas de structures de contrôle ou des structures médicales adéquates à ne pas subir les effets néfastes des pesticides interdits ou présentant un grand degré de toxicité.

En l'absence d'un système institutionnel spécifique, il revenait à la FAO de mettre en place un dispositif de protection.

Dans le processus d'acquisition des pesticides, la phase commerciale exportation/importation est la plus adéquate pour établir un contrôle. Deux parties sont concernées: le pays exportateur et le pays importateur. La surveillance des exportations des pesticides ainsi que leur utilisation par l'importateur doivent obéir à une véritable éthique. Il y a obligation morale à informer, et à s'entourer de toutes les garanties institutionnelles et physiques, si nous ne voulons pas que se reproduisent des catastrophes dont ont souffert des milliers d'êtres humains et leur environnement.

Mon pays a été l'un de ceux qui ont souhaité que le concept d'information et de consentement préalables soit expressément inscrit dans le Code, et qu'il soit examiné par notre Conférence.

Le fait que les directives de Londres, en février 1987, n'aient pas retenu ce concept et que le GATT ait son interprétation en la matière nous incite au contraire à demander ici que la FAO comble cette lacune en incluant la clause de l'information et du consentement préalables. S'il en était ainsi, le marché des pesticides ne serait pas affaibli; au contraire, nous introduirions un élément de confiance dans ce secteur et la demande n'en serait que plus accrue.

Parce que notre devenir est commun, et notre développement solidaire, nous demandons instamment à notre Organisation d'amender le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Ma délégation appuie la Résolution présentée dans le document C 87/LIM/39 par la Colombie, les Philippines, le Venezuela et la Zambie.

A.H. Mofazzal KARIM (Bangladesh): My delegation congratulates Mr Bonte-Friedheim for his very clear and elaborate presentation of the subject. I have a few brief comments to make in this regard.

Before us is a very important as well as sensitive subject which is unique in nature. It involves moral and ethical issues which perhaps no other item on the agenda does. The International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides is undoubtedly a useful instrument to ensure safe and proper use of pesticides. But unless all member countries respect and follow this Code to the letter and spirit, its very purpose will be defeated. My delegation feels that its implementation is not an exercise to be undertaken unilaterally and all alone by an individual country. In fact, users in many developing countries are not aware of the vicious effects of many dangerous pesticides. Many gullible users are easily carried away by the ads and labels only, and the illiterate farmer grabs at anything and everything he gets to save his crops from pest attack.

The possibility of the damage that may be caused by some pesticides to human beings and the environment is hardly made known by the manufacturers and the sellers to the consumers. This is, to say the least, most unethical, particularly when the item is not used in the country where manufactured. The item is passed on as if at owner's own risk without giving even a hint that there is an element of risk involved. We want agriculture to thrive but we certainly do not want it at the cost of death, disease and squalor.

My delegation therefore very strongly suggests incorporation of the concept of "prior informed consent" in the Code. We firmly believe that in the line of universally accepted norms and principles of marketing, it is the moral and ethical obligation of the manufacturer and the seller to provide the buyer and the consumer with all relevant information including all possible effects of using the product.

We also underline the importance of technical assistance and training for the developing countries for successful implementation of the Code.

Finally, my delegation believes that if there is a strong will on the part of all concerned including such UN bodies as FAO, UNEP, WHO and ILO, there is no reason why we cannot make progress in agriculture in an atmosphere free from pollution and germs without jeopardising our own existence.

Let us try to respect the consumer's right a little more and also remember what the old frog said to the stone-pelting boys in Aesop's fable: "What is play to you is death to us."

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): The representative of Zambia referred in his intervention this morning to the need to respect a common principle, that of safeguarding the people and environment of all countries from serious damage arising from the use of pesticides. We in New Zealand believe in that principle, and I want to emphasize from the outset that we were closely associated with the evolution of the Code of Conduct and strongly supported its adoption at the Conference two years ago.

We welcome the Secretariat's view of the effects of the Code. We are pleased to see progress has been made. The programme that FAO has with Japan to finance the creation of national regulatory systems in developing countries and its planned programme with UNDP are further positive steps.

We understand the real concerns that have prompted the creation of the PIC concept but we believe there is a better approach. Prior informed consent will not provide the safeguards being sought if countries do not have systems to control the import and use of pesticides as recommended in the Code. Such countries will still be exposed to dangerous imports from the many countries which have no pesticide control and which could not therefore enforce prior informed consent. Prior informed consent is no substitute for effective national systems to ensure safe import of pesticides, and it would be wrong for countries or agencies to think that prior informed consent will make them safe from harmful pesticide imports.

As the Secretariat pointed out in introducing this item, every country has the sovereign right to legislate against damaging pesticide imports. They should be given all possible assistance to set up systems which enable them to do just that. In this respect, we note that as well as FAO and UNDP both ITC and UNEP provide advice to governments on regulatory actions taken on chemicals.

We hope that member countries will take advantage of this assistance and move quickly to implement the pesticides code in their countries. Regulation of imports is the only effective way, in our view, of protecting against damaging pesticides.

If awareness is needed of the pesticide problem in member countries or more information is required, then FAO should bridge that gap. But we oppose any action which will erode support for the Code or the vigour with which its implementation is pursued.

To conclude, we are opposed to the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent in the Code, but not because we disagree with the concerns of those who propose the concept. We fully agree with those concerns. It is absolutely essential that all countries are able to protect their people and environment from the dangers associated with the use of pesticides, but we believe that this goal will be better served by more urgent and vigorous implementation of the Code. The priority must be to preserve unanimous support for the Code.

Hawisi MWIAYIGOHA (Tanzania): My delegation would like to commend the Secretariat for the preparation of the document, which informs us of the progress attained in the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. My delegation would also like to congratulate Dr Bonte-Friedheim on his clear presentation of this document.

The Code of Conduct is almost complete but, because of its dynamic nature, from time to time it needs to be amended. The amendments become more apparent as the Code ages in the implementation phase.

My delegation would like to commend FAO on its efforts to provide assistance to ensure effective implementation of the Code, and I appeal to the Director-General to continue to provide more of such facilities despite the present financial problems the FAO is facing.

We need to implement vigorously the International Code of Conduct to slow down the dangers we are facing. Unfortunately, we have to use pesticides if we want to produce our food and cash crops efficiently. We need to be made more and more aware, through periodic information, of the dangers involved in handling, contact and pollution of our environment.

Through education we can provide a foundation for the effective implementation of the Code, and I appeal to the international community further to assist the FAO in providing facilities to enable FAO to increase its areas of involvement in enhancing the effective implementation of the Code.

My delegation is also of the opinion that the importing countries have by far the greatest share of contribution in making the implementation of the Code most effective through legislation on imports, and on use and handling of pesticides. This is another area where assistance is required to enable those countries to implement the Code effectively. Unfortunately, most of the importing countries do not know how to deal with the short and long-term implications of the indiscriminate use of pesticides.

The countries of manufacture should also realize that they have obligations in providing the necessary information, good or bad, on the chemicals they are providing for export.

The effective implementation of the Code needs a true team spirit and the sincerity of all those concerned. My country would like to assure the international community of our full cooperation in the implementation of this particular Code.

Also, we should strongly support the resolution sponsored by Colombia, Zambia, Venezuela and the Philippines on the principle of prior consent. I should like to stress that this should be incorporated now, without any further delays.

Petrus A.L. DE RIJK (Netherlands) : The questionnaire in the FAO Code of Conduct gives a good picture of its functioning as well as the still large gaps in its adequate application in many developing countries. My country strongly supports all efforts to improve the notification of the pesticides concerned as well as the global harmonization of the implementation and establishment of a proper notification system in the developing countries.

Therefore, we are prepared to assist through our Development Cooperation Programme in the solutions of bottlenecks for the application of the Code. For these activities we need continuing advice from and technical cooperation with FAO.

The draft resolution concerning the Code Of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides aims at including the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the Code. The Netherlands strongly supports this principle.

As Mr Bonte-Friedheim has already indicated, we even have an operational form of prior informed consent in a voluntary arrangement of the private business concerns. This system implies that prior to export of prohibited or strictly restricted pesticides and other chemicals consent is requested from the receiving country. This country can decide on the basis of information provided concerning the nature of the restrictions applied in the Netherlands. This arrangement is only in operation in countries which have indicated that they want to work with our country. However, in spite of a request from our Government, sent through our embassies to 160 countries, only 90 countries so far participate. Therefore, we invite all countries which do not participate at the moment to join. For the countries which did not answer the above appeal, the exchange of information processes adopted in UNEP and FAO is being followed.

In view of the numerous problems which still exist with the application of the Code in developing countries, in view of the need for further technical collaboration, and also in view of the ongoing discussion in various international bodies, our delegation supports the view of the FAO Secretariat that the inclusion at this stage of the principle of Prior Informed Consent, which we would interpret for our part as an obligation, would not be appropriate. Our delegation therefore suggests that the proposal be reconsidered at the next Conference or occasion when more progress will be made in developing countries in resolving the problems concerning the application of the Code. However, our delegation would like to stress that the Netherlands will continue to strive for incorporation of the principles of prior consent in the Code as soon as this is appropriate. In order to speed up this incorporation, we suggest that technical working groups be established. At the same time, we appeal for wider application of the principle on a voluntary and unilateral basis.

Jalaladdin HABIBI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat for the presentation of document C 87/LIM/25 on the very important and controversial document on the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

Our country benefits from diverse and extreme climatic conditions, and therefore is very rich in its fauna and flora. The existence of this diversity has always played a very important role in the prevalence of destructive agents, both pests and disease pathogens, in agriculture. The import of food commodities from other countries has worsened the situation and enhanced the number of these agents.

The outcome of this action is that that trend has increased.

Unfortunately among the different methods of control in the past the application of pesticides gained prevalence and every day a new chemical was introduced into the country. After farmers became aware of the consequences of pesticides, after a short while of using them it became very common to use them on a large scale.

This practice led to increased poisoning of the workers and the death of more animals was the sad outcome of over-sprayed agricultural commodities.

Fortunately during the past two decades measures have been implemented to restrict the application of pesticides, and non-chemical means of control have been introduced. For instance, in the case of spraying cotton for cotton pests, along with the use of a surveillance network, the number of sprayings has fallen from eight to two, and in the rice paddies from three to one.

Still, much is left to be achieved for full success in the field, but we are very optimistic that the day is not too far away when we will be witnessing the replacement of the use of large amounts of pesticides by non-chemical means of control.

We have always supported the contents of the Code of Conduct, and we would like to state our views as follows.

Regarding the diverse hazards of pesticides resulting from the misuse of them in agriculture, the impairing effects they have on our environment, on human beings and animals, are worthy of mention, lack of well-equipped laboratories for physico-chemical analysis. The lack of facilities for pesticide residue research, and similar research, which we have been proposing to various sessions of COAG, to the Council and to Conference are of proper significance.

We do urge that FAO fully support the idea of introducing non-chemical means of controlling harmful pests as at least one method of integrated control instead of the utilization of large amounts of chemicals.

Unfortunately, according to the data available there exist some pesticides that lack efficient qualities and that are banned in the country of production, but which nevertheless are being exported. For instance, one of these exporting countries managed to export 161 million pounds unregistered out of a production of 552 million pounds and 31 million pounds were suspended or cancelled.

It seems that most of the developing countries do not reply to the questionnaire forwarded by FAO. In this respect we do insist that FAO is the best organization to further the activities and, as described in paragraph 13 of document CL 92/2, should fully support the preparation of legislation in this regard.

Despite the significance of labelling, it is sad to say that there are still many cases where labelling is not practised. FAO should take serious action in this respect. We support the contents of paragraph 35 of the document as we deeply believe that much is left to be done in this important area.

With regard to paragraph 37, we would be grateful if the Secretariat would inquire as to which regions the workshops have been organized.

As has been stated in Article 10 of the Code, labels should be in accordance with applicable international guidelines. However, evidence collected from various countries reveals that so far as the pesticide industry is concerned this practice has not been implemented fully. In this regard we would be grateful if the Secretariat could inform us if FAO has tried to impose on them guidelines provided by FAO.

Article 3.2 of the FAO Code states that: "The pesticide industry should adhere to the provisions of this Code as standard for the manufacture, distribution and advertising of pesticides, particularly in countries lacking the appropriate legislation and advisory services". Unfortunately, evidence shows that this Article has not been implemented. In this field we believe that the industries do not have an interest in complying with the provisions of the Code. Therefore, FAO should encourage the close cooperation of governments and NGOs. We would appreciate it if the Secretariat could provide us with more information in this regard. We would like to support the work of NGOs and we request that FAO extend its collaboration with those organizations towards better implementation of the Code.

CHAIRMAN: Ethiopia has requested that its written intervention be included in the verbatim record, although it has not been presented in this meeting. Mexico, which made a brief oral intervention, has requested that the full text of their intervention be incorporated in the verbatim record.

Mme Josefa COELHO DA CRUZ (Angola): Notre délégation veut ajouter sa voix à celles qui nous ont précédés pour féliciter le Secrétariat de la présentation claire et succincte du document. Le document CL 92/2 soumis au dernier Conseil pour information a reçu l'appui de la majorité des participants sur le fait que le Code aide les pays à utiliser les pesticides efficacement et sans danger. D'autre part, il a souligné la nécessité pour la FAO de donner un suivi aux questions relatives au Code afin de permettre son application correcte.

Ainsi, notre délégation est d'accord avec les paragraphes 34, 35 et 47 du document et considère également qu'une coopération étroite avec les autres institutions des Nations Unies, telles que le PNUD, l'ONUDI et l'OMS et d'autres organisations internationales comme le GIFAP, doit être maintenue.

Pour terminer, la délégation angolaise voudrait appuyer la résolution présentée ce matin par la délégation zambienne et coparrainée par la Colombie, les Philippines et le Venezuela.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Gracias, señor Presidente. Las felicitaciones las hago extensivas tanto a la Secretaría como al Dr. Bonte Friedheim por su exposición, así como a uno de los ponentes, la delegada de Venezuela, por su brillante exposición. También quiero hacer llegar mis felicitaciones a las organizaciones no gubernamentales, que están haciendo una excelente y sacrificada labor para crear una conciencia clara y precisa sobre la importancia del tema que nos ocupa.

Las exposiciones anteriores me exigen de hacer muchas consideraciones. Por ello solamente quiero decir dos o tres cosas.

Todos tenemos una conciencia clara del peligro que significan los plaguicidas; además todos sabemos -sobre todo aquellos que procedemos de los países subdesarrollados- que estos plaguicidas son excesivamente caros en nuestros países debido a la estrechez del mercado y a la enorme cantidad de distribuidores de estos plaguicidas que existen, cuyos costos son elevados y por ello tienen que cobrar precios exorbitantes.

Creo señor Presidente que, si bien en la FAO, nos estamos preocupando por el efecto que producen los plaguicidas y por su control, fundamentalmente nos debemos dirigir hacia una labor encaminada a conseguir el control de las plagas y enfermedades por otros sistemas, principalmente el de la genética vegetal, el de crear especies resistentes a las plagas y enfermedades, el del sistema de cultivos por rotaciones cuando existen monocultivos. Por ejemplo, cuando las plagas se hacen extensivas y se desarrollan mucho más, a veces se hace muy difícil el control. Hay una serie de sistemas que pueden evitar esto, pero creo que fundamentalmente debemos desarrollar la genética vegetal.

Todos aquellos profesionales que hemos estudiado las ciencias agrícolas sabemos que a medida que los genetistas crean las plantas más productivas, estas se hacen más susceptibles a las plagas y enfermedades; aparecen nuevas plagas y enfermedades asociadas con este aumento de la productividad de las plantas. Repito, la tendencia de las plantas a producir más hace que éstas sean cada vez más delicadas. Por consiguiente, a medida que hacemos estas mejoras a las plantas, éstas requieren mayores cantidades de plaguicidas y fertilizantes.

No quiero que se entienda que nos oponemos -sería una tontería- al mejoramiento de estas plantas, pero este mejoramiento debe ir unido a la preservación de nuestros recursos fitogenéticos para poder mantener, hasta cierto punto, cierta rusticidad en la planta que haga favorable el control de esas plagas y enfermedades. Pero si en nuestro mundo -sobre todo en el tercer mundo, que somos los dueños de los recursos genéticos- van a ir desapareciendo estas especies, cada vez vamos a estar más condenados a que no existan los genes necesarios para poder mantener esa rusticidad o hacer cruzamientos que puedan crear especies resistentes a plagas y enfermedades.

Para finalizar, señor Presidente, mi delegación apoya el proyecto de resolución presentado por varios países para la modificación del artículo 9 del Código de conducta, y que se incluya el consentimiento previo en todos los países. Esto es lo que quería decir con brevedad, señor Presidente, en aras al tiempo.

CHAIRMAN: Indonesia has requested that its written intervention be included in the verbatim record.

Mohamed El Bashir MUFARAH (Sudan) (original language Arabic): The use of pesticides in Sudan has been going on for a long time. We started by using the chemical products to deal with parasites on animals and in malaria control, but their use did not lead to any great danger because it was done under medical supervision or under the supervision of medical or veterinarian trainees.

The danger appeared when these pesticides began to be used in agriculture. The number of pesticides in use increased and the greater part of their use was carried out by spraying from the air. That sometimes affected areas beyond that being sprayed, which exposed animals to diseases and illnesses that usually were fatal. Some pesticides remained in the soil for a long time particularly if the land was not irrigated, and therefore exposed animals grazing in those fields to diseases or to death.

In addition, cows and goats which had grazed in those fields were milked and these products were transmitted to children and adults. Likewise, fish were found floating dead in the rivers.

The pesticides that had been banned in developed countries were exported to the developing countries, and my intention was to ask for the extension to all countries equally. But after having discussed this with some of the countries that had proposed the amendment I became convinced of the need to revise the Code as it had been presented. Those countries that import the pesticides that are banned in certain exporting countries should also ban the import of those products into their country.

The Progress Report gives us a clear view of the sanitary situation in developing countries. The economical and technological conditions of newly independent countries have not made it possible for these countries to establish institutions which would allow them to be responsible for the control and analysis of those pesticides, and to ensure that they are correctly used. Therefore, the countries who produce and export these pesticides should assume their responsibilities in order to draw up and legislate provisions which would make clear what the chemical composition of the pesticides is in their effectiveness on insects, and what their damaging effects are on the environment, on animals and on man. All this information should be written out and there should be pictograms drawn on the envelope or the parcel in which they are put.

Having looked at the Progress Report and the proposal we have before us, I wish to express my country's support for this amendment.

CHAIRMAN: Nigeria and Trinidad and Tobago have also indicated that their interventions be incorporated in the verbatim record without being read in the Commission room.

Lautaro POZO MALO (Ecuador): Acatando su llamado, seré sumamente breve. Felicitemos a la Secretaría por la preparación y presentación del tema que nos ocupa.

La delegación de Ecuador apoya los medios y fines señalados en el Código Internacional de Conducta para el uso y distribución de plaguicidas. Es él un instrumento válido para regular el comercio y el uso de esos productos químicos cuya exagerada o errónea aplicación a suelos y plantas produce efectos desastrosos para la salud humana.

No solamente los agricultores que usan plaguicidas son sujetos de alto riesgo de males, sino también los consumidores de los productos agrícolas. Se ha comprobado que muchos plaguicidas están presentes, con todo su poder dañino, en los alimentos que llegan a las poblaciones.

El Código, como se recordará, fue aprobado sin un elemento trascendental, cual es el del consentimiento previo. Se trata del interés de muchos países de que se cumpla con un elemental principio ético, mediante el cual se vigile que quien compra ciertos plaguicidas prohibidos, restringidos o voluntariamente retirados de los países productores por su peligrosidad, obtengan todas las informaciones que indujeron a adoptar tales determinaciones. Esta información permitirá decidir sobre la conveniencia o no de adquirirlos y dar expresamente su consentimiento.

El comercio de los plaguicidas peligrosos no significa para los países productores sino un pequeñísimo porcentaje del total de sus ventas de plaguicidas.

Por ello, no entendemos su posición terminante en contra del PIC. Llamamos la atención sobre el hecho de que todos los estados productores de plaguicidas han dictado normas internas que contienen el principio, y lo han hecho en defensa de sus habitantes.

Luego de estos breves razonamientos, queremos expresar nuestro decidido apoyo a la Resolución que se encuentra a conocimiento de esta Comisión, y no tenemos problemas en aceptar la modificación sugerida por el Brasil.

Finalmente, quisiéramos reiterar lo que sostuvimos en la Conferencia de 1985; es decir, que no es de ninguna manera negativo que el comercio interior de plaguicidas peligrosos, algunos los llaman venenos, pueda limitarse como consecuencia de la inclusión del PIC en el Código, ni consideramos tampoco que ello constituya una barrera no arancelaria.

Patrick O'QUIN (France): La France a toujours soutenu le Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides, qu'elle considère comme un outil utile pour permettre aux pays membres de prendre des dispositions nationales dans un domaine particulièrement complexe. Il s'agit en effet pour chaque pays, compte tenu des conditions d'utilisation particulières qui sont les siennes, de disposer de produits qui soient tout à la fois efficaces et sans danger pour les hommes et pour l'environnement.

Mon pays dispose à cet égard d'une législation nationale qui remonte à 1946 ainsi que de moyens techniques et administratifs pour l'appliquer. Il a fourni au Secrétariat tous les renseignements nécessaires à ce sujet en répondant au questionnaire dont les résultats sont aujourd'hui soumis à l'appréciation de cette commission.

Ma délégation considère en outre qu'il est important de disposer d'un Code international pour l'utilisation des pesticides mais qu'il est encore plus nécessaire que celui-ci soit effectivement appliqué. Cela implique que les pays disposent certes d'un cadre réglementaire et administratif mais aussi de techniciens compétents et de laboratoires suffisamment équipés.

La France, dans ce domaine, est prête à coopérer avec les pays qui le souhaitent afin de leur permettre de s'assurer que, dans leur propre contexte d'utilisation, les pesticides qu'ils envisagent d'employer correspondent bien à leurs besoins et ne sont dangereux ni pour les populations, ni pour le milieu naturel.

En ce qui concerne le projet de résolution proprement dit relatif à un amendement à l'article 9.3 du Code, je voudrais souligner l'intérêt que cette proposition présente à nos yeux, notamment pour la santé et l'environnement. Nous pouvons donc marquer notre accord sur la nécessité de fournir aux autorités compétentes des pays importateurs toutes les informations nécessaires pour les produits en cause.

Cependant, il convient de remarquer que la proposition de résolution qui nous est soumise intéresse également des questions qui, dans d'autres enceintes, notamment au GATT, à la Communauté européenne • ou au PNUE ont fait l'objet d'études, de propositions ou de négociations.

Ma délégation rappelle également la nécessité en la matière de ne pas agir avec précipitation. Je renvoie sur ce point au débat que nous avons eu dans cette même commission lors de la quatrième session, lorsqu'il s'agissait de la lutte anti-acridienne, consigné dans le procès-verbal de cette quatrième session.

La délégation française appuie en conséquence pleinement les observations de M. Bonte-Friedheim et considère comme prématurée l'adoption de la résolution telle qu'elle est actuellement formulée.

Je rappellerai enfin pour appuyer cette observation que lors de sa vingt-troisième session, la Conférence en 1985 a adopté le Code des pesticides en considérant qu'il s'agissait d'un compromis acceptable par tous les Etats Membres dans la mesure où il comportait un juste équilibre entre des points de vue au départ assez divergents. C'est pourquoi ce Code a été adopté par consensus.

En conséquence, nous estimerions normal que si le Code devait être modifié, il le soit également par consensus.

Ma délégation considère sur ce sujet important que l'adoption de nouvelles dispositions doit être précédée de discussions et d'analyses des premiers enseignements tirés de l'application du Code. Je rappellerai à cette commission que le Code lui-même n'est effectivement entré en application que récemment, nous n'avons donc qu'une expérience très limitée de son application.

C'est pourquoi ma délégation est d'avis que, faute d'obtenir un consensus, ce sujet serait plus utilement traité lors de la vingt-cinquième Conférence.

CHA CHOL MA (Democratic Republic of Korea): As you know the majority of member countries at the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Conference and also at the Ninety-second Session of the Council, unanimously urged the necessity of including the principle of Prior Informed Consent by importing countries into the provisions of the Code dealing with the exchange of information on agricultural chemicals in international trade.

The United Nations Environment Programme has already recognized the necessity of Prior Informed Consent and has decided to establish a working group for it.

It is the view of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that the conclusion of this provision into the Code is one of the important factors in further ensuring the safety of agricultural chemicals in international trade, and in preventing pollution of the environment.

Thus, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea fully supports the amendment to Article 9.3 of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, to incorporate the principle of Prior Informed Consent by the delegations of Colombia, Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia.

Emile DETRAUX (Belgique): La Belgique veut vous confirmer tout l'intérêt qu'elle porte au Code international de conduite sur les pesticides adopté lors de la Conférence de la FAO en novembre 1985. Elle peut ici porter témoignage des efforts qu'elle a accomplis au sein de la Communauté économique européenne pour jusqu'à présent assurer, dans des conditions optimales, la mise en oeuvre dudit Code.

Lors de la présentation, M. Bonte-Friedheim, dans ses conclusions, nous a signalé que l'inclusion du concept de l'information et du consentement préalable n'était pas opportune dans l'état actuel des choses, notamment par le fait qu'il est nécessaire de s'assurer que cette disposition soit compatible avec les règles du GATT.

D'autre part, étant donné que la Communauté économique européenne, consciente de son rôle en la matière, examine la question du commerce des produits chimiques dangereux au niveau du Conseil des ministres, nous continuons à plaider le consensus pour un problème d'une aussi grande importance, ce qui permettrait par ailleurs de lui assurer des assises irréfutables.

Malheureusement, nous constatons qu'il n'est pas possible à ce stade d'atteindre ce consensus. J'attire particulièrement votre attention sur le fait que c'est à la lumière des considérations que nous venons d'annoncer, et donc en fin de compte, en fonction de conditions d'ordre technique, que la Belgique n'est pas en mesure à ce stade d'approuver la résolution et, à son vif regret, doit émettre un avis négatif tout en préconisant toutefois des discussions plus approfondies sur la question afin d'arriver au consensus souhaité, lors de la prochaine Conférence.

Mrs Hannelore H. BENJAMIN (Dominica): My delegation feels that this item on the agenda is very important because of its possible impact on the human population, animals and the environment.

My delegation strongly supports the position of Venezuela, Bangladesh, the Philippines and Zambia on this matter, and the resolution which considers the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent into the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

It is not acceptable that the pesticides which do not qualify for sale and use in their country of origin, be considered for export to, and use in, developing countries without their governments' acceptance. It must be remembered that a large number of farmers in these countries is illiterate, so it is useless to think that they can benefit from the directions for the use of these pesticides when they cannot even read. Purely on a moral basis, we cannot expose them to such a high-risk situation.

My delegation feels that it is essential to stress the importance of the fact that there is no justification for us to accept the practice of double standards which is implied in this situation.

Oscar PETINGA (Portugal): Tout d'abord, je dois féliciter le Secrétariat pour l'introduction du thème. La vingt-troisième Conférence de la FAO a apprécié et approuvé en 1985 le Code de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides. Nous pensons que ce Code a été une décision très importante et constructive. Comme nous le savons, l'augmentation de la production agricole est fortement dépendante de l'augmentation de la production unitaire. Cependant, pour que cela soit possible, il est nécessaire d'augmenter l'utilisation des engrais et des pesticides car la région des tropiques, face à son climat assez chaud et humide, est favorable à des maladies qui réduisent considérablement les récoltes.

Ainsi, il faut employer des pesticides, ce qui implique des précautions spéciales quant à leur application et aussi aux écarts entre celle-ci et la consommation des produits agricoles.

A la vingt-cinquième session de la Conférence, il s'est établi que les industries productrices des pesticides et les exportateurs doivent fournir tous les éléments indispensables aux pays importateurs: la composition chimique, les intervalles de sécurité, les aspects toxiques primaires et secondaires, afin de renseigner les pays sur les dangers de l'emploi de certains pesticides.

Ainsi, nous pensons qu'il faudrait tout d'abord évaluer les effets de l'application de ce Code international de conduite sur les pesticides adopté par la Conférence de la FAO en novembre 1985. D'un autre côté, nous pensons que la FAO doit pousser à la création dans les pays en développement de structures d'homologation des pesticides et de laboratoires de contrôle ainsi que la formation de personnel spécialisé dans ce domaine.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como es bien conocido, la delegación de Colombia tuvo el honor de asociarse a las distinguidas delegaciones de Ecuador, Zambia, Filipinas y Venezuela para presentar este Proyecto de Resolución.

Nuestra declaración se facilita por el hecho de que ya casi al final del debate sobre este tema, se ha confirmado una gran mayoría en favor de la adopción de este Proyecto de Resolución. Además, podemos apoyar plenamente las declaraciones que han hecho numerosos miembros de esta Comisión, pero sobre todo, las intervenciones elocuentes y fundadas de las distinguidas colegas de Venezuela y Argelia.

La delegación de Colombia reconoce los esfuerzos que ha hecho la Secretaría de la FAO para presentarnos este primer Informe sobre la aplicación del Código. Lamentablemente, como lo indica el documento, los resultados son exigüos, son mínimos. La gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo carecen de medios y recursos para lograr la aplicación del Código y entender los principios de su aplicación. Es consecuencia lógica este proyecto de resolución que está dirigido, justamente, a proteger a esos países. Queremos destacar la actitud constructiva original del Japón a la cual se han sumado ahora los Estados Unidos. Pensamos también que el PNUD -como se dice en el documento en un proyecto para Africa- y sobre todo las ONG, pueden ser importantes y vitales puntos de apoyo para las tareas de nuestra Organización.

En el curso del debate sobre el proyecto de resolución nos ha llamado la atención alguna tendencia prevalectante en algunas delegaciones, que parece han querido tratar de demostrar que el PIC es un aparecido, es un elemento nuevo que ha caído en paracaídas en esta sala verde; que el PIC no fuera nunca antes discutido, sino que un mago se metió la mano en el bolsillo y lo sacó colgado del pico de una paloma blanca de la paz. Convendrá recordar que el PIC ha figurado en muchísimas, si no en todas las distintas versiones que se han hecho del Código y que fue uno de los puntos más controvertidos en la Conferencia pasada, de manera que carecen de validez los argumentos de que se necesita explorar más, a través de expertos y más profundos análisis, la naturaleza misma del PIC, que ya es bien conocida.

Justamente en la Conferencia pasada, como lo recordó la distinguida delegada de Argelia, la gran mayoría de los miembros estaba a favor de la introducción del PIC en el texto del Código. Al final cedimos en ese propósito nuestro, justamente para lograr el consenso. Ahora en la última reunión del Consejo se ha reconocido también -lo dice este documento- que la mayoría estuvo en favor de introducir el PIC. Por ello pensamos nosotros que es el momento de hacerlo porque nunca obtendremos el consenso completo, y siempre la mayoría estará en favor de ese propósito que ya es hora de aplicarlo para corresponder al carácter dinámico que la Conferencia reconoció a este Código.

Pensamos que la introducción del PIC está dirigida esencialmente a proteger a aquellos países que carecen de medios y de recursos para reconocer el carácter nocivo de los productos que se exportan a esos países.

No se ha explicado adecuadamente ni en forma concreta cuál es la relación que hay entre el artículo 20 del GATT y la introducción del PIC en el Código. Nosotros oímos también con atención al colega de Bélgica lo que dijo en relación con las discusiones que tienen lugar en el seno de la Comunidad Económica Europea. Nosotros creemos, por el contrario, que la introducción del PIC puede contribuir a estimular y a lograr efectos positivos en esas negociaciones, en esas actividades que se están realizando en el seno del GATT y en el seno de la Comunidad Económica Europea.

Señor Presidente, quisiéramos hacer un llamado muy cordial y respetuoso, pero profundamente conven-cido, a países como Francia, Países Bajos y otros países desarrollados que han expresado argumentos cuyo contenido serio nos induce a la meditación, pero quisiéramos pedirles que entendieran lo que significa para los países en desarrollo esta disposición y que nos acompañaran para adoptar este proyecto de resolución. No pretendemos restar méritos a los argumentos que han expresado aquí esos distinguidos colegas; por el contrario, será nuestro interés mismo, y el de ellos también, que todos esos argumentos, que todas esas cuestiones que ellos han planteado, que son pertinentes en muchos casos, aparezcan en el informe para que la FAO lo siga considerando y la comunidad internacional lo siga teniendo en cuenta.

Sinceramente señor Presidente pensamos que no va a haber ninguna preocupación, ningún prejuicio. Si los exportadores de plaguicidas tienen recta intención; si en realidad van a proceder de buena fe, como lo esperamos y esto lo decimos con mucha sinceridad; si ninguna de las industrias va a exportar productos tóxicos; si en todo se va a proceder con corrección y ajustados a los más elementales principios sociales y humanos. ¿Porqué, entonces, tener temor a la aplicación del PIC, que dará un resultado plenamente satisfactorio para todos?

Después de lo que acabamos de decir espero que resultará obvio que la delegación de Colombia reitera su apoyo a este proyecto de resolución, considera que la adición de Brasil lo mejora y, pensamos que así, señor Presidente podemos adoptar este proyecto de resolución y, naturalmente, incluiremos en el informe las partes sobresalientes de las declaraciones de aquellos colegas que en un principio no estuvieron en condiciones de acompañarnos pero que, esperamos, van a permitir que esta Comisión adopte este proyecto de resolución.

Masuhla Humphrey LETEKA (Lesotho): First, allow me to commend the Secretariat for the preparation of their report and to thank Dr. Bonte-Friedheim for his lucid introduction of the paper before us, which, in our opinion, correctly highlights and addresses the problems of pesticides, their distribution and use, particularly in the developing countries.

My delegation would like to register its support for the fears and concerns expressed by developing countries that donor countries in most cases dump their obsolete technology on to ignorant, small, poor and vulnerable countries.

My delegation would like to support the strategy of consultation and mutual agreement between the • countries that are providing pesticides and those that receive them. The agreement should be more favourable to the recipient because, as the Conference has advocated, and continues to advocate, the only basis for achieving productivity in food and agriculture is through a healthy environment. It becomes imperative, therefore, that there should be a prior informed consent by the recipients, which are the developing countries, while the problem of malnutrition, hunger and poverty seems to be taking the upper hand. In this spirit, we would promote the transfer of appropriate technology in our efforts for development.

The developing countries are now aware of the problems facing food and agricultural production where pesticides are not applied. But all these chemicals can be fruitfully used if they are ; conducive and suitable to the environmental aspects of the recipient country. We would therefore support and endorse the draft resolution as proposed by Colombia, Venezuela, Zambia and the Philippines on the proper distribution and use of pesticides, and we feel this should be incorporated in the final report.

It is imperative that the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides should be implemented and should be observed by all member countries. A joint effort by all could help prevent the hazardous effects of pesticides if wrongly applied,

Robert J. PRINS (Canada): The Canadian delegation compliments the FAO on the follow-up that has taken place in the implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. We are grateful for the progress report that was submitted to the Council and for the very informative report which the Commission received this morning from Mr. Bonte-Friedheim. On the basis of the various arguments put forward, we are convinced that further experience in the implementation of the Code is required before consideration be given to introducing changes to the Code. When the time comes to consider changes, we urge that the appropriate and recognized processes of technical consultation take place in arriving at a consensus viewpoint, as was done in submitting the Code for approval to the Conference in 1985.

We encourage FAO to continue to play an active and positive role in the implementation of the Code, particularly with respect to the much needed technical assistance in improving regulatory capabilities and training of personnel in member countries. Canada has already made its expertise in this field available to a few member countries. We urge FAO to continue to give high priority in its programmes- to the implementation of the Code, particularly for those activities where implementation of the Code is constrained and in those countries where implementation of the Code has not yet been possible.

We refer to the 31 percent of reporting countries mentioned in paragraph 11 of document CL 92/2. We feel the proposed resolution is premature at this stage, particularly in the light of the alternatives which this debate has brought forward, such as in the New Zealand intervention earlier. We feel it is perhaps more important to have a thorough review of the experience with the Code before a substantial change or addition is contemplated, as was also suggested by France and other countries. In the interim, we encourage FAO to continue, as it has already done, to contribute to the dialogue on this subject at other international fora.

Finally, we should like to note the voluntary nature of this Code which requires full cooperation and goodwill from all parties, including the private sector, for success. We should therefore like to encourage all parties to this Code to move together with consensus and goodwill.

Yiadom K. ATSA-KONADU (Ghana): My delegation would also like to thank the Secretariat for the document and Mr Bonte-Friedheim for his eloquent presentation.

We are very much aware of the scarce resources which farmers in developing countries have to mobilise to raise crops. We are also equally aware that the growing crops or the harvested crops have to be protected from insect infestation, rodents and all other scourges. Agriculture cannot do away with pesticides, but it is important that the users of pesticides have full information on the proper use of pesticides and are provided with the necessary protective clothing to avoid the incidence of toxic contamination.

It is also very necessary that there should be a national regulatory body to ensure that dangerous chemicals are neither produced locally nor imported for use by farmers. This national regulatory body should be well equipped to render useful service and also be in a position to assemble and analyse all the necessary information needed to establish the cost-benefit aspects of the use of a particular pesticide.

My delegation is therefore supportive of FAO's efforts to use the Code and to implement the provisions in the Code. We are happy to observe that the international community has also whole-heartedly accepted the Code of Conduct for implementation.

My delegation is particularly impressed by the efforts being made by some pesticide-exporting countries to propose for consideration at the GATT negotiations certain provisions such as the Export Notification Guidelines to regulate trading in pesticides in the wider interest of importing countries. We are also deeply impressed by the emphasis being placed here, as elsewhere, on the need for training of nationals to improve their capabilities in pesticide testing and particularly the training programmes in the pesticide regulatory procedure which is being put in place by the US Government, as outlined by the delegate of the US. We feel that this measure will enhance our national preparedness in arriving at better-informed decisions regarding the importation of a particular type of pesticides.

Finally, having said this, my delegation wishes to affirm that it is in total agreement with the spirit of the resolution before us. The resolution has emphasized the need for "prior informed consent" and we wholeheartedly accept the amendment as an essential input into the decision-making process affecting pesticide importation. However, it is the contention of my delegation that the proposed amendment does not seem at this time to go far enough to accommodate all the necessary safeguards needed for the effective implementation of the Code as amended. It seems to us, therefore, that the resolution would better serve our interests if it were pigeon-holed and introduced at the 25th Session of the FAO Conference. The postponement would enable the international community to put in place certain safeguards which would make the resolution more workable and meaningful.

Neil O. PIERRE (Guyana): My delegation would like to commend the excellent manner in which the matter under consideration has been presented to the Commission.

The question of the distribution and use of pesticides is of major concern to my country. It is an established fact that the majority of developing country farmers and peoples at large are at greater risk of being affected by the misuse of dangerous pesticides and chemicals, for one reason: the levels of education and awareness, including the dissemination of information are unfortunately lower than those of developed countries. In addition, our governments are by and large poorly equipped with limited resources for effectively monitoring the importation and use of such goods.

My country's recent experience attests to this limitation and to the potential dangers involved in the importations and use of dangerous pesticides. This experience relates to the importation of a pesticide, the use of which had been effectively outlawed in most developed countries, but the manufacture and export of which still continued. The risk to life and the environment was significant in this case and grave danger was only averted in a very timely way.

My delegation therefore welcomes the introduction of the Code and endorses the attempt at strengthening it in the resolution now before us. We are aware of the need in many developing countries to strengthen the administrative and technical capacities to implement the Code, including the "prior informed consent" clause. We urge that the appropriate mechanisms be implemented to assist in the effective introduction of the Code, including the PIC.

The amendment would, in our view, require notification of the importing country by the exporting country, in the case of banned or severely restricted pesticides. The impact of this on the GATT would to our mind, involve the extension of similar treatment to other countries wishing to export or import the commodity. The GATT mechanisms for this are already in place, but in any event are overridden by the moral and humanitarian concerns which are at issue. My delegation is therefore in full support of the proposed resolution.

Leif FORVELL (Norway): On behalf of the four Nordic Countries, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and my own country, Norway, I should like to present a formal proposal for consideration by this Commission. As outlined in my intervention earlier in this debate, the Nordic countries support the suggestion that the principle of "prior informed consent" should be amended into the Code of Conduct on Pesticides. Furthermore, I also stated that the Nordic countries were ready to accept the proposed text of the amendment in Article 9.3. The condition for our support, however, was that the Conference should reach a general consensus on this matter.

Unfortunately our debate already clearly shows that it is not possible to reach such a consensus. With this background and along the lines of what several delegations have mentioned in their statements, we should like to propose three paragraphs which would replace the last paragraph in the resolution before us from "Amends Article 9.3" on. I would now like to read but our specific proposal for the amendment to the resolution concerning the Code of Conduct: "Emphasizes that in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides the principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated.

"Emphasizes, however, the need for further collection of experiences on the implementation of the Code of Conduct before making specific amendments.

"Calls upon the FAO Secretariat to arrange for the establishment of a working group for technical consideration of the principle of Prior Informed Consent, and that the results of the work should be presented through the COAG and the Council to the 25th FAO Conference."

I shall be happy to provide the Secretariat with a copy of our proposal.

Ismaël DIAZ YUBERO (España): Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Voy a procurar ser muy breve. Estamos a favor de la capacitación de expertos para adecuar la legislación y controlar las importaciones. Apoyamos la formación de técnicos de los países en vías de desarrollo en forma de cursos. Apoyamos el diálogo y la creación del comité de expertos. Apoyamos todo lo que sea necesario para una mayor información. Pero, además de eso, apoyamos también la resolución.

Consideramos que no es aceptable que ninguna de estas cosas a las que nos hemos referido antes - y que estamos dispuestos a apoyar - sufran cualquier clase de retraso. No debe ser motivo de retraso algo que consideramos necesario y urgente.

Podemos aprobar la resolución en la redacción actual o, si es necesario, proceder a modificaciones o posibles fórmulas que pudiesen llevarnos a un consenso. En cualquier caso, lo que sí apoyamos claramente, señor Presidente, es la cláusula PIC.

Javed MUSHARRAF (Pakistan): We merely want to add our voice to what has already been said by many delegates. Our government attached the highest priority to the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. However, like many other developing countries we also have practical problems in actually implementing the Code, arising from lack of infrastructure, trained personnel and so on.

We therefore welcome all assistance to overcome these constraints, both multilateral assistance with FAO and so on, as well as bilateral assistance such as Japan and the United States have been willing to offer, as was announced by their delegation in their interventions today.

Regarding any amendments to the Code of Conduct, specifically the draft resolution by Zambia, Venezuela, Philippines and Colombia on the inclusion of the principle of Prior Informed Consent in the Code, my government will be considering this issue and this resolution in much greater detail before adopting perhaps a more formal position on it.

Nevertheless, after listening to the various delegations in the last two hours, our delegation can exercise at least that much of plenipotentiary power in expressing our opinion on this matter. Our delegation supports the resolution and the very detailed and well argued statements made by the sponsors of the resolution, Venezuela, Philippines, Colombia and Zambia, especially the multilingual intervention of the delegate of Venezuela.

We believe that one does not have to be against pesticides in order to recognize their hazards or place a high value on human health and life. For a decade or so there has been in place a growing awakening and a sort of disequilibrium in thinking on this issue. Whereas previously we were swamped in our thinking about pesticides being the main method of plant protection we have now moved towards a more balanced view which we can call a new equilibrium towards integrated pest management.

The adoption of this Code itself is a manifestation of a move towards a new equilibrium, development of a national capabilities, and so on. This very proposal, that is to amend the Code and incorporate the principle of Prior Informed Consent, is itself a move towards that new equilibrium. It is in fact perhaps an inevitable move towards an inevitable new equilibrium in thinking on this entire new subject. Therefore, everything should be done by the international community to facilitate the move towards this new equilibrium in our thinking and in our practice.

It was heartening to see that over the last few days or weeks, many countries, including industrial ones, have revised their opinions on the subject, it seems. We note especially the statements of the Netherlands, the Nordic countries and Australia in this respect.

However, it has been said that this might be a premature move, premature not only in time but also in content. Considering the matter I think we are swayed by what was said by the delegate of the Philippines as regards its prematurity in time I think he quoted verbatim from the previous contents in which it was brought out that the previous Conference had decided that revisions would be considered within this biennium, so we doubt whether in fact this whole issue is premature in time.

As regards its prematurity in content, it has been said by at least one delegate that the Prior Informed Consent is actually no substitute for the safety systems. That may be true. In that sense perhaps it is putting the cart before the horse. Before actually we adopt the safety systems, adopting this amendment may not carry us too far. Perhaps that is the thrust of the argument. In this respect, we would like to suggest that sometimes it is necessary to put the cart before the horse. Sometimes, to put the cart before the horse gives an incentive and spurs the horse to move faster. This seems to be such a case. In comparison with the existing system of mere notification, prior consent, not just notification, in fact would spur the horse to move forward in the sense that if you only have notification it is like saying you can knock at the door and enter - the sort of doors we have in FAO - whereas if you have prior informed consent you knock and wait to be asked to enter. That seems to be significant because then the person opening the door is forced to look through the spy glass, as it were, and examine the person who is entering, assess him and then decide. That very act of being forced to look through spurs some sort of activity of assessing and appraising. That if the sort of activity which is lacking in our countries.

The whole point I am making is that by putting the cart before the horse you will in fact be giving an incentive and a spur to certain developments in the developing countries whereby the system of safety can, in fact, be put in place; so that here putting the cart before the horse maybe a good thing.

The side effects have been mentioned, especially the trade effect, the destruction of trade and so on. The delegate of Venezuela made two very pertinent comments in this respect, when he said that the amendment does not prohibit trade, and secondly that not all pesticides are affected. Perhaps we might want to know what percentage of pesticides are going to be affected. If it is a very small percentage, and the very harmful ones constitute a small percentage, the trade argument is weakened thereby to that extent.

It is not just a question of trade but of trade versus health. If you attach greater value to health and life, and if there is discrimination against trade there can be also discrimination against health and we have to choose between the two. We were reminded by the delegate of the Philippines that even in developed countries some hazards cannot be guarded against, and that argument is even stronger for developing countries.

Finally, as regards GATT, we are not the body to be very clear about GATT rules, but perhaps we could be enlightened by the appropriate forum or by the Secretariat whether this does not really violate GATT rules. If it does violate GATT rules, how many other rules of GATT have been violated, left and right, and for what purpose? This is another issue that we might keep in mind in order to have a balanced view on this.

Haris ZANNETIS (Cyprus): Let me first express my delegation's satisfaction with the steps taken by the Secretariat in relation to the implementation of the Code. We are also grateful to Mr Bonte-Friedheim for his detailed introduction to the matter.

The Prior Informed Consent clause is of paramount importance, as is indeed the exchange of precise information. Keeping in mind the voluntary nature of the Code, unanimous agreement is also important if all parties concerned will cooperate in accordance with the provision of the Code.

As is obvious from the discussion here, the time is not yet ripe for the introduction of this concept in the Code if we are to insist on the unanimity which was reached in the 1985 Conference. Therefore, my delegation supports the idea that we should discuss any changes or revisions of the Code in the forthcoming Conference.

Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panama): Gracias, señor Presidente. Antes que nada, señor, pido excusas a la sala por hacer uso de la palabra en hora tan tardía, pero debíamos cumplir con la re-presentación en la Comisión III.

Ante todo, señor Presidente, deseamos agradecer al señor Bonte-Friedheim su clara presentación del tema.

La delegación de Panamá considera que el tema en examen es fundamental para el control y protección del medio ambiente, así como también en sus repercusiones en la salud humana. Por ello unimos nuestra voz a las de otras delegaciones que se han expresado en este sentido. El problema de la protección vegetal y animal es cada vez mayor y lo será aún más en la medida que se intensifique la producción agropecuaria.

A tal propósito y en virtud de que el incremento de la producción de alimentos es un objetivo prio-ritario para nuestro país y otros muchos países en desarrollo, la utilización de insumos agrícolas, tales como los plaguicidas, adquiere una particular relevancia.

En este sentido mi delegación es favorable a todos aquellos aspectos que se relacionan con los procedimientos propios para el control y la regulación de la fabricación, uso y distribución de los plaguicidas.

Tal como hemos manifestado en otras ocasiones, al referirnos al Código internacional de conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas, reiteramos nuestro apoyo al mismo.

Es conocido que en las exportaciones de plaguicidas al tercer mundo se envían productos químicos tóxicos, prohibidos, restringidos o retirados del mercado por parte del país productos al ser considerados no sólo tóxicos para la salud humana o animal, sino también por afectar peligrosamente al medio ambiente al contaminar suelo, agua y aire.

Por ello, consideramos que dicho Código de conducta no puede ser completo y realista mientras no se introduzca el principio de consentimiento e información previo conocido por sus siglas en inglés "PIC".

En este contexto manifestamos nuestro apoyo total y decidido al proyecto de resolución presentado por Venezuela y otros países con las modificaciones indicadas por la delegación de Brasil.

De igual manera, señor Presidente, deseamos resaltar los aspectos contenidos en el párrafo 4 del LIM/25 y que se refieren a la necesidad de que la FAO prosiga manteniendo la cooperación estrecha con los otros organismos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas que se ocupan de este importante tema.

Para terminar, manifestamos nuestro acuerdo con la necesidad de dar un seguimiento continuo y eficaz al Código en cuestión a fin de supervisar su cumplimiento y efectuar las revisiones periódicas que sirvan para adaptarlo a la evolución de las condiciones tecnológico-ambientales de los servicios económicos internacionales.

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): I too must apologise for taking the floor so late, but I had to go to Commission III.

I wish to associate my delegation with the sentiments of other delegations in respect to the presentation of the implementation of the Code of Conduct. We consider that the implementation of this Code is very important in view of the environmental factors.

Secondly, I should like to put on record my delegation's strong support for the resolution now before us. In our view, the resolution is appropriate both in time and in content, and we fully support it.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I have not been here all afternoon to listen to all the arguments but I understand that some people are saying it is premature to adopt the Code because it is a voluntary Code. Therefore, we have to wait for a consensus. Everything in FAO is voluntary. All decisions that we make in FAO, like the Food Security one, are voluntary. If we have to wait for everybody to agree to this I think we shall wait till Doomsday. Two years ago we said it would be this year; now it is already the second year and we say wait for another two years, but if after two years they again tell us it is voluntary and let us wait for an absolute consensus, we will never introduce any amendments to this Code of the kind that is being produced now. I do not think that this is a valid argument. I think we should request all those who have reservations about this Code to agree to the adoption of this resolution, and if they are required by their governments to enter reservations, I wish they could do so in the interests of sustainable agriculture and in the higher interests of the safe use of pesticides, which I think is the primary objective of the Code.

Number two, some people are saying that we must have adequate infrastructure in the countries to implement the Code before prior informed consent is included. If we have to wait for that, then it will probably take another generation and by that time prior informed consent will be no longer necessary perhaps. As the survey conducted by FAO indicated, 46 or 48 percent of African countries did not have that kind of infrastructure. All over the world 26 percent did not have that kind of infrastructure. If we have to wait for all of those countries to put such infrastructure in place, by that time this Code probably will be obsolete, because we will need another kind of code to renew the environment, not to protect the environment. And probably we would need another resolution on how to reclaim the environment after our lakes, our rivers, our water reserves, our water tables have been poisoned by pesticides.

I think that is the primary consideration. I do not think this is a valid argument because the inclusion of prior informed consent would help, in my honest opinion, the establishment of the needed infrastructures for the implementation of the Code.

With regard to trade, the delegate of Pakistan has already presented the arguments in favour of this but this does not mean that once this is implemented that countries will discriminate against those that have banned pesticides, against those that have not banned pesticides in their own territory. I think that if countries have determined that inside their own countries that pesticides are banned or restricted, they know that they are also going to be harmful to the citizens of other countries. Therefore, they should have the courtesy, the humanity and the morality to at least inform the importing countries that the pesticides they are importing have been banned in the country of manufacture. Therefore, are they agreeable to accepting the pesticides. It is like a shipment of arms, time bombs; nobody can send explosives or materials that can have a double effect. It could be useful, it could be harmful, but everybody should be conscious of the effects of these things. These are not apples, these are not regular merchandise but, as you know, are like dangerous arms that can be used for good or can be harmful. I think countries will take the same attitude once they are aware of the harmful effects of pesticides, and then would not be discriminatory because they would apply the same rules for all countries and not discriminate against the trade of one country or another.

Therefore, I plead with all Members to accept the resolution as tabled so that we can go ahead and take the appropriate decision now and not postpone it forever.

CHAIRMAN: Does the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran wish to speak for a second time? Grenada has also indicated a wish to speak. Following those interventions shall we close the list of speakers or continue the debate?

I am now closing the list after the intervention of the following: Iran, Grenada, Colombia and Venezuela.

Hamid Reza NIKKAR ESFAHANI (Iran, Islamic Republic of): I am so sorry that my delegation is taking the floor for a second time but I want to intervene again to support what has been said by the delegate of the Philippines, and urge all governments to support the resolution that has been

presented by several countries to the Commission.

In supporting this resolution, I wish to ask the Secretariat if it is possible to give us some up-to-date information concerning Article 11 of the Code.

Denis NOEL (Grenada): I regret intervening at this late stage but I cannot help but thank the Secretariat for the presentation of its report on the progress being made.

I would like to add my delegation's voice in support of the draft resolution being presented by the delegations of Colombia, the Philippines, Venezuela and Zambia.

My delegation feels that FAO must be seen to be a dynamic and flexible organization. We must be able to respond swiftly to issues, particularly where lives are at risk daily. My delegation feels that immediate action to save users of pesticides in the developing countries from unnecessary exposure must be taken and must not be subjected to the technical procedure being advanced against the amend-ment to this Code, which is being proposed in this resolution.

My delegation, therefore, wishes to support the draft resolution with the hope that a consensus can be reached.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Brevísimo Sr. Presidente. Sobre todo porque la última intervención del distinguido colega de Granada confirma la opinión mayoritaria de la Comisión. Pero estoy seguro de interpretar el sentimiento de los cinco países que hemos propuesto este Proyecto de Resolución al decir que no es nuestro interés ni el de la Comunidad Internacional, el tratar de imponer abruptamente por mayoría unas ideas que, si bien están dirigidas a beneficiar a países en desarrollo, son de interés general.

Por ello, quisiéramos dar una muestra de buena voluntad, de comprensión, y sobre todo de atención a los argumentos que han expresado algunos colegas, sobre todo los Países Nórdicos. Quisiéramos hacer una propuesta concreta basada en los tres puntos que han hecho los Países Nórdicos acogiendo el último de estos tres puntos, y complementándolo con la referencia al COAG que hizo nuestro colega GRABISH de la República Federal de Alemania, porque pensamos que el COAG falta en la tercera parte de la proposición nórdica.

Nuestra propuesta consiste en lo siguiente; agregar un párrafo que diga así; agregar a este texto de la Resolución un párrafo que diga así: "Se pide al Director General la creación de un Grupo de Expertos que analicen la repercusión de la inclusión del PIC en el Código para que trate de armonizar la introducción de esa disposición con las disposiciones que al respecto se adopten en el PNUMA, en el GATT e inclusive en la Comunidad Económica Europea y en todos los demás organismos en donde se trate de este asunto."

Ese grupo de Expertos informará al COAG en su próxima sesión; el COAG, se reúne cada dos años, al Consejo y luego el Consejo presentará un Informe al respecto a la Conferencia de 1989.

Esto permitirá abrir un compás, un margen de protección a los países en desarrollo y al mismo tiempo, luego armonizar esas disposiciones para atender, repito, los argumentos expresados por algunos colegas que son muy respetables y que merecen nuestra atención y respeto.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Entiendo muy bien su llamado por una intervención breve.

En realidad, yo quería mencionar aquí algunos puntos en respuesta a los planteamientos que han hecho las delegaciones que se oponen a la inclusión del principio PIC y a esta Resolución.

Creo que en este momento quizás no sea necesario. Me conformaría con que se adopte, y en esto apoyo lo dicho por el Embajador de Colombia, en este momento con que se adopte la Resolución con la enmienda propuesta por Colombia, de la creación de un Grupo de Expertos que armonicen la incorporación de PIC y la implementación de PIC con lo que saldrá de la reunión de expertos del PNUMA. Sobre todo, ésta ha sido la preocupación principal, ya que nosotros seguimos teniendo muchas dudas sobre la inconsistencia de este principio con las disposiciones del GATT.

Pero de todas maneras queremos abrir la posibilidad. Queremos responder a las dudas que aquí se han expresado. Creemos que en realidad, además existe un consenso alrededor del principio PIC y aquí se ha expresado un consenso.

Nadie ha dicho que está en contra del principio PIC. Lo que se ha dicho es que es prematuro, o que habría que ver cómo incorporarlo técnicamente. Por lo tanto, creo que hay un consenso sobre la inclusión del principio PIC en el Código.

Se puede tratar de resolver los problemas que las delegaciones han planteado con la propuesta de Colombia de un grupo de expertos que busque la armonización y la mejor manera de enmendar el Código; no de enmendarlo, quedaría enmendado, pero de incluir el principio PIC y de incorporarlo y de aplicarlo. Muchas gracias, por ahora.

CHAIRMAN: The discussion on this item is at an end.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Department of Agriculture): I am sorry if I disappoint you and many others by not attempting to respond to over 50 speakers, who have given many very useful comments.

I think the discussion to the Secretariat shows the importance of the voluntary Code, the importance of pesticides today and, unfortunately, also in the future for agricultural production, the importance of safeguarding the health of people first and foremost, of life around us, of the total environment.

The role of the Secretariat is to implement the decisions of our governing bodies. We are waiting for those decisions in order to implement them. The role of the Secretariat in introducing the paper for discussion was to highlight various points of it. We have also said that we will in future cooperate closely with all other international organizations, national organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations.

In the discussion there were really three points. One is that there was general praise and pride in the Code. We are pleased to note that it is not only the Secretariat which is proud of the Code, but it is the members who had pride in the adoption of the Code two years ago.

There seemed to be some misunderstanding by some who spoke with regard to the content of paragraphs 9.3 and 9.8. I would just like to read them. 9.3 says, "If an export of a banned or severely restricted pesticide occurs, the country of export should ensure that necessary steps are taken to provide the designated national authority of the country of import with relevant information". That is for those who, as exporters, adopted the Code - something they have to do.

On the importing countries' side, 9.8 says, "Governments of importing countries should: establish internal procedures for the receipt and handling of such information from the exporting country; - and ensure that such information received is not used in any manner which would be inconsistent with the provisions of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)". That is the approved Code.

A second point I should like to make is that we are pleased with the general comments we heard about the progress made for farmers, not only in the implementation, but also with FAO following up with a questionnaire and trying to collect baseline data

There is a third point I should like to make. This is really on a few specific questions, as well as where I have maybe been misunderstood with regards to my introduction. I do not think I have said that FAO believes that PIC is in contradiction to GATT. My statement says, "The Secretariat is also suggesting that the negotiations of the PIC clause into the Code should be preceded by consultations with GATT to ensure that the provisions are consistent with the principles". Therefore, we have not taken sides, either for or against.

Second, the delegate of Venezuela has taken me up on some of the statistics. I accept the criticism, but I would also say that if only sixty percent of a small group answer in one way, it does not mean that all the rest will answer the other way. One has to be very careful with all statistics, and I am the first to admit it.

With regard to my final clause in which I again quoted from the introduction to the Code itself, I should just like to make our point clear on the safety or fate of the pesticide under conditions. The delegate of the Philippines is quite correct, if you eat poison it makes no difference where you eat it and what the colour of your skin is or your gender or whatever. I think what this part means is something different; it means that under different conditions the residue increase or decrease is a different one, and that different pesticides react differently under those conditions. You might have a fast build-up under one climatic condition and a slow one under another. I just wanted to make that point for clarification.

With regard to Iran, some questions have been raised. Let me answer those. The Guidelines are not imposed, they are technical documents. The regional workshops which have been held have been in Asia and the Pacific, as well as Central America.

With regard to paragraph 11 of the Code, something is said about paragraph 30 in our report which is in front of you. I must admit - and I am willing to admit - that we are not very pleased either with paragraph 30 in our report because it is very skinny, it has very little meat in it, nor with the information we have. There is no doubt that a large number of non-governmental organizations have quite clearly pointed out that not everything is being done, and much more needs to be done. There is no doubt about it.

My final point is with regard to PIC. The Organization's Secretariat cannot, and will not, take a position on the various resolutions in front of you: I would like only to point out to members the difference between the discussions in 1985 and 1987. In November 1985 those who wanted to include the PIC in the Code were clearly in the majority. There was no doubt about it. It is so reported in the report of the Conference two years ago. They could have included it but they would not have had a consensus. There is very little change in that respect between 1985 and 1987. However, there is a very major change between two years ago and now, and I am glad that the delegates of Norway, as well as of Colombia have pointed this out. I think there are proposals for action in front of this Commission on how to proceed now. There was nothing two years ago on how to proceed with PIC. Now you have general agreement that something needs to be done, and you have proposals on how to do it. In our view, that is considerable progress on two years ago.

With that, Mr Chairman, I have one final comment: sitting here for a very interesting debate over a number of hours, I was very tempted to intervene very often, but, as Secretariat, I had to refrain from doing so.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, "Mr Bonte-Friedheim. Before we take up the resolutions which are now before us, with your permission I would make a few observations on the discussion which started this morning but which had to be interrupted for some time because of the roll call vote in Plenary. I regret the inconvenience which must have been caused to the delegates.

Forty-eight delegations, some of whom spoke twice, participated in the discussion. In addition, we have had nine delegations who have handed in their interventions for inclusion in the verbatim record. This nine does not include Mexico who made a brief intervention but gave their fuller text for incorporation in the verbatim record.

The discussion which we have had today has clearly brought out the dilemmas faced by all of us when we deal with pesticides, all of which involve inevitably a certain amount of risk. As has appropriately been compared by one of the delegates, the pesticides are comparable to lethal weapons which could be sources of protection but could also be sources of danger and damage. These have to be handled with due care and circumspection. The quantum of care and the type of precautions which we take in handling the lethal weapons or the pesticides will have to be modulated depending on the lethality of the weapons we are handling. Ideally speaking, if one were to imagine a situation, possibly in the field of agriculture, one would think of an agricultural scene without any pesticides, if only our scientists were capable of evolving in all the major crops varieties which are resistant to all pests. But we still seem to be far away from that.

The second ideal situation - assuming that the first one is not possible - is that we rely entirely on biological control so that we introduce the predators and, as far as possible, we avoid taking recourse to chemical pesticides.

In the third one, which is a reality with which all of us have to live, we try to have a situation where we deal with integrated pest management, for keeping constant surveillance and watch over the pest levels, and we try to introduce the pesticides only when that particular threshold, limit is crossed.

Now the real situation is that for certain crops the use of pesticides becomes inevitable and unavoidable. Whether the pesticides are of the banned variety - although it is paradoxical that a banned variety should also be used - or are of a severely restricted variety, or any other category, it is clear that certain precautions are in order and are called for. Training is essential, regulation is needed for all these pesticides. Possibly in the developing countries we should also ensure that the farmer is not taken for a ride by being sold pesticides whose time and validity has expired, but

that is another story.

About what our policy should be in relation to pesticides which are not banned or severely restricted, there is absolutely no controversy. However, when we deal with the pesticides which are banned, or whose use is severely restricted in the originating countries, the discussion has indicated that there is no unanimity. When this question is posed, either in ethical or moral terms, as some of the delegates have done, PIC looks as if it is unavoidable; indeed it is desirable and must be brought in.

However, on the other side, on pragmatic considerations it has been urged that doing it rapidly in relation to a voluntary Code possibly may not be desirable. Should we rush in the incorporation of the PIC in what is essentially a voluntary code or should we hasten slowly? This really is the question. While there is unanimity about the need for introducing PIC, the debate seemed to be whether we should have it here and now, or, while agreeing in principle now, should we try to have it so that it is introduced at the next Conference. Against this background, we now have two approaches which are placed before us. These were sought to be harmonized towards the end of the debate by the delegates from Colombia and Venezuela. This would seem to indicate that, while Commission I is of the view that PIC needs to be introduced and written into the Code on pesticides, the modalities of doing it should be decided after the Director-General has conducted a consultation with the experts, and the procedures, and modalities are finalized through COAG and the respective committees of the Council of FAO, and then will finally come before the next Conference. If that viewpoint is generally agreed, then I would suggest that a suitable resolution incorporating this approach should be worked out by the Drafting Committee in consultation with the Nordic countries on the one hand, and the other four countries which have sponsored the resolution.

Another alternative is that we try to finalize a draft here. The third alternative is that we vote on the drafts as they are placed before us.

The matter is open for discussion.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, es para aclarar una duda que tengo porque puede ser que yo lo haya entendido mal, pero la propuesta de Colombia, apoyada por Venezuela, es de que se adopte, se incluya, el principio PIC en el Código ahora; es decir que existe consenso en que el principio PIC es necesario, pero que las modalidades de su inclusión, de su incorporación y su implementación práctica serán determinadas por un grupo de expertos, o por consultas técnicas - llámelo como quiera, lo podemos discutir aquí y determinar cuáles pueden ser - de manera que se armonicen estas disposiciones con las del PNUMA, ya que el PNUMA va a discutir en marzo cómo incorporar el principio PIC, que el PNUMA ya ha aceptado, y cómo lo va a incorporar en sus directivas Después el Código, enmendado ya, pasará al COAG, al Consejo y a la Conferencia para información, discusión, ulterior debate o lo que sea preciso.

Si yo entendí bien - la delegación de Colombia estoy segura de que sí - estaríamos adoptando el PIC.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Las indicaciones de la distinguida colega Marina Briceño de Venezuela interpretaron adecuadamente mi propuesta. Usted, como siempre, hizo un excelente resumen pero, con mucho respeto, quisiera decirle que tuve la impresión de que su interpretación personal del debate contrasta con la opinión de la gran mayoría de los miembros de la Comisión. Por eso pedimos la palabra, porque si hubiéramos aceptado sus conclusiones no habría ni siquiera necesidad de haber pasado a discutir el proyecto de resolución que ha sido ampliamente aprobado por la gran mayoría, repito, de los miembros de esta Comisión.

Señor Presidente, hemos hecho una propuesta de compromiso y hemos pedido la comprensión y la cooperación de todos los demás miembros de la Comisión; pensamos que podemos lograr el consenso en torno a la propuesta nuestra, que recoge el tercer párrafo de la propuesta nórdica, que es la parte más constructiva, señor Presidente. Quisiéramos que usted preguntara a la Comisión si los demás miembros aceptarían esta propuesta de compromiso que, repetimos, está dirigida a lograr el consenso. Hemos demostrado que somos mayoría, pero no nos interesa imponernos por el número, señor Presidente, sino por la solidez, la consistencia y el fundamento de nuestros argumentos. ¡Ojalá que usted entienda señor Presidente, que la adopción de este proyecto de resolución, con la adición del tercer párrafo de la propuesta nórdica, representa un compromiso, y a nuestro juicio ofrece por lo menos un margen de seguridad a la comunidad internacional en el sentido de que si todos estamos convencidos de que hay que introducir el PIC no estaremos perdiendo el tiempo! Le ruego me excuse, señor Presidente, pero necesitaba decir esto con franqueza y claridad.

CHAIRMAN: May I have your permission to state what I understand the position to be? The resolution stands as in Appendix C, with whatever modifications that have been suggested by Brazil, with the addition of a paragraph towards the end which, in a sense, will be the third paragraph of the resolution proposed by Norway on behalf of the Nordic countries. Is my interpretation right?

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Estamos de acuerdo con lo que usted acaba de decir, pero ha pasado tanto tiempo desde que la escuchamos, que nos gustaría volver a oír la formulación del tercer párrafo de la propuesta de Noruega. Gracias.

CHAIRMAN: Since I have a copy, may I read it out? The proposal would be that at the end of Appendix C, after whatever changes were made during the course of the morning's discussion, this paragraph should be added: "Calls upon the FAO Secretariat to arrange for the establishment of a working group for technical consideration of the principle of Prior Informed Consent and that the results of the work should be presented, through the COAG and the Council, to the 25th Conference."

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Discúlpeme señor Presidente por tomar la palabra tantas veces pero tenía razón, en tener tantas dudas. La idea fundamental contenida en el párrafo 3 de la propuesta de Noruega nos es perfectamente aceptable, y así lo hemos dicho; es decir para que la inclusión del principio PIC sea una inclusión realmente eficaz, racional y armonizada con la forma en la cual este principio se ha incluido en otras organizaciones internacionales, creemos conveniente convocar un grupo de trabajo, como lo ha propuesto la delegación de Noruega. Con lo que no estamos de acuerdo es con que la delegación de Noruega me parece que implica que esto es un procedimiento previo a la adopción del principio PIC, la cual se llevará a cabo en la próxima Conferencia dentro de dos años. Nosotros hemos invertido el orden; nosotros estamos adoptando ahora el PIC, y para llegar a un com-promiso con las delegaciones que han expresado dudas acerca de cómo se podría hacer eficazmente, estamos proponiendo la creación de este grupo de trabajo. Gracias señor Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: It is not quite clear to me as to what stage we are at in the debate. Shall we do the drafting here, or shall we refer it to a small group? If the intention is that we write in the PIC now and also incorporate the suggestion in paragraph three of the Nordic proposal, one way could be that we should straight away decide that this is the one and request the Secretariat to finalize the draft. Have we consensus that the resolution as in Appendix C, as amended by Brazil, stands, with the addition of a last paragraph which will incorporate this particular suggestion of a working group for working on the modalities to come through COAG and Council to the next Conference?

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Señor Presidente, no lo entiendo bien; no me parece que cabe la consideración de este párrafo en estos términos para la consideración de COAG, Consejo y Conferencia; o sea, el resultado enmendado con la inclusión del principio PIC con las modalidades que serán determinadas por el grupo de trabajo será sencillamente presentado luego a COAG, Consejo y Conferencia. No es que COAG, Consejo y Conferencia tengan después que debatir si aceptarlo o no -se está aceptando aquí-, sino que se informará y será presentado luego el resultado concreto a COAG, Consejo y Conferencia. Así lo entiendo yo. Gracias.

CHAIRMAN: May I request the delegate of Colombia to favour me with his views and his interpretation?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, yo concuerdo perfectamente con la colega de Venezuela y creo también -y esto lo digo de manera muy humilde y respetuosa- que el silencio de la sala parece coincidir con la acción positiva y constructiva de los Países Nórdicos, señor Presidente. Bastaría simplemente, después del texto actual del proyecto de resolución, agregar lo que han propuesto como párrafo tercero los Países Nórdicos. Lo puedo redactar rápidamente porque los Países Nórdicos ya lo han hecho: "Se pide al Director General la creación de un grupo de expertos para que analice las implicaciones de la introducción del PIC en el Código y trate de armonizar esa disposición con los resultados de actividades en el PNUMA, en el GATT y en los demás organismos que se ocupen de estos asuntos." Yo creo que está todo claro, señor Presidente, y es un compromiso que debe aparecer en la secuencia en que lo ha indicado nuestra colega Marina Briceño, de Venezuela.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): It was not possible for me to note down the text of what is proposed. You went too fast. I should be glad to have it in writing. I should particularly like to see the Nordic proposal in writing. The important point is that we think we should proceed the other way round. We should first consider the whole issue. Whether it is a working group that does it or COAG or whatever, the whole matter must be studied and analysed as regards its feasibility and its implications in general. Only after this consideration can we decide whether to incorporate this principle in the existing Code. If we do it now, we are putting the cart before the horse.

CHAIRMAN: As far as I could make out, the delininations of the speakers and their viewpoints in the consideration of the discussion were clear: the majority supported the resolution tabled. What we are now trying to find out is some sort of a median which meets the approval of everybody. If it meets with the approval of the house, I would suggest a ten to fifteen minute recess so that the delegates who have sponsored this, along with the delegates from the Nordic countries, could get together and work out an agreed draft. We could then meet after fifteen minutes to clear it for voting or approval.

Emile DETRAUX (Belgique): Je pense tout de même qu'il faut dire de façon très claire, dès à présent, qu'il nous est extrêmement difficile, voire impossible, d'accepter la voie préconisée par le Venezuela et la Colombie. Je pense que ce qui a été dit par la RFA nous agréé entièrement et par conséquent, nous ne pouvons accepter le renversement des propositions.

John COOK (United States of America): The United States would have to agree with what the delegates from the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium have just said. It seems impossible for us to adopt this measure into the Code and for us to go back to our countries and proceed to implement this measure when the delegates from Venezuela and Colombia and the Nordic group seem to be agreeing that there need to be further studies of the modalities of this implementation, yet at the same time we have the Code with the PIC provision included already and, as of the day that we adopt it, it is in effect. How are we to proceed? We would support the reverse way whereby we would study the modality before adopting the provision.

Patrick O'QUIN (France): Je serai extrêmement bref. Je suis parfaitement d'accord avec les déclarations précédentes, il paraît plus logique de s'intéresser aux modalités d'application avant d'appliquer ces modalités. Cela me paraît une question de bon sens.

Omoefe James OYAIDE (Nigeria): I think we are going back again to the same debate. Delegates are putting the points that they made before. I had thought that we were making progress when the Chairman summarized what looked like the train of discussion and made some attempt to bring together the two resolutions. I think that is a better way to proceed than to reopen the debate. I think we shall have to look at whether or not we should accept the resolution now and later on think about the third clause in the Nordic proposal. I think the Chairman's earlier suggestion that some break is called for to allow the two delegations to look at the possibility of marrying the two resolutions so that we can move forward is a valid one, otherwise we shall be repeating the debate, everybody having their own position.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (Mexico): Gracias, señor Presidente. Intervengo solamente para apoyar la propuesta que se ha dado en este momento, ya que, de no ser así, vamos a tener que volver a abrir el debate.

Tenía entendido que habíamos llegado a un consenso y quisiéramos respetar esa posición y no alargar más la cosa. Muchas gracias.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Gracias, señor Presidente. Creo que las dos delegaciones que me han precedido han sido hasta demasiado gentiles. ¿Qué estamos haciendo y hablando aquí? No estamos jugando. Este es un argumento sumamente serio y nosotros debemos ser personas serias y honestas. No estamos jugando al ratón y al gato. Nosotros hemos escuchado el debate y hay una gran mayoría de delegados que piden que este principio se incluya en el Código, que lo pidieron ya en 1985 cuando se adoptó el Código, y renunciaron a ello en aras de un consenso y porque creían en este Código y siguen

creyendo en él. ¿Qué estamos haciendo aquí? Tenemos que llegar a una conclusión. La mayoría se ha expresado en una dirección; un número de países -tienen el derecho de hacerlo- se han opuesto a la resolución dando ciertos argumentos. Nosotros estamos sencillamente respondiendo a estos argumentos y tratando de llegar a un compromiso, y ahora se nos dice que no se quiere cumplir. ¿Qué es lo que se quiere? Yo creo que lo más sensato, señor Presidente, es que se haga lo que usted ha dicho, el receso, que se trate de considerar la manera de formular el segundo nuevo párrafo de la resolución, cuya aceptación creo no debería presentar ninguna dificultad para todas las delegaciones presentes.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, para facilitar su trabajo apoyo plenamente lo que ha dicho Venezuela.

CHAIRMAN: I suggest that we have a recess and reassemble at 7.30 p.m. Meanwhile I would request delegations to hold consultations in order to arrive at a consensus which we could be asked to consider.

The meeting was suspended from 19.15 to 20.15 hours

La séance est suspendue de 19 h 15 à 20 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 19.15 a las 20.15 horas

CHAIRMAN: The meeting is reconvened. During the recess there have been consultations. Would any of the delegates who participated in the consultations inform us if there has been any progress in reaching a consensus on an agreed resolution?

Leif FORVELL (Norway): The Nordic countries would like to withdraw our first proposal and then submit an alternative amendment to the resolution that we are discussing.

Our proposal is to delete the last paragraph from Article 9.3 onward. Our amendment is:

Decides that in the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides the principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated;

Calls upon the FAO Secretariat to arrange for the establishment of a working group to consider the issues involved in the incorporation of PIC in the Code, including those of implementation, in order to advise member countries on how best to give effect to the principle.

The results of the work should be presented to the COAG and the Council and the Twenty-fifth Conference.

CHAIRMAN: I presume that all delegates are aware of the changes that have been made as a result of the discussions. The solution before us for consideration as presented by the delegate of Norway is to make some changes in the draft resolution under consideration. The resolution as proposed is that PIC would be incorporated in the Code and that the Secretariat would arrange the establishment of a working group to consider the issues involved in incorporating PIC in the Code in order to advise the members. In brief, that is the proposal.

Are there any reactions to this?

John COOK (United States of America): The United States would consider this proposal to have some promising aspects but there is one minor change that I would suggest.

This is because it appears to create somewhat of a contradiction in the phrasing as it is right now. That change would be in the first sentence, in which we would substitute the words "could" for the word "should". The reason we make this suggestion is that, by stating "should" there seems to be a contradiction, because if we have already decided that it "should" be incorporated, then why are we still studying it? Our position is that it "could" be incorporated if, after sufficient study is given to the matter, convincing arguments can be proposed by the expert group which does the study, that in fact this would be the best course of action. We would suggest substituting the word "could" for the word "should".

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Gracias, señor Presidente. Cuando el delegado de Estados Unidos comenzó a hablar, realmente se me abrió el corazón. Creía que estábamos llegando a un acuerdo y cuando él propuso su enmienda de cambiar la palabra "should" por "could", si hubiese habido un argumento realmente razonable y aceptable a favor de esta enmienda, no hubiéramos tenido ningún inconveniente en aceptarla. No entendemos la explicación de tal enmienda, y tal como está no creemos que esto refleje lo que se ha dicho aquí durante el debate de este tema. El delegado de Estados Unidos está diciendo que será este grupo de trabajo el que decidirá si es posible y conveniente incluir el principio PIC en el Código. No es ese punto. El principio PIC ya está aceptado que debe ser incluido; nadie se ha pronunciado en oposición al principio PIC. Lo que estamos tratando de hacer es incluirlo de una forma técnicamente sana, razonable y eficaz.

Nosotros no somos expertos en la materia. Lo que queremos es dar una oportunidad a las personas que saben del tema para encontrar la manera mejor de incluirlo, la manera efectiva, la manera racional de incluir el principio. Esto es lo que el grupo de trabajo debe considerar, además naturalmente, de las modalidades de implementación y de asesorar a los Estados Miembros acerca de cómo mejor implementarlo. Gracias, señor Presidente.

T.F.F. MALUZA (Zambia): The amendment proposed by Norway is acceptable to my delegation, although we felt it is a very weakened version of the original. However, in view of the consensus, we do agree.

The proposal of the delegation of the United States is not acceptable. The majority of the members of this Conference who have spoken on the subject have actually accepted the principle of informative consent. That is accepted. What we are saying now is that this should be in. What we do not know is the technicality of the issues at stake. As the delegate of Venezuela has said, we are not technicians. We have technicians who come later to see how this proposal could actually be put into effect. Therefore we do not accept the amendment of the delegation of the United States.

John COOK (United States of America): I really do not quite understand the delegate from Venezuela in stating that the principle of PIC has already been included in the Code. My understanding is that that is what we have been discussing all afternoon, and a number of countries have expressed their reservations on that question. In fact, as I remember what has been expressed this afternoon, none of the countries has categorically said that the principle of PIC should never be included in the Code, but those of us who are not prepared at the present time to adopt it into the Code have said that this is a matter which requires further study. If we state categorically that it should be included in the Code, then why are we studying it further? Our point is simply that we are willing to state that it "could" be included in the Code if, after further study by a group of experts, strong convincing reasons are presented that it is both workable and in the best interests of all member countries to have the principle included in the Code.

CHAIRMAN: As I understood the trend of the discussion during this afternoon, the Commission discussed Appendix 6 which contained a resolution which clearly specifies that PIC shall be incorporated in the Code of Conduct in a particular manner. The views expressed were that a majority of them were in favour of this incorporation. From this position, we are now coming to a compromise which has been hammered out, indicating the two paragraphs which have been presented by the delegate from Norway. The trend of the discussion, according to me, left us in no doubt about the viewpoint of the majority of the participants in the discussion, that PIC shall be incorporated. Since, at that time, we were discussing the resolution which was tabled by the four countries, it also specifically indicated the manner in which that incorporation should be effected.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, deseamos expresar nuestro reconocimiento al distinguido colega de Noruega quien, a nombre de los países nórdicos, ha hecho un esfuerzo adicional que apreciamos. Usted, señor Presidente, interpretó muy bien el contenido de la declaración de la colega de Venezuela. Se trata de un hecho, de una realidad, señor Presidente, y lo que estamos pretendiendo es lograr un compromiso para que se refleje también la opinión de la minoría. Es decir, la propuesta nórdica, a nuestro juicio, tiene el mérito esencial de que, al tiempo que se introduce el PIC en el Código, garantiza que el efecto de esa introducción del PIC se logre de la manera más ordenada, razonable y técnica posible.

Creo sinceramente, señor Presidente, que éste es un compromiso y quisiéramos rogar al colega de Estados Unidos - y también a otros distinguidos y respetables miembros de la Comisión que pudieren no estar completamente satisfechos con la última propuesta nórdica - que nos acompañen en esto para que haya un consenso ya que el texto nórdico es equilibrado. Para nosotros, autores de la resolución, representa muchos pasos atrás. Sin embargo, estamos dispuestos a ceder para que todos trabajemos, en conjunto por el bien de la humanidad, señor Presidente.

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): It is unfortunate that we have been here so long. I have to put it on record that my view is that we are taking an unnecessarily long time. We have been working out compromises. The break itself was a compromise. I think we must move forward. It is clear that the principle of PIC is accepted. Please let us move forward. I beg you, Sir, we must move forward.

Do not let us go back to our original positions. We have stated ours, and I feel that the process of justice and the aims of justice and democracy are defeated if you let people go back to their original statements. Theirs are known and ours are known. Let us move forward.

CHAIRMAN: May I point out that the process of compromise involves giving and taking. It is ultimately a question of moving from one's position to meet somewhere in between.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): An amendment to the amendment put up by Norway has just been proposed, and it would seem that we are transferring the decision of putting the principle of Prior Informed Consent from sovereign countries represented here in this room, to a group of experts who will see whether it is technically viable or feasible. I do not know what, but other technical requirements would be needed. I think this is a proposition which is not only absurd, but illogical. Decisions like this have to be made by sovereign governments and not by a group of technicians. The question here is whether industries which are exporting pesticides which are banned in their own countries would be willing to ask the consent of their government as to whether they can be exported or not. I do not think this is too much to ask. It is a question of moving in a sense of civilization and humanity. I think we have to move forward. We have to move forward from the time when the prime consideration was gain and, therefore, slavery was legitimate, and all the other things which civilized people would now think were inhuman and unthinkable. I wish that those who are advocating such could make up their minds and join the majority for the sake of consensus.

CHAIRMAN: All of us are anxious to move forward, but unfortunately moving forward depends on the direction which you are facing when you start moving. Here we have a situation where there are two points of view which are facing in opposite directions. Our idea is to try to hammer out a compromise.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original Language German): One of the difficulties we have here seems to me to be the fact that we do not have a printed text, that notes we are taking may perhaps not be the whole text when it was read out. Therefore, I have a lot of understanding for what the delegate of the Philippines has just been saying. As I understood the text read out, it seems to me that it will be governments which take the decision at the next Conference, the Twenty-fifth session. Before that we now have the process of further consideration and the working out of the modalities and procedures, so that the sovereign state can take a decision in the full knowledge of all the implications of the introduction of this principle, hopefully by consensus.

Having said this, Sir, I should like, through you, to ask the delegate of Norway why he has dropped the part of his proposal that we had heard from him before the break that refers to the implications before specific proposals could be made.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (México): Realmente mi delegación lamenta todo este tiempo perdido por lo que veo. Se suspendió el debate para llegar a un compromiso; entendíamos que se había llegado a ese compromiso en donde cedíamos gran parte de nuestra posición. Y ahora vemos que se retoman los nuevos compromisos. Yo quisiera hablar a esas delegaciones para que aceptaran esta negociación a la cual se ha llegado, en donde hemos cedido de ambas partes nuestras posturas para tratar de lograr una solución.

Si alargamos esto, podemos estar aquí toda la noche, todo el día de mañana y el domingo y no vamos a llegar a ningún arreglo, que no es el caso, pues hay otras soluciones que no quisiera mencionarlas antes de ver su reacción.

Pero, señor Presidente, yo rogaría a Ud. hiciera un llamado a todas estas delegaciones que están insistiendo en unas posiciones absurdas para que retiren su posición.

Ton A.J.M; ODMEN (Netherlands): It is of vital importance for our delegation to reach consensus on this very important item. As you may know, Mr Chairman, the principle that PIC will be incorporated in the Code is completely accepted by the Netherlands Government in our national legislation. It is also our opinion that a technical working party should propose a time framework to the Committee on Agriculture which can put it forward to the Council to make this important arrangement a productive mechanism for FAO and the Code itself.

Mohamed El Bashir MUFARAH (Sudan)(original language Arabic): We know that the countries which proposed this amendment are developed countries. It is a Nordic amendment. They are countries which apply all sorts of principles to protect the environment and to protect nature. These same countries are producing pesticides and certain chemical products, and certain pesticides are banned in those countries because of their negative impact, yet they are exported to other countries.

I should like to raise a point with regard to the proposal made by the United States of America about amending the amendment that is before us. In Arabic we could translate the term "could" by something that means that something might be done but it might also not be done. It means that you are leaving an open option there. "Should", translated into Arabic, means that something has to be done. There is a world of difference between an option which you may take or leave and something that is mandatory. I think the amendment to replace "should" by "could" is certainly not acceptable in this resolution, which had already been approved and supported by the majority of the Commission with the Nordic amendment that was read out. I plead for the maintenance of "should" and that it should not be changed to "could".

P.N. BAIGENT (New Zealand): We do not want to stand in the way of consensus. We should like to see consensus reached, and we very much appreciate the efforts that are being made to try to achieve this. As I said in my statement, I think we need to be quite clear on where we stand, and that is on a matter of principle. We are not at this stage in a position to agree that the principle of PIC be firmly incorporated into the Code. That is why we would support the suggestion that the word "should" be "could". We feel that this discussion has perhaps helped enlighten us further today. We have heard of a lot of groups that are studying this question. If we set up a group here to study it as well, that may well then enable us to be convinced that this is the correct way to proceed, but it is purely on technical grounds. We are not big exporters of chemicals, as some are suggesting the defenders of this position are but we genuinely believe at this stage that the principle should not be incorporated into the Code. I want to be sure that we are clear on that. I do not wish to be obstructive, but that is the position that we hold at this stage.

If, following the technical consideration, the advice to this group was that we proceed, we would of course make decisions on that advice, and I would point out that it would be this group or one of the FAO bodies, and not a technical group, that would be making those decisions.

O.F.J. OYAIDE (Nigeria): It appears to me that we are playing with words. I would have thought that we should be very clear in what decisions we want to take and that the language in writing what we have decided should be left to those who know how to play around with words. My understanding is that the resolution before us is that the PIC should be incorporated into the Code but that, in putting this resolution forward, the delegate from Venezuela said that we were not experts and that we needed experts to sit down and work out the modalities for the implementation of that decision, and when these have been worked out, it should be brought to the next Session for approval. If this is the clear understanding, then we should not be playing around with words, as to whether we should be using "could" or "should" or whatever. I am suggesting that we should be very clear on what we want. I believe that we have two options before us. One is to decide whether we have accepted that PIC should be incorporated into the Code, and the tone of the debate was very clear. The second is the amendment which the Nordic countries have brought forward that there is need for consultation on the mode of implementation of that decision. I think this is the way we should move forward.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I have listened with great interest to the comments made by the delegates of Nigeria and New Zealand. To begin with, on a point of clarification, I should like to make it clear that the UNEP/London Guidelines do not include Prior Informed Consent, although the Council's decision which adopted the Guidelines did include a statement in favour of Prior Informed Consent. The reason I raise this is because I think what we need here is a text which is consonant with what is happening in a number of different fora at the same time. We have to be careful here because there are a number of other organizations, other groupings, looking at the question of PIC, and we believe that our approach here should ensure that we are in step with this. I believe there is a UNEP working party to take place next year in Senegal which will consider this.

We would favour the formulation proposed by our Nordic colleagues because it seems to have a number of things in favour of it, especially the idea of a working party, with one minor alteration. This is simply to make it clear that we are not pre-empting any decisions. Therefore we, too, would prefer that instead of saying, "Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated", it should say, "Prior Informed Consent could be incorporated".

The reasons why we suggest this are twofold. Firstly, I think it is helpful to other organizations if they can see that it is possible for the FAO Code to be amended. We are giving a clear signal that the FAO Code is capable of being amended should they decide to change their guidelines. The other reason - and here I was interested in the comments of the delegate of Sudan - is that the difficulty is that while "should" has a degree of flexibility in its nuances of meaning in English, I am sorry to have to say that my understanding is that in French this would be translated into "devoir", which means "must", which is a much stronger expression than "should" is in English. For this reason, we think it would make this proposal more generally acceptable in consensus and more effective internationally if it used the word "could" rather than "should".

Neil O. PIERRE (Guyana): I must confess to a growing sense of personal confusion. However, at the same time, I must admit that my confusion has been abated somewhat by some of the very illuminating interventions that have just been made. Part of that confusion stems from my misunderstanding of whether we are at this Conference taking a decision that the principle must be included in the Code of Conduct or whether in effect what we are doing is saying that we agree that it should be included but that we will set up a working group to consider the modalities for its effective implementation and, furthermore, deferring final approval to the 25th Conference. My interpretation of the last point, based on the amendment tabled by Norway, is that what we shall be doing with regard to the 25th Conference of FAO is simply presenting the results of the working group for their information. I say this because my understanding of the Norwegian proposal is that this Conference will be deciding that it should be included and that we are not in effect deferring an inclusion to the 25th Conference. The word "decision" to my mind is very clear. It is a decision being taken by this Conference. What we will be doing with regard to the 25th Conference is simply submitting the result of the working group, which will focus its attention on the modalities, or whatever you want to call it, for a more effective implementation of the decision we are taking at this Conference.

I hope to be corrected if I am wrong, but that is my understanding of it, that is the way I read the discussion. If I am correct, I should say that my delegation is fully in support of the amendment recently proposed by Norway, in other words "should" must remain as it is.

John COOK (United States of America): I agree that we should try to reach a compromise and not waste too much time over the matter of "should" and "could", if it can possibly be avoided. For that reason, I would like to find a formula to leave the word "should" in this amendment. Consequently I would propose the following wording: "The Conference, in view of the strong arguments presented that 'prior informed consent' should be incorporated in the Code of Conduct, calls upon the FAO Secretariat to establish ...". The rest of the wording would be the same. Strong arguments have been presented here today that PIC should be included in the Code and I think that represents what has taken place here today.

Hawisi MWIAYIGOHA (Tanzania): My delegation is very anxious to see that a consensus is reached, to get this matter out of the way. I would like to remind delegates that the principle of PIC is very much applied even in the countries of manufacture, between the manufacturer and the consumers. It should therefore present no problem to adapt this at an international level, unless of course it is maintained that consumers are classified, which I do not think is true. So I appeal to delegates to get this matter out of the way as soon as we can.

Igor MARINCEK (Switzerland): Let me confirm again that from the point of view of my delegation we cannot join in the consensus on this proposed text. In the view of my delegation, this PIC principle is not helping the issue. We share totally the comments made by the Secretariat and already given by the Director-General at the Council Meeting. We believe that it endangers the voluntary aspects of the Code and would be counter-productive at this early stage, only two years after the adoption of the Code. So my country cannot support either of the formulae which bring us into the actions of PIC.

CHAIRMAN: Our endeavour the entire evening has been to see whether, on the basis of consultations we can arrive at a position which is widely acceptable among all the delegates present in the meeting. Before I sum up the position as I see it and indicate the further course of action, I would submit that there is a lot of force in what the delegate from Nigeria has said. Stripped of all the frills, what is the date from which we want to see PIC in the Guidelines? Is it 1/1/1988? Is it when the Conference ends on 27 November 1987? Or is it on 1/1/1990 after the next Conference?

In a situation where we are clear that certain work must proceed in terms of technical analysis and things like that before PIC is incorporated in the Guidelines, we could possibly recognize that by saying that this is the target date we set for incorporating PIC in the Code of Conduct and prior to that date all the modalities and steps which must be proceeded with must be worked out so that the target date could be achieved. If that is done, there will be no beating about the bush and the issue will be clear.

There are two propositions before us and it is clear that we are not likely to reach any consensus on them. The first is the resolution as tabled by the four countries which is before us in Appendix C, with the suggestions which have been made by Brazil about the changes. The second, unless Norway wants to keep to the original resolution which has been withdrawn, if I understand Norway correctly, is the revised resolution which according to the Nordic countries indicates the meeting ground which is acceptable to them.

It is clear that neither of these two positions is uniformly acceptable to all the delegates present. I would therefore suggest two alternatives: first, on Monday or Tuesday, whenever we meet in Commission I, we take up the issue where we left off, and depending on the quorum, we take a vote and decide the issue. The second alternative is that I would prefer a consensus so that if those delegates who are interested in arriving at a consensus could join the Drafting Committee's meeting which is scheduled for Sunday or Monday, then possibly a revised draft could emerge. I shall leave it to the house to decide which of the courses of action they would like to follow.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, vamos a tratar de ayudarlo. Hemos hecho algunas consultas muy rápidamente y a nivel muy escaso del grupo de nuestros colegas señor Presidente; lo que a nosotros nos preocupa es la permanente dilación en el tiempo y que nunca se va a determinar cuándo vamos a introducir el PIC aunque todos confiesen que están de acuerdo en introducirlo. Es un hecho, señor Presidente, que la gran mayoría de los miembros de esta Comisión, al igual que la mayoría de los miembros del Consejo último, estuvieron de acuerdo en incorporar el PIC al Código. Vamos a hacer un esfuerzo, señor Presidente, acogidos a las posibilidades que usted ha sugerido; lo máximo, lo que más podemos dar, señor Presidente: "La Conferencia decide que se incluya el PIC en el Código o con efectos a partir de la Conferencia 25 y que, mientras tanto, se pida al Director General que cree el grupo de trabajo, etc., etc." Esto, al menos, nos da la seguridad, señor Presidente, de que en un término máximo de dos años se va a incorporar el PIC, porque tenemos las dudas y el temor de que en la próxima Conferencia se diga, igualmente, que no tenemos experiencias, que no ha habido tiempo de estudiarlo etc. Esto es lo máximo que podemos dar, señor Presidente. De lo contrario, nuestro proyecto de resolución que sea sometido a votación. Reiteramos nuestro reconocimiento a los países nórdicos, señor Presidente.

CHAIRMAN: I thank Colombia for the helpful and conciliatory suggestion.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I have been listening to the debate with interest. It strikes me that the formulation provided by the delegate of the United States presents an area of consensus within the discussion, meeting both the requirements of the Colombian delegation's point of view and also delegations like myself and the Nordic delegations who realise that this is a technical issue and has to be considered through working parties.

I would like to propose, if I may, that there is another option. If we could have the proposed American text married with the Nordic text in writing at the beginning of next week, most delegates would find this helpful, I am sure and it would help to provide a consensus for us all. I therefore propose this and suggest that you might now wish to adjourn the meeting.

Horacio CARANDANG (Philippines): I think the proposal which has been tabled by the Colombian delegation is a move backwards. It is leaning back very much. It means postponing the inclusions of PIC by two years. All the reasons which have been given here, that there is not enough study on how the modalities should be implemented, are no longer valid because within those two years, if anything can be studied it should be able to be studied within two years. If it cannot be studied within two years it will never be done.

Then the proposal which is now being tabled by the United Kingdom for us is unacceptable. It will only mean that the PIC will never be introduced into the Code. As the delegate of Colombia stated, this is the last position we are willing to accept. If not, I propose that we go to the vote.

Emile DETRAUX (Belgique): Monsieur le Président, vous voudrez bien vous souvenir que, dans notre déclaration initiale, nous avons beaucoup insisté sur le consensus. Nous remercions donc toutes les délégations qui font des efforts, et, afin de pouvoir arriver à ce consensus, je dirais au-delà de ce qu'a dit notre collègue du Royaume-Uni, que pour notre part, avec l'amélioration telle qu'elle a été présentée par le délégué des Etats-Unis, nous pourrions avoir un préjugé hautement favorable. Donc nous faisons un grand pas, Monsieur le Président, pour essayer d'obtenir ce que nous estimons être essentiel, c'est-à-dire le consensus.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, nosotros no pretendemos ahora promover una controversia y sólo queremos decir que admiramos muchísimo la terquedad y la obsesión del colega del Reino Unido que a través de todas las Conferencias cree que sólo sus puntos de vista deben ser tenidos en cuenta.

La propuesta que hemos presentado, señor Presidente, contiene dos partes: la primera es evidente, somos la mayoría de los miembros, la gran mayoría de los miembros de la Comisión los que queremos que el PIC se incorpore ya en el Código. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, no ha habido el consenso; estamos tratando de recoger la actitud positiva y constructiva de los países nórdicos. Estamos dando el máximo señor Presidente, dos años de intervalo, de meditación, de espacio para que se analicen las consecuencias. Dos años es el máximo señor Presidente, de lo contrario pido a usted que aplique el reglamento y llame a votación sobre el proyecto original de resolución que fue presentado por cinco países.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): En realidad mucho de lo que yo quería decir ha sido dicho ya por el delegado de Filipinas. Creo que la propuesta que ha sido hecha por los Estados Unidos nos demuestra que los Estados Unidos, realmente, están comenzando a entender que se puede tratar de llegar a un acuerdo y que nosotros lo que estamos haciendo es un esfuerzo por acomodar los problemas y los inconvenientes que ellos han planteado sobre el asunto.

En realidad como lo ha dicho Filipinas y como lo ha dicho Colombia, nosotros hemos hecho muchas concesiones respecto a nuestra propuesta original, y las estamos haciendo únicamente en virtud de un consenso. Creo que queda muy claro que nadie, que ninguna de las delegaciones que proponen y apoyan el PIC quieren imponerlo por la fuerza y hacemos un llamado a las delegaciones de Estados Unidos y del Reino Unido para que traten de entender esta posición; estamos dando dos años para que se estudien las modalidades de incorporación del PIC. Creo que es más que suficiente, lo harán técnicos y no creo que sea necesario ir más allá de esto. No tengo nada más que decir por ahora.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): Mr Chairman, at this point I would just say that I have listened to the two preceding interventions, and it seems to me that there is a misunderstanding in the position of both the United Kingdom and.

CHAIRMAN: Is this a point of order?

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): My point of order is this: that it would be much more healthy if we could continue this discussion with a written text in front of us. I would appeal to the meeting, through yourself Sir, to agree to this, because otherwise it seems to me that the position of our country, certainly, is being misinterpreted. I am sure this could be clarified if we could have the text of the Nordic resolution married with the second United States' proposal. I think it would become clear that we are, in fact, trying to promote a consensus that can meet everybody's views. I would propose we adjourn this meeting and have a written text at the beginning of the week.

CHAIRMAN: The delegate of the United Kingdom raised this point earlier and I had the position verified. I have been told that there must be a required strength present for the motion for adjournment that you move to be taken into consideration. That is why I did not react on that.

My suggestion would be that our aim is to arrive at a consensus if that is possible, and avoid the vote. I have three or more speakers on the list. We will exhaust the list, and then the positions will be clear. As I see them now, three positions have emerged. One is the original resolution; the second is the Nordic resolution; the third is what the delegate of Colombia said about fixing a particular date and working towards that. These are the three alternatives.

If there is not going to be a consensus maybe there will have to, be a vote, but today we do not have the required members present for the vote to take place. Hopefully, in the next five to ten minutes, if members are brief, we will hear what they say and then we will adjourn.

Cuba has the floor on a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

UNTO DE ORDEN

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Yo pedí mi palabra normalmente. Señor Presidente, nosotros lamentamos que en estos momentos, a esta hora, después de tantas dilaciones, se nos quiera decir que necesitan más. Nosotros pensamos, como Filipinas y como Venezuela, que lo que ha propuesto la representación de Colombia es el mínimo que podemos aceptar. Usted sabe lo que significa ese mínimo señor Presidente; que durante dos años van a seguir muriendo, repito, muriendo, campesinos y obreros agrícolas de intoxicación; que vamos a seguir dos años de inquinamiento ecológico; que vamos a seguir dos años de despilfarro en nuestros campos...

CHAIRMAN: May I request you to state your point of order.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): ...entonces, señor Presidente, como vamos a pedir eso. No, no es una moción de orden, es una explicación de que no podemos aceptar menos, y es que durante dos años...

CHAIRMAN: If you will permit me, I will give you a chance after Zambia speaks. Zambia has the floor.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): I have no doubt that, given the opportunity, the developed North will never allow us to have PIC at any given time. I think the strategy appears to be to continue to defer PIC indefinitely, ad infinitum.

What, the Commission has agreed upon during the debate is that the principle of PIC is completely and fully accepted by the Commission. The issue is the modalities. How do we incorporate PIC into the system? That is the main issue. There is no doubt about whether the Commission accepts PIC. It should be incorporated. What must be discussed is how this must be done. That is why a Committee of officials will work and discuss and arrive at the modalities.

The United States' proposal puts doubt on whether or not this can be accepted by the next Conference. Really, by now PIC is accepted; it must be incorporated. A Committee of officials will work on this, whether it is FAO or whoever it is, to elaborate the modalities of implementation. There is no question on whether or not PIC will be accepted. That is accepted. The modalities are what are at stake.

The American proposal is unacceptable to my delegation. There is no question of "could"; it must be "should". A Committee will be appointed or FAO will work on it and then through COAG and through the next Conference it will be implemented. No one can tell me that it is not possible for this Organization to find ways of implementing PIC. Surely it can find a method of implementing PIC?

CHAIRMAN: If I may interrupt you, from which date do you expect this to be implemented?

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): At the maximum in the next two years. That is Colombia and Venezuela's suggestion.

CHAIRMAN: I would suggest for the consideration of the Commission that following the four names I have listed here we close the discussion for tonight, because we do not seem to be arriving at a consensus.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Gracias, señor Presidente. Discúlpeme porque pensé que me había dado la palabra y no sabía que la distinguida delegación de Zambia estaba en uso de la misma.

Para terminar, señor Presidente, lo que quiero expresar es que no estamos en presencia de análisis serios, no estamos en presencia de análisis con objetividad. Es de una obstrucción palpable. Esto se viene discutiendo desde hace dos años, señor Presidente, y vamos a seguir discutiendo otros dos años más la misma situación.

Nosotros creemos que debe aceptarse la proposición de Colombia porque es bastante generosa y porque vamos a seguir soportando dos años de muerte y de Inquinamiento. Esto de la única manera que se puede calificar es de egoísmo de las grandes potencias y de las grandes empresas que desconocen los problemas. Es seguir vendiendo con el objeto de vaciar sus almacenes ignorando los problemas. Esto no tiene otro nombre señor Presidente, ya que se ha hablado de ello con bastante tiempo. Creo que no hay otra calificación más que la de decirles egoístas.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): So far I have had the impression that we are all endeavouring to achieve a consensus. The previous speaker made this a little more difficult. I should like to add as regards my own country that we are doing everything we can to avoid what was just described a moment ago. In fact, our legislation imposes the necessity of providing all the information about these products. On the basis of this information available, everybody can take his own decision.

I feel that the earlier proposal of the United Kingdom delegate, followed by the response of the Belgian delegate, was made with a view to achieving a consensus. The difficulty we are up against is that none of us has a written text in front of us. This can lead to a whole series of misunderstandings. Therefore, I really do believe it would be in the interest of all of us if we could endeavour to work out a text before Monday, taking up the useful points which were proposed by Norway and the United States. If they could be incorporated in a written text, we should be able to continue our discussions.

That being said, I would like to add that I regret that I cannot go along with the proposal of the delegate of Colombia, that is, that we should take a decision that would have an impact on the 25th Conference.

John COOK (United States of America): I was encouraged by the words of the delegate of Venezuela and I also believe that we are moving in the direction of a consensus. I would like to clarify that when I spoke before I said that I saw the proposal by the delegate of Norway to be a promising one leading us towards consensus. I had a minor problem with a word; I suggested a change. That was unacceptable to the persons with whom we are trying to reach consensus. Consequently, I retracted that change. I have returned to the use of the word "should" and at the present time that is the word that, as the delegate of the United Kingdom suggested, we intend to put into the proposal that we would like to spend the weekend discussing with the delegate of Norway. We are no longer suggest-ing the use of the word "could", as the delegate of Zambia apparently believes, and I sincerely believe that we will be able to word this in a manner that will be acceptable, and -that we can reach consensus on a proposal which is very nearly the wording which the delegate of Norway has already submitted.

I should also like to concur with what the delegate of the Federal Republic of Germany has just said. I think it will make it a lot easier for us on Monday if we have the text in writing. It will avoid confusion.

CHAIRMAN: May I then suggest that over the weekend, when the Drafting Committee is likely to meet, we shall have simultaneously two efforts going. We will request the Drafting Committee to try and produce a draft which incorporates the various points of view. Along with this, the efforts to which the United States delegate has made reference could continue so that on Monday when we meet we can consider the original draft from the four countries with modifications, the draft as tabled by Norway, the revised draft as will hopefully be tabled by the United States in consultation with the others, on Monday morning, whenever we meet, and then take a view on which one to take. If we can avoid the vote, that will be better; if not we will go through the democratic process.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, apoyamos lo que usted acaba de decir pero tal vez por la prisa con que habló no incluyó también la propuesta de Colombia.

Vamos a insistir en nuestra propuesta, porque la reacción negativa del señor Grabish, de la República Federal de Alemania, demuestra, señor Presidente, que ni en dos años ni en 2 000 años vamos a estar incluidos en el PIC. La actitud negativa de la República Federal de Alemania así lo demuestra y confirma. De manera que todo esfuerzo en busca de consenso va a ser inútil, pero aceptamos que todas las propuestas pasen al Comité de Redacción, incluida la de Colombia.

CHAIRMAN: Subject to the agreement of delegates and members here, we could go on for two or three hours longer, provided we are sure that a consensus is likely to emerge. Because that does not seem to be in sight, I suggest that on this note the Drafting Committee, when it meets, will attempt a draft which we hope will harmonize the viewpoints which have been expressed. Similarly, the United States delegation, in consultation with others, will possibly table a draft which we will consider

when we meet. We will then have (a) the draft of the four countries as amended by Brazil; (b) the draft tabled by Norway; (c) the Colombian formulation; and (d) what the United States delegation will be tabling hopefully in consultation with the others; plus anything from the Drafting Committee. We will consider this on Monday or Tuesday, whenever we are meeting, in the plenary of the Commission once again.

Belgium has the floor on a point of order.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): Nous avons écouté ce débat avec beaucoup d'attention. Nous partageons le point de vue de la République fédérale d'Allemagne qui ne me paraît pas du tout inconciliable avec un certain nombre de déclarations qui ont été faites et nous voudrions dire de manière très claire...

CHAIRMAN: May I point out that this is not a point of order.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): C'est une motion d'ordre dans ce sens que nous devons éclairer la façon; dont nous allons procéder au cours des travaux du Comité de rédaction et si nous n'avons pas l'occasion d'exposer nos points de vue concernant la manière dont le Comité de rédaction abordera le problème, le débat aura été étranglé. Il me paraît normal que nous puissions exprimer notre point de vue pour que le Comité de rédaction puisse travailler. Si vous estimez qu'il n'a pas à être éclairé sur nos problèmes, il faut nous le dire et nous en tirerons les conclusions.

CHAIRMAN: With due respect to your point of view, I would submit that almost all of the points of view in relation to this proposition have been gone into from about 3 o'clock until now. If you are making any point which has not been expressed earlier, I shall be pleased to hear you.

Antoine SAINTRAIT (Belgique): Vous avez dit que les protagonistes - encore faudrait-il définir ce terme - pourraient participer au Comité de rédaction. Pourrais-je vous demander de nous dire ce que vous entendez par là?

CHAIRMAN: I stand corrected. I understand the conventions are that no persons other than the members of the Drafting Committee attend the Drafting Committee meetings. I received different advice earlier.

TIN HLAING (Burma): First of all I should like to thank the Secretariat for presenting the progress report that enables us for discussion regarding the implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

The Burmese delegation considers that the discussion of this subject is quite important at such a time when modern crop production techniques are being extensively used in most of the member countries for increased agricultural production. Increasing agricultural production is often associated with the use of hazardous chemicals. These chemicals can do harm to humans, to animals and also to the environment, and accordingly their use should be observed properly.

In our own country, we are taking legislative and regulatory measures to observe the proper use of these chemicals. A plant protection service has been established in the Extension Department, which is responsible for the transfer of appropriate technology of plant protection and the safe use of chemicals to the farmers. We have also conducted trainings for the extension staff and also for the farmers. The plant protection service is also assigned with the duties to monitor the effect of the use of the pesticidal chemicals on pests, crops and environment. As a result of this monitoring system, some of the chemicals which are found not to be suitable for our environment have already been banned in our country.

In view of the above stated facts and realizing the importance of safeguarding the national ecosystem, the Burmese delegation supports the Document C 87/LIM/25 and also the resolution as contained in Appendix C of the Document C 87/LIM/39. 1/

Alejandro NDJOLI MEDIKO (Guinea Ecuatorial): Señor Presidente, quiero aprovechar este momento para felicitarle por la inteligencia y equilibrio con que está dirigiendo los debates y trabajos de esta comisión.

Asimismo, queremos felicitar a la Secretaría por la calidad y puntualidad de los documentos que someten a nuestra apreciación.

Hemos estudiado los documentos concernientes al punto 11 del Orden del Día, referentes a la aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas.

Al análisis de estos documentos, y comparándolos con el tema de los insumos (abonos, etc.), llegamos a una conclusión común, y es que los países en vías de desarrollo, los países receptores y consumidores de estos productos deben ciertamente realizar grandes esfuerzos por su parte para corregir los defectos que hasta ahora se han venido produciendo en el orden de la adquisición y utilización de los plaguicidas, queremos decir con ello de que, se tendrían que llegar a una concertación de medidas por las cuales, el consumidor debería de tener una autorización previa del Departamento de Agricultura, la cual le permita importar o consumir este o aquel plaguicida.

Pero para que este mecanismo pueda ser útil, efectivo, parece ser que a primera vista bastaría y sería suficiente con la circulación de la información adecuada procedente del país fabricante y dirigido al país consumidor.

Pero en realidad ¿qué sucede?, la mayoría de las veces, esta información no llega o en el mejor de los casos, si llega, está distorsionada y con bastante retraso.

Otro de los elementos que actúa e influyen grandemente es que estos productos, en la mayoría de las veces suelen estar ya prohibidos, fuera de uso en sus países de origen; nos llegan eso sí, con unos precios bajos, de saldo, verdaderamente tentadores, pero que convierten nuestros campos de cultivos en verdaderos basureros de productos fitosanitarios, degradando cada vez más nuestros suelos, disminuyendo nuestros rendimientos y sobre todo lesionando la salud de tanta gente por sus efectos residuales.

Por eso pensamos que las medidas que puedan llevarse a cabo en los países consumidores no serán suficientes si no van apoyadas de otras, tomadas a su vez desde los países de origen.

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

Un producto de efectos nocivos, negativos, en un punto del globo, no tiene por qué ser bueno en otro punto, simplemente por la diferencia kilométrica.

En consecuencia, la responsabilidad debería de ser compartida entre unos y otros.

Pensamos que una medida coherente sería que los países productores no permitan la exportación de aquellos productos que se encuentran en sus listas negras, aparte además del principio del "consentimiento previo".

Si no se toman las medidas en ambas direcciones, resultará que unos estarán permitiendo la venta de productos cuyos efectos serán los de aumentar cada vez más el grado de endeudamiento de los países pobres, haciéndolos más pobres a costa de quemar sus cosechas.

Para terminar y si nos lo permite, proponemos que la lista de productos prohibidos en un país debería de ponerse a la disposición de la FAO, y esta vez se encargaría de distribuirlas a todos los Estados.

En consecuencia, apoyamos el principio del "consentimiento previo" que se propone incluir en el Código de Conducta para la distribución y utilización de plaguicidas..

Para terminar, quisiera invitar a los países productores que tomen el compromiso de no autorizar la exportación de plaguicidas hasta tanto que el país receptor/consumidor no disponga de la total información sobre el mismo y de su consentimiento previo. 1/

Jean BANTSIMBA (Congo): La délégation congolaise félicite M. Brader et le Secrétariat pour la clarté et le sérieux du rapport sur l'application du Code International de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides.

Il ressort de l'examen de ce rapport que des progrès notables ont été réalisés dans le cadre de l'application du code, mais qu'il reste beaucoup à faire, notamment pour amener la plupart des pays en développement à maîtriser les mécanismes en permettant un usage efficace.

La République Populaire du Congo est en train de préparer un projet de loi sur l'homologation des pesticides; mais elle ne dispose pas des structures techniques et des moyens lui permettant d'appliquer effectivement les dispositions du Code.

Elle sollicite auprès de la FAO et des ONG:

- un appui pour la préparation d'un cours national de formation sur l'application du code,
- une aide pour la mise en place de dispositifs nationaux d'homologation et de contrôle de pesticides (incluant les infrastructures appropriées pour l'application du code).

Enfin, ma délégation appuie le projet de résolution relatif à l'insertion du principe de l'information et du consentement préalable au code 2/.

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

2/ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): En forma muy breve la delegación de El Salvador desea apoyar la declaración hecha hace unos momentos por la distinguida delegada de Venezuela, quien con toda claridad ha expuesto los motivos que nos llevan a plantear esta cuestión en esta Comisión.

Ya en el pasado período de sesiones de esta Conferencia, cuando aprobamos el Código de Conducta, la delegación de mi país planteó la importancia de incluir en el Código, el Principio de Consentimiento Previo. En esa oportunidad planteamos que para no entorpecer su aprobación, consentimos en que su inclusión se analizara en la primera revisión del mismo y es la que en esta ocasión estamos realizando.

Por ello apoyamos plenamente el proyecto de resolución contenido en el documento LIM/39 intitulado "Código de Conducta para la utilización y distribución de plaguicidas", con las enmiendas propuestas por Brasil. 1/

C. Reynaldo TREMINIO CHAVARRIA (Nicaragua): En diferentes sesiones de la Comisión I, la mayoría de los países se han pronunciado sobre la necesidad de proteger el ambiente.

Los insecticidas y su utilización no regulada atenta contra la vida humana, constituye graves riesgos de contaminación ambiental, pérdidas invaluables de la fauna benéfica y, lo más grave, la contaminación de productos alimenticios vegetales y animales.

Por ello, hemos apoyado siempre la aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas.

Diferentes grupos de plaguicidas presentan diferentes índices de toxicidad. Los riesgos por estos productos no sólo deben minimizarse sino también someterlos a estricto control ante una eventualidad de uso en un país determinado.

Por ello, apoyamos el principio del "Consentimiento Previo", y el proyecto de resolución presentado en el documento C 87/LIM/39. 1/

Asefa WOLDEGIORGIS (Ethiopia): May I first express my appreciation for the fine presentation of the report on the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The report does give systematic analysis of the problems in the distribution and use of pesticides, particularly in Third World countries.

A number of developing countries have taken measures to ensure practical and safe use of these pesticides. Despite these measures they have taken already and great concern on the judicious use of pesticides, they are faced with difficulties in the implementation.

The major problem arises from the fact that information supplied by many manufacturers fails to satisfy the basic desirable standards. Secondly, most developing countries have limited capacities in carrying out bio-assays and other necessary tests to ensure the efficacy or effectiveness and advise the end users accordingly in the interests of all.

Moreover, the farmers, I am sorry to say, do not have adequate training in the safe use of pesticides. The majority just do not appreciate the adverse effects.

Proper distribution and safe use of pesticides directly attribute towards protection of our environment and safeguard both plant and animal life.

1/ Texto incluido en las actas a petición expresa.

With this in mind, I do not see any issue of principle in the resolution put forward in this connection. I see the concept in the resolution as a useful instrument towards ensuring safe distribution and judicious use of pesticides. With this in view my delegation supports the resolution as it stands. ^{1/}

Hidayat Ganda ATMADJA (Indonesia): Indonesia consistently and continuously supports the implementation of the FAO Resolution No. 10/85 regarding the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides.

Along the line with this, my Government has recently decided to ban the use and distribution of several kinds of pesticides, merely for the interest of sound environment for human beings and animal life.

First of all, my delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the work that FAO has carried out in stepping up further the implementation of the Resolution, the report of which (C 87/LIM/25) is now before us for discussion.

Although we consider that the progress report is still in a preliminary state, in the sense that it will be updated over time, my delegation is happy to note that the report provides a thorough analysis related to the stage of implementation of the Code and in particular related to the capacity of the developing countries in controlling and monitoring the distribution and use of pesticides. We could see clearly that the capacity of the developing countries in this regard still needs further improvement and strengthening, particularly in the following areas:

(1) Pesticides legislation, guidelines, and technical as well as physical facilities in many developing countries remain considerably weak. Further assistance from FAO and other aid agencies in this regard would therefore be necessary to enable them to monitor and control properly the implementation of the Code.

(2) My delegation is of the view that research and training aspects on the effective and safe use of pesticides should receive due emphasis, and should be given not only to the officials involved in policy formulation but, more importantly, to those directly involved in the distribution and application of pesticides in -the field such as traders, retailers, extension workers, and the farmers themselves. We believe that these areas should be the responsibility of the pesticide producers/exporters, in close cooperation with the governments of importing countries. The involvement of private business sectors engaged in pesticides and NGOs in the countries concerned in the areas of pesticides research and training programmes should be regarded as an important supplement.

(3) We believe also that national campaigns on the safe use of pesticides including emergency treatment of pesticide poisoning is of considerable importance.

My delegation is of the opinion that external assistance on the three areas I have just mentioned would be equally important. In this regard, the contribution made by the Government of Japan to the Trust Fund for the provision of support to Member Governments to implement the Code, is worth appreciation. We hope that the same approach will be followed by other donors.

With regard to the draft resolution for the amendment of the Article 9.3 of the Code of Conduct, as in Appendix C, Document C 87/LIM/39, my delegation strongly supports this proposal. My delegation believes that incorporating the principle of "Prior Informed Consent" into the Code would be a pre-requisite to ensure sound environment, human health and animal life, which has been advocated by various delegations which spoke before. I would like to stress also that the most important aspect of the Code is that it should become a moral binding of all parties concerned in the implementation of the conduct. ^{1/}

^{1/} Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

O.J. OYAIDE (Nigeria): My delegation has listened with interest to the comments of colleagues from different countries on this all-important topic on the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. It is apparent that all delegations share the concern about the health and environmental hazards of the distribution and use of pesticides without proper control and regulation. Every speaker so far has agreed with the need for an exporting country to inform importing countries about products banned or severely restricted in the exporting country. The only point of disagreement appears to relate to the need for the importing country to consent before such products can be sold in that country.

In view of the severe consequences of the abuse of some of these chemicals already referred to by many distinguished delegates, the arguments put forward so far by delegates against the introduction of prior informed consent are weak and unconvincing. These arguments appear to be guided only by self-interest rather than the real issues at stake.

While exporting governments may have the best of intentions, the private companies, which produce and market these chemicals may not be that honest. It is well known that many companies from these countries dump expired drugs in many developing countries without giving any thought as to the risk to which they expose lives that would otherwise have been saved.

My delegation strongly supports the resolution to include prior informed consent in the Code of Conduct. 1/

E. Patrick ALLEYNE (Trinidad and Tobago): Our delegation considers this agenda item to be one of crucial importance in respect of food production on a global basis. However, beyond this, it is to be emphasized that decisions taken by the international community on this matter will affect the general health, the welfare of mankind - persons in every walk of life - for many generations.

FAO is to be congratulated on its initiatives on this Code of Conduct and we appeal to all Member Nations to adopt a positive approach to the matter.

Our delegation is very much concerned with the nature of the reservations being expressed on the resolution before us - relating to prior information and comment. All that the resolution asks of the exporters of pesticides is to do unto others as you would like for yourself. If a nation state does not consider a pesticide suitable for use within its own borders, then at least be fair, be scientifically honest with the potentially recipient country.

My delegation further draws special attention to the seriousness of this matter in relation to small island states, for example, the Caribbean. It is very easy to reach high and dangerous levels of pollution within small island boundaries and, of course, the spill-over into our seas and very few rivers or waterways can readily lead to national disasters.

There is, in a real sense, a thrust towards the ideal in the resolution before us. We know that participation is voluntary, but the basic principles are sound, and we support the resolution. We trust that time, human conscience and moral fortitude will, over time, prevail.

One final point: We suggest that FAO identify selected scientific/research/training centres in different regions for intensive training on the use and management of pesticides. 1/

CHAIRMAN: Commission I stands adjourned.

The meeting rose at 21.20 hours

La séance est levée à 21 h 20

Se levanta la sesión a las 21.20 horas

1/ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request.

conference

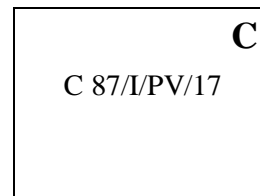
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

SEVENTEENTH MEETING
DIX-SEPTIEME SEANCE
17ª SESION

(24 November 1987)

The Seventeenth Meeting was opened at 11.55 hours

D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dix-septième seance est ouverte a 11 h 55

sous la présidence de D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-President de la Commission I

Se abre la 17ª sesión a las 11.55 horas

bajo la presidencia de D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACION DEL INFORME

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 1
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 1

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 12
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 12
PARRAFOS 1 a 12

EL PRESIDENTE: Muy buenos días a todos. Vamos a pasar a la aprobación del Informe de la Comisión I.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The Drafting Committee met with regard to items 6 to 11 and agreed on a proposal for a final report. Last Friday Commission I negotiated on item 11 concerning the Implementation of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides and the proposed resolution. As the Commission will remember, there were several suggestions for amending the proposed resolution. The Chairman of Commission I, therefore, concluded that the Drafting Committee should try to work out a resolution that could reach a consensus. The Chairman invited all interested delegations to take part in the work of the drafting group. Delegates from about 25 countries took part in the negotiations, and among them were representatives from all of the main producers of pesticides.

I am glad to say that we were able to agree the resolution, which is generally supported. The resolution clearly stresses the intent of the Conference, which is that the PIC principles and other approaches should be incorporated in the Code of Conduct.

The Drafting Committee has held seven meetings and spent about 14 hours on the draft reports. The extended drafting group has held one meeting concerning the resolution text and spent six hours for that purpose.

I want to mention that the work in the Drafting Committee and in the extended drafting group has been very positive and constructive. I hereby present the drafted reports of the work of Commission I for your consideration and decision.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a usted, señor Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Si a ustedes les parece bien y no hay ninguna objeción en contra, vamos a pasar a aprobar los distintos párrafos.

Comenzamos con el párrafo 1, la portada, donde viene explicado el tema del programa y el índice. Si no hay ninguna objeción, pasamos al párrafo 1. Párrafo 1. Aprobado. Párrafo 2. Hay una objeción de Colombia. Colombia tiene la palabra.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En esta primera intervención sobre la discusión del proyecto de informe, como no sabemos si podremos hacerlo más tarde en Plenaria, vamos desde ahora a consignar nuestro reconocimiento al Presidente de esta Comisión, señor Sastre, distinguido representante de India, que fue un Presidente ejemplar. Creemos que la palabra ejemplar quiere decir muchas cosas de fácil comprensión. Afortunadamente usted, señor Presidente, le reemplazará y conocemos sus capacidades, sus conocimientos y sus experiencias, por lo que estamos seguros y tranquilos.

Deseamos igualmente expresar nuestro aprecio muy positivo a la intensa y eficaz labor cumplida por el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, distinguido señor Steen Sondergaard, de Dinamarca.

quien procedió de manera democrática, amplia y flexible, lo cual permitió un resultado muy positivo del Comité de Redacción.

No obstante todo ello, la Delegación de Colombia desea introducir algunas breves modificaciones que puedan contribuir a reforzar el texto; referentes sobre todo a este primer tema de fondo en nuestra Comisión. A ese respecto, deseamos referirnos a la última frase del párrafo 2. La última frase del párrafo 2 está redactada de una manera demasiado vaga y débil, señor Presidente, y proponemos que se cambie por el siguiente texto. Última frase del párrafo 2: "La Conferencia deploró el hecho de que la situación que se ha creado determina que los años 80 han sido un decenio perdido para los países en desarrollo". Hemos reorganizado la redacción y tratado de hacerla más afirmativa; espero que la Secretaría haya podido captar nuestra propuesta.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si fuese posible, me gustaría condensar las intervenciones sobre el mismo tema en concreto. En consecuencia, sobre el tema planteado por el Embajador de Colombia les pregunto si recibe la aprobación de todos los miembros de la Comisión. Si fuese así, pasaríamos a tomar nota e incluirlo en el informe final. Dado que no hay ninguna objeción, aprobamos la modificación propuesta por el señor Embajador de Colombia. Queda aprobado el párrafo 2 con la modificación introducida por Colombia. Párrafo 3. Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En la segunda frase del párrafo 3 se dice: "La deuda externa era para cerca de la mitad de los países en desarrollo". No sabemos de dónde la Secretaría pudo cuantificar ese número de países en desarrollo. Creemos que sería más adecuado decir: "...era para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo". Espero que esto no sea controvertido, pero es la expresión que hemos venido usando en todos los foros.

EL PRESIDENTE: En relación con la frase sobre deuda externa en los países en desarrollo, ¿hay alguna otra observación? Tiene la palabra Argentina.

Victor Eduardo MACHINEA (Argentina): En relación con esta frase, como lo ha propuesto el distinguido colega de Colombia en primer lugar, la deuda externa era para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo una carga continua y con efectos paralizantes que minaba... Aquí quisiéramos nosotros hacer una corrección, señor Presidente, con su venia. Incorporaríamos las palabras "... los resultados de sus esfuerzos como dice el texto original, y quitaríamos "... aplicar reformas estructurales ...", continuando por "... acelerar el crecimiento de la producción agrícola, mejorar la nutrición ..." y adicionaríamos "... y proteger el medio ambiente". No sé si se ha podido tomar nota o repito la sugerencia.

A partir de la palabra minaba adicionaríamos "... los resultados de ...", continuando con el texto original "... sus esfuerzos por ...", eliminando "... aplicar reformas estructurales...", y quedaría, según el texto original "... acelerar el crecimiento de la producción agrícola...", tacharíamos la palabra "y", pondríamos una "coma" "... mejorar la nutrición ...", de acuerdo al texto original, y adicionaríamos "... y proteger el medio ambiente ..o".

YiadomK. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I should like to side with the delegate from Colombia - because in my copy here I have put a question mark against "one-half" - that I agree with him that we should substitute "foremost countries" for "one-half", because it would really be difficult to justify the use of one-half.

With regard to the intervention by the delegate from Argentina, I think I have a bit of a problem with it. It seems to me the "structural reforms" referred to are ongoing. If they are ongoing, I think we should use the word "attempt". That really gives the whole sentence that motive force,

the attempts that have been undermined, not the result, because the structural reforms are ongoing, and we are here to know the results. So I think the sentence as it stands, if we add "improve the environment" to the sentence, and then we substitute "for most of the countries" instead of "one-half", I think the sentence looks all right to me.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): First, let me express my support for the proposals made by the delegates of Colombia and Argentina. I do believe that they will improve the sentence.

I have another suggestion in relation to the next sentence. I am not sure if you would prefer to decide on this sentence at this point and then go on to the next one, because I have a point to make in relation to the next sentence. I am in your hands.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay una primera propuesta de modificación, que es sustituir "...cerca de la mitad de los países en desarrollo..." por "...la mayoría de los países en desarrollo..." Se trata de una propuesta de Colombia que ha sido apoyada por Ghana. ¿Hay alguna objeción a cambiar "...cerca de la mitad..." por "...la mayoría..."? Se acepta la propuesta de Colombia y el texto quedará: "...para la mayoría de los países en desarrollo".

Hay una segunda propuesta hecha por Argentina, y parcialmente modificada por otra propuesta de Ghana, que vamos a discutir en estos momentos si a ustedes les parece. ¿Está todo el mundo de acuerdo con la propuesta de Argentina o prefieren también aceptar la modificación introducida por Ghana? Cuba tiene la palabra.

Sra. Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En primer término, la delegación de Cuba apoya la propuesta hecha por el distinguido Embajador de Colombia, y apoyamos también la propuesta hecha por el representante de Argentina. Consideramos que la deuda externa efectivamente mina los resultados de los esfuerzos, porque los esfuerzos los estamos haciendo todos los países, pero los resultados están minados por la carga continua de esa deuda externa. También estamos de acuerdo con que sea agregado "...proteger el medio ambiente..." En concreto, apoyamos la propuesta hecha por la distinguida delegación de Argentina.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna otra intervención sobre esta frase de este punto, de este párrafo?

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I should just like it if the Argentine delegation could explain why they want to strike out the words "implement structural reforms" in their amendment to that sentence.

Victor Eduardo MACHINEA (Argentina): La razón es fundamentalmente porque no todos los países están aplicando reformas estructurales. No todos los países en desarrollo aplican reformas estructurales y no todos están de acuerdo en aplicarlas.

Lo que sí se están haciendo esfuerzos en todos los países para el crecimiento, pero no todos los países en desarrollo están haciendo y quieren hacer reformas estructurales.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Está satisfecha la Representante de Estados Unidos de América con la respuesta? Muchas gracias. Entonces, ¿les parece bien que pasemos a aprobar la parte correspondiente con la modificación propuesta por Argentina? Si es así, aceptamos las modificaciones y damos la palabra a Brasil que había pedido la palabra para otra frase.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): In relation to the sentence which starts with "A wider introduction...", in the last part of the sentence it starts "as had been already implemented by some donor countries", I would suggest that we change these last three words. It would read like this: "as had been already implemented by a few creditor countries" in relation to some least developed countries and then "was urged". Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a introducir esta modificación? Parece que estamos todos de acuerdo, y en consecuencia, se acepta la modificación propuesta por Brasil. ¿Alguna otra objeción a este párrafo?

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En la cuarta oración que comienza: "la salida de capital de los países en desarrollo", nosotros en la parte que dice: "fuertes mermas de los precios de los productos", añadiríamos: "provenientes de los mismos". Esa es nuestra propuesta: "provenientes de los mismos", y continuaría igual: "y de las transferencias de capital...".

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): In the same sentence, "The capital outflow from developing countries as a result of higher debt servicing obligations coupled with sharp declines in commodity prices and in transfers of capital ...", the "in" seems out of place. I think the sentence should read as it stands without the word "in" before "transfers of capital."

EL PRESIDENTE: Por favor, podría pedir a la representante de Cuba que nos repita, nos lea la frase entera cómo quedaría.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Con mucho gusto. La frase quedaría: "La salida de capital de los países en desarrollo, como consecuencia de las mayores obligaciones de servicio de la deuda, asociadas con las fuertes mermas de los precios de los productos provenientes de los mismos y de las transferencias de capital, particularmente de fuentes externas privadas, constituía una situación insostenible." O sea, le hemos añadido después de: "precios de los productos", "proveniente de los mismos".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a introducir estas palabras? De acuerdo, entonces se acepta la propuesta de Cuba. ¿Alguna otra objeción al párrafo 3?

Victor Eduardo MACHINEA (Argentina): Con respecto al último párrafo, donde comienza: "La Conferencia subrayó asimismo que uno de los componentes fundamentales ...", nosotros no estamos de acuerdo con la frase. Mi propuesta sería eliminarla o alguna propuesta alternativa, pero la frase en sí, como está propuesta, no estamos de acuerdo.

Sra. Dona Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La Delegación de Cuba también tenía problemas con esa misma oración, la última oración del párrafo. Y nuestra propuesta, que sometemos a la consideración de la Comisión sería no la Conferencia sino: "Algunos países subrayaron asimismo", e sea la oración podría continuar igual pero sin: "La Conferencia", porque en realidad no fue la Conferencia. No fueron todos los delegados, ni siquiera fueron la mayoría de los delegados que se pronunciaron. En este sentido, la propuesta es, de mantenerse, que comenzara con: "Algunos países".

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sra. Representante de Cuba. ¿A Argentina le podría satisfacer esta propuesta de la delegación de Cuba?

Victor Eduardo MACHINEA (Argentina): Ante la alternativa, lo aceptaría.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I think the Cuban suggestion will create a problem. We shall have to go back and amend the way we mention "Conference". Generally, you may have one or two countries speaking on a topic and, when there is no objection from the floor, we assume we all agree. If you are going to stick to "some countries", it means we shall have to go back and amend anywhere we come across the word "Conference".

Almir F. DE SA BARBUDA (Brazil): I should like to support the Argentinian proposal. We would prefer that the whole sentence should be deleted, but we could go along with the amendment proposed by the Cuban delegate. On the other hand, I should like to stress that the fact that a delegation did not raise the same issue as was raised by another does not mean that we agree, that the Conference said this and that. This is a principle that we must preserve.

Humberto CARRION MCDONOUGH (Nicaragua): Coincidimos con lo que acaba de exponer el delegado del Brasil en relación en cómo se estructura un párrafo para poder expresar si es o no la Conferencia la que afirma lo que se ha hecho en relación con los debates. La propuesta de Cuba, en este sentido, sobre la modificación del último párrafo, es pertinente e incluso para satisfacer tal vez la reserva de Ghana, se pudiera decir de la siguiente manera: "Algunos países subrayaron además", en vez de decir: "Algunos países subrayaron asimismo", porque es cierto que la lógica del párrafo se relaciona con la Conferencia desde un inicio, pero cuando introducimos una modificación al final, estoy de acuerdo con lo planteado. Se puede hacer al decir: "Algunos países", pero sería mejor estructurando: "Algunos países subrayaron además", y no decir: "asimismo". Tal vez, la palabra "asimismo" es lo que, como dijo Ghana, trae una perspectiva del comienzo del párrafo.

Sra. Dona Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En realidad, mi delegación preferiría se hubiera aceptado la propuesta del delegado de Argentina de eliminar esa oración. Sin embargo, como efectivamente algunos países plantearon esta situación, pues creo que es correcto, consideramos que es correcto que aparezca en el Informe, porque se expresó en la Comisión. Sin embargo, no podemos aceptar absolutamente que sea "La Conferencia". Nosotros aceptaríamos, y repito, "Algunos países". No tenemos ningún inconveniente con la propuesta hecha por el delegado de Nicaragua, pero "La Conferencia" no lo podemos aceptar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Entonces, en principio, la propuesta, la modificación propuesta sería: "Algunos países subrayaron además ..." y lo demás según como está el original. ¿Están todos de acuerdo con esta redacción o hay alguna objeción?

Muchamad SLAMET HIDAYAT (Indonesia): The first sentence reads "The Conference drew attention to two areas of particular contemporary concern". If we take the amendment proposed by the Argentinian delegation, "some countries", I think it would be redundant, while we mention "Conference" in the first paragraph, in the last sentence to mention "some countries". I would leave it to the Secretariat to reformulate the sentence so that we could avoid the use of "some countries", because we have already used "Conference" in the first sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si, muchas gracias Sr. delegado de Indonesia. Pero si Ud. lee el principio del párrafo 4 empieza diciendo: "En segundo lugar"; es decir, quizás habría que entenderlo de esta forma: En primer lugar se refiere a lo que dice el párrafo 3; el párrafo 4 empieza con: "En segundo lugar", y de esta forma quizás el equívoco quedaría en que no sería tal, no sería tal equívoco. ¿Está Ud. de acuerdo Sr. Representante de Indonesia? Muchas gracias; en consecuencia, si no hay ninguna otra objeción al párrafo 3, lo aprobamos. Se aprueba el párrafo 3 y pasamos al párrafo 4.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sobre el párrafo 4, tenemos dos propuestas de enmienda. Una de fondo pero que esperamos no va a ser controvertida, y otra de forma. Las vamos a presentar juntas porque creo que ganamos tiempo, y ojalá no le compliquemos la vida a Ud.

En la actual cuarta frase del párrafo 4 que empieza por las palabras: "Esperaba que la Ronda Uruguay", después de la palabra entre paréntesis "GATT" dice: "en la que ya se había conseguido algunos resultados muy positivos". Creemos que esto es exagerado; que está prejuzgando los resultados de la Ronda Uruguay que apenas está dando sus primeros pasos. Tal vez sabemos que el principio ha sido bueno. Podíamos decir, en vez de esa frase decir: "que ha comenzado de manera positiva".

Luego, en la última frase dice: "Instó asimismo a que", allí habría que agregar: "en la Ronda Uruguay", o sea: "a que en la Ronda Uruguay", porque de lo contrario, se pierde la noción de que estamos hablando de la Ronda Uruguay que está mucho más adelante en el párrafo 4. "Instó a que en la Ronda Uruguay ...". Espero que esto sea realista y no ofrezca dificultades a la Comisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Colombia. Si les parece sobre las propuestas de modificación que ha hecho Colombia primero y después pasaríamos a cualquier otra modificación. Pero ahora, nos vamos a centrar en estas dos propuestas de Colombia. ¿Hay acuerdo en aceptarlas o hay algún comentario?

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Could we, perhaps, hear how this will read in English? We work with the English document.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si, por supuesto que sí, Sr. representante de la República Federal de Alemania. Damos la palabra a la Secretaría para que proceda a la lectura.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): In the sentence beginning, "It looked to the on-going Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) under the aegis of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)", the amendment is, "which had made a positive start to achieve these objectives". That is the first amendment. In the last sentence we include the words, "in the Uruguay Round": "It was also urged that in the Uruguay Round the special interests...", and the rest of the sentence is unchanged.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a la Secretaría. ¿Está satisfecho el Representante de la República Federal de Alemania con la redacción propuesta?

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Yes, we can accept this new wording. We can live with it. We would have preferred the earlier text as it is in the document but, as I have already said, we can live with this amendment.

EL PRESIDENT: ¿Alguna objeción mas al parrato 4, a estos dos puntos del párrafo 4, a estas dos modificaciones propuestas por Colombia? ¿Alguna otra frase o algún otro punto del párrafo 4? Se aprue-ba *el* párrafo 4. Pasamos al párrafo 5.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, recordará usted, y espero también el Presidente del Comité de Redacción, que cuando hablamos de todas las declaraciones de buenas intenciones, en muchas delegaciones dijimos que teníamos la esperanza de que todo ello se convirtiera en realidad. Tenemos una adición que ojalá no ofrezca dificultades, señor Presidente, para agregar al final del párrafo 5. Diría: "La Conferencia expresó la esperanza de que todas esas declaraciones se convier-tan en hechos concretos".

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre esta frase añadida por el representante de Colombia, ¿hay alguna objeción? Tiene la palabra el representante de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Sir,. I know I was not there when the Commission discussed this part. That is why I am unable to say now whether the ex-pression here, "The Conference" is appropriate or not. Perhaps the Chairman of the Drafting Committee could confirm this. In this particular case, I would prefer it if you were to say, "The hope was expressed that", not "The Conference". But as I said, I was not there, and I would like to know what others feel about this part of the paragraph.

PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor representante de Alemania. Pasamos la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This sentence is something which we have only just received, so we have not discussed it in the Drafting Committee. In this particular case, I think if we follow the kind of procedure which we used to have, the best expression would be "The hope was expressed". But as a matter of fact, it was a more personal point of view. If the Secretariat can say something about how many expressed these points of view, we would have a clear picture.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sobre este punto concreto, es decir, sobre la frase propuesta por el señor represen-tante de Colombia, Uruguay ha pedido la palabra y, a continuación, Colombia.

Carlos DELPIAZZO (Uruguay): La delegación de la República de Uruguay acepta plenamente la propuesta de Colombia, por cuanto no sólo en las manifestaciones hechas por representantes en la Comisión, sino, fundamentalmente por lo expresado por los ministros en el ámbito de la Plenaria, el propósito y la esperanza de que todas estas manifestaciones de buena voluntad se concreten en hechos, fue un elemento prácticamente de consenso en las declaraciones efectuadas por los Presidentes de las delegaciones y de los Ministros. Razón por la cual mi delegación apoya plenamente que este propósito y estas manifestaciones de esperanza se pongan en boca de la Conferencia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, solamente de manera muy cordial me permito llamar la atención sobre el hecho de que en la frase final del párrafo 5 están involucrados todos los países: el Grupo de los 77, que comprende los países en desarrollo; el Grupo de CAIRNS, que comprende países desarrollados y países en desarrollo; la OCDE, que comprende los estados industrializados;

la cumbre de Venecia, que comprende los siete Jefes de Estado de los países más industrializados del mundo; de manera que por eso nosotros propusimos que se dijera: "La Conferencia". Además ya el colega de Uruguay lo dijo muy bien, yo no creo que el representante de ningún país pueda tener la esperanza de que, después de que sus propios Jefes de Estado, sus propios representantes, hayan hecho esas declaraciones, todo vaya a quedar en letra muerta, escrito sobre el papel. Este es el único sentido de nuestra declaración, señor Presidente. Estoy seguro de que nuestro colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, que además tiene el privilegio de conocer muy bien el castellano, tratará de entender esta propuesta nuestra, con el llamado muy cordial y respetuoso de que iójala nos permita, sobre este punto, que sea la expresión afirmativa de la Conferencia!.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I wonder if at this point the Secretariat could read out in English the wording which has been suggested. At least the translation which I heard sounded fairly awkward the first time I heard it in English.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra la Secretaría para contestar a la pregunta de la señora delegada de los Estados Unidos.

K. S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): We have taken it from the translation as we picked it up. There is an additional sentence at the end of paragraph 5, which would read, "The Conference expressed the hope that all these declarations would become a reality".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Está usted satisfecha, señora representante de los Estados Unidos, con la información de la Secretaría? Tenemos entonces, en estos momentos, dos propuestas que en cuanto al contenido son la misma pero varía el sujeto; en un caso sería: "La Conferencia", y en otro sería la forma impersonal: "se expreso".

Ha habido declaraciones en ambos sentidos, varias a favor de "La Conferencia" y una del representante de Alemania a favor de "se expresó". El señor representante de Alemania ¿podría aceptar "La Conferencia"?

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): The second version as we heard it read out just now in English is different from the first one. The first version said, "The Conference expressed the hope that all these statements would become positive facts".

The version given just now was, "The Conference expressed the hope that all these declarations would become a reality". There are two different versions. We all wish of course that most of what is in this, the various statements, should become a positive fact, should become reality. But if we were to say all that is in all these statements, I think we would be a bit unrealistic. I could live with "The Conference", if we were to say instead of "all", for example "most of these declarations", because I think we must be realistic. I hope my friend, the delegate of Colombia, would have no difficulties with this little amendment.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tratamos de lograr el compromiso y podríamos, en ese caso, decir que parte de esas declaraciones serían tal vez inadecuadas porque, naturalmente, tendríamos que escoger qué partes; pero si da satisfacción al colega Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania podríamos suprimir el término "todas" y en castellano diríamos: "La Conferencia expresó la esperanza de que esas declaraciones..." Así queda más general, más flexible, y espero pueda ser aceptable, señor Presidente.

Respecto a la cumbre de Venecia, estaba, por ejemplo, el Jefe de Estado de un gran país industrializado, con el cual Colombia mantiene las mejores relaciones y del que recibimos una importante asistencia bilateral, como es la República Federal de Alemania, y yo creo que el representante de ese país y de otros países no pueden expresar esperanzas en el sentido de que solamente se reduzca a una declaración literaria. Además, la redacción actual es muy flexible: "se expresó la esperanza" -algo muy vago- y lo expresamos así justamente para evitar una controversia que pueda retrasar sus trabajos, señor Presidente, que usted adelanta de una manera tan adecuada y eficaz.

Wolfgang A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) original language German): No problems, Mr Chairman. So it would read, "The Conference expressed the hope that these statements would become positive facts.", like the first translation.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Está de acuerdo el resto de la sala con incluir esta frase con esta redacción? Perfectamente. Había pedido también la palabra el representante de Brasil, supongo que para otro punto de este mismo párrafo. Tiene la palabra.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): Another point is that we would rather have the expression "Piecemeal" on the fourth line of the English text withdrawn because we believe it would read better if it were to go beyond the short-term actions. We do not like this "piecemeal" or in the Spanish text "parciales", we would rather have the word "piecemeal" deleted.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay algún inconveniente en suprimir este adjetivo: "parciales"?

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I guess we can live with deleting it. But in English anyway I thought that in the Drafting Committee what we were trying to do was to say that we needed an integrated global long-term approach to solving these issues which would go beyond, and we were trying to describe two different types of actions which we felt this approach needed to go beyond. One was those which were only designed to deal in the short-term and the other was those which were only designed to deal with partial issues which seemed to us to relate back to the point which was being made earlier in the sentence about the need for an integrated global and long-term approach. We feel that the word "piecemeal" is fine in there, but if we are the only ones, we can live without it.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I can only agree with the delegate of the United States on this, that there is a balance that has been attempted here by the Drafting Committee, and it is against an integrated and global long-term approach that we are making the point here that some of the actions which are being taken by certain countries are not moving towards any long-term integrated worthwhile action which would bring about the sort of things that we would like to see. I should prefer to have something there which conveys the idea that we are talking of actions that are piecemeal. Perhaps the words "ad hoc" may be better in the Spanish translation. I do not know whether that helps them. It would then be "short-term ad hoc actions." The English is not all that good and I would still prefer to have "piecemeal".

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): En la versión en español, nuestra delegación estaría de acuerdo en eliminar la palabra "parciales" y la palabra "simples". Quizás ante lo que ha comentado el distinguido delegado de Australia, convendría aclarar a las delegaciones que están en desacuerdo con este tema de "parcial", a qué se refería cuando se decía "especial" o "parcial", porque realmente, en

la versión en español aparece "parcial" como medidas puntuales o medidas en diferentes sectores sin dirigirse a una medida global agrícola. Para nosotros es conflictivo, señor Presidente aceptar la palabra "parcial".

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): Having accepted the Colombian suggestion, it seems to me that it would be better to leave in the word "piecemeal". The alternative would be "ad hoc", as has already been observed. "Piecemeal" sounds better than "ad hoc". The hope which we are expressing in the last sentence which has been added is that we want lasting solutions and not piecemeal solutions. Therefore, I think that word should remain.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos una pequeña controversia; es decir, tenemos aproximadamente las mismas delegaciones que se pronuncian a favor de que se quite la palabra "parciales". Posteriormente se complica un poco con el adjetivo "simple" pero quizá eso lo tendríamos que ver más adelante.

Carlos DELPIAZZO (URUGUAY): Señor Presidente, con el propósito, simplemente, de plantear una alternativa que quizá pueda conjugar los intereses planteados por las inquietudes precedentes, se podría sustituir en el texto español: "simples medidas parciales" por "medidas puntuales y a corto plazo". De este modo se mantendría la proporción con el enfoque integral y global a largo plazo de que se habla en la primera parte y se salvarían las objeciones de parcialidad o de simpleza que calificarían estas medidas. Por lo tanto, sugiero simplemente sustituir "simples medidas parciales" por "medidas puntuales y a corto plazo".

Victor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Para agradecer la sugerencia de la delegación de Uruguay a la cual acompaño.

S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand): I had refrained from making comments on this, given the general views that had been expressed, and also in the interests of moving things along. I am inclined to agree with the views expressed by the delegates of the United States and Australia. I was not present at the Drafting Committee when this particular item was discussed but I think that "piecemeal", even if it did not come out very clearly in translation, does have a connotation in the context in which it is put. I think we are differentiating between short-term and long-term measures and those that are, as the delegate of Australia suggested, of an ad hoc nature. If there is a problem with "piecemeal" because of the way in which it comes out in other languages, we would be perfectly happy with its replacement by "ad hoc".

EL PRESIDENTE: Me temo que estamos descendiendo a un nivel que está bastante por debajo de lo que tenía que caracterizarnos. Realmente estamos llegando a puntos de redacción excesivamente concretos. Yo estoy en sus manos y, lógicamente, concederé la palabra a todas las delegaciones que la pidan y tantas veces como la pidan, pero sólo les quiero decir que llevamos una hora y que no hemos aprobado nada más que cuatro párrafos. Tenemos que hacer un descanso para poder ir a almorzar y volver a reunimos a las 2.30 horas. Por eso les ruego que en aquellas cosas que sean mucho más de forma que de fondo aceleremos al máximo, y les ruego también un poco de flexibilidad para poder aceptar propuestas que sean conciliatorias. En cualquier caso, estoy en sus manos. Si no hay ninguna otra intervención en este sentido, procedería a hacer una propuesta. Tiene la palabra Brasil.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brasil): Brasil tiene siempre la dificultad de hablar en más lenguas que no son la suya. Por eso nuestras declaraciones se pierden un poco el enfoque propio de estas lenguas.

Nuestra observación sobre el párrafo 5 - y desde luego aceptamos la proposición de Uruguay - era más bien basada en el texto español que en el texto inglés. Por eso estamos de acuerdo en aceptar como definitiva la sugerencia de un país que habla la lengua española, lo que no ocurre con nosotros desgraciadamente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que usted tiene suerte de hablar varias lenguas, ya que eso facilita la adopción y entendimiento de los temas. El señor delegado de Brasil nos propone que aceptemos la propuesta de Uruguay, que sería: "... más allá de la adopción de medidas puntuales y a corto plazo". Quizá en inglés en vez de "puntuales" serían "... medidas ad hoc y a corto plazo". ¿Hay alguna otra objeción al párrafo 5? Francia tiene la palabra.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je me réfère au texte français, qui comporte, à la page du paragraphe 5, une parenthèse après les termes "Groupe de Cairns". Cette parenthèse ne figure d'ailleurs pas dans le texte anglais; elle a pour objet, dans le texte français de donner une définition du groupe de Cairns. Je ne crois pas que nous ayons besoin ici de donner de définition des groupes, ils existent et ce n'est pas à la FAO de les définir, me semble-t-il. Donc, je propose simplement, que dans le texte français on supprime cette parenthèse, et que dans le texte anglais, on s'arrête au terme "Cairns group".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que no hay ningún inconveniente en acceder a la eliminación de este paréntesis que no está en las otras dos versiones.

S.RAJASEKAR (New Zealand): I would simply point out that this matter did come up in the Drafting Committee, and we had the correct title of the Cairns Group incorporated into the draft as it stands. I think to delete that would be to revert back to the situation which existed in the earlier draft. We wanted the correct title to be included in this particular paragraph.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hemos oído que los tres primeros oradores sobre este punto son tres miembros del Grupo Cairns. No tenemos el texto francés, pero pensamos que el colega de Francia estaría satisfecho si el texto francés se adapta a los textos inglés y castellano que deben mantener-se en su forma actual.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I can only agree with the previous two speakers that this is, in fact, the correct title of the Group and that that should be reflected in the report. I would also say that, as you have pointed out, Mr Chairman, we have not gone any distance at all really in over an hour. If this sort of sniping is going to take place from particular countries on such things as this, we are going to be here for a long time. This is just my appeal to call members of the Commission that we attempt to get away from this sort of thing and get-on with our business.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Simplemente voy a intervenir en relación con la modificación que se ha hecho de la palabra "parcial" por "puntual" en el número 5, porque leyendo el párrafo completo - si se lo permite el señor Presidente - no puede haber otra palabra que "parcial". "La Conferencia subrayó la necesidad de que, en los esfuerzos por mejorar la equidad y la gestión de la situación económica internacional, se adoptara un enfoque integrado y global a largo plazo para resolver los problemas más allá de la adopción de simples medidas parciales a corto plazo", que no pueden sino ser parciales, por lo que no pueden ser puntuales. Puntuales, en este caso, tiene que ser todo lo que haga una organización que lo planifique. A mí me parece que la versión original que tiene el texto es correcta, y así me pronuncio hasta ese punto. Sobre lo demás no opino.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a terminar con la posible definición del Grupo Cairns. Yo creo que se trata de un tema que, en definitiva, da la misma redacción en las tres versiones. Si a ustedes les parece, lo que vamos a hacer es que algún miembro del Grupo Cairns diga exactamente lo que quiere decir y lo adaptamos a todas las versiones del informe general; ¿les parece bien? Yo pediría a Francia que dijese lo que pretende decir y lo pondríamos en todas las versiones. Tiene la palabra Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je ne cherche pas à donner une définition du Groupe de Cairns, cette définition existe. Je considère simplement que ce n'est pas à nous d'en donner ici et qu'il serait plus simple d'indiquer Groupe de Cairns, de même que l'on indiquait Groupe de l'OCDE, sans préciser qu'il s'agit du Groupe des pays industrialisés ou que l'on indiquait le Groupe des 77 sans indiquer qu'il s'agissait des pays en voie de développement. Nous ne sommes pas là pour donner des définitions des groupes qui existent, mais pour faire référence, si nous le souhaitons, aux travaux de ces groupes et je maintiens ma proposition visant à indiquer simplement le Groupe de Cairns.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizá el Grupo Cairns es mucho más nuevo que otros grupos; por ello la terminología no se conoce tan bien como lo que es la OCDE, el Grupo de los 77 o la Cumbre de Venecia. Por ello, quizá sea preferible decir algo en ese sentido, si lo consideran oportuno. En caso de que no lo consideren oportuno, terminaríamos el párrafo con las palabras "Grupo Cairns". Creo que es un tema que no tiene gran importancia. Considero que está por debajo del nivel de una Comisión que es-tá aprobando un informe. En cualquier caso - como les dije antes - estoy en sus manos. Si quieren, ponemos lo que es el Grupo de Cairns, y si quieren no lo ponemos, pero, por favor, no lo discutamos demasiado ya que creo que no cambia absolutamente para nada el informe. Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): En la Cumbre de Venecia se agrega "... dirigentes de los principales países industrializados"; en la OCDE se habla de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Económico. Si el colega de Francia quiere agregar algo más a esos dos organismos donde están incluidos, que lo añada, pero que no nos impida que en la expresión del Grupo Cairns se refleje tal y como es el tipo de nuestro grupo. Creemos que esto no es aceptable, señor Presidente.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I want to make a simple comment to my French colleague. It is not a very subtle difference. What we are saying here is that it is the Cairns Group of Agricultural Fair Trading Countries. That is the correct title of the Group. It is not in any way a definition of that Group. He may wish to interpret it that way, but that is the title of the group, and I must ask him to understand that.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): El problema se origina por el hecho de que en los textos español y francés el título del Grupo Cairns está escrito en forma incompleta. El Grupo Cairns figura con letras mayúsculas sólo en las palabras "Grupo" y "Cairns", mientras que en el texto inglés está escrito en su totalidad en letras mayúsculas, tal cual es prácticamente la definición aceptada del grupo. La proposición es reproducir al idioma español y al francés lo que está escrito en el texto inglés, es decir colocando las mayúsculas donde no están.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estamos pasando de niveles de redacción a niveles de mayúsculas, lo cual empieza a ser un poco más preocupante todavía, pero agradecemos la intervención que acaba de hacer el señor Moreno.

Yo llamo la atención de los señores delegados para que no descendamos a puntos que no nos corresponden y que no son de nuestra competencia, ya que son labores que han venido ya desarrollándose anteriormente. Cuando haya una diferencia, entre dos versiones, yo les ruego que procuren pasar a la Secretaría una nota para que las pongan de acuerdo una versión determinada - con la que ustedes quieran -, pero no demos demasiadas vueltas al mismo tema. ¿Francia podría aceptar esta propuesta que nos ha hecho el señor Moreno? (Asentimiento),

Philippe PIOTET (France): Oui, Monsieur le Président, dans la mesure où il s'agit d'indiquer de manière précise le titre et non pas de donner une définition, je n'ai aucune objection à cette formule.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos el problema que nos ha planteado la señora representante de Venezuela en relación con la palabra "parcial" o "puntual". Evidentemente, creo que tanto la palabra parcial como la palabra puntual indican actuaciones no globales, que es el caso del enfoque integrado a largo plazo. Cualquiera de las dos palabras podríamos aceptarlas, si bien ya habíamos aceptado puntuales. Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Con el propósito de ver si antes de irnos a almorzar se puede dejar zanjada la discusión sobre el párrafo 5, podríamos adoptar la redacción más simple y más parcial - para redundar en los dos términos - y decir simplemente "... más allá de la adopción de medidas a corto plazo". Creo que esto es lo que surge de discusiones tan largas y, con todo respeto, de trascendencia bastante relativa.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy de acuerdo con usted en la trascendencia bastante relativa en cuanto al empleo de estas palabras. ¿Podría aceptarse esta posibilidad de eliminar los calificativos? (Asentimiento). ¿Alguna objeción al párrafo 5? (Denegación).

Hemos terminado el párrafo 5 tras una hora y diez minutos.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 not concluded

Les paragraphes 1 à 12 sont en suspens

Los párrafos 1 a 12 quedan pendientes

Draft Report of Commission I, Part I, not concluded

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 1, est en suspens

Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 1, queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 13.05 hours

La séance est levée à 13 heures 05

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.05 horas

conference

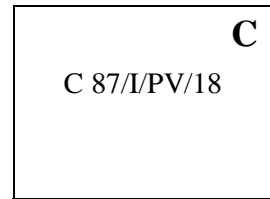
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conferencia

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Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24º período de sesiones
COMISION II

EIGHTEENTH MEETING
DIX-HUITIEME SEANCE
18ª SESION

(24 November 1987)

The Eighteenth Meeting was opened at 14.50 hours

D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dix-huitième seance est ouverte à 14 h 50,

sous la présidence de D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 18 sesión a las 14.50 horas

bajo la presidencia de D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (continued)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 1 (continued)

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 1 (suite)

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 1 (continuación)

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 12 (continued)

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 12 (suite)

PARRAFOS 1 a 12 (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su presencia. Vamos a empezar la segunda sesión de Aprobación del Informe. Mi deseo y pienso que el de todos Uds. es el de terminarlo hoy mismo, pero para ello, va a ser necesario que tengamos en cuenta una serie de reglas.

La primera de ellas sería no descender a aspectos que no corresponden a una Comisión y que teóricamente han sido resueltos en Comité de Redacción. Comprendo que, en determinados momentos, puede haber ciertos matices que son necesarios corregir y que es importante corregirlos. Pero en estos casos, yo les pido que, sobre todo si se trata de temas relacionados con la traducción, pasen una nota a la Secretaría; es decir, los aspectos, los matices de traducción, por favor, no los presentemos a discusión en esta Comisión.

Y la segunda cosa que yo les pediría es que sean conscientes de que al ritmo que hemos ido esta mañana y en la forma en que hemos llevado esta mañana la Aprobación del Informe, posiblemente vamos a necesitar muchas horas. Les ruego que aquellas cosas que sean verdaderamente importantes, las planteen y las discutamos tanto como sea necesario; pero las cuestiones de léxico y sobre todo las cuestiones de traducción, las resuelvan directamente pasando una nota a la Secretaría.

Dichas estas palabras, si les parece, comenzamos con el párrafo 6. ¿Hay alguna objeción al párrafo 6? Aprobado el párrafo 6.

Párrafo 7. ¿Hay alguna objeción?

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): We should like to have included in paragraph 7 after the expression "being highly unevenly distributed," the expression "and concentrated in developed countries".

El PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor representante del Brasil. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se incluya la adición propuesta por el representante del Brasil?

Ms Patricia WEST (United Kingdom): I should prefer, "and mainly concentrated in developed countries".

Philippe PIOTET (France): Pourriez-vous simplement nous indiquer à quel endroit se situe cet additif?

El PRESIDENTE: En la versión española, en el tercer renglón - en la versión francesa posiblemente sea muy parecido - y después de la palabra "distribuidos". ¿Se acepta la introducción de estas palabras en el párrafo siguiente? Perdón, creo que la propuesta del Reino Unido y la propuesta del Brasil son diferentes. No sé si hemos entendido bien, pero la diferencia fundamental no está en las palabras de la adición sino en la misma. Brasil ha dicho: "en los países en desarrollo" - o al menos eso hemos entendido -, y el Reino Unido dice: "países desarrollados". Reino Unido, ¿puede repetir su objeción?

Ms Patricia WEST (United Kingdom): As I understand it, Brazil suggested, "and concentrated in developed countries". I do not accept that surpluses are entirely concentrated in developed countries. Therefore, I suggest that we insert the word "mainly" before "concentrated" so that it would read, "and mainly concentrated in developed countries".

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, ahora ya he captado la diferencia de las dos intervenciones. ¿podría Brasil aceptar poner antes de "concentrado en los países desarrollados" las palabras "sobre todo"? ¿Lo podría aceptar Brasil?

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I do not know of much concentration of surpluses in developing countries, but, to make things easy, I could accept that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Párrafo 7, así enmendado, es aprobado. Párrafo 8. ¿Hay alguna objeción al párrafo 8? Aprobado. Párrafo 9. ¿Hay alguna objeción al párrafo 9? Aprobado. Párrafo 10. ¿Hay alguna objeción al párrafo 10?

Peter A. WIESMANN (Suisse): Dans l'avant-dernière phrase, où l'on dit "aider à formuler des politiques appropriées...", nous aimerions ajouter "aider à formuler et à mettre en oeuvre des politiques appropriées en matière..." (dans l'avant-dernière phrase qui commence "la Conférence a également exhorté la FAO à intensifier les avis et la formation...").

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a introducir: "y aplicar"? ¿Alguna otra objeción al párrafo 10?

Aprobado párrafo 10.

Párrafo 11. Han pedido la palabra las representaciones de Cuba y Brasil.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Si, señor Presidente, yo quisiera pedirle tanto a usted como a los distinguidos delegados volver al párrafo 8. Desafortunadamente yo no me encontraba en la sala y tengo en realidad una propuesta de fondo que hacer. Se refiere a aspectos que nos planteamos nosotros y otras delegaciones y, de verdad, le pediría que, si es posible, volvamos al párrafo 8, yo haría mi propuesta y la llevaríamos a consideración.

EL PRESIDENTE: por parte mía no hay ninguna objeción a que volvamos al párrafo 8, pero querría saber la opinión de la sala y quisiera saber también si se trata de volver sólo al párrafo 8 ¿La sala está dispuesta y acepta que volvamos otra vez al párrafo 8? Veo signos contradictorios.

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): While I have no problems, Mr Chairman, with going back I am sceptical about the precedent you are setting. Shall we be going back and forth in the future? I thought that you said we must consider the amount of time we have.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene usted razón, pero si les parece y sin que sirva de precedente, en la misma línea que se expresa el representante de Swazilandia, yo les propondría que volviésemos al párrafo 8, pero que en el futuro no volviésemos a tener saltos atrás. ¿Les parece bien que por una vez y excepcionalmente volvamos al párrafo 8? Tiene la palabra la delegación de Cuba.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Muchas gracias señor Presidente a usted y a los distinguidos delegados. Nosotros quisiéramos hacer, en la última oración del párrafo 8, unos agregados. Les voy a leer la última oración tal como quedaría en nuestra propuesta: "Se recomendó que en próximos estudios de la FAO sobre la alimentación y la agricultura en la región de América Latina y el Caribe, se incluyera un análisis de los efectos nocivos de la deuda externa en los esfuerzos para encontrar soluciones a los obstáculos para el desarrollo rural, alimentario y agrícola en los países de esa región". Esto, señor Presidente, fue expresado por delegaciones de nuestra región e, inclusive, fue recogido en el resumen que hizo el doctor Islam sobre el tema.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señora representante de Cuba. Ahora sí he podido tomar nota de su propuesta y espero que lo hayan podido hacer todos. ¿Hay alguna objeción a introducir esta nueva redacción?

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): I remember hearing some countries speak of items, or speak in a way which would lead us to make that kind of sentence. I remember maybe . "some countries", I would be willing even to accept "many countries" but "it" implies that it was the Conference and I think we are going a little far in making this something which the Conference recommended.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señora representante de los Estados Unidos. Tiene la palabra el representante del Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): Would it be acceptable to the American delegation if we put "the countries of the region" or "the Latin American Countries"?

EL PRESIDENTE: Preguntaremos a la señora representante de los Estados Unidos si podría aceptarlo.

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): If all the countries in the region agree, I think that is a very good solution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias por su comprensión. ¿Hay alguna objeción más a este párrafo? Procedemos a aprobar el párrafo 8 así enmendado.

Habíamos aprobado ya el párrafo 9 y también el párrafo 10. Pasamos al párrafo 11. Tiene la palabra Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I have a number of alterations to paragraph 11, if I may read from the English text. We start with, "The Conference noted with much concern the growing pressures on the environment posed by rising populations and development needs -" and I would add here, "- and the widespread of poverty".

Shall I continue with the other alterations or shall we go one by one?

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizá sea mejor ir una por una. Si a usted le parece bien, yo le pediría que volviese a tomar la palabra después de haber discutido esta frase del párrafo 11. ¿Hay inconveniente en que se incluyan las palabras propuestas por la delegación de Brasil?

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I am sorry to come in at this late hour but I think the consensus is that we should move as fast as possible on this. My understanding of the English text as it reads is that "development" includes poverty and all these other things. So it seems to be redundant and there is no need to go for these additional phrases.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría aceptar el delegado del Brasil que "la pobreza está implícita en las necesidades del desarrollo"?

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): I would like to suggest that perhaps it is better that we have all the amendments, because we might accept something which would not go with the rest of the amendments, the tentative ones to come later. Could we hear the whole story of the amendments on this paragraph and then comment?

EL PRESIDENTE: Si Brasil desea hacer todas las enmiendas seguidas, por mi parte no hay problema de ninguna clase. Ruego a Brasil que proceda a realizar sus enmiendas.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): It would be easier to go one by one. With the first amendment, "the wide spread of poverty", I am quoting from the Brundtland Report which we have quoted so often here but I believe that unfortunately poverty is not redundant, it is a reality.

My second amendment would be rather than, "The rapid disappearance of tropical forests", I do not know why we have to single out tropical forests because there is a rapid disappearance of many forests. I would suggest having "a fast rate of deforestation", then we continue "declining fishery stocks, increasing desertification, acid rain and water contamination...". Then we go on as in the text, "were but some manifestations of the widespread abuse of the environment". Then it continues, "The Conference welcomed the recent reports", actually this refers only to the Brundtland Report but there are two reports on the same subject. One is the Brundtland Report and the other is the UNEP Report which is an inter-governmental report. The Brundtland Commission is an independent commission but there is also the UNEP Report which my delegation at least mentioned, "(also known as the Brundtland Report), and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond". Then we go on, "and noted that although environmental deterioration was not limited to the developing countries alone", then I would change it once again and put, "serious economic difficulties were leading to a fast pace of degradation in these countries". I do not know if I have made myself understood, that is why I would prefer to go bit by bit.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene usted razón, quizá sea mejor que vayamos de una en una. No obstante le quiero recordar que se trata de un resumen, por lo que no puede ser una exposición detallada de todas las cosas que se han dicho. Efectivamente, son muchas más que las que están aquí comprendidas. Si es posible, yo les pediría que cuando una frase sea comprensiva de varias posibilidades, no intentemos decirlas todas. Evidentemente no se acaban las manifestaciones con las que están aquí expuestas; hay alguna más. Comprendo que en algunos casos puede ser necesario ampliar la lista.

Por otra parte, les pediría un poco de comprensión porque, lógicamente, los puntos de vista de todos los delegados no pueden ser expuestos en un informe. En ese caso no sería necesario hacer un informe, sino que nos tendría que bastar con las actas porque para eso están los verbatim y además son dos aspectos completamente distintos.

Siguiendo su indicación, vamos a ir una por una en las cuatro modificaciones que nos ha propuesto a este párrafo. La primera es incluir, después de la primera frase "... y la amplia pobreza." El delegado de Ghana nos ha puesto una objeción porque en Las necesidades del desarrollo está incluida la frase "... la amplia pobreza". ¿Incluimos las palabras "la amplia pobreza"? Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Quisiera apoyar a Brasil, pero también trato de entender la posición de nuestro colega de Ghana. Podría utilizarse el término que ahora está generalizado en las Naciones Unidas, como es el de "la pobreza absoluta".

EL PRESIDENTE: Debido a la dificultad de quorum y no habiendo miembros suficientes en todas las comisiones nos proponen, si es posible, levantar la sesión. Yo propondría que después de aprobar estos dos párrafos del punto 6.1, volvemos a reunir una hora después, a las 4.30. El programa sería el siguiente: continuaríamos hasta las 5.30 ó 5.45 y si no hubiéramos terminado hoy, terminaríamos mañana por la mañana. ¿Hay algún inconveniente en este calendario?

Si les parece, vamos a continuar con el punto 11 y con el añadido que ha propuesto Brasil, en el sentido de, si es necesario, poner "la amplia pobreza" y si se puede sustituir por "pobreza absoluta". Si no hay inconveniente, incluiremos "pobreza absoluta". Sí, incluimos entonces "pobreza absoluta".

En la segunda frase el representante de Brasil ha hecho una llamada a la inclusión de algunos otros factores, como es la lluvia ácida. Si bien, antes de la lluvia ácida, ha hecho una reflexión sobre la conveniencia de no hablar solamente de los bosques tropicales, sino de la amplia deforestación. ¿Se podría aceptar que en vez de hablar de los bosques tropicales se hablara de la rápida tasa de deforestación? Aceptamos también esta propuesta.

En cuanto a la tercera propuesta de incluir, dentro de las manifestaciones, la lluvia ácida, ¿la aceptarían ustedes así o sería también necesario incluir los incendios o cualquier otro factor que se considere oportuno? El problema surge cuando se habla de una forma general y se quiere después simplificar.

José Eduardo MENDES FERRAO (Portugal): L'inclusion des pluies acides vise aussi l'inclusion des incendies de forêt.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I have nothing against including the many manifestations of environmental problems here, but I proposed "acid rains" because it is a typical problem caused by industrial countries. Acid rains are coming down from the north to the south, and if we mention desertification and deforestation I think we should also mention acid rains.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a que incluyamos los dos aspectos de lluvia ácida e incendios forestales? Se incluyen los dos.

Finalmente había otra propuesta que se refiere a la última frase relativa "a las serias dificultades económicas para los países en desarrollo".

Han pedido la palabra Cabo Verde, Francia y Brasil.

Antonio R. PIRES (Cap-Vert): Je voulais dire qu'on pourrait peut-être demander au Comité de rédaction de nous préparer quelque chose et de nous le présenter parce que parler en même temps de pluies acides, de développement et de pauvreté absolue devient une phrase très compliquée. Nous ferons confiance au Secrétariat pour revoir toutes les positions soutenues ici par les uns et les autres et pour nous présenter quelque chose en deux phrases plus claires.

EL PRESIDENTE: Realmente es lo que ha hecho el Comité de Redacción. Se ha reunido durante varios días y además han sido sesiones bastante prolongadas. Ha habido muchos días en que hemos salido

muy próximos a la media noche. Lo que ocurre es que muchas veces para llegar a estas redacciones que pueden ser criticables ha sido necesario también llegar a un consenso y a discutir el tema durante mucho tiempo. Creo que el problema no está tanto en devolver esto al Comité de Redacción, como que sepamos que ha pasado por el Comité de Redacción, y que consideremos aquellos temas que verdaderamente son necesarios considerar en la aprobación de un informe final, sin constituirnos nosotros mismos en comité de redacción.

Si tuviésemos que constituirnos, estaríamos de acuerdo con la propuesta de Cabo Verde. Por otra parte, me temo que los resultados pudieran ser muy parecidos. En cualquier caso, como les he dicho desde el principio, estoy en sus manos y acepto cualquier decisión que mayoritariamente se tome por parte de esta Comisión.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je partage tout à fait l'avis du délégué du Cap-Vert, je crois qu'il ne faut pas refaire ce texte qui est un bon texte. En ce qui concerne les pluies acides, je suggère que l'on ne parle pas de pluies acides mais de dépérissement des forêts car le terme de pluies acides est un terme beaucoup trop spécifique alors que celui de dépérissement est un terme plus général qui me semble plus approprié. Je demande qu'on emploie ce terme de dépérissement de forêts et non pas celui de pluies acides.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I think we have already accepted "acid rains", but I wish to take the floor because you omitted one of my suggestions, Mr Chairman. I suggested that we refer not only to the B rundtland Report but to the UNEP Report, which are similar and parallel reports which were prepared at the same time. So I would suggest that the UNEP Report, also known as the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond be also mentioned. Those two reports are being studied together in the United Nations General Assembly. They are two different documents. One is an inter-government document and the other is an independent document. They both exist, and we attach equal importance to both those two documents.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene usted razón. Evidentemente me había olvidado de este tema.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): I agree with the comments made by the delegate of Brazil that we should include the concept of acid rain, but wish to recommend that we still leave in mention of tropical forests because we believe that these forests have a particular significance in terms of controlling the global climate. So we should leave in the word "tropical" and perhaps other forests, but that must still remain. After all that was the focus of the discussions during that particular session.

I also endorse Brazil's suggestion of including the UNEP Report on the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond, because I am very familiar with its contents; it is part of the main focus for the coming years.

We think we should put back into the paragraph the concept of tropical forests because of the particular environmental role they play in controlling the global climate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo les pido que, por favor, una vez que hayamos tomado una decisión no volvamos otra vez a la misma. Si hemos aceptado ya la lluvia ácida y los incendios forestales, por favor, no volvamos otra vez al mismo punto. Si no, va a ser muy difícil poder avanzar.

Por otra parte, me comunica la Secretaría que durante las sesiones, no se habló para nada del Informe PNUMA. Esto no significa tampoco demasiado, porque si Uds. quieren, evidentemente se puede incluir ahora, pero lo lógico es que se hubiese dicho anteriormente puesto que esto es un Acta resumida. Si no se habló del Informe PNUMA, creo que tendríamos ciertas dificultades de tipo procesal para poderlo incluir.

No sé; quizá convenga que refresquemos un poco nuestras ideas, levantemos ahora mismo la sesión para que se pueda asistir a la Comisión III sacrificándonos durante una hora, y a las cuatro y media en punto, nos volvamos a reunir para poder discutir el punto 11. Les ruego que, mientras tanto, las dificultades que pueda haber entre las distintas posiciones las comenten ustedes.

Nos reuniremos aquí de nuevo, y la Comisión III se está celebrando en la Sala Plenaria.

The meeting was suspended from 15.30 to 16.55 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15 h 30 à 16 h 55

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.30 a las 16.55 horas

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a continuar con la aprobación del informe. No sé si durante este descanso se han hecho algunas gestiones para llegar a acercar las posturas en lo que se refiere al punto 11. También desconozco si Brasil nos puede dar alguna información sobre posibles acercamientos en los puntos de vista. En caso contrario, yo pediría a Brasil que repitiera las cuatro propuestas pero, por favor, de una en una.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): As I understood it - perhaps I am wrong - we had already approved the first and second sentences, and we are in the third one. Am I right or not?

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que la primera y la segunda estaban aprobadas, pero hasta tanto no se termine la aprobación definitiva del punto 11 ninguna de ellas está definitivamente aprobada; por ello, yo rogaría que hiciera las propuestas de una en una y la 1 y la 2 supongo que serán aprobadas inmediatamente. Si no le importa, empecemos por la primera propuesta.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): I will repeat them. The first one was, "The Conference noted with much concern the growing pressures on the environment posed by rising populations, development needs and the wide spread of poverty".

The second sentence, "The fast rate of deforestation, declining fishery stocks, and increasing desertification, acid rains, and water contamination..." - and I think someone had included "forest fires" - "... were but some manifestations of the widespread abuse of the environment."

The third sentence: "The Conference welcomed the recent reports of the World Commission on Environment and Development and of UNEP (also known as the Brundtland Report) and the Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond and noted that although environmental deterioration was not limited to the developing countries alone, serious economic difficulties were leading to a fast pace of degradation in these countries."

EL PRESIDENTE: Por favor, señor representante de Brasil, ¿tendría inconveniente en pasarlo por escrito a la Secretaría?

Si le parece, vamos a dejar el párrafo 11 hasta tanto nos lo pase por escrito y volveremos inmediatamente después del 12 y, posiblemente, antes de empezar el punto 6.2.

Párrafo 12. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Brasil tiene la palabra.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): This is the Brazilian amendment to paragraph 11 in the draft on SOFA, the State of Food and Agriculture: "The Conference noted with much concern the growing pressures on the environment posed by rising populations, development needs and widespread poverty. The fast rate of deforestation, declining fish stocks, increasing desertification, acid rains, forest fires and water contamination were but some manifestations of the widespread abuse of the environment. The Conference welcomed the recent reports of the UNEP and of the Brundtland Commission (Environmental Perspective to the Year 2000 and Beyond) and the Brundtland Report and noted that, although environmental deterioration was not limited to the developing countries alone, serious economic difficulties were leading to a fast pace of degradation in these countries."

Do you want that read at dictation pace now, Mr Chairman?

El PRESIDENTE: No sé si han podido tomar nota o si prefieren que se lea una segunda vez el texto o es suficiente con la lectura que ya ha realizado la Secretaría. Parece que no hay nadie que necesite una nueva lectura, y en consecuencia, sometemos el párrafo a la aprobación. ¿Hay alguna objeción a la aprobación del párrafo con la redacción que ha propuesto Brasil?

Si no hay ninguna objeción, queda aprobado.

Almir F. DE SÁ BARBUDA (Brazil): I propose a slight modification in the third sentence: "Sustainable development would have to be based on the goal of conserving as far as possible the national resource bases."

El PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a la propuesta de Brasil sobre el párrafo 12? Se aprueba el párrafo 12 con la modificación propuesta por Brasil. Si Brasil todavía no ha podido preparar la propuesta de redacción del párrafo 12.

Vamos a pedir a la Secretaría, por favor, que nos lea la redacción que ha propuesto Brasil para el párrafo 11. Le vamos a pedir que nos lo lea primero a velocidad normal y a continuación, a velocidad de dictado. La Secretaría tiene la palabra.

Paragraphs 1 to 12 as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 12 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 12, así enmendados, son aprobados

Vamos a empezar con el párrafo 13. ¿Alguna objeción al párrafo 13? Se aprueba el párrafo 13.

Se aprueba el párrafo 14; se aprueba el párrafo 15; se aprueba el párrafo 16; se aprueba el párrafo

17. Párrafo 18. ¿Alguna objeción? Swazilandia tiene la palabra.

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): I should like to propose that paragraph 18 should come immediately after paragraph 20; that it should be rearranged to come into a position after paragraph 20 and that paragraphs 19 and 20 should be moved upwards. It reads better in that position because paragraphs 19 and 20 talk about the issues referred to in paragraph 17.

EL PRESIDENTE: Su propuesta no es al contenido, sino exclusivamente a la colocación de este párrafo.

Si le parece, discutiremos esto a continuación, pero vamos a ver las posibles objeciones que tiene el actual párrafo 18. ¿Hay alguna objeción al actual párrafo 18? Se aprueba. Se aprueba el actual párrafo 19. Se aprueba el actual párrafo 20.

Tenemos la propuesta de Swazilandia de pasar el párrafo 18 a continuación del 20 ¿hay alguna objeción a esta modificación de colocación? Se acepta la propuesta de Swazilandia y el párrafo 18, en el informe final, irá después del párrafo 20, con lo cual habrá que variar la numeración. Perdón, tiene la palabra el señor Bonte-Friedheim.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I wonder whether, through you, Mr Chairman, I could ask the delegate of Swaziland whether he wanted 18 before or after 20. I think it would be good if this closed with 20, because paragraph 20 emphasises total control of grasshoppers and locusts. I would like to see whether he could agree that 18 and 19 should switch places but that 20 should stay as the final paragraph.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría aceptar el delegado de Swazilandia la propuesta que nos ha hecho el señor Bonte-Friedheim?

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): I have no objections, but I need to explain why I had suggested that paragraph 18 should form paragraph 20. It is because paragraph 17 is somewhat lukewarm on follow-up action. Paragraph 19 and paragraph 20 are strong on that point, and so I wanted to put paragraphs 19 and 20 together with 17 because otherwise 17 raises a number of questions with respect to follow-up action. In fact, it gives an impression that all is well after the emergency operations, and yet these are covered somewhat more adequately in paragraphs 19 and 20, but otherwise I have no problem.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Presidente del Comité de Redacción me pide la palabra y quizá nos pueda aclarar bastante sobre este tema.

Steen SØNDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The question of where to place the present paragraph 18 was discussed in the Drafting Committee. In the original draft it was placed as a last paragraph, but in the Drafting Committee there was a feeling that it should not be the last paragraph and it was therefore proposed to move it up to be the third to last. I should like to support Mr Bonte-Friedheim in that it should not be the last paragraph. If there is a need to switch paragraph 18 and paragraph 19, I think that is quite all right.

EL PRESIDENTE: Nos encontramos con tres posibilidades; una, dejarlo como está; otra, poner el 18 detrás del 19, y la tercera, poner el 18 detrás del 19 y 20. ¿Podría ser una solución de consenso cambiar el orden de los párrafos 18 y 19? ¿Podría aceptarse por parte de todos? ¿El delegado de Swazilandia aceptaría el orden de los párrafos 18 y 19?

Magalela NGWENYA (Swaziland): No, Mr Chairman, I would rather withdraw the suggestion because I think the explanation suffices.

Paragraphs 13 to 20 approved

Les paragraphes 13 à 20 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 13 a 20 son aprobados

Paragraphs 21 to 26, including draft resolution Paragraphes 21 à 26, y compris le projet de résolution Párrafos 21 a 26, incluido el proyecto de resolución

EL PRESIDENTE: Párrafo 26. Pasamos al REP/1-sup.1: Situación alimentaria y agrícola en el mundo y la Resolución del Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Me comunica la Secretaría que esta Resolución ha sido ya considerada en Comisión, y en consecuencia, creemos que no es necesario volver otra vez a discutirlo puesto que ha sido ya aprobada y considerada por esta misma Comisión.

Paragraphs 21 to 26, including draft resolution, approved
Les paragraphes 21 à 26, y compris le projet de résolution, sont approuvés
Los párrafos 21 a 26, incluido el proyecto de resolución, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 1, as amended, was adopted
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 1, ainsi amendé, est adopté
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte I, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 2
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 2
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 2

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 15
PARAGRAPHES 1 à 15
PARRAFOS 1 a 15

Pasamos al documento REP/2: estudio de viabilidad sobre la ampliación del suministro de insumos agrícolas como ayuda en especie. Tema 7 del programa.

Párrafo 1. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado.

Párrafo 2, párrafo 3, párrafo 4, párrafo 5, párrafo 6, párrafo 7, párrafo 8, párrafo 9, párrafo 10.

¿Hay alguna objeción? Párrafos aprobados.

Párrafo 11. Me pide la palabra el Sr. Bonte-Friedheim.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): It is not a matter of substance but of format. In the fourth sentence of paragraph 11, it says in English, "The Conference, however". The "however" should be deleted because it was in the first draft provided. But then the sentence which precedes this one was included and therefore the "however" is superfluous and should be deleted from the draft. It should read "The Conference supported the idea that recipients should be responsible for any decisions as to the nature, volume.." etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: Supongo que esta misma objeción es válida también para los otros dos idiomas: el francés y el español. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se quiten las palabras "sin embargo" en español o en las otras expresiones correspondientes en francés o inglés? Se suprimen, y se aprueba el párrafo 11.

Párrafo 12. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado.

Párrafo 13, párrafo 14, párrafo 15. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Párrafos aprobados.

Paragraphs 1 to 15, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 15, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 15, así enmendados, son aprobados

PARAGRAPHS 16 to 31

PARAGRAPHES 16 à 31

PARRAFOS 16 a 31

Pasamos al tema 8 del proyecto: Reajuste Agrícola Internacional: informe sobre la situación. Párrafo 16. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je proposerais une petite modification dans la deuxième phrase du texte français; je propose de remplacer "afin de garantir des prix justes et stables....." par "qui constitue un élément contribuant à assurer des prix justes et équitables...".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a la propuesta de la delegación francesa? Australia tiene la palabra.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): My quick reading of this is that it gives the view which was generally strongly expressed in this Commission right through the debate on this item. There was general agreement on the need to dismantle protectionism and that was the prime reason which most, in fact many, many, delegations put forward to ensure fair and stable prices for agricultural commodities. I think it is not just an element, it is the prime element and the wording should stand as it is.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je crois que dans le texte français, au moins, l'idée de garantir des prix justes et stables n'est nullement modifiée par la proposition que j'ai faite.

Pascal GOUTON (Bénin): Je crois que la phrase telle que libellée ici traduit mieux les points de vue des Etats des pays en développement; la formule proposée par la France semble traduire une idée qui engage moins les pays qui protègent leurs marchés contre la commercialisation des produits issus des pays en voie de développement. C'est pourquoi, je propose ici que l'expression telle qu'elle a été inscrite soit conservée.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias al Delegado de Benin. ¿Podía pedir al Representante de Francia que volviese otra vez a leer su propuesta?; porque quizás haya un matiz que no hemos captado.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je relis ma proposition: "Qui constitue un élément contribuant à assurer des prix justes et équitables pour les produits agricoles".

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Oyéndolo en castellano, la frase es muy paradójica. O sea, se está hablando de que hubo acuerdo general sobre la necesidad de eliminar el proteccionismo comercial, y después se está tratando de insertar en esta frase un elemento positivo que el proteccionismo pudiera tener. Creo que no cabe en esta frase. La frase quien la lea y quien no haya seguido el debate no va a entender qué es lo que se puede querer decir. Se podría, si el delegado de Francia quiere que este concepto quede agregado en el Informe, agregar una frase diciendo: "algunas delegaciones opinaron que algunas formas de proteccionismo pueden constituir un elemento contribuyente a asegurar", o algo por el estilo. Pero así, esta frase nos resulta una frase sencillamente paradójica.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): De acuerdo con la traducción que nosotros recibimos en español, yo le podría decir que no estoy de acuerdo con la propuesta de la delegación francesa porque nosotros consideramos que el proteccionismo, la eliminación del proteccionismo no contribuye sino que es fundamental para asegurar los precios justos. Por lo tanto no es que lo consideramos como contribución marginal; lo consideramos como una contribución fundamental. De allí que en el texto en español, "para asegurar" creo que es lo que vale.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Delegado de Argentina y perdone si no había visto que había levantado su cartel antes que Venezuela. Perdóneme; realmente no me había fijado. El Presidente del Comité de Redacción quizás nos pueda aclarar algo en este sentido.

Steen SØNDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): This was discussed at some length in the Drafting Committee and we agreed on the wording which you have here now. So I would like to defend the paper as it stands.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a Ud. Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Evidentemente quizás sea necesario, si el Delegado de Francia quiere introducir una nueva frase, porque yo he sido miembro también del Comité de Redacción y recuerdo perfectamente la discusión que en este sentido se desarrolló y las dificultades que tuvimos para llegar a un acuerdo, quizás el intentar cambiar algo que a todos los efectos parece claro, difícilmente va a ser posible. ¿Puede el delegado de Francia proponer alguna otra frase que hiciese posible también incluir su idea?

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je ne pense pas qu'il y ait lieu de refaire les débats, mais certaines délégations, dont la mienne, ne partagent pas le point de vue qui est indiqué sous cette deuxième phrase. La proposition que je faisais visait à rétablir cet équilibre. Dans ces conditions, je ne propose pas une phrase nouvelle qui alourdirait le rapport, mais au lieu de dire "On s'est accordé à reconnaître ..." il faudrait trouver une formule selon laquelle "de nombreuses délégations se sont accordées à reconnaître." Mais je ne pense pas que l'on puisse dire "la Conférence s'est accordée...". Si cette seconde proposition était acceptable par les autres pays, je pense qu'elle refléterait les débats.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podría servir esta fórmula; es decir, sustituir "hubo acuerdo general" por "muchas delegaciones estuvieron de acuerdo sobre la necesidad de...".

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): A mi delegación le parece que en realidad para un poco estar de acuerdo con esa última frase, teniendo en cuenta que aceptábamos el párrafo como está, pues en vez de "algunas delegaciones" o "muchas delegaciones", deberíamos poner "la mayoría" o "hubo acuerdo general en la mayoría de las delegaciones", o sea que fuera "la mayoría de las delegaciones estuvo de acuerdo sobre la necesidad". Tal vez esto pueda ser aceptado por el delegado de Francia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Argentina tiene la palabra. Perdón, Australia.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): Argentina and Australia are very good friends on this particular issue, Mr Chairman, and I can well understand your confusion down here or up there. I would be a bit stronger than the delegate from Cuba on this than just saying "The majority". If we want to get away from the words "general agreement", I would suggest we say, "The overwhelming majority of delegates" or "of members agreed on the need to dismantle". I would certainly not want to go beyond that. It is my recollection that only one or maybe two delegates actually disagreed with this particular proposition we have before us and we certainly would not want to go beyond "The overwhelming majority" or something like that.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je pense que "une grande majorité" refléterait convenablement la situation. Tous les pays ne sont pas présents dans cette salle et si cette formule était acceptable je pense qu'on pourrait mettre fin à la discussion sur ce paragraphe.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor delegado de Francia, por su comprensión. ¿Alguna modificación u objeción más al párrafo 17? Se aprueba entonces con la redacción propuesta por la delegación de Australia y apoyada por otros muchos países. Es decir, podemos decir "una gran mayoría de países estuvo de acuerdo sobre la necesidad etc.". Es aceptable por todos, ¿no es así? Se aprueba el párrafo 17, así enmendado.

Párrafo 18. ¿Alguna objeción? Queda aprobado el párrafo 18.

Párrafo 19. Tiene la palabra Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I suggest that we add at the end of paragraph 19 a phrase stating that the economic adjustment programme should be in accordance with the national policies and priorities of the countries concerned. So, perhaps we could add "in accordance with the national policies and priorities of the countries concerned" or "of those countries" if you prefer.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna objeción a la propuesta del delegado del Brasil? ¿La podría leer otra vez, más lentamente, señor delegado?

J- Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): Yes, Mr Chairman. I propose adding at the end of paragraph 19 the words "in accordance with the national policies and priorities of those countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se incluya este añadido? Se aprueba, en consecuencia, el párrafo 19.

Párrafo 20. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Tiene la palabra el señor delegado de Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je propose que dans la deuxième phase, pour mettre en harmonie les différents textes, on remplace le terme "la méthode" par "le concept" et que l'on supprime les mots "pour la première fois".

Le début de la seconde phrase se lirait donc ainsi: "Elle a noté avec satisfaction que le concept adopté par la FAO dans le cadre de l'ajustement agricole international..." le reste sans changement.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que se trata de un problema de traducción. En español, al menos en la versión que yo tengo, no pone "por primera vez", incluso creo que en el Comité de Redacción esto se había eliminado; es decir se habían eliminado los términos "por primera vez".

En cuanto al "concepto adoptado" o "método experimentado", ¿se podría aceptar esta propuesta del delegado de Francia?; es decir cambiar las palabras "método experimentado" por "concepto adoptado". ¿Se acepta la modificación propuesta por Francia?

Tiene la palabra Australia, ya que aunque la había pedido anteriormente Argentina, ésta le cede el turno, ya que esta última delegación desea intervenir sobre otro tema.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I think the delegate of Argentina perhaps wanted to refer back to an earlier point, but on this particular one I am not too sure exactly where things stood when FAO first looked at this matter. It may well have been a concept at that stage, but certainly today the work that OECD is doing is a method; it is no longer a concept. I think we could be very precise. Along with the French suggestion, we could say "It noted with satisfaction that the concept pioneered by FAO in the context of International Agricultural Adjustment", but then we would have to say "and the consequent method elaborated by OECD for measuring", and it reads on from there. That brings in the idea that there was a concept to begin with, but now there is a methodology existing in OECD for this working out of subsidy equivalents. We do not want to get away from that. I would just leave that with the Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. Tiene la palabra la delegada de los Estados Unidos, si es para tratar de este mismo tema; si no fuera así le rogaría que esperase a intervenir en el momento adecuado. Si es para este tema, adelante.

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): I was just going to say that it is my understanding that the producer subsidy equivalent is an analytical method; it is no longer a concept. At least for our part we should like to see it either as it is now in the current draft or amended along the line suggested by Australia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias. ¿Quiere Francia hacer uso de la palabra? Tiene usted la palabra, señor delegado.

Philippe PIOTET (France): J'adopte tout à fait la proposition de l'Australie et des Etats-Unis.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor delegado de Francia, lo que pasa es que tenemos dos propuestas, la de Australia y la de Estados Unidos. La de Estados Unidos es que la redacción se quede como está o, en su defecto, aceptar la propuesta Australiana, que es de modificación, a no ser que, Australia, ¿retira la posible modificación?

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I have the impression from the French delegate that he was happy with the wording that I had suggested. I do not think the United States has too many problems with that, so I would suggest that we substitute the word "concept" at the beginning of the sentence, and then have "Agricultural Adjustment and" followed by the words "consequent methods elaborated by OECD", and leave it at that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le voy a hacer una propuesta al delegado de Australia que, posiblemente, pueda ser aceptada por todos. ¿Usted tendría inconveniente en dejar el texto como está? El problema está en que al parecer y digo al parecer porque yo no soy experto en el tema quien ha desarrollado el método no ha sido la OCDE, sino que ha sido la FAO, según me comunican de Secretaría. Quizás, en este caso, habría que tener este detalle en cuenta, si es que el delegado de Australia considera que, efectivamente, eso es así. De todas formas, tiene la palabra para que nos explique mejor su propuesta.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): When I first raised this matter I said I was not fully aware of how things stood when FAO first looked at this particular method, concept, idea. If the facts are that FAO did, in fact, pioneer a method and it was not a concept, an idea, a flimsy idea, in someone's mind, and they actually came down to tints and started to develop an analytical method for measuring these producer subsidy equivalents, then I will go along with the fact. I think it would then be up to the French delegate to argue his case that that word "method" should be changed to "concept". I am quite happy with the word "method" as it stands here. If FAO stands by the view that they developed the method I am quite happy to support them in this. I think the French have a problem rather than ourselves.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor representante de Australia pero le recuerdo que Francia ha retirado la objeción; es decir, acepta la redacción que está en el borrador. En cualquier caso, señor representante de Australia, antes de que vuelva a intervenir usted le voy a dar la palabra al señor Hjord, que creo que nos podrá aclarar los conceptos, al menos a los que somos profanos en el tema.

H.W. HJORT (Director, Policy Analysis Division): I believe the record would show that the methodology, and therefore the method, was pioneered by FAO. FAO has a long history of publishing estimates of producer subsidy equivalents. The methodology initially developed by FAO has been elaborated and augmented in its use by OECD.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor Hjord. Tiene la palabra el representante de Australia.

Michael Joseph RYAN: (Australia): Having listened to that, I will return to what I said. I think we should now turn to the French delegate and ask his idea of whether the word "method" should be retained in the text, and we leave out my subsequent amendment to the text and, in fact, leave the text as it stands. I put it to the French delegate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias señor representante de Australia. Creo que todos estamos de acuerdo y va a ser necesario explicar muy poco, porque Francia también ha retirado su propuesta de modificación del texto; es decir, exactamente igual que usted, con lo cual las dos propuestas previas de modificación que había han desaparecido.

Si les parece bien y si no hay ninguna otra objeción, una vez retiradas las dos propuestas de modificación, dejamos el texto tal como está. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se apruebe así? Francia ha pedido la palabra.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Tout à fait d'accord pour garder le mot "méthode". Je demande simplement que dans le texte français on supprime les termes: "pour la première fois".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias; como ya le había anunciado, este es un problema del texto francés el cual será puesto de acuerdo con los otros textos donde no dice esto.

¿Hay alguna otra objeción al párrafo 20?

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): En el tercer renglón, donde finalizan las palabras "con el fin", nosotros quisiéramos cambiar el texto y hacer eventualmente, algún otro tipo de negociación: "Con el fin de - y aquí estamos proponiendo otro texto nuevo - favorecer la transparencia del mercado internacional", y retomar entonces, donde dice "pero" y cambiar esta palabra "pero" para poner "asimismo". Por consiguiente el texto, señor Presidente, quedaría así: "La Conferencia acojería con beneplácito el debate sobre política que se hallaba en curso en la OCDE, con vistas a la reforma de las políticas agrícolas, con el fin de favorecer la transparencia del mercado internacional y eliminar algunas de las causas que inhiben el desarrollo ordenado del comercio agrícola. Asimismo deploró la persistencia, etc., etc." ¿Se pudo tomar, señor Presidente?

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias señor representante de Argentina; creo que sí se pudo tomar, pero si fuera necesario lo repetiríamos a continuación.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I am sorry to go back to the question we were talking about. I did hear the French delegate say "for the first time." We have the word in the English text "pioneered", and I wonder if that is in the French text, because I would like to see that word retained. As Mr Hjort said, it was pioneered, it was originated, by this Organization.

In the French text is there the words "for the first time" or the word "pioneered"? I want a clarification, please.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a dar la palabra a la Secretaría para que nos explique cómo están los tres textos, el español, donde no dice ni "pionera", ni "por primera vez"; el inglés, donde al parecer dice "por primera vez"; y el francés, donde dice "por primera vez". Si la Secretaría tiene la amabilidad, quizá nos pueda explicar la situación actual. Quizás lo que haya que determinar es si los conceptos "pionera" o "por primera vez" deben continuar o no deben continuar. En español no está este concepto en ningún sentido. Quizás lo que se discute es sí, efectivamente, este método fue pionero o no fue pionero o si la FAO es la que realmente fue pionera o no fue pionera o si fue por primera vez. En definitiva, si no fue así, evidentemente esto habría que quitarlo. En cualquier caso, quizás la Secretaría nos puede informar algo sobre la aplicación de este método. Pero antes, tiene la palabra Nueva Zelanda.

S. RAJASEKAR (New Zealand); Perhaps I could throw a little bit of light on this. My recollection has a little bit to do with the OECD Study. My recollection is that the original methodology was pioneered by Professor Josling for FAO, or some work he did for FAO, in the early 1970s. The methodology was subsequently more recently adopted by the OECD in the context of its Trade Mandate Study.

I think "pioneered" is perhaps appropriate in this context and accurate enough in its description.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, señor delegado de Nueva Zelanda. Quizás sus conocimientos nos permitan terminar con este problema de esta forma. Tiene la palabra Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Puisque ma délégation avait soulevé cette question, je proposais simplement de supprimer de ces mots. Pour simplifier le débat que je veux pas ouvrir à nouveau, je rappellerai simplement que cette notion d'équivalent subventions avait été élaborée par le deuxième Comité du GATT lors des négociations du Kennedy Round en 1960. Ceci n'a pas été contesté.

Donc sans rouvrir le débat, je propose que l'on supprime ces termes "pour la première fois" qui n'apportent pas grand-chose à notre discussion et qui peuvent être contestés par un certain nombre d'experts.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay algún comentario? Suprimimos el concepto "por primera vez". Australia tiene la palabra.

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): I do not know whether that is good enough. We have had a statement from the Secretariat; we have had a statement from the New Zealand delegate outlining the position as they understand it, that is, that it was FAO that pioneered this methodology. We now have a statement from the French delegate saying that it went back to the GATT Second Committee in the 1960s. We have the problem of who is historically accurate on this point. I would have thought that it is not of any great moment and that certainly FAO, if not right from day one, was involved, and they were certainly there in the very early days when this methodology was put forward.

I would like to see the word "pioneered" retained. I think it is appropriate, and that we should retain the wording as appropriate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a ver si encontramos una solución acorde. Evidentemente es un tema histórico en el que difícilmente vamos a poder discutir porque me da la impresión de que muchos de los que

estamos aquí no conocemos los antecedentes históricos, aunque la ayuda que nos ha prestado el delegado de Nueva Zelandia, así como el de Francia - que sí los conocen, aunque no coincidan en sus apreciaciones - también nos pueden ser muy útiles a la hora de tomar una decisión.

Podríamos proponer que "tomó nota con satisfacción que el método adoptado desarrollado por la FAO ... " ¿podría ser ésta la solución? "El método fue adoptado por la FAO" parece que está claro y quizá pudiera ser una solución de compromiso para todos. Francia tiene la palabra.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Monsieur le Président, je suis tout autant pressé que vous d'aboutir sur cette question technique et ponctuelle. Je crois qu'il faut que nous soyons exacts. Ne pourrait-on dire "la méthode adoptée depuis de nombreuses années" par exemple, sans entrer dans des débats approfondis? Donc, je propose "la méthode adoptée depuis de nombreuses années par la FAO".

EL PRESIDENTE: Le aseguro que no tengo ninguna prisa especial. Tengo solamente la prisa de poder cumplir con un calendario, pero nada más. No hay ningún problema con estar el tiempo que sea necesario. Lo que ocurre es que también es necesario que lo que se discuta sean cosas de suficiente importancia. Evidentemente, podríamos aceptar esta propuesta que usted hace. No sé si hay alguna objeción por parte de algún miembro. Si no hubiese ninguna objeción, podríamos poner "desarrollado desde hace muchos años por la FAO". ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se ponga así? Se acepta la propuesta francesa y queda de la forma siguiente: "desarrollado desde hace muchos años por la FAO". ¿Alguna objeción al párrafo 20? Argentina tiene la palabra.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Quisiera conocer cuál ha sido la respuesta a mi sugerencia en cuanto a la corrección del tercer renglón.

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que no había habido ninguna objeción a su propuesta. Si usted lo cree conveniente, la volvemos a repetir. En caso contrario lo aceptamos así. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se siga este procedimiento?

¿Se aprueba el párrafo 20? Tiene la palabra Estados Unidos.

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): We were able to note only part of the recommended amendment by the delegate of Argentina. I would like to hear it again from either the delegate of Argentina or the Secretariat in order that we may know what we are adopting.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social):

De acuerdo con la proposición Argentina, el párrafo quedaría de la siguiente manera: "La Conferencia acogió con beneplácito el debate sobre políticas que se hallaban en curso en la OCDE con vistas a la reforma de las políticas agrícolas, con el fin de - aquí se inserta la nueva parte - favorecer la transparencia del mercado internacional y eliminar algunas de las causas que inhibían el desarrollo ordenado de comercio internacional"; se sugiere una nueva frase que diría: "Asimismo deploró la persistencia al proteccionismo, etc." Estas serían las modificaciones.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se apruebe este párrafo con la modificación propuesta por Argentina? Se aprueba el párrafo 20, así enmendado Párrafo 21. Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): No entendemos verdaderamente el significado de la primera frase del párrafo 21, sobre todo los términos "desequilibrio fiscal interno y desequilibrio externo en muchos países en desarrollo". Pensamos, señor Presidente, que si lo que queremos reflejar en este párrafo 21 es la carencia de recursos a la agricultura en los países en desarrollo, bastaría modificar el párrafo 21 con la supresión de la primera frase y encabezar el párrafo 21 diciendo: "La Conferencia pidió que se hicieran más esfuerzos para intensificar la corriente de recursos a la agricultura y el empleo de insumos como los fertilizantes en los países en desarrollo, tanto de fuentes, etc."

Salvo que la Secretaría nos explique qué quiere decir "desequilibrio fiscal interno y desequilibrio externo", pensamos que nuestra propuesta sería la que más correspondería a lo que imaginamos se pretende reflejar en el párrafo 21.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Sería posible eliminar esta primera frase dejándola en la forma que nos ha propuesto el delegado de Colombia?

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Entiendo que la primera frase se interpreta de la siguiente forma: "el desequilibrio fiscal interno se refiere a la balanza de pagos y el desequilibrio externo a las relaciones con el intercambio", que es lo que se ha querido expresar en esta frase. Quizás la redacción pueda ser otra, pero así la hemos entendido en el momento en que se discutió en la Comisión de Redacción.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Our delegation is under the impression that the concern expressed in the first sentence was raised by a number of delegations, and if this is the case, and if our report is to reproduce what was said, we have good grounds to wonder whether the substance of the first sentence should be retained. We can rephrase the first sentence.

I would suggest the following: we could strike the "the", before "domestic, fiscal and external imbalances". Possibly this might help us to get over this hurdle. The real issue is whether these ideas were mentioned. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee is in a better position to confirm or deny it.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estamos muy agradecidos al colega Zuñiga, del Perú, por la aclaración que nos hizo. Lo que nos cuesta trabajo entender son los términos de "desequilibrio fiscal internos y "desequilibrio externo", y esto será más difícil de entender aun para las autoridades de nuestros países; pero si el colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, insiste, será mejor entonces redactar el párrafo claramente, como lo sugirió el Perú. Al efecto proponemos el siguiente: "La Conferencia tomó nota con preocupación de que la deuda externa y el alto costo de su servicio y el deterioro de los términos de intercambio habían afectado, etc.". Esto sería realmente medio ininteligible. La forma actual no tiene sentido.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Apoyo la propuesta del Embajador de Colombia.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I think we would discuss this issue. We attributed the major causes of domestic imbalances to domestic macro-economic policies. When you are talking about macro-economic policy variables, you are referring to fiscal and monetary. Fiscal is just one blade of the scissors, and monetary another blade. It seems to me that if you forget all about the first sentence and, as the Colombian delegate said, start with the second sentence, then there is some ambiguity, or some important variables which have been mentioned which would not be taken care of. So I suggest that we either expand the first sentence to include "fiscal and monetary policies" and then go on with the rest, or we forget about the sentence entirely and start with the second sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podríamos considerar la propuesta de Colombia como sustitutiva de la primera frase de este párrafo? ¿Podría aceptar el representante de Alemania la redacción propuesta por Colombia?

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): Mr Chairman, to begin with, it was just a modest suggestion which we tried to put forward in order to be helpful. We believed that the present phraseology actually reflected what we said. Now if the Drafting Committee, having verified the results of the debate, suggested this sentence, all this leads us to believe that this is actually what was said. My neighbour on my right-hand side put forward a very sound idea with which we could go along. He suggested "fiscal and monetary". We could accept that as well. However, if there were a majority who believed that the Colombian proposal reflected more adequately the debate than the sentence we have here, we would also accept that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a dar la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción, quien quizás nos pueda aclarar el tema, y a continuación daremos la palabra a Colombia.

Steen SØNDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): A couple of items have been referred to the Drafting Committee. I would, therefore, like to intervene. I would say that this sentence has been discussed, and the Drafting Committee agreed on it. I think that the presence of foreign debts and high cost of services and the degradation of trade is something which leads to external imbalance in economy, but I think the way the Colombian Ambassador has spelt it out described it better. Therefore, as it is almost the same thing as has been said, I think we should follow the Colombian Ambassador's proposal and delete the words "the domestic fiscal and external imbalances", and take in the Colombian proposal.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estoy muy agradecido al colega Grabisch, de la República Federal de Alemania, por su comprensión y espíritu de compromiso, y también al distinguido colega Søndegaard, de Dinamarca, Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Espero que ahora esté clara nuestra intención, que entendemos es generalmente aceptada. Se trataba de hacer comprensible este párrafo. El colega del Perú nos explicó el significado, el Presidente del Comité de Redacción lo confirmó y nos complace que ahora esta redacción pueda satisfacer a todos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Espero que efectivamente esta redacción satisfaga a todos. ¿Se aprueba el párrafo con la redacción propuesta? Se aprueba el párrafo 21 con la redacción propuesta, una vez introducidas las modificaciones por el representante de Colombia.

Nos comunican de Secretaría que tenemos cinco minutos. Me lo han comunicado hace ya dos. Vamos a ver si podemos continuar durante estos tres minutos, pero inmediatamente tendremos que levantar la sesión.

Párrafo 22. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 23. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 24.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): After the sentence which ends with "Punta del Este Declaration", we would like to put the following phrase. " ... and the preservation of the principle of differential and more favourable treatment to developing countries".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a incluir esta frase?

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Solamente para estar más de acuerdo con los términos de comerciales exteriores, sería el término, creo que se usa el término de "preferencia", en vez de "preferencias" por poner "el principio de preferencia a los países en desarrollo". Algo de eso es mejor, en vez de "preferencial".

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, es un problema de traducción española y de terminología técnica. Pero en cuanto al concepto, ¿Ud. lo podría aceptar? ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se incluya la propuesta del representante del Brasil? ¿Hay alguna otra objeción al párrafo 24? Se aprueba el párrafo 24, así enmendado .

Párrafo 25. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 26. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 27.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Espero no causarle dificultades en la recta final de esta etapa. La primera frase del párrafo 27 contiene dos conceptos que preocupan mucho a los países en desarrollo. O sea, la paradoja de que hay existencias abundantes a nivel mundial, y al mismo tiempo, millones de seres humanos padecen hambre y malnutrición en el Tercer Mundo. La forma "observó" con que limpia el párrafo 27 no podríamos aceptar que se aplicara a la segunda parte porque sería muy pasiva la opinión de la Conferencia. Proponemos simplemente un pequeño cambio que ojalá no sea difícil de aceptar. Diríamos: "La Conferencia observó que los suministros y las existencias de cereales seguían siendo abundantes a nivel mundial, hasta ahí ningún cambio, pero "pero lamentó que, según las previsiones a fines de la campaña...". Espero que esto no sea controvertido. Creo que ninguno de nosotros podemos alegrarnos de que las existencias en los países en desarrollo van a disminuir ni tampoco limitarnos a observar ese descenso que es preocupante y el más bajo registrado en el decenio.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Era para la segunda parte de este punto 27 que, por lo menos en el texto en español, no surge muy clara, yo quisiera reordenar si les parece bien al resto de las delegaciones. Concretamente diría la redacción: "La Conferencia subrayó que el principal problema mundial en lo que respecta a la seguridad alimentaria es la grave dificultad que los países y grupos de población pobres encuentran para beneficiarse de la situación mundial de abundancia".

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos dos propuestas. La primera, la de Colombia en la que se introducía en vez de "aunque se preveía" en la primera frase que la sustituía por "pero lamentó que según las previsiones a fines de la campaña....", y sigue como está. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se incluya la propuesta de Colombia?

Michael Joseph RYAN (Australia): On the Colombian proposal, I was trying to match up two ideas here. I take his point that we have a concern about the fact that global stocks of cereals will decline, but the point is also being made here that stocks in developing countries are forecast to decline. It is a matter of marrying those two ideas. My suggestion is something along these lines. The first part of the sentence is: "The Conference noted that cereal supplies and stocks continued to be plentiful at the global level..." That is a fact at the moment, and I think we can all agree with that. We should then go on to say: "... but expressed concern that both these stocks were forecast to decline as well as stocks in developing countries by the end of the 1987/88 crop year." I do not know whether I have expressed that very well. I am thinking off the top of my head a bit. There are two ideas there, and I think we should retain both of them.

EL PRESIDENTE: En cuanto a la segunda objeción planteada por Argentina, consiste simplemente en cambiar el orden de las frases y quizás solamente afecte a la versión española. El contenido del texto sería lo mismo sólo que cambiando el orden. ¿Hay algún inconveniente en que se acepte esta modificación de Argentina? Bien, entonces parece que ésta se puede aceptar.

Nos queda únicamente la primera parte de la frase. Quizás el problema que tenemos es que nos falta tiempo. Yo les podría pedir, abusando de su amabilidad, a los representantes de Australia y de Colombia que se pongan de acuerdo en la redacción definitiva puesto que más o menos creo que dicen lo mismo, y nos lo presentasen mañana, y con este párrafo, empezáramos la reunión.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): With regard to the Argentinian proposal, I have looked at the Spanish and the difficulty may stem from the fact that the Spanish version appears to be different from the English. If we could adjust this accordingly, we should be out of these difficulties.

(continued in English) I would suggest that we should break up this long sentence and that we should say: "The Conference noted with satisfaction that cereal supplies and stocks continued to be plentiful at the global level. It deplored - " - that is, the Conference deplored - " - that stocks in the developing countries were forecast to decline by the end of the 1987/88 crop year to their lowest level in the decade."

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestro colega Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania ha confirmado que aprovechó muy adecuadamente su permanencia en Argentina. Ha hecho una propuesta que mejora aún el texto castellano que yo había propuesto y creo que también el colega de Argentina la encuentra satisfactoria. Asiente en este momento el colega argentino. O sea que si el colega Ryan de Australia está de acuerdo, podríamos adoptar el párrafo con nuestro agradecimiento al colega Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Yo no voy a agregar ninguna cosa eminente a este agregado de expertos pero no voy a estar de acuerdo con el Embajador de Colombia en cuanto a la perfección de la redacción hecha. Porque yo no sé lo que significa campaña en este caso; no es español; no sé de donde lo sacaron; se llama cosecha. Yo no lo entiendo porque las campañas son campañas políticas, etc., lo de campañas para recoger trigo. Les ruego que se pongan de acuerdo el Embajador de Colombia, el de Alemania y el de Argentina y encuentren la verdadera palabra que creo que es cosecha, de acuerdo con lo que yo he aprendido en geografía.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Con esto terminamos. Creo que la distinguida colega Fermín tiene razón. Sólo que cuando intervinimos, para no complicarle la vida tratamos de modificar lo menos posible los textos porque si en este texto hubiéramos propuesto otras cosas, hubiéramos parecido tratar de cambiar demasiado. Pero si el Sr. Moreno que es también del Cono sur de la Región de América Latina considera que cosecha como yo creo es la mejor, la colega de Venezuela tiene razón. Nos vamos ahora a descansar y nos encontraremos de nuevo mañana muy puntuales todos y descansados.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias; le agradezco su buena disposición a aceptar las modificaciones. Entonces, ¿con las modificaciones propuestas podemos adoptar este párrafo o necesita alguna modificación, necesita afinarlo en algún punto? Entonces, parece ser que podemos aprobar este párrafo así. Pero antes de seguir adelante, tengo que decir que, en España por lo menos, también se dice la campaña; pero acepto perfectamente que se ponga cosecha. No hay ningún inconveniente. Aprobamos el párrafo 27. Pasamos al párrafo 28.

Víctor E. MACHINEA (Argentina): Simplemente para adicionar donde dice "las grandes disponibilidades mundiales" agregaríamos "concentradas en los países desarrollados".

Paragraphs 16 to 31, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 16 à 31 ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 16 a 31, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of- Commission I, Part 2, as amended, was adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 2, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 2, así enmendado, es aprobado

Muchas gracias Sres. por su colaboración. Antes de levantar la sesión voy a dar la palabra a la Secretaría que tiene que darles algún comunicado.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I wish to advise that there will be a meeting of the Commission tomorrow, but unfortunately we are not in a position at this moment to announce the exact time. As you know, it is a question of getting quorums for Commissions and finding interpreters. The Secretariat will meet on that after this meeting. I would request you to read the Order of the Day in the morning: the time for the meeting of the Commission will be in that.

I would also warn delegates that there is to be a general strike in Rome tomorrow and transport will be difficult. It may be advisable to be out on the way to FAO early before the full effect of the strike hits.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a la Secretaría. En consecuencia, mañana por la mañana veremos el Diario de Sesiones y cuando tengamos quórum empezaremos. Muchas gracias a todos. Buenas noches y hasta mañana.

The meeting rose at 18.25 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.25 horas

conference

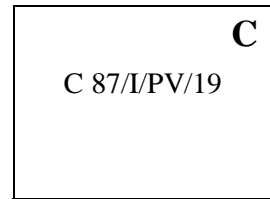
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24° período de sesiones
COMISION II

NINETEENTH MEETING
DIX-NEUVIEME SEANCE
19ª SESION

(25 November 1987)

The Nineteenth Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours
Ismael-DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La dix-neuvième séance est ouverte à 10 heures
sous la présidence de Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 19 sesión a las 10.00 horas
bajo la presidencia de Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (cont'd)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)

APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 3

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 3

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 3

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 17 INCLUDING THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 17 Y COMPRIS LES PROJETS DE RESOLUTION

PARRAFOS 1 a 17 INCLUIDOS LOS PROYECTOS DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a continuar nuestros trabajos. Espero que hayan dormido ustedes bien y estemos todos descansados y ojalá tengamos todos la mente suficientemente clara para poder terminar el trabajo que nos queda en el resto de la jornada.

Está prevista esta sesión; no hay previstas más sesiones para la aprobación del informe en principio, y tenemos un cierto compromiso con la Organización para terminar hoy por la mañana el informe de la Comisión I.

Vamos a empezar con el documento REP. 3, que es el segundo informe sobre la aplicación del Programa de Acción de la Conferencia sobre la reforma agraria y desarrollo rural, en particular en lo relativo a la función de la mujer en el desarrollo agrícola.

Si les parece bien, si no hay ninguna intervención, empezamos con el párrafo 1. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 2. ¿Alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 3. Suiza.

André REGLI (Suisse): Pour mieux refléter les discussions dans la Commission, j'aimerais suggérer d'introduire après le paragraphe 2, un nouveau paragraphe très court, ce serait paragraphe 2 a) ou un nouveau paragraphe 3 qui se lirait comme suit: "La Conférence a noté avec regret la lenteur des progrès dans la mise en oeuvre du Programme d'Action de la CMRADR".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. delegado de Suiza. ¿Hay alguna objeción a la inclusión de este párrafo propuesto por la delegación de Suiza? El delegado de Ghana tiene la palabra.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I just want to know who is responsible for implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a dar la palabra al Sr. Moreno Rojas para que pueda responderle.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): Gracias Sr. Presidente: La pregunta que se ha formulado, a quien corresponde la coordinación o la responsabilidad para la ejecución del Programa de Acción aprobado por la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, existen dos distintos niveles de responsabilidad y coordinación. El primero de ellos reside en el Comité Interdepartamental de Desarrollo Rural, el cual está presidido por el Subdirector General de Políticas Económicas y Sociales, y comprende a todos los subdirectores generales de los departamentos técnicos de la Organización. Ellos son los que supervisan globalmente las líneas de políticas y programas y tienen por función principal asistir al Director General en las sugerencias de programas o acciones a este respecto. El Comité Interdepartamental viene servido a su vez de un segundo nivel de coordinación que se llama el Comité Interdivisional de Desarrollo

Rural, que está integrado por diez directores de divisiones técnicas y presidido por el Director de la División de Recursos Humanos, Instituciones y Reforma Agraria, el cual, desde el punto de vista del programa regular, es el que a través de este Comité coordina la ejecución de los distintos programas y actividades que tienen características específicas relacionadas con el Programa de Acción.

Finalizando con la respuesta, debo decir que hoy los mandatos del Programa de Acción aprobados por la Conferencia Mundial forman parte integral de lo que es la orientación del Programa y Presupuesto y del Programa de Labores de la Organización.

En consecuencia, hay una infinidad de actividades y tareas que vienen siendo desarrolladas sin la necesidad de una supervisión diaria o periódica por unidades a través de los Programas y Subprogramas en los cuales la Organización funciona.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Moreno. ¿Está satisfecho el delegado de Ghana con la explicación?

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I am grateful for the answer, but I think the addition which the delegate is proposing is targeted at the national level. It seems to be putting the responsibility on the national governments for the implementation. If this is so, then it should be reflected in the addition. You are not going to blame FAO for not implementing it, it is not FAO that is responsible, it is the national governments. If they fail to do their work, we should not blame FAO for that and I think this should be reflected in the amendment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Delegado de Ghana. Tiene la palabra el Sr. delegado de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente: Vacilamos en intervenir porque tanto el Sr. Moreno como el colega de Ghana han explicado muy bien la situación y habíamos entendido en ese contexto la adopción propuesta por Suiza; es decir, en el amplio entendido de que la lentitud de los progresos se debe a todas las fuerzas que deben converger en favor de la aplicación del programa, o sea, también los Gobiernos nacionales, porque la FAO no puede imponer políticas en los países; de manera que, en ese entendido, la propuesta de Suiza no nos ofrece dificultad.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. delegado de Colombia. ¿Existe entonces alguna objeción a incluir la propuesta de Suiza por parte de alguna delegación? El delegado de Tanzania tiene la palabra.

Hawisi MWIAYIGOHA (Tanzania): We have no difficulty in accepting this paragraph, but as the delegate from Ghana said, it is not complete. The paragraph suggested by Switzerland is incomplete, it should mention specifically that the national governments are responsible, because if we leave it as short as it is now, it will look as if it is FAO which is responsible. That is what we are saying, FAO cannot impose any implementation policies on national governments. So unless there is an addition to show specifically that the slow progress is not only due to FAO but to national governments, then I do not think it is complete as it is.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Delegado de Tanzania. ¿Podría hacernos una propuesta de concretar el párrafo? En tanto Tanzania nos hace la propuesta, vamos a dar la palabra al delegado de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estoy tratando de comprender las adecuadas argumentaciones de nuestros colegas de Ghana y de Tanzania. Estaba observando las frases finales del párrafo 3 que ya piden a la FAO que aumente la asistencia en la esfera a que se refiere el párrafo 3, y creo que en otras partes de este informe también se pide esta asistencia; sin embargo, podríamos tratar de atender las justas observaciones de los colegas, y con la venia del representante de Suiza, podríamos decir "La Conferencia tomó nota con pesar de la lentitud de los progresos para la ejecución del Programa de la UACAR, y pidió a la FAO y a los gobiernos que intensificaran su acción a este respecto".

Así se involucrarían los dos factores determinantes en la aplicación del Programa. Y al decir intensificar no estamos condenando a la FAO, que ya la FAO se está preocupando, pero que creo que debe intensificar sus esfuerzos; ni condenamos tampoco a nuestros propios Gobiernos. Espero que eso pueda ayudar, Sr. Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría ser esta solución aceptable por todos?

Hawisi MWIAYIGOHA (Tanzania): What we are saying is that we have to distinguish between the two parts, whether it is the national governments who are responsible for the slow progress in implementation or the FAO, or both FAO and the national governments. We do not like to implicate FAO. If it is done, it is their part, but then we only find that the national governments are not doing their part. That is why I said that if we here agree that it is the national governments who are responsible for the slow implementation of the Programme of Action, then we should specifically mention that. Therefore the sentence should read as follows, "The Conference noted with regret the slow progress in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action by national governments." But if FAO is included, it should read as follows, "The Conference noted with regret the slow progress in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action by both FAO and national governments." But here we have to make that distinction as to whether FAO is also involved, or both FAO and the national governments or if it is the national governments only.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias representante de Tanzania. Tiene la palabra la República Federal de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I hesitate to become involved in this discussion, but I understand the points made so far by previous speakers quite well. The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany believes, as regards this WCARRD Programme of Action, that the responsibility lies with the national governments. The Programme of Action itself says so. It states that the responsibility lies with the governments in the first resort, because this is a national question, a national issue, which particularly affects sovereignty. Therefore, the proposal made by Switzerland would be adequate, I think, because it already implies this concept or idea. Therefore, for my part I would say that perhaps we could agree to this wording.

We might well add to the wording by saying "Slow progress in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action for which national governments are responsible in the first instance."

As regards paragraph 3, I think it will have to be amended somewhat. We cannot say that it called for more FAO assistance because we, the Member States, are the FAO. We should say "more Secretariat assistance" or something like that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizás estamos intentando otra vez abrir un diálogo que no se celebró durante la Conferencia, según me comunica la Secretaría. No se habló de responsabilidades sobre los retrasos, aunque sí es cierto que se hizo constar el retraso que se venía padeciendo en la ejecución de los Programas de Acción de la Conferencia. Evidentemente, tenemos que tomar una solución definitiva, y yo les propondría a Uds que llegásemos a un acuerdo. En principio, podríamos partir de la propuesta, que ha hecho la delegación de Suiza que posteriormente fue completada por la delegación de Colombia. Aunque recuerdo que esto es algo que durante la celebración de las sesiones no se dijo, no se nombró; por lo menos, no se nombró claramente y así me informa la Secretaría. ¿Les parece bien entonces la propuesta de Suiza con la ampliación hecha por la delegación de Colombia? Tiene la palabra la República Federal de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): I would not have any difficulties myself, but then I think we should say "asked for greater assistance from the FAO Secretariat" because this is primarily a problem of coordination. As Mr Moreno pointed out, coordination is the responsibility of the FAO Secretariat, and the FAO, comprising all of us here in this room.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias al delegado de la República Federal de Alemania. Tiene la palabra la delegación de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Dijimos en nuestra primera intervención que estábamos dispuestos a apoyar la adición de Suiza porque era austera y reflejaba lo que queríamos decir. Luego propusimos el agregado que ya usted y la Comisión conocen para satisfacer las inquietudes de Ghana y Tanzania. En cuanto a la observación del distinguido colega Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania, no sé cuál sea la interpretación de los funcionarios de la FAO en esta Comisión, pero en general, nos dirigimos a la FAO en el sentido de que es la Secretaría. Esa es la costumbre. Pero si al colega de la República Federal de Alemania le satisface decir "y pidió a la Secretaría de la FAO", yo creo que eso es redundante pero si eso satisface al colega Grabisch, con tal de que avancemos, pues pongamos "y pidió a la Secretaría de la FAO". Creo que es redundante, pero si eso nos permite pasar al párrafo 3, ¡Bendito sea Dios!

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien; entonces tenemos una última propuesta que podría parece ser aceptada por todos. Tiene la palabra Zambia.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): I support the proposal by Colombia.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien; entonces tenemos el texto original de Suiza ampliado posteriormente por Colombia y modificado por la República Federal de Alemania. Quizás convendría repasar un momento la redacción que tenemos ahora, porque quizás no se sabe muy bien cómo incluir todas estas modificaciones. ¿Podría el Sr. Representante de Alemania darnos la redacción que él considera que podría ser definitiva, incluyendo la ampliación hecha por Colombia? Tiene la palabra Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of): Con mucho gusto, Sr. Presidente.

"The Conference noted with regret the slow progress in implementing the WCARRD Programme of Action and called for more assistance of the FAO Secretariat to countries in this field."

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Sr. Representante de Alemania. ¿Podría ser aceptada esta versión por todos?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Yo sé que puede haber problemas de traducción, pero en la forma en que nos llegó la versión del colega Grabisch de Alemania, daría la impresión de que estamos diciendo sólo a la FAO que ayude más a los gobiernos, cuando en realidad estamos reconociendo el papel de los gobiernos en la aplicación del Programa de Acción. O sea que voy a repetir muy lenta-mente mi adición solamente en castellano con la esperanza de que se pueda recibir bien en los otros idiomas: "Y pidió" - lo de Suiza no ofrece dificultades; se agrega lo siguiente - "Y pidió a la Secretaría de la FAO y a los gobiernos que intensifiquen su acción al respecto". Espero que esto pueda ser satisfactorio en todos los textos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra la República Federal de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): That is a splendid proposal. I agree wholeheartedly.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podríamos estar todos de acuerdo con esta última propuesta? Se aprueba el párrafo 3 propuesto, o sea que pasaría a ser el 3 pero seguiríamos con la misma numeración. O sea, volvemos a tratar el antiguo párrafo 3 a continuación. Después, la Secretaría hará la corrección de números. Párrafo 3. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 4. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 5. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Tiene la palabra Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I would like to add something to the first sentence, so I will read it: "In regard to national strategies, the Conference noted that ..." - then comes my addition - "... in spite of severe economic and social difficulties faced by developing countries", and then it continues with "more attention" and so on. Then I have another proposal in the rest of this paragraph which is of minor importance, I believe.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a incluir esta frase que nos propone el Representante de Brasil? Se aprueba pues la propuesta de Brasil. Tiene la palabra otra vez la Representación de Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I think we should change the two expressions "called upon" and "called for" by "recommended" in the fifth line and ninth line.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si he entendido bien, su propuesta es sustituir la palabra "pidió" que está subrayada tres veces, al menos en el texto español, sustituirla las dos primeras veces, la primera y la segunda vez por "recomienda". ¿Es así? ¿Se acepta esta propuesta de la delegación de Brasil de cambiar "pidió" por "recomienda"? Tiene la palabra Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): This arises a third time in paragraph 6.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí, en el texto español, la última frase dice: "Se pidió a la FAO que ayudara a los países en las esferas", y en el texto español también está subrayado. ¿Ponemos también "pidió" o "se recomienda", o "se recomendó"? Tiene la palabra Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): In the English text "FAO was requested" is good enough for me. It was only "called upon" and "called for" that I would like to change.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I would like to plead with the delegates of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand to help us interpret "called upon" and "recommend" to find out which expression would be more appropriate here. It is a question of syntax.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Representante de Canadá ha pedido la palabra. Quizás también le podría ayudar en esta pregunta suya. Canadá tiene la palabra.

J. LYNCH (Canada): We did raise the question of syntax, but that was earlier on. We can accept the Brazilian proposal in the first sentence but I believe we would also have to delete the word "although". We were not going to intervene upon "called upon" and "recommended". We can accept either. I think "called upon" is slightly stronger than "recommended". There is a certain passive element to "recommended" as opposed to "called upon". At least in my association with the context or the connotation of words it would strike me that "called upon" was slightly stronger, but we have no difficulty with the Brazilian proposal.

EL PRESIDENTE: Aceptamos entonces sustituir "pidió" por "se recomienda". Es decir, retirar la palabra "pidió" y poner "se recomienda". Si no hay ninguna objeción, aprobamos el párrafo 5. Queda aprobado el párrafo 5. Párrafo 6. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 7. ¿Hay alguna objeción?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Tenemos dos propuestas sobre este párrafo 7, pero creemos que ambas son sencillas y trataremos de expresarlas conjuntamente y ojalá de manera clara. La primera frase del párrafo 7 dice: "La Conferencia observó". Creo que a la luz de lo que hemos adoptado en el párrafo adicional propuesto por Suiza y en la convicción de que la Conferencia no debe asumir una actitud pasiva sobre una situación negativa, proponemos que se diga simplemente: "La Conferencia deploró"; eso fue lo que dijimos todos. Espero que esto esté claro y no ofrezca dificultad.

Luego, al final del párrafo 7, la segunda frase del párrafo 7 anterior a la última, termina con una referencia a los mecanismos del mercado en la distribución equitativa de la tierra. Nosotros creemos que esto es contrario a los principios del desarrollo rural y de la reforma agraria porque si los mecanismos del mercado distribuyeran equitativamente la tierra, los ricos seguirían poseyendo la tierra. Solamente por ello, proponemos que al final de la segunda frase del párrafo 7 se suprima la expresión que empieza con: "así como el papel", o sea que termine en "propiedades medianas y pequeñas más productivas". Se suprima "así como el papel que los mecanismos...", y luego se incluya la última frase del párrafo 7. Espero haber estado claro y ojalá no le complique la vida.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos dos propuestas. La primera es cambiar la palabra "observó" por "deploró". ¿Hay alguna objeción? Tiene la palabra Ghana.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I am inclined to support the delegate from Colombia. When I read the phrase "the role market mechanisms could play in the equitable distribution of land", there are some welfare implications there. If you do not intervene in market mechanisms, you are not likely to end up with an equitable distribution of wealth. I would be more comfortable with the last part of the sentence deleted, and therefore I support Colombia.

EL PRESIDENTE: A mí en estos momentos yo me estaba refiriendo sólo a si aceptábamos el cambio de la palabra "observó" por "deploró". Después entraremos con la segunda propuesta de la delegación de Colombia, si les parece a ustedes bien. ¿Hay alguna objeción a introducir la palabra "deploró" en sustitución de "observó"? Si se acepta, entonces y pasamos a la segunda objeción que ha hecho Colombia. En este sentido les puedo decir que el Comité de Redacción discutió durante mucho tiempo esta propuesta y, si el Presidente del Comité de Redacción tuviese la bondad de informarnos, creo que nos podría aclarar este tema. ¿Podría usted hacernos estas aclaraciones?

Steen SØNDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): The second to last line in paragraph 7, page 3 was discussed in the Drafting Committee. It was included after discussion because it was said that it could be the case that market mechanisms could play a role in some cases. The Committee felt that could not be denied and, therefore, it was included. I would like to stress that there is always a balance necessary in working out such a paragraph, and if one begins to cut parts of the paragraph the balance will shift. I would like to recommend that the second to last line remains in the paragraph. It does not ask countries to use market mechanisms in all cases; it is just a possibility in some cases. Therefore, I do not think that it should hurt the feelings of anyone.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Ha pedido la palabra la representación de Cuba.

Sra. Dona Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Mi delegación ha pedido la palabra para apoyar la propuesta del distinguido delegado de Colombia de suprimir estas líneas de este párrafo, porque entendíamos perfectamente los argumentos que el distinguido delegado de Colombia había dado en favor de esta suspensión. De todas formas y como parece ser que el Comité de Redacción tuvo largas discusiones al respecto, nos gustaría conocer cuáles son las bondades de incluir estas líneas en este párrafo. A nuestro entender, suspenderlo sería totalmente positivo, y apoyamos, repito, la propuesta del delegado de Colombia. Sin embargo, si es posible, quisiéramos conocer - porque en realidad no conocemos las bondades de esta inclusión - los motivos que la justifican.

EL PRESIDENTE: El Sr. Representante de Colombia tiene la palabra.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Sr. Presidente. Nuestra modesta capacidad informativa nos había permitido conocer que esa expresión fue ampliamente debatida en el Comité de Redacción, como lo ha dicho con acierto el distinguido Presidente Steen Søndergaard, de Dinamarca; sin embargo, Sr. Presidente, si quisiéramos tratar de reflejar lo dicho por el propio Presidente de que "en algunos casos específicos.... etc., etc." podríamos hacerlo, pero creo que nos extenderíamos demasiado y complicaría el debate. Ya mi propuesta ha recibido apoyo de dos delegaciones y nadie se opone a que se suprima, de manera que, con todo respeto hacia el distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción, suprimamos esta frase y pasemos al párrafo siguiente, el párrafo 8.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Representante de Colombia. Tiene la palabra la Representante de Suecia.

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): I recall the debate we had in the Committee when we discussed WCARRD and the later discussions we had in the Drafting Committee, having been a member of the Drafting Committee. This was certainly a point mentioned by delegations during the WCARRD debate. It is true that this might not apply to all countries, but in certain countries there could be or might be a role for market mechanisms to play in the equitable distributions of land. My delegation would strongly support what had been said by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee regarding the retention of this paragraph. Countries that feel this does not apply to them do not need to apply it. It does no harm in any case. In the opinion of my delegation the last part of the sentence certainly needs to be there. I favour the retention of the paragraph as drafted by the Drafting Committee.

Washington ZUÑIGATRELLES (Perú): Creo que en el Comité de Redacción yo fuí el más tenaz opositor a que se persistiera en esto, no por el hecho de que podría haber quizás alguno, pero no encuentro, y en ninguna parte encontré, que los mecanismos de mercado pueden desempeñar un papel en la distribución equitativa de la tierra. En los mecanismos de mercado el que compra la tierra es aquel que ofrece más. Tendría su papel la reforma agraria por vía de evolución; yo no tendría inconveniente; pero que aparezca esto, me parece poco serio, salvo que se me dé un ejemplo de algún mecanismo por medio del cual se haya hecho una distribución equitativa de tierras que no sea a través de una reforma agraria. Hay reformas agrarias que se han hecho por vía continua democrática, pero así, por medio de mecanismos de mercado lo encuentro poco serio, sobre todo si esto se va a hacer proviniendo de la FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Representante del Perú. Tiene la palabra el Sr. Delegado de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Como buen latinoamericano soy muy sensible a las declaraciones que provienen de voces femeninas y, sobre todo, de los países nórdicos, aun sin escuchar la declaración de la distinguida delegada de los Estados Unidos, la Sra. Dudik-Gayoso quien, según entiendo, tuvo un papel importante en el Comité de Redacción sobre esta parte del párrafo 7.

Estoy dispuesto, Señor Presidente, por que quiero que avancemos, a tratar de reflejar en el debate una idea que pueda ser aceptable para nosotros en esta expresión, muy a mi pesar, repito, porque como lo ha dicho el colega Washington Zuñiga del Perú, esto, realmente no se compadece en un texto de FAO sobre el programa de la Conferencia Mundial de Desarrollo Rural y Reforma Agraria. Pero si hay alguien más que insista -le ruego a usted que observe que nadie más está interviniendo en apoyo de esta frase- tendríamos que proceder a una redacción -que yo haría con muchísimo gusto- pero creo que es necesario suprimir esto y avanzar.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Representante de Colombia. El representante de Brasil ha pedido la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): In an effort to help may I ask if it would be possible to end the sentence with the words "smaller-sized holdings", and to begin a new sentence such as "Some countries mentioned the role market mechanisms"; and so on? In that way we would keep the idea in the text, and perhaps the delegate from Colombia could agree to that.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Señor Delegado del Brasil. Tiene la palabra la delegación de Venezuela.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Voy a tomar la palabra para agregar mi voz y mi experiencia parlamentaria a lo que está diciendo el Delegado del Perú para apoyar la propuesta del Delegado de Colombia, porque, realmente, yo no conozco ningún caso -y soy estudiante de Historia- en donde podamos haber hecho una distribución de tierra equitativa por vía de mercado, y mucho menos por el libre mercado por que allí estamos con oferta y demanda, por el que da más, por el que más tiene. Entonces, ¿cómo vamos a hacer una distribución equitativa de tierra? Por ese motivo mi delegación apoya la propuesta de Colombia, y además apoyamos los argumentos del Delegado del Perú de que, realmente, va a ser incongruente con la función que se asigna en sus documentos básicos a la FAO, establecer una decisión como esta.

EL PRESIDENTE: Voy a dar la palabra a Colombia y a continuación voy a hacer una propuesta, si Colombia no nos hace otra previamente que pueda solucionarnos definitivamente el problema.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Seguramente, Señor Presidente, la suya será mejor, pero estamos agradecidos al colega Augusto de Médicis y quisiera aceptar su propuesta, pero para hacer justicia a quien están en favor de mantener este texto, habría que complementar la propuesta del Brasil en algo en que lo que los colegas han insistido respecto a casos particulares. Podríamos decir simplemente: "algunos delegados se refirieron también al papel que, en casos muy particulares, los mecanismos de mercado, etc., etc." Esto es lo que han dicho algunos colegas o sea no es en la generalidad de los casos sino en casos particulares. Espero que este texto sea aceptable para todos.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría ser aceptable? La propuesta sería suprimir "así como el papel que los mecanismos del mercado pueden desempeñar en la distribución equitativa de la tierra", y sustituirlo por una frase que digas "Algunas delegaciones consideraron que, en determinadas circunstancias, los mecanismos del mercado pueden desempeñar un papel en la distribución de la tierra." ¿Podrían aceptar esta propuesta? Estados Unidos tiene la palabra.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): I would just like to know whether the word "equitable" has been dropped from the text - "Whether they can play a role in equitable land distribution".

EL PRESIDENTE: Efectivamente, no lo leí en las opiniones de algunos países porque, según he podido entender y colegir de las intervenciones de varios delegados, los mecanismos del mercado no son un medio equitativo de distribuir la tierra. Por eso lo he suprimido en mi propuesta. Pero simplemente - como usted sabe muy bien - yo únicamente hago propuestas. Tiene la palabra Estados Unidos.

Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): Since my delegation was one of these which made a statement like this, and who worked quite a lot on the language in the Drafting Group, my delegation considers that the statement now proposed would lose its meaning for us if the word "equitable" were dropped. It was a delegation that made the proposal that market mechanisms could play a role in the equitable distribution of land, so if the text is going to reflect what a delegation said, that is what my delegation said. I do not know about others.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría aceptarse el texto incluyendo también en la segunda versión la palabra "equitativa"?, puesto que solamente es atribuido a algunas delegaciones. Digan sí o no para continuar, si es posible. La delegación de Venezuela tiene la palabra.

Sra. Mercedes FERMIN-GOMEZ (Venezuela): Solamente para aclarar que se podría decir eso solo - como le indicé Colombia - "en casos particulares", pero si vamos a decir "en determinadas circunstancias", no estoy de acuerdo, porque en determinadas circunstancias es muy fácil que se haga una distribución, pero no equitativa. Habría que poner "en casos particulares", que serán muy excepcionales. Yo no conozco ninguno.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si estamos de acuerdo en la idea, posteriormente procederíamos a leer la redacción, de la que ha tomado nota la Secretaría. En principio ¿están ustedes de acuerdo con la idea? Tienen la palabra Estados Unidos y Colombia.

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Ms Joan DUDIK-GAYOSO (United States of America): The more I listen to this conversation, the more I wonder if we should not just say what happened - I think that what happened in the discussion is very important. Some delegations - mine among them - suggested that in certain circumstances, as the delegate of Colombia said, market mechanisms could play a role in the equitable distribution of land. Others questioned this proposition on the basis of past experience of agrarian reform programmes. Frankly, I think that the report would benefit from the addition of the words: "Others questioned this proposition on the basis of past experience of agrarian reform programmes." That is what happened, and I think that that reflects a balanced report.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pienso que estamos pasando otra vez a debate y otra vez a Comité de Redacción. Quizá el problema es que hay una confusión conceptual. Yo pediría a la Secretaría que conceptualmente nos explicase un poco esta situación antes de continuar, y les recuerdo que tenemos muy poco tiempo y que estamos perdiendo quizás demasiado tiempo en modificaciones que ya han sido previamente estudiadas. Si me perdona el delegado de Colombia, voy a conceder primero la palabra al representante de la Secretaría, Señor Moreno.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): La Secretaría se había abstenido deliberadamente de participar en esta discusión ya que entendía que estábamos en la parte final de la redacción. Tal como el Presidente del Comité de Redacción dijo - y usted mismo lo ha señalado - esto fue debatido con cierta extensión en el Comité mismo. Desde el punto de vista conceptual, es necesario recalcar que está aceptado, desde hace ya muy largo tiempo, el concepto de que "toda redistribución de tierras que involucre la búsqueda de la equidad en cualquier sociedad implica la acción del Estado, y a través de los mecanismos - ya sean directos o indirectos - que el Estado puede movilizar, ésa es sólo, en los países en vías de desarrollo, la forma cómo los programas de reforma agraria, desarrollo rural con redistribución de tierras, han sido involucrados. Esto es válido para programas de riego, drenaje, saneamiento o reacondicionamiento de tierras donde hay una inversión importante desde el punto de vista del Estado.

En economías, que se pueden denominar desarrolladas, en donde la estabilidad de los sectores o sub-sectores económicos ya ha sido alcanzada, la transferencia de la tierra o el acceso de determinados grupos a la propiedad o uso de la tierra, está regulada por las leyes del mercado, como es el caso de varios países europeos en la época más moderna, porque hace 40 años estos países europeos utilizaron mecanismos del Estado para provocar la reestructuración de la propiedad de la tierra.

En consecuencia, aquí se ha señalado que se podría aceptar en casos muy particulares, si se entiende que se está hablando de países en vías de desarrollo. Si se quiere hacer una excepción genérica que comprenda el mercado de la tierra en países desarrollados y en vías de desarrollo, es necesario hacer una distinción porque nadie que trabaje en materia de reforma agraria o de redistribución de tierras podrá aceptar la afirmación de que las leyes de mercado buscan, en una economía en vías de desarrollo, la redistribución más equitativa, porque eso no ha funcionado y se crean mecanismos específicos por todos los países para atender a la reestructuración de la propiedad o a la transferencia de la propiedad dentro de aquellos que son menos beneficiados dentro de sus comunidades.

Este es el concepto aceptado, eso es lo que está en el Programa de Acción de la Conferencia Mundial de Reforma Agraria, y esto es lo que está en toda la literatura que se ha producido en los últimos 20 años.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Señor .Moreno por su información. Tiene la palabra Cuba y a continuación Colombia.

Sra. Dona Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): En primer lugar yo le pido disculpas por hacer uso de la palabra nuevamente en este punto. Para nuestra delegación, señor Presidente, esto no es una cuestión de formas, es un problema de principio. Creo que la explicación que nos ha dado el señor Moreno ayuda más a nuestra intervención.

Nosotros seguimos apoyando la propuesta presentada por Colombia, y en aras del consenso aceptamos la modificación hecha por el distinguido delegado de Brasil, con el señalamiento de que, efectiva-mente, se le ponga que "En casos muy particulares, los mecanismos del mercado puedan desempeñar una acción positiva en la distribución equitativa de la tierra".

Creemos que no es necesario añadir un nuevo párrafo, una nueva oración. Creemos que con esto es suficiente; que con esto quedaría perfectamente claro lo que sucedió en el debate, y solamente señalaríamos que la última oración del párrafo debía comenzar entonces por "La Conferencia señaló..."

Pero, repito, la delegación de Cuba continúa apoyando al delegado de Colombia con la enmienda que ha hecho el delegado de Brasil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Usted fue justo en su interpretación cuando leyó esa parte del párrafo 7. La distinguida colega de Estados Unidos ha tratado también de explicar su punto de vista y, naturalmente, entendemos que los casos particulares podrían tener lugar en estados tan fértiles como California y otros, pero no en los países de desarrollo.

Las aclaraciones del Señor Moreno también son útiles, pero - lo habíamos anticipado, señor Presidente si nos ponemos a hacer todas esas especificaciones en este párrafo, no vamos a terminar.

Señor Presidente, voy a leer lentamente la versión final. Simplemente diría así: "Unas pocas delegaciones", y esto nos evita poner una frase adicional, "se refirieron también al papel que, en casos muy particulares, los mecanismos, etc.", incluida la calificación de quitativa; todo hasta el final de la tierra. Y luego - como dijo el colega de Cuba - "La Conferencia señaló que era necesario estudiar..."

Esto está claro, Señor Presidente; refleja las transacciones del debate. Adoptémoslo así y avancemos, por favor.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna objeción a que se aprueba así? Se aprueba en la forma propuesta por el señor representante de Colombia el párrafo 7. Se aprueba el párrafo 8. Párrafo 9. Colombia tiene la palabra.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, en el párrafo 9 hay tres conceptos: Los dos finales se atribuyen a la Conferencia y el primero aparece en forma neutra. Nosotros creemos que nadie se opone a mejorar los servicios de extensión, de capacitación, etc. Pongamos al principio del párrafo 9, en vez de la forma neutra "se subrayó", "la Conferencia subrayó la importancia..."

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podríamos aceptar que el párrafo 9 comenzase diciendo: "La Conferencia subrayó la importancia..."? ¿Hay alguna objeción? Se aprueba el párrafo 9, pero creo que hay un pequeño error de traducción que será comunicado por la Secretaría. No lo vamos a someter a discusión, ya que es un simple error de traducción. La Secretaría tiene la palabra.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): In paragraphs 8 and 9, we carried two words into the report which were actually dropped in the Drafting Committee.

In paragraph 8, in the second sentence, "It stressed the importance of the organization of functional groups of the rural poor ..." The word "functional" should be omitted. It was omitted in the Drafting Group and we carried it through by mistake.

In paragraph 9, in the first sentence, "... training services for small farmers and the rural poor, in particular including women ..." - the word "including" should be omitted. The phrase should read: "in particular women". I understand that this correction only affects the English translation of paragraph 9 - the word was dropped in Spanish, French and Arabic.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lo pasamos a la Secretaría. ¿Hay alguna objeción al párrafo 10? Se aprueba. Párrafo 11. ¿Alguna objeción? Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I think we should include in the first sentence what the reason is for the narrowing of the gap between agricultural and non-agricultural incomes. It is not the rise in agricultural income but the decline in urban income. That is a factual matter. Perhaps we could say: "The Conference noted a narrowing of the substantial gap between agricultural and non-agricultural incomes due to the decline of income of urban population."

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. Se podría aceptar entonces la justificación al hecho; es decir, la disminución de ingresos en las poblaciones urbanas. En consecuencia, se acepta. ¿Alguna otra objeción al párrafo 11? Aprobado. Párrafo 12. ¿Alguna objeción? Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): My first observation is that we should change the order of the first sentence of paragraph 12 of the relationship between the environment and rural poverty. I would rather it were "rural poverty and the environment". As has been emphasized in various fora, rural poverty is one of the main causes of environmental degradation, so rural poverty should come first and then the environment. After "It stressed the need ...", I would like to add, "for effective international economic and financial cooperation ...", and then it would go on.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. Lo que creo es que (y es una opinión mía muy particular, no como Presidente siquiera), que la pobreza rural y el medio ambiente deteriorado están tan interrelacionados que yo no sé qué es antes, no sé si es el medio ambiente deteriorado el que también induce a la pobreza rural o lo que induce al deterioro del medio -ambiente. No hay inconveniente en cambiar el orden porque aparte estoy totalmente de acuerdo. Lo que ocurre es que cuando quizás una cosa no está demasiado clara y es simplemente, bueno, pues, modificaciones de tipo conceptual; quizás tendríamos que haberlas planteado antes en el Comité de Redacción y si no ha sido posible a través del Comité de Redacción, a través de los otros miembros del Comité, haber tenido alguna información. Por mi parte no hay ningún inconveniente. Creo que hay una inter-relación tal que me da lo mismo poner antes la pobreza rural que el medio ambiente. Yo les pediría que no parásemos demasiado en estos temas. Si no hay ninguna objeción ¿aceptamos la propuesta de Brasil de cambiar y poner antes pobreza rural y después medio ambiente? Se acepta entonces su propuesta, Sr. delegado, y le pido que nos repita la segunda propuesta.

J. Augusto DE MÉDIGIS (Brazil): After "It stressed the need ...", add, "for effective international economic and financial cooperation . . .", and then it would continue.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. ¿Alguna objeción a que se incluya esta modificación? Se incluye, en consecuencia. ¿Alguna otra objeción al párrafo 12? Aprobado el párrafo 12. Párrafo 13. Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I have another addition. In the second sentence beginning "It noted, especially, ...", after "increased agricultural protectionism...", add, "losses of markets to subsidized products from developed countries ...", I think that is also a fact that has been emphasized by various committees in FAO.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. Tiene la palabra el Sr. Representante de Ghana.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I would add to what Brazil has added, "the structural adjustment programmes be implemented in some countries...". I think the point was very well emphasized of the effect that ongoing structural adjustment programmes are having on the rural poor, particularly women. I would simply add to what Brazil has already added, "the structural adjustment programmes be implemented in some countries..", and then we can continue.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sr. Representante de Ghana: ¿Podría decirnos a qué párrafo o a que frase del párrafo se refiere?

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): In the second sentence of paragraph 13, after "increased agricultural protectionism" Brazil has added another clause. Immediately after Brazil's insertion I recommend that we add the following: "the structural adjustment programmes be implemented in some countries". Then we would continue.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I should like to defend the text that we have here, because again this is a very balanced text, and I think the sentence is fairly strong in connecting rural poverty with increased agricultural protectionism. This might sound rather general for some delegations, but I think this is a very strong sentence. In order to keep the balance in this paragraph, I should like to defend the text and I should not like to see it changed.

EL PRESIDENTE: La República Federal de Alemania ha pedido la palabra.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): My delegation would like to congratulate the Drafting Committee on the excellent work they have done and say that we have not had to suggest any amendments to REP/3. Personally, I should like to suggest that whenever

something like this happens, whenever we have a sentence that has come after lengthy discussion, and when we have a balanced text, we should adopt the text as we find it. I have nothing to say until we come to paragraph 17.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Representante de la República Federal de Alemania. Muchas gracias también porque, como miembro del Comité de Redacción, le aseguro que hemos trabajado muy duro y hemos discutido muy seriamente estos puntos. Yo no me atrevo a proponer la aprobación de todos los párrafos hasta el párrafo 17, pero sí me atrevo a proponerles que aprobemos el párrafo 13 como está, puesto que en él se han tenido en cuenta y se han considerado todas las circunstancias que han sido anteriormente especificadas. A pesar de todo, yo comprendo que una modificación se pueda hacer. Lo mío es una propuesta. Tiene la palabra el representante de Zambia y a continuación Brasil. Zambia tiene la palabra.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): Zambia is a member of the Drafting Committee so it might seem strange for me to have to agree with Brazil. Although I am a member of the Drafting Committee, I think the addition by Brazil is definitely very positive and stresses the point we have been making during the Conference that in fact it is the subsidies from the developed north which are choking development in the Third World. I think it is important to include this element here, as per Brazil's suggestion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Representante de Zambia. Como usted muy bien ha dicho, ha sido miembro del Comité de Redacción y yo le agradezco, le he agradecido y le agradecemos personalmente que aquellas modificaciones a introducir se introduzcan en el Comité de Redacción. Si no, creo que nos libraríamos demasiado; creo que los miembros del Comité de Redacción, aunque no hay ninguna disposición explícita que lo diga, tienen que aceptar y apoyar aquello que el propio Comité de Redacción ha llevado a efecto. En cualquier caso, tiene la palabra el representante de Brasil y a continuación Colombia.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I have the greatest respect for the work done by Drafting Committee. I have the greatest respect for the members of the Drafting Committee. That does not mean that I could not in all sincerity have an opinion different from that of those members. The representative of the Federal Republic of Germany said that he did not have a proposal until paragraph 17; I can say that after paragraph 14 I have no proposal to make as far as this paper is concerned, so I think our positions are balanced. I insist that consideration should be given to the proposal I have made for the addition of "losses of markets to subsidized products from developed countries ..." because this is a different aspect that has not been stated here and I think it is an important aspect for my country and for developing countries. It is a fact that has been discussed by a number of committees in this Organization and has been included in the reports of a great many Commissions of this Organization.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. Representante de Brasil. Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, yo también estoy de acuerdo con el colega Grabisch de la República Federal de Alemania, en el sentido de que éste es un buen informe, pero sin duda los conceptos aportados por Brasil mejoran el texto, Señor Presidente, y reflejan conceptos ya amplia-mente aceptados en Organismos Internacionales. No creemos que la propuesta de Brasil deba merecer una reacción desproporcionada y, por el contrario, debería adoptarse.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Colombia. Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je souhaiterais entendre à nouveau, de manière précise, la proposition du Brésil, et savoir exactement à quel endroit précis se situe cette proposition.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): Add after "increased agricultural protectionism" the sentence, "Losses of markets to subsidized products from developed countries."

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿El Sr. Representante de Francia ha podido tomar nota? Tiene la palabra Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je pense que ce paragraphe 13, comme l'ont dit d'autres orateurs avant moi, constitue un paragraphe équilibré qui a été longuement étudié par le Comité de rédaction. Je ne souhaite pas que l'on modifie ce paragraphe. Si certains pays souhaitent le modifier, je ne m'y opposerai pas, mais il faudrait indiquer: "certaines délégations" ont insisté sur le point que vient de signaler Monsieur le délégué du Brésil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, representante de Francia. Tiene la palabra el representante de Ghana.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): As Brazil has said, I also have great respect for the Drafting Committee. However, my country has a rather simple proverb which goes like this: Two heads are better than one. I do not think the Drafting Committee, despite all the efforts they put in, really exhausted all the possibilities. Having said that, I clearly see that the orientation of the whole paragraph is on the external economic environment. For that reason, my amendment seems to be out of place here. I should like to withdraw it and support Brazil's insertion.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizás esto nos facilite un poco la labor. La representación de México tiene la palabra.

Raul LOPEZ LIRA (Mexico): Muy brevemente; solamente para apoyar la propuesta de Brasil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. representante de México. Tiene la palabra la delegación de Cuba.

Sra. Doña Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): Los delegados que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra y que han apoyado la propuesta del distinguido delegado de Brasil, han dado argumentos suficientes y efectivamente creo que la función de nuestra Comisión es justamente no aprobar mecánicamente lo que nos trae el Comité de Redacción, sino mejorarlo dentro de nuestras posibilidades. Y eso es lo que tratamos de hacer, Sr. Presidente. Creo que este párrafo quedaría muy mejorado si se le incluye la propuesta hecha por el distinguido representante de Brasil que mi delegación apoya.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sra. Delegada de Cuba. Yo quiero pedir perdón si no me he expresado suficientemente bien. Por supuesto que yo acepto y estoy totalmente de acuerdo en que se puede mejorar cualquier cosa, y se puede mejorar la labor del Comité de redacción. Por supuesto, no he intentado en ningún momento imponer la redacción de ninguno de los párrafos. Si no me he explicado bien les pido perdón. Lo que quiere decir es que el Comité de Redacción, en este párrafo, trabaja j_o durante mucho

tiempo; había propuestas en un sentido y en otro, y que después de muchas horas, se llegó a un cierto equilibrio de opiniones que en principio, podrían satisfacerlos. Con esto, no he intentado en absoluto intentar coaccionarlos para que no se introduzca ninguna enmienda en éste ni en ningún párrafo. Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La redacción de nuestro colega de Brasil es muy amplia y muy general. No siquiera se refiere, cito un ejemplo, a la Comunidad Económica Europea por ejemplo, que es la Organización que ha sido señalada generalmente como la líder en la aplicación de subsidios. De manera, que no veo dificultades en aceptar la propuesta de Brasil pero para tratar de quebrantar la resistencia de algunos colegas, podríamos aún suavizar un poco más la propuesta de Brasil, con la venia de nuestro colega brasileño. El dijo al final "los países desarrollados"; podríamos decir "algunos países desarrollados". Esto es flexible, es muy amplio y es una realidad; "algunos países desarrollados", espero que el colega de Brasil pueda aceptar esta propuesta como deseo de lograr el consenso.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. delegado de Colombia. Tiene la palabra Argentina.

Guillermo GONZALEZ (Argentina): Permítame, en primer término, expresar el sentimiento de mi delegación en el sentido de que sabemos perfectamente de su objetividad y su paciencia para con todos nosotros. Así que si insistimos en la modificación del párrafo 13, es porque realmente consideramos que contiene aspectos sumamente importantes y que la propuesta o enmienda en adición que propone la delegación de Brasil es sumamente importante para un número de delegaciones. En ese sentido, Sr. presidente, creo que la enmienda o subenmienda propuesta por la delegación de Colombia puede dejar de lado cualquier tipo de precaución o de sentido de que estamos tratando en esta ocasión de individualizar o, de señalar con el dedo a los países responsables o a los países desarrollados responsables de esta alteración en los mercados. Por ello, creo que lejos de eso, la propuesta de Colombia completa la idea y mi delegación estaría perfectamente ~~en condiciones de~~ apoyar la.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. representante de Argentina. Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je ne crois pas pouvoir m'associer à la proposition qui a été faite, y compris avec l'amendement de la Colombie. Je pense qu'il serait préférable de faire deux phrases: laisser la phrase telle qu'elle est actuellement, que les pays qui sont d'un avis opposé proposent... et une seconde phrase faisant allusion aux pertes de marché dans les produits subventionnés provenant de certains pays développés. Je ne pense pas que l'on puisse mettre tout cela dans une même phrase, qui d'ailleurs est très longue et très lourde et qui manifestement ne recueille pas le consensus de la Commission.

André REGLI (Suisse): Je m'associe à la proposition qui vient d'être faite par la France.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. delegado de Suiza. Tiene la palabra el Sr. delegado de Brasil.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I think we must compromise. We have two alternatives here. I could go along with the proposals by the Colombian and French delegations. We could use here, even if it was approved or adopted by this Commission, the sentence that was used in the Commodities Committee.

All delegations except EEC members called attention to the negative aspects of rural policies. I think that could be a good idea.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Vous avez entendu comme moi la déclaration de la délégation de la Suisse. Or, que je sache, la Suisse ne fait pas partie de la Communauté européenne.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brésil): La Communauté européenne "et" la Suisse.

J. LYNCH (Canada): We have had a number of amendments proposed by Brazil this morning; they have run a range, some useful and some of the nature of exchanging the place of world poverty and environment within a sentence which did not make very much difference at all. However, in this case I believe that Brazil has a point, but perhaps they are pressing rather strongly. Perhaps I could suggest that we could deal with it simply, in that if you look at this sentence there are a number of factors that are included, most of them in a fairly objective and neutral way. One of them is increased agricultural protectionism. What Brazil is referring to is a fairly specific form of agricultural protectionism, but in a different light. Perhaps we could just amend the sentence to say: "increased agricultural protectionism including subsidization of agricultural exports". That keeps the neutrality of the sentence. It brings in this specific aspect which, I think, is of concern. I would say that this is one of the more substantive points which the Brazilian delegation has made this morning. I for one could accept that type of reference. Otherwise we are going to become involved in a series of interventions and counter-interventions which are eventually going to reach a compromise, but the time devoted to this particular subject would be out of proportion to the actual results.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je voudrais observer que les pratiques qui sont en cours dans le comité des produits, et qui visent dans certains cas à isoler un certain groupe de pays, ne me semblent pas les meilleures à retenir. En particulier au niveau de notre Commission et de notre Conférence, nous recherchons toujours au maximum un consensus. Je regretterais beaucoup que l'on en vienne à isoler certains pays parmi les autres. S'agissant de la proposition présentée par le Canada, elle peut peut-être nous aider dans la voie que nous recherchons actuellement.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I am prepared to accept the Canadian proposal with one slight amend-ment: "including subsidization by some developed countries". With regard to the remark he made about the exchange between rural poverty and environment, it is very good to be from a happy country such as Canada where they do not have any rural poverty. We have a lot of rural poverty in my country, so I think we should emphasize rural poverty. But so far as his proposal is concerned, I would be prepared to accept it with my amendment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. delegado de Brasil. Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de Argentina.

Guillermo GONZALEZ (Argentina): Brevemente, porque la distinguida representación de Brasil se ha adelantado a decir lo que mi delegación tenía pensado sobre este tema. Es decir, entendemos que la propuesta de Canadá es sumamente positiva y nos dá el camino. Pero para mi delegación, sería importante precisar los términos en la forma en que lo ha hecho el Sr. Embajador de Brasil.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. Representante de Argentina. Voy a pedir a la Secretaría que lea la propuesta de Canadá por si pudiésemos llegar sobre ella a un consenso. Tiene la palabra la Secretaría.

K.S, MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): As we have it, the sentence, with the Canadian proposal and the amendment to that by Brazil, is, "...increased agricultural protectionism, including subsidization by some developed countries of agricultural exports...".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Queda aceptada por todos esta propuesta? Aprobado. Párrafo 14. Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I dare to take the floor once again, although some ironic remarks have been made about our proposals. I should like to add after "The Conference also noted" the sentence "that present economic difficulties led to a" and then it continues "slow progress" etc. I think we should qualify that. It was not a decision by the developing countries to slow the progress in public expenditure; they were forced to do so.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Señor representante del Brasil. Hay dos objeciones al párrafo 14. La primera es incluir la palabra "observó", con lo que el texto quedaría así: "La Conferencia observó que las dificultades económicas actuales, llevan a pocos progresos hechos en el aumento de los gastos públicos en el desarrollo agrícola y rural en los países en desarrollo y recomendó a esos países dar mayor prioridad a este sector." ¿Es esta su propuesta? Argentina tiene la palabra.

Guillermo GONZALEZ (Argentina): Señor Presidente, no es objeción en manera alguna. Del párrafo, tal como lo leyó usted, he tomado que: "la Conferencia observó también que las actuales dificultades económicas ...", creo que faltaría el concepto de financiera; es decir, que habría que decir "las actuales dificultades económicas y financieras, llevan a pocos progresos hechos en el aumento del gasto público." Por otra parte, mi delegación no tiene ninguna objeción a la propuesta del Brasil en cuanto al cambio de "recomendar" en lugar de "instar".

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría aceptarse el párrafo incluyendo también el concepto de "dificultades financieras"? Si no hay ninguna objeción aprobamos el párrafo 14. Queda aprobado. Párrafo 15. ¿Hay alguna objeción? Tiene la palabra el Señor representante de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, esta es nuestra última intervención sobre este REP. Quiero plantear una pequeñísima cuestión de forma primero, y es adicionar a la primera frase del párrafo 15 el llamado 1) que en la versión en castellano no aparece y sí aparece en el texto inglés. Esto nos valdría para saber a qué nos estamos refiriendo.

La segunda frase del párrafo 15 trata de algo a lo cual se refirió nuestra delegación y también muchísimas otras. Hay muchas conferencias, declaraciones, cursillos manifestaciones de buena voluntad, pero el problema subsiste, por ello quisiéramos hacer un agregado que, ¡ojalá! que no sea controvertido. Después de las palabras "materia de desarrollo" con las cuales termina la segunda frase del párrafo 15, quisiéramos agregar lo siguiente: "... y expresó la esperanza de que ello se convierta en hechos positivos que contribuyan a resolver otros problemas". Fuimos más extensos y más enérgicos en estos aspectos pero al menos esa expresión podría dar satisfacción a las delegaciones que dijeron que, en realidad, era poco lo que se había logrado en favor de la mujer- no obstante la proliferación de declaraciones y de reuniones. El resto del párrafo pienso que confirma que subsiste el desajuste, que hay dificultades, etc.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Señor delegado de Colombia. Por lo que se refiere a incluir el número 1 después del REP., creo que lógicamente no hay ninguna objeción. En cuanto a la segunda, cuestión, yo preguntaría a la sala si hay alguna objeción para incluir la modificación propuesta por Colombia.

Si no hay ninguna objeción aprobaríamos el párrafo con la introducción hecha por la delegación de Colombia. Queda aprobado el párrafo 15, Párrafo 16. Creo que La Secretaría tiene que informar algo sobre este párrafo.

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): There is one word which was not carried forward from the draft to the report. In the second sentence of paragraph 16 it says, "seeks to ensure their integration into projects." That should read, "seeks to ensure their integration into all projects", the word "all" was omitted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a la Secretaría por su información ¿hay alguna otra objeción al párrafo 16? Se acepta, en consecuencia, el párrafo 16 y pasamos al párrafo 17 que incluye la Resolución. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se apruebe el párrafo 17 con la Resolución incluida? La Secretaría me pide la palabra para hacer algunas observaciones con respecto al texto distribuido..

K.S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): There are two minor changes in the resolution as adopted which are not properly reflected here. In paragraph 4, in the penultimate sentence, "the System-wide Medium-term Plan and include verification and monitoring procedures", the word "verification" was inadvertently dropped when the resolution was adopted. It was agreed that "verification" should be left. In his summing up, the Chairman made the point that it should be "and include verification and monitoring procedures".

In the Last sentence, it should be, "All these activities should be carried out within existing resources.", instead of "insofar as existing resources permit".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a la Secretaría, Supongo que estas dos modificaciones están totalmente acordes con lo que, en principio, se había dicho; es decir, se trata de un error de edición y no creo que exista ningún problema para rectificarlo. ¿Hay algún problema o alguna objeción para aprobar este párrafo 17? Si se aprobara este párrafo habríamos aprobado el documento. Se aprueba el párrafo 17 con las resoluciones incluidas.

Paragraphs 1 to 16, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 16, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 16, así enmendados, son aprobados

Paragraph 17, including draft resolutions, approved

Le paragraphe 17, y compris les projets de résolution, est approuvé

El párrafo 17, incluidos los proyectos de resolución, es aprobado

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 3, as amended, adopted

Le projet de rapport de la Commission I, partie 3, ainsi amendé, est adopté

El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 3, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 4

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 4

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 4

PARAGRAPHS 1 to 13

PARAGRAPHERS 1 à 13

PARRAFOS 1 a 13

Pasamos a continuación al documento REP/4, Agricultura: Horizonte 2000. Empezamos, lógicamente con el párrafo 1. ¿Alguna objeción al párrafo 1? Se aprueba el párrafo 1. ¿Alguna objeción al párrafo 2? Aprobado el párrafo 2. Párrafo 3 ¿Alguna objeción? Se aprueba el párrafo 3. Párrafo 4. Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brasil): Señor Presidente, primero quiero decir, para alivio de alguna delegación, que es la primera y última sugerencia que voy a hacer en este REP/4, y es para modificar la tercera línea después de la palabra "desnutrición" paso a leer lo que proponemos: "afectaría a un número creciente de personas" y se quitaría "a muchos centenares de millones de personas". Es decir nosotros propondríamos: "afectaría a un número creciente". Nosotros creemos que es importante indicar que es un hecho creciente que se desarrolla cada año y que no es un número estacionario.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay algún inconveniente para introducir esta innovación? No hay ningún inconveniente, y, en consecuencia, se acepta la propuesta del Brasil y aprobamos el párrafo 4. Párrafo 5. ¿Alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 6 ¿Alguna objeción? Aprobado. Párrafo 7 ¿Alguna objeción? Argelia tiene la palabra.

Mme Malika SACI (Algérie): Il s'agit bien du paragraphe 6 du document REP/4. Dans ce paragraphe, la cinquième phrase qui commence par "la Conférence a toutefois reconnu que les politiques agricoles nationales qui ont des objectifs clairs..." ne nous semble pas à sa place. L'Algérie est membre du Comité de rédaction, nous avons fait cette remarque, la seule précision obtenue était qu'il s'agissait des négociations du GATT. Il me semble que chaque délégation a le droit d'émettre une opinion et de la voir refléter. Je pense que la phrase précédente reprend un peu ce thème, ne pourrait-on pas supprimer la cinquième phrase qui commence par "la Conférence a toutefois ..."?

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Señora representante de Argelia. Tiene la palabra el representante de la República Federal de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): Fortunately we have had many occasions on which to discuss this with the delegate of Algeria and we share her view as regards her proposal on the deletion of this sentence. I must nevertheless say here that we do not agree on this occasion, we think that the whole of paragraph 6 is well-balanced. In the first part there is reference to the signs and signals and the second part refers to points which my delegation also raised, "that domestic agricultural policies which had clear aims" as regards social, economic developments etc. For all those reasons we would like to see the maintaining of this sentence.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Señor representante de Alemania. Tenemos dos propuestas: una, suprimir la frase, y la otra, mantenerla ¿Hay alguna otra intervención en este sentido? Argelia tiene la palabra.

Mme Malika SACI (Algérie): Je voudrais demander au Secrétariat si c'est bien l'opinion de la Conférence qui est reflétée dans cette phrase?

EL PRESIDENTE: Mientras la Secretaría hace la gestión, damos la palabra a la representante de Suecia,

Ms Astrid BERGQUIST (Sweden): Like Algeria, I was a member of the Drafting Group. I feel that the Drafting Group did good work on this text, and I would suggest that the sentence be retained as it is .

EL PRESIDENTE: La Secretaría va a informar al respecto.

Rafael MORENO ROJAS (Subdirector General a.i., Departamento de Política Económica y Social): Hemos consultado con nuestros colegas y, efectivamente, en el curso del debate algunas delegaciones levantaron este punto y plantearon lo que aquí está recogido. También la misma temática estaba incluida en el texto de uno de los documentos que se presentó, recogiendo lo que ya igualmente había sido acordado en otros foros organizados por la FAO al respecto. En consecuencia, el punto fue levantado, por lo menos, por un par de delegaciones durante el debate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra la Señora representante de El Salvador.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Para recoger lo que nos acaba de informar el Dr. Moreno Rojas, sería conveniente que esta frase no se le atribuya a la conferencia, sino que se le atribuya sólo a algunas delegaciones. De esta forma, la delegada de Argelia tal vez podría aceptar que se mantuviera el párrafo, pero atribuyéndolo sólo a algunas delegaciones. El Dr. Moreno Rojas ha dicho que lo han planteado dos delegaciones.

EL PRESIDENTE: Realmente nos encontramos en una situación un poco extraña. Se propone una modificación por un miembro del Comité de Redacción, y es defendida por otro miembro del Comité de Redacción con posibles modificaciones posteriores, y la Secretaría además nos informa que realmente es un tema del que se habló. Evidentemente no es la Conferencia la que afirma, sino que solamente se dice "La Conferencia reconoció que en el contexto de las negociaciones del GATT . . .". Es decir, no es una afirmación que se ponga en boca de la Conferencia, sino que se trata de una forma más suave de decirlo. En cualquier caso, señores, estoy a su disposición. Tiene la palabra Colombia y la República Federal de Alemania.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): La distinguida colega de Argelia tiene toda la razón. Casi vamos a terminar y es muy tarde para volver al Comité de Redacción, Señor Presidente, con todo respeto para su Presidente. Después de la declaración de nuestra colega María Eulalia Jiménez, de El Salvador, y de la aclaración de la Secretaría, si las delegaciones insisten en eso habría que poner, muy a nuestro pesar, pero como se ha dicho, excepcionalmente, dos delegaciones. Este es un asunto sumamente importante, Señor Presidente, dos delegaciones.

EL PRESIDENTE: Vamos a dar la palabra al Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Steen SONDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): I am not going to use the word "balanced" because I have to save it for later use, but I think that this sentence would be very useful to a lot of countries around the world which will have to develop agricultural policies which have clear developmental, social and environmental aims. I think a lot of countries would be glad to see this sentence here.

EL PRESIDENTE: El representante de la República Federal de Alemania tiene la palabra.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): I do not think there would be any difficulties in maintaining the wording as drafted. Once again, I should like to ask that due account be taken of the work of the Drafting Committee, and we should simply adopt the text as drafted by that Committee.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tenemos un pequeño problema porque evidentemente se puede modificar cualquier cosa, pero esta frase viene arrastrada desde el Comité de Productos Básicos, y ha sido también aprobada en los mismos términos en la 55ª Sesión del Comité de Productos Básicos y 92ª Sesión del Consejo. Tiene la palabra Colombia y a continuación El Salvador.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ya habíamos propuesto que se dijera "dos delegaciones", pero si además de esas dos delegaciones hay otras que insisten, pongamos entonces "algunas delegaciones". Respetamos mucho la aclaración conceptual que nos hizo el distinguido Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Ella es justa en su marco global, pero todos sabemos qué sentido tiene el rechazo nuestro a esta referencia y, políticas que parecían tener este nivel de desarrollo en algunos países industriales, condujeron a causar perjuicios a todos, a esos países y también a los países en desarrollo. Por eso nos oponemos a que esta afirmación se atribuya toda a la Conferencia, y repetimos que Argelia tiene razón.

EL PRESIDENTE: A este respecto, su propuesta sería: "Algunas delegaciones insistieron en que las señales del mercado debían desempeñar un papel mucho más decisivo e influir en la producción y el comercio." ¿Es así, señor representante de Colombia? Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): "Algunas delegaciones opinaron que en el contexto de las negociaciones, etc.". Debe ponerse "opinaron". Creo que esto es aceptable, y avancemos, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra la representante de El Salvador.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Tengo alguna duda en intervenir en este momento, después de la propuesta hecha por el delegado de Colombia; sin embargo, la frase es importante y por eso nuestra delegación planteó la posibilidad de referirlo a las delegaciones que lo habían mencionado para que se mantuviera esta frase. La delegación de Colombia ha planteado que "no obstante algunas delegaciones opinaron que en el contexto, etc. "podría ser aceptable. ¿No podríamos mejor plantear" no obstante se reconoció, o se expresó la opinión"?, para dejarlo un poco más amplio.

EL PRESIDENTE: Hay dos propuestas: una de Colombia, que es "Algunas delegaciones", y otra de El Salvador, impersonal, que es "se reconoció". Tiene la palabra Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, pienso que nuestra colega de El Salvador nos va a permitir mejor que se acepte la redacción que habíamos propuesto, es decir, "algunas delegaciones". La forma neutra suele involucrar la opinión de toda la Conferencia, aún en forma más disimulada. Obviamente, señor Presidente, la última frase a este párrafo que se subrayó tendríamos que hacerla consecuente y decir "La Conferencia subrayó, etc.". Así no creo que haya dificultad en adoptar este párrafo y pasar al siguiente.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se acepte la fórmula propuesta por el representante de Colombia? Se acepta y, en consecuencia, se aprueba el párrafo 6. Párrafo 7, párrafo 8, párrafo 9, párrafo 10, párrafo 11, párrafo 12, párrafo 13 aprobados.

Paragraphs 1 to 13, as amended, approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 13, ainsi amendés, sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 à 13, así enmendados, son aprobados

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 4, as amended, adopted

Projet de Rapport de la Commission I, partie 4, ainsi amendé, est adopté

Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, parte 4, así enmendado, es aprobado

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 5

PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTE 5

PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 5

PARAGRAPHS 1 TO 12 INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION

LES PARAGRAPHES 1 A 12 COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION

LOS PARRAFOS 1 A 12 INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

Vamos a pasar al último documento del que disponemos, que es el documento REP/5: Informe sobre la Aplicación del Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas. Este documento, como saben ustedes, incluye además una resolución. Vamos a seguir el sistema habitual de ir aprobando párrafo por párrafo. Párrafo 1, párrafo 2, párrafo 3, párrafo 4, párrafo 5, párrafo 6, párrafo 7, párrafo 8, párrafo 9, aprobados. Párrafo 10. Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I should like to propose that at the end of paragraph 10 we add: "It was also emphasized that the adoption of the principle will contribute, as pointed out in the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development, to safer use of pesticides, reducing hazards to human health and the environment".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. Creo que en esta ocasión ya sí se pue-de tomar nota de su intervención. ¿Hay alguna objeción a incluir esta frase? Estados Unidos de América tiene la palabra.

Ms Roberta VAN HAEFTEN (United States of America): The United States would like to add an amendment to the amendment just proposed by the delegate from Brazil to say "some countries also emphasized." In our reading of this, using the word "it" as the subject refers back to the Conference, and although I would agree that it was discussed or pointed out by some countries, we would not agree with the terminology "it" or "the Conference emphasized." We would prefer to see "some countries also emphasized."

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): We are prepared to accept the amendment from the United States with a slight sub-amendment. I can think of only three or four countries that were against the principle of prior informed consent. Most delegations favoured the principle of prior informed consent. Therefore, we would prefer the use of the words "most countries" or "some delegations emphasized", which we would be prepared to accept.

PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. Tiene la palabra la Sra. representante de los Estados Unidos.

Ms Roberta van HAEFTEN (United States of America): I recall that it was more than three or four countries that fall into the group that the delegate from Brazil is talking about, but I would like to hear from any of the other delegations of countries that fall into this group. I am not sure this is the correct way to characterize the debate.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sra. representante de los Estados Unidos. No sé, podría decir "Muchos países, muchos países". ¿Podría ser aceptable por todos? "Muchos países". Creo que además es bastante acorde con la realidad. Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): May I suggest that in order not to prolong the debate the words "a great number of countries emphasized" could be used.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Podría aceptarse "Un gran numero de países?" ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se acepte "un gran numero de países?". Se acepta, en consecuencia, la introducción de la propuesta de Francia....., Perdón, Francia ha pedido la palabra.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Je suis tout à fait d'accord pour inclure l'amendement qui vient d'être proposé, mais peut-être serait-il souhaitable aussi d'indiquer ce qu'ont déclaré d'autres pays qui ont notamment insisté sur la nécessité de poursuivre les études concernant .ce principe et d'autres principes susceptibles de le remplacer. Je propose donc que l'on ajoute la phrase suivante: "D'autres pays ont souligné la nécessité de poursuivre des études sur ce principe ainsi que d'autres possibilités de protéger les pays importateurs contre les pesticides dangereux". Je peux relire si vous le souhaitez, Monsieur le Président: "D'autres pays ont souligné la nécessité de poursuivre des études sur ce principe ainsi que sur d'autres possibilités de protéger les pays importateurs contre les pesticides dangereux".

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. representante de Francia. Es decir, tenemos en estos momentos dos propuestas: una, la de Brasil, y otra, la de Francia. Creo que ustedes han tomado nota. Podrían ser aceptadas las dos? ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se acepten las dos propuestas? En consecuencia, se acepta y queda aprobado el párrafo 10. Párrafo 11. ¿Alguna objeción? Venezuela tiene la palabra.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente. Es una cuestión sencilla que no creo que tenga ningún inconveniente en ser adoptada por todas las delegaciones. En la segunda frase se dice "Convino en que esta cuestión entrañaba gran importancia a efectos de mejorar el uso inocuo de los plaguicidas". Creo que no existe uso inocuo de los plaguicidas. Entonces, si se pudiera ... En otro párrafo anterior del informe también se incluye la palabra "inocuo". No creo que la palabra inocuo pueda referirse a plaguicidas en ningún caso, ni en cualquier otra formulación. La palabra inocuo se utiliza cuando algo no tiene ningún efecto ni en bien ni en mal y no corresponde en este caso.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sra. representante de Venezuela. Entiendo que su propuesta es no calificar el uso de los plaguicidas, es decir, quitar la palabra inocuo. ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se quite la palabra inocuo? Sí, entonces la versión española (porque parece que hay diferencias con otras versiones); en la versión española se quita la palabra inocuo. ¿Hay algun otra objeción? Sí, Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): In the last sentence of this paragraph when it says "The Conference stressed again that it was of utmost importance to maintain a consensus on the Code", that was expressed by one delegation, I think. Our delegation expressed our view that the Code should be amended, so it was not the Conference as I see it. In the Council meetings we had a majority opinion in favour of the change of the Code. We had a resolution that was circulated proposing an amendment to the Code. Therefore, I do not think "The Conference stressed again" really reflects the debate of this item.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil, pero creo que hay quizás un problema de versiones. En la versión que yo tengo dice que "La Conferencia volvió a insistir en que era cuestión de máxima importancia que se mantuviera el consenso sobre el código, el consenso sobre el código". Creo que esto es así; que ninguna delegación ha propuesto que no se mantenga el consenso sobre el código. Brasil tiene la palabra.

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I think this sentence can be read both ways. I am not discussing consensus on the Code. Some delegations expressed the view that the Code should be amended. Perhaps we could say "It was stressed again that it was of the utmost importance", in other words, something a little more vague than "The Conference."

PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Brasil. Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de Francia.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Dans le texte français, je crois que la phrase explique bien la volonté de la Conférence de maintenir le consensus et je n'ai pas entendu au cours du débat de délégations disant qu'elles souhaitaient rompre avec ce consensus. Ceci ne préjuge pas de débats ultérieurs, mais dans l'état actuel de nos discussions, je crois que tous les pays étaient d'accord pour que l'on maintienne le consensus- Par conséquent, je pense que cette phrase représente bien la situation actuelle des débats tels que nous les avons tenus dans la commission qui a étudié cette question.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Francia. Tiene la palabra el Sr. representante de los Estados Unidos de America.

John COOK (United States of America): I would like to express that the United States concurs with what the delegate from France has said. We did have a lengthy discussion, and the one item in that discussion that appeared to be abundantly clear, at least to the United States, was that the Members were attempting to maintain a consensus and that it was considered of utmost importance. I believe the sentence as it stands correctly expresses what took place.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de los Estados Unidos de América. Tiene la palabra el representante de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Señor Presidente, sobre el párrafo 11 en primer lugar compartimos la preocupación de nuestra colega, Marina Briceño, de Venezuela, y estamos de acuerdo en suprimir el

término "inocuo". Consideramos que, sin embargo, sería necesario calificar el uso. Yo propongo "el uso adecuado, uso adecuado". Primera observación. Segunda: la frase final del párrafo 11, en su forma actual, creo que lo que ha dicho el colega Embajador De Medicis, de Brasil, se presta a distintas interpretaciones, y comparto la preocupación del colega brasileño, en el sentido de que en la forma actual se pudiera dar la impresión de que toda la Conferencia está en favor del código, sin tener en cuenta el carácter dinámico que atribuyó la Conferencia al código.

Tal vez, con la venia del colega brasileño, podría proponer algo que fuera aceptable para las distintas tendencias. Podríamos decir "La Conferencia volvió a insistir en que era cuestión de máxima importancia el que se mantuviera el consenso sobre los objetivos principales del código, los objetivos principales del código". No sé si esto podría ser así, Señor Presidente, pero me tranquiliza-ría un poco.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias, Sr. representante de Colombia. Tiene la palabra la República Federal de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): If I recall last Friday's debate correctly - I did take quite a number of notes - all the delegations were in favour of consensus and the maintaining of that consensus. The wording as proposed here clearly says that they want to maintain a consensus. This should be our objective. The full implementation of the Code will be possible only if we have a genuine consensus. It is for that very reason that my delegation shares the viewpoints of France and the United States.

EL PRESIDENTE: Podría ser una solución cambiar la palabra "el consenso" por "un consenso". Es decir, creo que todos estamos de acuerdo en que es necesario la existencia de un consenso. Si decidimos el consenso, quizás alguien pueda entender que se refiere al consenso anterior. En cambio, diciendo un consenso, creo que en este sentido podría no haber dificultades y se podría aceptar en esta forma. ¿Hay alguna dificultad de cambiar la palabra "el consenso" por "un consenso" y dejando el párrafo con está? ¿Hay alguna objeción? Se aprueba entonces cambiando la palabra "el" por la palabra "un". En cuanto a la anterior propuesta que había hecho la Representante de Venezuela, posteriormente ha sido modificada por la propuesta de Colombia.

El Sr. Bonte-Friedheim creo que quiere decir algunas cosas.

C.H. BONTE-FRIEDHEIM (Assistant Director-General, Agriculture Department): I would like to comment with reference to the observation by Venezuela, which was followed by Colombia. The phrase "safe use" is a technical term: let me read the text of paragraph 1.3 of the Code: "The Code addresses the need for cooperative effort between governments of exporting and importing countries to promote practices which ensure efficient and safe use while minimizing health and environmental concerns due to improper handling or use". So it is a technical expression which is used in the Code itself.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Sr. Bonte-Friedheim. Tiene la palabra la representación de Venezuela.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO-ZEHL (Venezuela): Estoy perfectamente de acuerdo con el texto en inglés; es correcto, pero en español no. La palabra inocuo en español es una palabra que es neutra, que implica ningún efecto, no tener ningún efecto sobre el asunto que se está tratando ni en bien ni en mal, y no se puede utilizar en este contexto. Si se usa la palabra seguro, poco riesgoso, sin riesgo, pero no inocuo.

EL PRESIDENTE: Si, creo que tiene Ud. razón. Tiene la palabra el representante de Colombia.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Estoy perfectamente de acuerdo con la distinguida delegada de Venezuela. La traducción nos hizo llegar dos términos que son literalmente aceptables a efectos de mejorar el uso sano y útil; sano y útil.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Yo creo que la delegada de Venezuela tiene toda la razón porque si usáramos el término de inocuo, esos plaguicidas no servirían para nada porque no tendrían ni efecto activo ni a favor ni en contra. Sería como comprar un poco de arena. O sea que tiene toda la razón y hay que apoyarla.

EL PRESIDENTE: Quizás el problema está en buscar la traducción en español de la palabra inocua. ¿Alguién tiene alguna sugerencia que hacernos? Tiene la palabra Reino Unido.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am loath to intervene in a discussion in a language of which I am not familiar, but may I suggest that, as this is a technical word, the way out of the difficulty is simply to use the same terminology as is used in the Spanish version of the Code.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): El Delegado de Colombia había hecho una propuesta concreta. Se había traducido la versión de inglés en sano y útil. Podría utilizarse esa versión, es decir, uso sano y útil de los plaguicidas. El delegado de Colombia había ya hecho una propuesta sobre ello.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Nuestra colega de El Salvador dijo lo que habíamos propuesto. No creo que haya más dificultades. Avancemos Sr. Presidente.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Siento mucho que estemos haciendo una cuestión bastante larga de un término, pero es un término que tiene implicación de sustancia. Tengo que disentir des-graciadamente de los dos oradores que me han precedido porque no creo que se pueda aceptar el calificativo de sano. Si los pesticidas fueran sanos, no estaríamos aquí discutiendo. Entonces, o se usa la palabra adecuado, como lo propuso Colombia en su primera intervención, que creo que calza perfectamente en este caso, o eficaz, con los menos riesgos posibles o alguna otra terminología. Pero no creo que ni sano ni inocuo quepan aquí.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo también estoy de acuerdo en que las palabras inocuo y sano no caben, por lo menos en español. No se puede decir que un pesticida es inocuo o sano evidentemente. No se ha descubierto todavía un pesticida con estas características. Tiene la palabra la Representación de Perú.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Quizás el término apropiado sería el uso conveniente o adecuado, o cualquiera de los dos términos.

EL PRESIDENTE: Yo creo que ésa podría ser una solución; pero si les parece, vamos a hacer una cosa. Lo vamos a dejar a la Secretaría para que consulte puesto que es un problema de traducción.

Incluso, nos reunimos después los de habla española. Pero creo que no merece la pena hacer perder el tiempo a todos los demás miembros de esta Comisión. Si quieren, nos reunimos; y si no, lo dejamos a la Secretaría y la comprometemos a que use el término español. ¿Les parece bien? En consecuencia, aprobamos el párrafo 11 si no hay objeciones. Queda aprobado.

Paragraphs 1 to 11 approved

Les paragraphes 1 à 11 sont approuvés

Los párrafos 1 a 11 son aprobados

Paragraph 12, including the draft resolution

Paragraphe 12, y compris le projet de résolution

Párrafo 12, incluido el proyecto de resolución

J. Augusto DE MÉDICIS (Brazil): I am very sorry to intervene at this late stage, but this is a matter of the utmost importance for a number of countries. I do not know how this draft resolution was formulated because, as I understand it, a formal resolution in a totally different direction was circulated to, and discussed in, this Committee, and not accepted. This appears to be a totally different document, not even an adaptation of the former resolution.

I do not intend to re-open this debate and I am not insisting on having this draft resolution recirculated, but I would suggest one slight amendment. In the paragraph which reads "Recalling recommendations in the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development that exports of pesticides should be more strictly regulated;" I would suggest we add to that a sentence quoted from the report itself. I am referring to Chapter 8 of the document which was circulated to the United Nations, because I understand that there was some doubt as to the extent of this question. In paragraph 72 of Chapter VIII of the document you will find these words which I suggest adding at the end of that paragraph of the draft resolution: "by extending the requirements for proper notification and information exchange".

EL PRESIDENTE: Creo que he cometido, quizás por las ganas que tenemos todos de terminar, he cometido una incorrección no dándole la palabra previamente al Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Como Uds. saben, bajo su presidencia, se formó una Comisión Especial y quizás él nos tenga que explicar algo en este sentido que nos pueda hacer más fácilmente entendible el proceso que ha llevado esta Resolución. Independiente de eso, después entraríamos en las posibles modificaciones al texto. Tiene la palabra el Presidente del Comité de Redacción.

Steen SØNDERGAARD (Chairman, Drafting Committee): As you will all recall, we had a long discussion on Friday and we ended up with a basic proposal for a resolution and proposed amendments. The Chairman of Commission I, Dr Sastry, therefore asked the Drafting Committee to try to work a resolution which will achieve consensus and which could be the basis for our work in the proposed resolution and amendment. As again you all know, we in fact worked out a paper which did more or less reach consensus. About twenty-five countries have been directly involved in the discussion in Committee and I think many others also outside the Committee were involved. Therefore I do not need to stress that this is a balanced text, so it is with a certain pleasure that I present the text to Commission I for further consideration and decision.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Hay alguna intervención?

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Queremos dar acta de nuestro amigo Søndergaard de Dinamarca sobre la forma tan abierta y democrática como él permitió que Representantes de países que no éramos Miembros del Comité de Redacción participáramos en la discusión de este Proyecto de Resolución. Hemos cedido mucho desde el proyecto original que presentamos con otros estados, pero consideramos que al hacer esas concesiones, podemos obtener el consenso. El colega Embajador de Brasil agregó algo que no pudimos captar desafortunadamente. Quisiéramos que ojalá se repitiera antes de que, como esperábamos, este Proyecto de Resolución sea aprobado por aclamación por esta Comisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Sr. Representante de Colombia. ¿Quiere el Sr. Representante de Brasil repetir la propuesta anterior?

J. Augusto DE MEDICIS (Brazil): I repeat that I have the greatest respect for the work of the Drafting Committee, and I am in no way challenging it. On the other hand, I think that we have a right here to express our opinions if our opinions do not coincide with those of the Drafting Committee. However, rather than start a new discussion on this item, I said a moment ago that I was prepared to accept a consensus on this resolution and would merely suggest a small amendment, a qualification, by a quote from one of the preliminary paragraphs of the original texts of the Brundtland Report. I really do not see much difficulty in accepting this. It reads: "by extending requirements for prior notification and information exchange." That is a quote from paragraph 72 of Chapter VIII of the Brundtland Committee Report which was circulated in the United Nations.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Se puede aceptar entonces la aprobación de esta Resolución con la cita a que hace referencia el Representante de Brasil? ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se aprueba de esta forma? Queda aprobado por aclamación. Perdón, quizás la euforia ... el Sr. Representante de Estados Unidos tiene la palabra.

John COOK (United States of America): My understanding was that we were adopting the change in one preamble to the resolution, and not the entire resolution, because we were discussing that preamble. Is my understanding correct that we were adopting Brazil's change and not the entire resolution? We were discussing one change to the resolution. The Chairman had not asked if there were any other changes or considerations to be made to the entire resolution. We were discussing one change to one preambular clause of the resolution. That is what we have agreed to. Is that correct, Mr Chairman?

EL PRESIDENTE: Realmente le puedo decir lo que proponía. Después de la explicación que nos ha dado el Presidente del Comité de Redacción y de alguna manifestación que se ha hecho por parte de algún Representante, la propuesta que yo había hecho es aprobar toda la Resolución con la cita introducida por el Representante de Brasil. Es decir, era aprobar toda la Resolución teniendo en cuenta el consenso a que ha sido necesario llegar, los problemas que se han presentado y las horas que se han dedicado para la aprobación, incluir exclusivamente la cita a la que hacía referencia el Representante de Brasil y aprobar el resto en pleno, toda la Resolución. Esa era mi propuesta. Tiene la palabra Estados Unidos.

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John COOK (United States of America): Under normal circumstances it would seem to me that we would first agree that no-one had any objection to Brazil's change in the resolution and we would then agree to the entire resolution. To combine these two in one motion at a time when I had in fact raised my name plate before you gavelled this to conclusion seems to me to be rather a quick way to adopt this resolution. The United States had something further to say about this resolution. It intended to say it here in Commission I. We can always say it in the Plenary. That is for the Chairman to decide now.

EL PRESIDENTE: Señor representante de los Estados Unidos, yo he seguido un sistema que he considerado que podía ser oportuno. Evidentemente es un sistema que está abierto a las críticas de todos los miembros y de todos los delegados y, en consecuencia, usted puede proponer lo que quiera. En cualquier caso la propuesta mía era aprobar toda la Resolución pero no tengo inconveniente en dejarle a usted que exponga todo lo que quiera exponer al objeto de llegar a un acuerdo final que pueda ir directamente a Plenaria. Es decir, el tema no está cerrado, a pesar del martillazo, y considero que podemos volver a discutir aquellos aspectos que ustedes consideren oportunos. Tiene, en consecuencia, la palabra el representante de los Estados Unidos de América.

John COOK (United States of America): The United States had intended to place a reservation on this resolution. I am asking the Chairman if the United States can place its reservation on this resolution now.

EL PRESIDENTE: Pienso que sí. Usted puede formular la reserva que quiera, como es lógico, es un problema que tiene usted que decidir.

John COOK (United States of America): Normally the United States, as a member of the Drafting Committee, would accept the resolution as it came out of the Drafting Committee. However, I should like to point out that in the Drafting Committee I made it perfectly clear that I was awaiting instructions from my Government on one particular paragraph, which is operative paragraph 1, of this resolution. I have now received those instructions, and the instructions are for the United States to reserve on this paragraph. Consequently, I should like to read the reservation of the United States. I will read it slowly and I request that the Secretary should note it down. "The United States reserves on this paragraph for the following reason: the paragraph contains the assertion that the Code should be amended to contain the principle of "prior informed consent", and in the view of the United States that assertion has not yet been supported by conclusive evidence that such an amendment would render the Code more effective in achieving its objectives." That reservation would be placed on operative paragraph 1, that is. the paragraph beginning with the words "Considers that in the Code of Conduct ...".

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Señor representante de los Estados Unidos. Yo le pediría que aunque creo que la Secretaría ha podido tomar nota de toda la reserva, por ser un aspecto formal, procediese usted a hacerla llegar por escrito para evitar cualquier malentendido de la reserva. Si usted tiene la bondad de hacerlo se lo agradeceríamos mucho.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom would like to associate itself with the reservation made by our colleague from the United States. We do so for the following reasons, and I should be grateful if this text could be included as a footnote to the Report of this Commission.

"Like all delegations, the United Kingdom is determined to provide adequate safeguards to avoid risks to human health and the environment from international trade and potentially harmful pesticides. Where we differ from a number of our colleagues in this Conference relates to the practicalities of satisfactorily developing the somewhat vague concept known as prior informed consent. We are by no means opposed to the principle, but we have difficulties with the practicalities. We believe that the FAO Code of Practice represents a significant step in helping importing countries, both from the developed and developing world, to make informed decisions on the basis of exchanged information. We need to gain experience of how successful these information exchanges will be before we seriously consider a move towards the major bureaucratic controls likely to be necessary to operate any system of prior informed consent'. We hope, therefore, that the working party to be established under operative paragraph 2 of the resolution will pay particular attention to the conclusions reached in other international fora, such as UNEP, on the concept of prior informed consent'." I will give this text to the Secretariat.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí pero realmente no sé si esto es una nota a pie de página o a pie de dos páginas pero ése es otro tema, pero creo que es bastante más que una nota a pie de página; pero en cualquier caso lo puede hacer llegar a la Secretaría de la forma que lo considere oportuno.

Philippe PIOTET (France): Ma délégation souhaite également formuler une réserve sur ce texte car, tel qu'il est rédigé actuellement, il anticipe sur les conclusions du groupe de travail qu'il est demandé au Directeur général de mettre en place, dans le paragraphe 2. Aussi, ma délégation souhaite indiquer qu'elle considère qu'il convient d'attendre les conclusions de ce groupe de travail avant de se prononcer sur les mesures envisagées au paragraphe 1 de la Résolution. Je remettrai un texte au Secrétariat dans l'esprit de cette déclaration.

EL PRESIDENTE: Gracias Señor Representante de Francia. Tiene la palabra la Señora Delegada de Venezuela.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): En primer lugar, Señor Presidente quisiera hacer la misma observación que acaba de hacer usted. Estoy por sugerirle a las delegaciones que van a poner reservas, además de a las que ya les han puesto, porque veo que va a haber otras más, que hagan otra Resolución, otro documento aparte porque las notas a pie de página van a ser mucho más largas que la Resolución.

En segundo lugar, quiero recapitular un momento para todas las delegaciones presentes que no tuvieron la suerte - si así podemos llamarla - de participar en el Comité de Redacción del lunes, que es lo que ha pasado con esta Resolución.

Se presentó la Resolución original pidiendo una enmienda inmediata del Código para incluir el principio PIC. Esta Resolución tuvo el apoyo de la mayoría de las delegaciones presentes y la oposición de un número muy restringido de delegaciones. Sin embargo, vista la fuerte oposición y visto que las delegaciones que apoyaban la Resolución original tenían realmente el deseo de que se llegara a un acuerdo y que se buscara encontrarse a mitad de camino para adoptar una Resolución por consenso, estas delegaciones hicieron un esfuerzo enorme para tratar de entender las objeciones que tenían fundamento - porque les puedo decir ahora con toda seguridad que el 98 por ciento no lo tienen de ninguna manera - e incorporarlas a nuestra Resolución; es decir, hacer una búsqueda de un compromiso y un consenso unilateral. De todas formas hemos llegado durante el día del lunes a redactar, con la ayuda - y tengo que agradecerse mucho por el aporte constructivo que ha supuesto - con la ayuda, repito, del Delegado de Noruega, en nombre de los Países Nórdicos, y del Presidente del Comité de Redacción, y hemos logrado llegar a esta Resolución de que nos presenta ahora, que es una Resolución que busca el consenso y así se dijo y así se entendió. Se negoció, se habló, se debatió y se entendió que estábamos buscando un consenso y que esta Resolución sería la última oportunidad y el máximo que podíamos aceptar en forma de compromiso y el mínimo que podíamos aceptar en cuanto a lo que se pedía.

Ahora se está echando todo para atrás de nuevo; las delegaciones que objetan y que ponen reservas a esta Resolución, nos están llevando otra vez al primer día en el cual se comenzaron los debates, a hacer un diálogo entre sordos, Señor Presidente. Por ello yo creo que aquí la Comisión no puede hacer nada más que lo que ha hecho y creo que esto ya le toca a la Plenaria. Dejemos esto así como está, suspendamos la Resolución del párrafo correspondiente y que sea la Plenaria la que decida por fin qué es lo que se va a hacer sobre este argumento. Aquí ya no tenemos nada que decir.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias Señora Representante de Venezuela. Tiene la palabra el Señor Representante de Cuba.

Leopoldo ARIZA HIDALGO (Cuba): Primeramente quisiéramos felicitarle calurosamente a usted, Señor Presidente, por la paciencia que tiene para evitar caer en los problemas de interferencia y obstrucciónismo que se están manifestando con bastante regularidad en esta Conferencia. Lo más sencillo es que realmente son los mismos y por lo tanto los tenemos identificados y no hay ningún tipo de confusión.

Segundo, Señor Presidente, no entendemos porqué una delegación trata de paralizar un acuerdo cuando lo que iba a hacer era un pie de página, una nota de pie de página; si de todas formas iba a estar en contra no había porqué paralizar el acuerdo. La Resolución fue aprobada, y poner un pie de página creo que es una cuestión que se hace solamente para molestar la sensibilidad de los que ya han concedido bastante presentando enmiendas a una Resolución inicial que lo único que trataba era de evitar, Señor Presidente, el que durante dos años más estuviésemos sufriendo muertes y calamidades en nuestros campos, por la irresponsabilidad de los vendedores de fertilizantes y de insecticidas. Creo que este egoísmo económico fue denunciado ya. Nosotros estamos totalmente de acuerdo con la Delegada de Venezuela; si estas enmiendas, que son ya una concesión amplia del mundo en desarrollo a aquellos que quieren seguir, no sólo comerciando ilegalmente con nosotros, sino comerciando con nuestras vidas y nuestros campos, no son aceptadas, tendremos que volver, en Plenaria a la primera Resolución por votación.

André REGLI (Suisse): Ma délégation a les mêmes problèmes que ceux énoncés par les délégations précédentes, celles des Etats-Unis, du Royaume-Uni et de la France, mais, contrairement à la délégation américaine, nous n'avons pas, à ce moment précis, reçu d'instructions de la capitale; nous nous permettrons donc d'intervenir le moment venu, en plénière.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): For reasons already mentioned by other delegations, the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany is not in a position to approve the draft resolution before us. My delegation did not oppose the consensus, but as far as the first operative paragraph is concerned, we must express our reservation because this paragraph pre-judges all the enquiries, all the investigations and studies which are still necessary. I think it will be only the next Conference which will be able to decide on this point. However, I have a very brief text for the Secretariat, and it could be taken as a footnote.

There is another point: my country is in favour of further improving, the Code; we are open to any forms of improvement to the Code of Conduct. We spoke on this very point last week, but there is something else I should like to add. The current Code of Conduct does not prevent any country from introducing the PIC. This can be done without proceeding to the adoption of the resolution.

EL PRESIDENTE: Tiene la palabra la señora representante de El Salvador.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Brevemente, quería apoyar lo expresado por la delegada de Venezuela. Si en todo caso vamos a tener tantas reservas, pasemos la cuestión a la Plenaria y discutámosla allá. Quería llamar la atención con el permiso suyo, Señor Presidente, del Delegado del Reino Unido, que me parece ha iniciado su reserva planteando "como otras delegaciones". Sería preferible que iniciara Reino Unido.

El PRESIDENTE: Les quería recomendar que, por favor, no discutiésemos otra vez los aspectos técnicos, sino que expongamos la posición que cada uno puede tener con respecto a este tema, y si no se llegase a un acuerdo general, tendríamos que hacer alguna propuesta. Por favor, no entremos en temas técnicos porque nos complicaríamos demasiado y no podríamos, además, continuar en esa línea. Canadá tiene la palabra.

Marc-André FREDETTE (Canada): I entirely subscribe to the remark you have just made. I will be very brief and to the point. Canada associates itself with the British statement in its footnote.

Moses Mike MUKOLWE (Kenya): My delegation feels that this situation has now brought us to the point where we were last time when we were discussing amendments to this resolution. Therefore, we are of the opinion that there is no way in which we can proceed at this particular moment with this situation which has been created. Therefore, Kenya supports the Venezuelan delegation, but we need to bring this to the Plenary sitting so that we can possibly find a concerted solution to this current situation.

El PRESIDENTE: El problema es que si no encontramos aquí una solución, no creo que se nos asegure que vayamos a encontrarla en la Plenaria. En fin, lógicamente tendríamos que ir a una instancia superior. Tiene la palabra el delegado de México.

Raúl LOPEZ LIRA (México): En virtud de los resultados que ha tenido esta resolución que consideramos había logrado el consenso, y de la cantidad de reservas que se han planteado, yo apoyaría la sugerencia de la distinguida delegada de Venezuela y que fuera a la Plenaria la resolución en la que estuvimos de acuerdo con algunas delegaciones de los países nórdicos, que muy gentilmente aceptaron llegar a un compromiso, y que las demás delegaciones hagan sus reservas respectivas.

Mabayo SANGHANTA (Mali): J'ai suivi très attentivement les débats et j'avoue que je regrette qu'on puisse ignorer les résultats de nos travaux, notamment de ceux du Comité de rédaction élargis à plus de vingt-cinq pays membres, et, concernant la délégation malienne, je comprends encore moins qu'on puisse s'opposer à ce texte dont l'enjeu est la vie humaine. En conséquence, compte tenu de toutes les réserves et des notes de bas de page, nous nous associons entièrement à la proposition appuyée par celle de Cuba.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): The observations or reservations made by some developed countries in the final analysis are nothing to do with the principle of Prior Informed Consent per se. They are really more concerned with commercial interests. The resolution as contained herein is a compromise between the two groups, and the majority bent over backwards to accommodate the minority in the spirit of looking for a consensus. The reservations being made are covered by the draft resolution. The Zambian delegation has come to the conclusion that developed countries are not really interested in the welfare of developing countries. With so many reservations, my delegation agrees with Venezuela that the matter should now go to Plenary, and a vote be taken on the original resolution; not on this one, but on the original resolution.

Sra. Delia CHEVALIER VILLAMONTE (Panamá): Nuestra delegación lamenta mucho lo que está sucediendo en esta Comisión en estos momentos, dado que teníamos entendido que el texto de resolución que se nos presenta había sido el resultado de largos debates y de un acuerdo de consenso dentro del Comité de Redacción. Si hemos cedido tanto de nuestra resolución original a este texto, realmente no justificamos que se nos presenten reservas a estas alturas. En ese caso nos manifestamos de acuerdo con Venezuela y Cuba para que el asunto sea llevado al Plenario.

Almir F. DE S BARBUDA (Brazil): We have already intervened many times in this matter, and our position is very well known. I just want to support the proposal made by the delegation of Venezuela in relation to the deferral of this resolution to the Plenary, when all countries will be present.

I should also like to make a reference to the positive attitude of the Nordic countries in relation to this matter. This attitude is in contrast to some very negative positions of other developed countries. At our last session many of them had supported the inclusion of Prior Informed Consent, but today they have withdrawn their support at the moment of approval of a resolution of consensus, which was much less than they had supported before. This is a very regrettable strategy.

EL PRESIDENTE: ¿Alguna otra intervención sobre este tema? El representante de Ghana tiene la palabra.

Yiadom K. ATTA-KONADU (Ghana): I am really surprised that at this stage divisive attitudes have entered into our discussions. I was hoping that this Commission would go down in history as being one of the most peaceful commissions in the history of FAO Conferences. However, some regard their positions as negative, others regard theirs as positive, but it seems to me that the resolution before us is a very reasonable compromise. It is a synthesis of the pros and cons which we all articulated in our earlier discussions.

I would also say that the resolution before us is not conclusive enough. We are now recommending that the Director-General sets up a group to look into it. The group may just end up recommending what we are saying here. So it is completely non-committal. I do not see the reason for some countries continuing to make reservations. I am hoping that in two years' time we shall be able to heal the wounds. Who would have thought two years ago that the super powers would agree to eliminating medium-range missiles from Europe? In the news this morning it is said that such an agreement is possible. I am hoping, therefore, that if we give ourselves time -say, two years- the group will work and various concerns will be adequately addressed, so that the resolution can be accepted or rejected.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Ghana. Tiene la palabra el representante de Japón.

Shigeki YAMAMOTO (Japan): My delegation has been expecting a more acceptable draft of the resolution than this in Commission I. However, I was looking at the present draft, and it is very difficult for my country to accept the resolution before us so my delegation has decided to associate itself with the United States and other countries in reserving its position on paragraph 1 for the same reasons as mentioned by the United States. So please put that in the footnote.

However, Japan has no objection to establishing a working group which will carefully examine the positive as well as the negative aspects of the addition of PIC to the Code or to developing other approaches which could usefully be a substitute for the amendment of the Code.

Hawisi MWIAYIGOHA (Tanzania): I think we shall just be wasting time if we go on trying to amend the resolution from what has taken place just now. There is no way in which by talking too much we can change the position of those delegations who want all these reservations. Most of them have given the position of their countries and therefore they will stand by that position. So even if we amend the resolution, even if we show sympathy or whatever frustration we have, I do not think that will help.

I would agree with the suggestion of Venezuela that this matter should go to the Plenary rather than wasting any more time here just in reiterating positions already put by the delegations of the countries. Also, even if we do not reach a consensus, it does not prevent any country from instituting any effective means of prior informed consent policies before putting in any pesticides they want. So I would suggest that rather than taking up too much of our time when we are already angry, we should agree to the suggestion of Venezuela and take the matter to the Plenary.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr. representante de Tanzania. Perdonen. Una pequeña consulta con la Secretaría me ha hecho que perdiese un minuto. Tiene la palabra la Sra. representante de El Salvador.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Gracias, Sr. Presidente: Realmente no nos gustan las posiciones intransigentes, y por ello nuestra delegación había dado todo su apoyo al trabajo hecho por el grupo de redacción, en la búsqueda de un consenso para esta resolución; sin embargo, dada la cantidad de reservas que este proyecto de resolución tendría, queremos apoyar lo dicho por otros delegados de llevar este al Plenario, como ya mencionamos anteriormente, pero llevar el proyecto original en todo caso tendría reservas tanto este como el otro. Hemos tratado de llegar a un consenso. Hemos tratado de ceder para lograr un proyecto de resolución que contase con la aprobación de todos; si eso no es posible, discutamos nuevamente la versión original. Muchas gracias, Sr. Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sra. representante de El Salvador. Como creo que no tiene demasiado sentido establecer demasiados turnos, y yo creo que prácticamente ya se han expuesto las posiciones, me quedan solamente en la lista de oradores Argelia, y después haré una propuesta sobre el sistema a seguir. Tiene la palabra el representante de Argelia.

Mme Malika SACI (Argérie): Nous avons assisté au groupe de travail qui a préparé ce texte, et je dois dire ici que nous regrettons sincèrement d'avoir cru à cette volonté de consensus. J'appuie la position du Venezuela et j'approuve entièrement la délégation de la Zambie.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr representante de Argelia. Llegados a este punto, creo que tenemos que tomar una decisión y la propuesta que les hago es la siguiente: en primer lugar, hemos aprobado el Rep. 1, el Rep. 2, el Rep. 3, el Rep. 4 y el Rep. 5 hasta el párrafo 11. Esto está aprobado ya y pasará al Plenario con las modificaciones que se han establecido en las reuniones que hemos tenido para la aprobación del informe. En segundo lugar, tenemos que decidir en estos momentos qué es lo que hacemos con el párrafo 12, que, lógicamente, incluye la resolución. Hay una propuesta consensuada o teóricamente consensuada, que es la que se nos ha ofrecido en el documento elaborado por la

~~Secretaría~~ de la FAO, y hay también una posible llamada a hacer algunas reservas que, lógicamente,

tendrían que ser expuestas también, y asimismo, la responsabilidad de volver a la primera forma de resolución, es decir al documento original presentado por algunas delegaciones.

En esta circunstancia, creo que podemos estar de acuerdo en la aprobación del informe hasta el párrafo 11 del Rep. 5, y a continuación yo les pediría que me concreten, y sólo a efectos procedimentales, me pidiesen asesoramiento y darme sus opiniones. Tiene la palabra la representante de Venezuela, después Noruega, después Reino Unido, después Estados Unidos de América. Perdón. Hay una moción de orden presentada por Reino Unido. El Reino Unido tiene la palabra.

POINT OF ORDER POINT D'ORDRE PUNTO DE ORDEN

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): The point of order is that in listening to this debate, Mr Chairman, I clearly heard you say that the draft resolution had been adopted on a consensus basis and you gavelled it. As far as we are concerned, the text or report which should go forward to the Plenary Session should contain that resolution as adopted. I do not think this is an issue on which we as members should be asked to rule. It is really a question on which we should ask the Legal Counsel to advise us. Certainly, my understanding is that what we have before us has now been adopted, you have gavelled it and I would be grateful for some legal advice on this.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, Sr representante del Reino Unido. Su punto de orden en concreto es que la resolución que debe ir al Plenario es la que está incluida en el documento REP/5. Ese es su punto de orden. ¿Es así?

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I am sorry about this, I missed some of what you said in the translation. To make it clear, my point of order was twofold: first, that you had gavelled the text and we would have a text going forward of REP/5 with the resolution adopted on a consensus basis plus, of course, the various footnotes. The second point I made was that I also asked for some advice from the legal adviser on the situation which we now have where a commission had agreed a text. I thought that was the end of it. Could we also have some legal advice, please?

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien. Como ustedes saben, según el procedimiento, se puede hablar a favor y en contra de esta propuesta del Reino Unido. Sin entrar todavía en otros temas, hay algo, creo que son dos opiniones... Otro punto de orden del Reino Unido. Perdón. Plantee su punto de orden.

James AITKEN (United Kingdom): I think the best way to deal with this is that my point of order was, could we please have some advice from the legal adviser before we take the discussion any further on the situation we now have. The reason I ask for this advice is because our understanding is that you have gavelled the text and it has been adopted. We have also made reservations which in the normal course of events would be included in the text. My point of order was a very simple one, could we have legal advice before we go any further?

Noise

Bruit

Ruido

EL PRESIDENTE: Si señor, realmente ha habido, hay, una sucesión de puntos de órdenes que no sé si terminará alguna vez porque cada vez va habiendo más puntos de órdenes, pero lo que no le acepto a usted es que me diga ahora, en estos momento, que yo había dado un martillazo. Yo había dado un martillazo, y entonces, al ver que su delegación, su delegación ha levantado el cartel, ha sido cuando he dicho, y hace ya bastante tiempo que lo he dicho, y nadie me llevó la contraria, que el martillazo no tenía valor y que continuábamos la discusión. Por lo tanto, señor, siga usted el sistema que quiera pero procure no complicarme. No se lo voy a aceptar. Hay un punto de orden a continuación, de Venezuela. Puede exponerle.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Era para decir exactamente lo que usted acaba de decir. El delegado del Reino Unido mismo fue el que no aceptó su martillazo sobre la versión por consenso de la resolución, invalidándola; así que no tiene ningún lugar proceder a su punto de orden.

EL PRESIDENTE: Bien, solucionado este problema, yo creo que el punto de orden realmente del Reino Unido es que se nos dé un informe legal sobre qué es lo que se puede continuar a hacer en estos momentos. Creo que la dificultad de tener un informe legal es estos momento es difícil. En consecuencia, si no hay otro punto de orden, yo levantaré ahora la sesión y procuraríamos, a las dos y media, estar con el asesor legal. ¿Hay algún otro punto de orden para pasar esta solución? Si no, tendríamos que seguir, según el Reglamento, con la propuesta hecha por el delegado del Reino Unido. Perdón, perdón. Me comunican de Secretaría que no tenemos Sala a las dos y media. Entonces, no sé, es problema que la Secretaría tendrá que resolver. Yo les pido que busquen la fórmula necesaria para, a las dos y media, al menos si no podemos reunir, que se nos dé una solución. En cualquier caso, en estos momentos se levanta la sesión para poder disponer del asesor legal. Muchas gracias.

Paragraph 12, including draft resolution, not concluded

Le paragraphe 12, y compris le projet de résolution, est en suspens

El párrafo 12, incluido el proyecto de resolución, queda pendiente

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 5, not concluded
Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 5, est en suspens
El proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 5, queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 13.15 hours
La seance est levée à 13 h 15
Se levanta la sesión a las 13.15 horas

conference

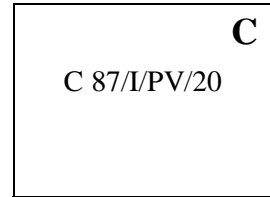
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

conférence

ORGANISATION DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ALIMENTATION ET L'AGRICULTURE

conferencia

ORGANIZACION DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACION



Twenty-fifth Session
COMMISSION II

Vingt-cinquième session
COMMISSION II

24° período de sesiones
COMISION II

TWENTIETH MEETING
VINGTIEME SEANCE
20ª SESION
(26 November 1987)

The Twentieth Meeting was opened at 10.10 hours

D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La vingtième seance est ouverte à 10 h 10

sous la présidence de D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la 20ª sesión a las 10.10 horas

bajo la presidencia de D. Ismael DIAZ YUBERO, Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT (cont'd)
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT (suite)
APROBACION DEL INFORME (continuación)

DRAFT REPORT OF COMMISSION I - PART 5 (cont'd)
PROJET DE RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I - PARTIE 5 (suite)
PROYECTO DE INFORME DE LA COMISION I - PARTE 5 (continuación)

11. PARAGRAPH 12, INCLUDING DRAFT RESOLUTION
11. PARAGRAPHE 12, Y COMPRIS LE PROJET DE RESOLUTION
11. PARRAFO 12, INCLUIDO EL PROYECTO DE RESOLUCION

EL PRESIDENTE: Buenos días Sras. y Sres. Delegados y muchas gracias a todos Uds. por su asistencia, que comprendo haya sido especialmente difícil por las condiciones atmosféricas que en estos momentos existen en Roma. Evidentemente, hoy se ha tardado mucho más en llegar y por eso, quizás es más difícil que podamos contar con todos los delegados como habría sido nuestro gusto.

Antes de comenzar la discusión y la proposición que les voy a hacer, la Secretaría quiere informar a Uds. sobre algunos aspectos meramente formales en lo que se refiere a procedimiento.

K. S. MULHERIN (Secretary, Commission I): I understand that there is some lack of clarity about the various ways of voting on Resolutions, and that there is some confusion, for example, about what a reservation means. It might be helpful in the consideration of the Resolution to have that clarified.

There are basically three ways of handling a Resolution. One is to adopt unanimously, that is, one hundred percent, by acclamation. That is the simplest and the easiest way.

The other way is by consensus with some reservations perhaps by some countries. In that case the Resolution is passed by consensus. There are no votes against, but a number of countries have the right to reserve. Those reservations are not negative votes; they are a reservation on the Resolution. The Resolution is passed by consensus.

The third one is to vote on it, and if countries vote against, the Resolution may be carried but the negative votes are recorded.

That is just to explain basically that a reservation is not a negative vote.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias a la Secretaría por la información. En este momento vamos a volver a la aprobación del párrafo 12 del REP/5. Si este párrafo se aprobase sin ninguna otra discusión, daríamos por concluida la sesión. Si hubiese alguna objeción a que el párrafo sea aprobado, les indicare el procedimiento a seguir, sintiéndolo mucho sin poder discutir el procedimiento, ni poder entrar, en ningún caso, en la discusión de los aspectos técnicos, políticos o comerciales que pueda tener el tema.

¿Alguna objeción a que se apruebe el párrafo 12 tal como está en el documento? Tienen la palabra Zambia y Alemania, pero ruego que sean muy limitados en sus intervenciones.

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): My delegation feels that the Commission made a special effort to accommodate the views of the minority. We bent over backwards to draw up a resolution which we thought was acceptable to all concerned without reservations. Now, however, it would seem that there are reservations to this very soft and accommodating resolution, so we do feel that we must go back, as a Commission, to the first resolution put to the Committee. That is my delegation's submission.

EL PRESIDENTE: En estos momentos hemos vuelto al párrafo 12, desde el principio, y hasta ahora no se ha presentado ninguna reserva. Es posible que luego se presenten, pero hasta el momento no se ha presentado ninguna reserva ni objeción al párrafo 12. Estamos empezando, desde el principio, la discusión del párrafo 12.

Wolfgang A. F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): A number of countries have felt that they were not in a position to adopt the resolution to be found in paragraph 12. These countries have therefore recorded their reservations in writing. During the discussion that ensued, we gained the impression that some countries were not particularly pleased to see that the text was fairly lengthy - and you yourself, Mr Chairman, became rather upset because, you said, the reservations were lengthier than the text of the resolution itself.

Therefore, those countries wishing to express reservations met together yesterday and made an attempt to come up with a joint text which would express all of their reservations, and this led us to draft a single note in which these countries would be the signatories, if you like, to this reservation. This is brief, and I think has some constructive elements. If you wish, I can read that out - now, or later, once the resolution has been adopted.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco mucho su intervención, pero el procedimiento lo vamos a proponer a continuación. Si no les parece mal, solamente hagan anuncio de existencia o no existencia de alguna reserva u objeción al párrafo que estamos discutiendo.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Ya el colega de Zambia expresó muy bien cuál ha sido la actitud de los colegas que hemos seguido en este proceso de discusión de un texto que pudiera satisfacer a todos. Nosotros reconocemos, que la reserva que ahora se ha presentado en un texto que amablemente me ha sido suministrado esta mañana ofrecería menos dificultades - y esto es constructivo, pero igualmente pensamos que tenemos que tomar una decisión que corresponda a la voluntad de la gran mayoría de los representantes de los Estados Miembros.

Hemos seguido el espíritu constructivo de los países nórdicos, y los países nórdicos nos han ayudado mucho en este proceso pero tampoco, cuando esos países nórdicos presentaron un proyecto que era bastante más flexible que el nuestro, pudieron obtener el consenso. Esto confirma que habrá reservas en cualquier caso y es natural que entonces - como lo ha dicho el colega de Zambia - nosotros estemos en favor de la proposición original nuestra.

Usted ha dicho que no se discute el procedimiento, y estoy de acuerdo con usted. Su dictamen de hoy es impecable. Hemos adoptado el informe hasta el párrafo 11. Hemos encontrado que el párrafo 12 contiene un proyecto de resolución y cada delegación puede decir lo que piensa sobre ese párrafo 12. El colega de Zambia ha dicho que, en lugar del proyecto de resolución que aparece en el actual párrafo 12, debe incluirse el proyecto original presentado por Ecuador, Filipinas, Venezuela, Zambia y Colombia. Esa es nuestra propuesta formal: que en vez de este proyecto de resolución, aparezca nuestro original proyecto de resolución en el párrafo 12. Esto es procedimentalmente correcto.

EL PRESIDENTE: En vista de La situación, les voy a proponer cuál va a ser el camino que vamos a seguir. A partir de este momento cualquier persona, cualquier delegación que quiera hacer alguna reserva sobre el párrafo 12, yo le ruego que levante la mano, la lea a velocidad normal y la entregue a la Secretaría para que conste en las actas y para que pueda tener conocimiento la Conferencia. En ningún caso vamos a entrar a discutir absolutamente nada más. No procede, ya que se han discutido durante muchas horas y no adelantaremos absolutamente nada en este sentido. Por eso, yo les pido que solamente aquellos que tengan que hacer alguna reserva, propuesta de resolución o algún comentario que quieran dar por escrito - solamente se aceptará si se va a dar por escrito a la Secretaría - vayan pidiendo la palabra para poder ir concediéndola. Quede muy claro que no se va a discutir nada, que no vamos a permitir ningún diálogo. Repito, solamente admitiremos aquello que se quiera que conste en acta, lo que se debe dar por escrito a la Secretaría. Esto es muy importante. Noruega tiene la palabra.

Leif FORVELL (Norway): I have a point of clarification. There may be more than one proposal. Is it possible to place other proposals on the table?

EL PRESIDENTE: Sí señor. Precisamente eso es lo que he dicho, que se pueden presentar todas las propuestas que se quieran con la única condición de que se lean aquí en la sesión y que además se entreguen por escrito a la Secretaría para que puedan constar en las actas. Bajo estos presupuestos, concedo la palabra a Alemania, Malí, Venezuela, Noruega y Cuba. Les recomiendo que, por favor, sea exclusivamente para leer aquello que se quiera que conste en acta. tiene la palabra el representante de la República Federal de Alemania.

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of)(original language German): I would now like to pick up where I left off, and read out the text which is the joint reservation of a number of countries. This would replace the reservations expressed in Commission I yesterday, and concerns the resolution to be found in paragraph 12 of Document C 87/I/Rep 5, and reads as follows: (Continuing in English) "The United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Canada, Japan and Switzerland, while recognising the need to protect countries from the uncontrolled import of banned or severely restricted pesticides, recall that the present Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides does not preclude importing countries which wish to do so from adopting measures like prior informed consent. They deem it desirable to wait for the conclusions of the Working Group so that the Conference may have full information on the matter before taking any decisions on amending the Code."

I have explained that this text was put forward in order to be helpful, and we very much hope still that it can be helpful. I am grateful to the delegate of Columbia, who recognised that efforts have been made on our side.

Do you wish me to read out the text again? No. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

EL PRESIDENTE: Le agradezco muchísimo la contribución que ha hecho leyendo la resolución, pero desgraciadamente no le puedo permitir comentarios posteriores. Ruego a todos los demás delegados que sigan este sistema; es decir, leer exclusivamente la reserva, comentario o cualquier otro aspecto que se incluya en las actas, pero sin comentarios en absoluto. Tiene la palabra el representante de Malí.

Mabayo SANGHANTA (Mali): Monsieur le President, c'est plutôt une question que je voudrais poser, au lieu de formuler une réserve. Vous avez dit que l'on ne discute plus; on doit formuler une réserve. Je voudrais savoir si la réserve est à formuler sur l'ancien, le premier projet de résolution, ou bien sur l'actuel qui serait encore censé être adopté? Ce n'est pas encore clair dans mon esprit. La réserve est à formuler sur quel projet: le tout premier ou l'actuel?

EL PRESIDENTE: Quiero aclarar al representante de Malí que estamos discutiendo el documento C 87/I/REP/5, y dentro de ese documento estamos exclusivamente tratando el párrafo 12, que es el que incluye la resolución. Creo que está suficientemente claro que cualquier reserva, comentario, objeción, etc. que se quiera hacer tiene que ser sobre el texto que está incluido en este documento. Este documento solamente está modificado por la propuesta que hizo ayer Brasil sobre una determinada cita. El resto de la resolución es como está exactamente en el documento REP/5. Tiene la palabra Venezuela.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Discúlpeme pero tengo dudas sobre el procedimiento de este punto. Le estoy pidiendo una aclaración. Tengo entendido que de esta Comisión tendrán que salir, sobre el párrafo 12, indicaciones para la Plenaria. Ruego me dé una aclaración porque ya hay una reserva sobre el párrafo 12 tal como está actualmente redactado, y hay también una propuesta de eliminar el párrafo 12, como está actualmente redactado, para volver a su versión original, y puede que haya otras más que surjan ahora. Me gustaría saber cómo piensa usted decidir qué es lo que va a ir a Plenaria.

EL PRESIDENTE: A Plenaria va a ir exactamente el párrafo 12 actual, con todos los comentarios o reservas que se hagan y que se presenten por escrito a la Secretaría sobre la resolución que actual-mente consta en el párrafo 12. Hay un punto de orden. Tiene la palabra Colombia.

POINT OF ORDER

POINT D'ORDRE

PUNTO DE ORDEN

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Hoy es el Thanksgiving Day, un día importante para el pueblo de los Estados Unidos. Queremos acompañarles en esa celebración, y también pensamos que al final de nuestra breve sesión de esta mañana podamos dar gracias a Dios de lograr un acuerdo satisfactorio para todos.

Estamos discutiendo el proyecto de informe que nos ha presentado el Comité de Redacción, y sintiéndolo mucho quiero decirle que no estoy de acuerdo con su procedimiento. En eso consiste mi punto de orden. No podemos aceptar lo que usted ha dicho, que va a ir a Plenaria tal como está este proyecto de informe, porque es un proyecto de informe y nosotros vamos a modificarlo. De manera que no puede ir a la Plenaria el texto actual del párrafo 12. Ese es el punto de orden que yo planteo. En este párrafo 12 Zambia ha propuesto que se incluya otro texto; yo lo he apoyado y otras delegaciones también. No se puede enviar a la Plenaria el texto actual. Espero que esto esté claro.

EL PRESIDENTE: Lo siento mucho, señor delegado de Colombia. Evidentemente, hay muchos procedimientos a seguir, pero tenemos una dificultad, como es la extremada limitación de tiempo. Evidentemente, contra la propuesta que hoy pueda hacerse en estos momentos, ustedes pueden recurrir en Plenaria, donde lo consideren oportuno, pero la decisión es ésta. Salvo que hubiese unanimidad en que se retire la resolución que en estos momentos está en el documento REP/5 - y creo que esta decisión va a ser muy difícil que la podamos tomar porque, como usted sabe perfectamente, no hay quórum y estamos muy limitados en nuestras posibilidades de actuar - repito, salvo que hubiese unanimidad y quórum, solamente el sistema a seguir sería el que les estoy proponiendo.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Este es un proyecto de informe. Nos hemos reunido para discutirlo. Y ¿por qué no podemos cambiarlo? Se necesita la unanimidad para cambiarlo. Yo creo que el debate debe seguir verbalmente, concediendo la palabra a las Delegaciones. De pronto surge otra propuesta, y avanzamos, pero no prejuzgar, que no va a ser éste el único texto que va a la Plenaria. Por favor, yo creo que hay que proceder adecuadamente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Sr. Delegado de Colombia, usted tiene razón en unas condiciones normales. El problema es el siguiente: éste es el tema que se ha discutido muchas veces; se ha discutido durante ocho horas, en un grupo especial; se intentó discutir ayer durante bastante tiempo. La verdad es que veo muy difícil poder llegar a una conclusión.

No es éste el único texto que va a ir a la Plenaria. A la Plenaria va a ir este texto, acompañado de todos los comentarios, modificaciones, objeciones, reservas, etcétera, que ustedes se limiten, incluso sobre procedimiento, exclusivamente a leer, sin discutir, puesto que estamos en una sesión plenaria, no en un Comité de Redacción, ni siquiera en un Comité Técnico de sesiones, en el que sí sería posible esto. Exclusivamente eso será lo que vaya a la Plenaria; es decir, el texto que actualmente está en el párrafo 12, acompañado de tantos comentarios como ustedes lean aquí y entreguen en Secretaría.

Tengo que decir, además, que el tiempo de que disponemos es muy poco y les ruego que, por favor, procedan de la forma en que les he solicitado.

Srta. Marina BRICEÑO ZEHL (Venezuela): Creo que entiendo muy bien su punto. Creo, asimismo, que lo que el delegado de Colombia estaba tratando también de decir es que el tiempo que nosotros perdamos aquí será tiempo ahorrado en la Plenaria. De todas formas, eso es una decisión que usted deberá tomar. Porque lógicamente, si le damos a la Plenaria una indicación clara, tendrá también un trabajo más sencillo. Si le damos una amplia gama de posibilidades, va a tener que trabajar más.

De todas formas, me gustaría, en este punto, saber qué aspecto tendrá el proyecto de informe que le presentaremos a la Plenaria; o sea, el párrafo 12 se ha constituido, por ejemplo, según la resolución que tenemos ante nosotros, la resolución original. Si hay cualquier otra que surja, más reservas y comentarios.

EL PRESIDENTE: Exactamente. Es decir, como irá a la Plenaria será: Punto 12, con las modificaciones, reservas, comentarios, propuestas de resoluciones alternas, etc., etc., que quieran ustedes hacer constar. Pero, por favor, le ruego que si tiene alguna otra reserva, objeción, resolución alternativa, etc., etc., no la lea y la dé por escrito a la Secretaría para que pueda constar así. Lo siento mucho. Sé que no es el proceso más democrático. Les aseguro a ustedes que lo hago con cierto pesar; pero, al mismo tiempo, con mucha decisión, porque es la única solución que podemos tener. La sesión tiene que cerrarse dentro de unos minutos. Por lo tanto, señora Delegada de Venezuela, yo le ruego que haga constar su posible reserva, y no comentemos más el tema.

Sra. Dona Grafila SOTO CARRERO (Cuba): La delegación de Cuba desearía que conste en el Acta que prefiere que el párrafo 12 de este documento que estamos analizando esté acompañado de la resolución original, según lo han expresado las delegaciones de Zambia y Colombia, y que se retire el actual proyecto de resolución que aparece en este proyecto del informe que analizamos en esta Comisión.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señora delegada de Cuba, por su concreción y porque, además, de esta forma, me ayuda mucho a poder seguir llevando adelante la sesión. Yo le ruego que estas mismas palabras, si no tiene inconveniente, las entregue por escrito a la Secretaría, acompañadas del proyecto original para que puedan constar en el informe final.

Leif FORVELL (Norway): As we have just heard from Cuba, Zambia and Colombia, an alternative to the compromise resolution is to send the original Resolution to Plenary. Unfortunately it is not possible for the Nordic countries to support the original Resolution. In these circumstances, my delegation, on behalf of the four Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway - and in the spirit of trying to reach the best possible solution, would draw your attention to the Nordic resolution presented last Friday. The proposed resolution is contained in the draft report to the drafting committee on item 11, in Appendix B. This resolution has not been withdrawn. The Nordic countries propose that it is sent from this Commission to the Plenary.

However, we have one minor amendment to the last but one paragraph, which states, "decides that in the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides the principle of Prior Informed Consent should be incorporated".

We should like to see this paragraph amended by the phrase "within the next biennium" as the last four words.

EL PRESIDENTE : Gracias, Sr. Representante de Noruega, por su comprensión. Yo le ruego que haga llegar por escrito la modificación que usted ha propuesto.

Tiene la palabra el Representante de Chile.

Juan NILO VALLEDOR (Chile): Deseo dejar constancia de que la delegación de Chile apoya en todos sus términos la declaración hecha por Colombia y Zambia y, al mismo tiempo, proponerle a usted que, como no tenemos tiempo de discutir aquellas resoluciones o modificaciones que se van a plantear a este proyecto, lo hagamos por escrito y terminemos esta sesión, porque no vamos a estar escuchando cosas que no podemos discutir. Por consiguiente, le proponemos que se levante esta sesión y que quien quiera hacer reformas o modificaciones a este proyecto las presente por escrito y las haga llegar a la Secretaría.

EL PRESIDENTE: Estoy muy de acuerdo con usted. Formalmente yo les pido que las lean en estos momentos, y se limiten exclusivamente a leer cualquier modificación, objeción, reserva, etcétera, que quiere que acompañe - en los propios términos en que ustedes quieran - al actual punto 12 del documento REP/5.

Washington ZUÑIGA TRELLES (Perú): Muy brevemente, para que quede constancia en acta de que estoy solicitando a la delegación de Cuba que me incluya en su pedido.

Gonzalo BULA HOYOS (Colombia): Reconocemos una vez más el esfuerzo que siguen haciendo nuestros colegas nórdicos y les estamos sumamente agradecidos. No vamos a extender nuestra declaración; puede estar tranquilo. Entendemos sus dificultades, y sabemos de su integridad en todas sus actuaciones. Sin embargo, hay que comprender lo que ha dicho particularmente nuestra colega Marina Briceño, de Venezuela, sobre la dificultad en que pondríamos a la Plenaria si enviamos toda esta serie de alternativas sobre un párrafo.

La última versión de los países nórdicos representa un paso atrás muy significativo en cuanto a nuestra intención original. Porque es evidente que la gran mayoría de los miembros del Consejo, primero, y, luego, de esta Comisión estuvieron en favor de que se incluyera el PIC ya, inmediatamente. Sin embargo, la modificación que el colega de Noruega ha introducido ahora dentro del próximo bienio debilita bastante nuestro propósito inicial. Pero queremos compartir con usted la preocupación que nos angustia a todos, la necesidad de terminar este tema cuanto antes.

Yo quisiera pedirles a los colegas que nos han venido acompañando en la discusión de este tema que, como último compromiso, como el máximo que podamos dar nosotros en materia de concesiones, adoptemos el texto nórdico tal como ha sido enmendado, con la reserva que ha leído el Sr. Grabisch a nombre de siete países. Ojalá que esa reserva no se modifique; al contrario, creo que ahora se podría aún simplificar más y reducir más, y así podemos ir a la Plenaria cumpliendo nuestro deber, que es facilitar la labor en la Plenaria y no complicarla. Sé que muchos de los colegas - seguramente, Zambia, Venezuela, Argelia y otros - no comparten esta propuesta que estoy haciendo; a lo mejor no la comparten; yo tampoco estoy convencido. Pero es la única solución, la más fácil, la que realmente nos permite lograr una conclusión, al menos parcialmente satisfactoria. Esta es una propuesta formal que ojalá le ayude.

Me excuso si he sido imprudente con usted y reconozco sus dificultades. Yo, muy de vez en cuando, soy Presidente de algún organismo y sé que no es fácil afrontar situaciones como la que usted está afrontando hoy.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por su comprensión que estaba seguro de que la tenía antes de que me la haya hecho patente. Vamos a volver a su propuesta, quizá dentro de unos momentos. Pero ahora me quiero dirigir a la sala para que aquellos delegados que, en la línea de lo que hemos hablado antes, es decir, que deseen introducir alguna reserva, objeción, etcétera, por escrito, quieran hacer todavía uso de la palabra. Solamente en este caso, por favor. Después intentaré una solución distinta. Pero sólo en este caso es cuando les pido a ustedes que hagan uso de la palabra: cuando quieran introducir alguna modificación por escrito en el acta que se acompañará al informe. ¿Alguien quiere hacer uso de la palabra en este sentido?

Sr. delegado de Zambia, ¿quiere usted leernos el texto que quiere introducir en las actas?

N. MUKUTU (Zambia): I just want to make a few observations on the Nordic proposal. I listened with interest to the submission by -

EL PRESIDENTE: Perdón. No vamos a hacer comentarios sobre ninguna propuesta. Solamente, si alguien quiere introducir alguna cosa más en las actas, yo le ruego que haga la proposición en la forma en que se lo he pedido. Verdaderamente, yo agradezco mucho la comprensión del Delegado de Colombia, y tendremos que volver, dentro de un momento, precisamente a la última intervención que ha tenido. Pero, entretanto yo les ruego que se pida la palabra exclusivamente para aquello que se quiera hacer constar por escrito y que acompañe a la resolución actual para hacerlo constar.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMENEZ (El Salvador): Disculpe, Sr. Presidente. Yo había pedido la palabra no para plantear lo que usted nos está solicitando ahorita, sino para apoyar la propuesta de la delegación de Noruega. Si usted me da la palabra más tarde, haré mi intervención.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señora representante de El Salvador. Evidentemente, cualquiera de las exposiciones que se han hecho y cualquiera de las adhesiones que se quieran plantear, yo les ruego que, por favor, las planteen directamente a Secretaría. En estos momentos hay una sola solución, o yo considero que hay una sola solución, que puede ser aplicada; es decir, la propuesta formulada hace unos momentos por el Sr. representante de Colombia. El representante de Colombia nos ha propuesto que se acepte la resolución de los países nórdicos, con la variación que ha introducido posteriormente el representante de Noruega, Y que a ello se acompañe la objeción, la reserva hecha por el representante de Alemania Federal. ¿Cabe esta posibilidad? ¿Hay alguna objeción a que se produzca de esta forma?

Wolfgang A.F. GRABISCH (Germany, Federal Republic of) (original language German): My delegation very much appreciates the efforts being made by the representative of Colombia to help us reach a consensus at this late stage. Nevertheless, I have two problems at the moment. The first is that, in so far as the original Norwegian text is concerned, I do not have it with me. The second problem is that I cannot say whether the seven countries which yesterday expressed their reservations, and on behalf of whom I presented a common text for the reservation, in the light of the Norwegian pro-posal now wish to present that same reservation or not. I think that each of these countries will have to speak for themselves to indicate whether or not they can accept the Norwegian amendment.

EL PRESIDENTE: Llegado este momento, y no pudiéndose llegar a la solución propuesta por el Sr. delegado de Colombia, procederemos en la forma que he indicado, haciendo constar en Acta todas las reservas, objeciones, etcétera, que hasta este momento se han producido.

Paragraph 12, including draft resolution, not concluded and referred to Plenary.

Le paragraphe 12, y compris le projet de résolution, est en suspens et transmis en plénière.

El párrafo 12, incluido el proyecto de resolución, queda pendiente, y es transmitido a la Plenaria.

Draft Report of Commission I, Part 5, not concluded

Projet de rapport de la Commission I, Partie 5, est en suspens

Proyecto de informe de la Comisión I, Parte 5, queda pendiente

The meeting rose at 10.50 hours

La séance est levée à 10 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 10.50 horas