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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session • Trente-troisième session • 33° período de sesiones

**Rome, 19-26 November 2005
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**Rome, 19-26 novembre 2005
PROCÈS-VERBAUX DES SÉANCES DE LA COMMISSION I
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**Roma, 19-26 de noviembre de 2005
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19 November – 26 November 2005 Rome, 19 novembre – 26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19 de noviembre – 26 de noviembre de 2005
FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I PRIMERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
21 November 2005

The first Meeting was opened at 10.55 hours

Ms Victoria Guardia de Hernández,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 10 h 55
sous la présidence de Mme Victoria Guardia de Hernández,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera sesión a las 10.55 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Victoria Guardia de Hernández,
Presidente de la Comisión I

**SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA**

EL PRESIDENTE

Les doy a ustedes la más cordial bienvenida a la Sesión de la Comisión I en el 3er Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO). Deseo agradecerles a todos los Miembros por haber puesto en mis manos la responsabilidad de presidir esta Comisión.

En primer lugar debo informarles del horario establecido para nuestras sesiones. A saber, las sesiones matutinas iniciarán a las 9.30 hrs. y las sesiones vespertinas a las 14.30 hrs., la sesión de esta mañana terminará a las 12.30 hrs. y las próximas dos sesiones tendrán lugar el martes en la tarde a las 14.30 hrs. y el miércoles en la mañana a las 9.30 hrs., la última sesión para la adopción del informe tendrá lugar el jueves 24 de noviembre a las 14.30 hrs..

Quisiera que compartan mi felicitación y bienvenida a los señores vicepresidentes designados también para la Comisión I de esta Conferencia. Por Francia, Su Excelencia El Sr. Embajador Alan Pierret, Presidente del Comité Interministerial de Agricultura y Alimentación; y el Dr. Hassan Qutaiba, Director General de Suelos y Desarrollo, Ministerio de Agricultura de la República de Irak. Rogamos a todos puntualidad para el inicio de las sesiones, también hacemos un llamado que considero en el fondo innecesario para la brevedad de las locuciones, creo que no debe existir límite alguno cuando hay cosas importantes que decidir, pero las intervenciones deben ser breves para dar espacio a todos.

Anuncio también que el Grupo de Trabajo para las reformas propuestas por el Director General, que en el periódico se menciona que es a las 13.00 hrs., ha sido pospuesto para esta tarde a las 14.30 hrs., el Grupo se reunirá en la Sala Malasia.

Permítanme también felicitar a los Miembros del Comité de Redacción, especialmente a la República de Mozambique, que la preside. Empezaremos haciendo mención del documento que está en poder de ustedes, el C 2005 INF/4, que se refiere a la Declaración de Competencias y Derechos de Voto, presentada por la Comunidad Europea y sus Estados Miembros. Debo anunciarles que la competencia mixta se aplica a todos los puntos de la Agenda de la Comisión I. Hay un voto de la Comunidad Europea para el punto 6 y los Estados Miembros tienen derecho de voto en los puntos 7 y 8, pueden leer este documento en el C 2005 INF/4 – MIF/4.

**6. International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
6. Conférence internationale sur la réforme agraire et le développement rural
6. Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural**

EL PRESIDENTE

Ahora nos vamos a referir al primer punto de esta reunión. Es para mi un honor presentar el documento de la Conferencia C 2005/6 sobre la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Reforma Agraria y el Desarrollo Rural (ICARRD); el Consejo en sus 128 Período de Sesiones, celebrado entre el 20 y el 24 de junio 2005, aprobó la propuesta de organizar una Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural (ICARRD), nuevos desafíos y estrategias para revitalizar las Comunidades Rurales, a llevarse a cabo en marzo del 2006. El documento 2005/6 proporciona información sobre los preparativos de la Conferencia ICARRD tal como ellos encontraban al momento de enviar el documento a la imprenta, desde entonces se han producido progresos sustanciales. Quisiera solicitarle al Sr. El Lakany, Subdirector General del Departamento Forestal, que en su calidad de Oficial a Cargo del Departamento de Desarrollo Sustentable, introduzca este punto al Programa de la Conferencia y luego presente al Sr. Parviz Koohafkan, Director de la División de Desarrollo Rural y Secretario Ejecutivo de ICARRD, quien

a través de una presentación Power Point de unos 15 minutos de duración, se referirá al contenido y al proceso de organización de esta Conferencia.

Hosny EL LAKANY (Officer-in-Charge, Sustainable Development Department)

It is a pleasure to introduce this item to the Conference, in my capacity as Officer-in-Charge of the Sustainable Development Department.

As you heard from the Chairperson, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), at its Nineteenth Session, unanimously approved the proposal for FAO to convene an International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in 2006.

The Conference is viewed as a critical element of FAO's programme to fulfill the commitments of the 1996 World Food Summit, the World Food Summit: *five years later*, the World Summit of Sustainable Development and the Millennium Development Goals. Furthermore, the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the Council approved the proposal to convene and organize the Conference, with emphasis on new challenges and options for revitalizing rural communities – to be hosted by Brazil in 2006.

It is stressed, the importance of agrarian reform and rural development for poverty reduction and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit Plan of Action.

The Council approved the calendar and the proposal for a Steering Committee, composed of representatives of regional groups, with full participation of the Host Country. The Council welcomed Brazil's offer to host and contribute to the financing of the Conference and urged Member Nations to make extra-budgetary resources available to ensure a successful Conference and to support the participation of Least Developed Countries. The Council also recommended that the communication channels and other mechanisms to develop and ensure adequate government and civil society participation, in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself.

I am very pleased to note that the preparations for the Conference are well underway and it is my pleasure to ask Mr Koohafkan, the Director of the Rural Development Division of the Sustainable Development Department (SDA), to make a presentation on the progress and management aspects for the preparation of this very important Conference.

Parviz KOOHAFKAN (Director, Rural Development Division)

The International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD) brings new challenges and opportunities for re-vitalizing rural communities.

The importance of agrarian reform and rural development today has been emphasised in several locations. The International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is a timely recognition, by FAO leadership and the member countries, about the importance of agrarian reform and rural development for poverty reduction and the achievement of the World Food Summit's Plan of Action.

ICARRD will directly contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, principally: Millennium Development Goal 1: Eradication of extreme hunger and poverty; Millennium Development Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empowerment of women; Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability; and Millennium Development Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

It will also contribute to the implementation of 2003 ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration on "Promoting an integrated approach to rural development".

On the importance of agrarian reform and rural development, we could say land reform is critical for poverty and hunger reduction, and access to land, water and agrarian reforms are part and parcel of sustainable rural development. Agrarian support services, investment and economic diversification are also required and support to small-holder agriculture is key to food security, poverty reduction and rural development, particularly in view of the fact that nearly two billion

people are still dependent on locally-produced food, produced by small farmers. In addition, the dialogue with the stakeholders on this subject – which is of significant national concern in some countries – is most important and urgent.

As it was mentioned, COAG in April and Council in June, approved the proposal that FAO convene an ICARRD Conference in 2006, to be hosted by Brazil and noted that ICARRD would fulfill critical elements and commitments undertaken at the World Food Summit, the World Food Summit: *five years later*, the World Summit of Sustainable Development, ECOSOC and the Millennium Development Goals.

Council, in 2005, also approved a proposed calendar and a Steering Committee. The objective of Conference, as it was set in a concept note which was presented to COAG and then approved by Council is: first, to promote understanding, learning and constructive dialogue on agrarian reform and sustainable rural development through the creation of a lasting platform for monitoring and evaluation of best policies and practices and rural development progress; second, to share experience and foster recognition and improve willingness and concrete action through international cooperation and partnership on agrarian reform and sustainable rural development.

Three major outputs are expected from the Conference. The first would be a state of the arts in agrarian reform and rural development, emanating from national reports and country case studies and other contributions. The second, is a lasting platform of dialogue and experience sharing on agrarian reform and sustainable rural development supported by an international observatory panel. The third would be to enhance international cooperation and partnership building on a range of best policies, practices and lessons learned on agrarian reform and rural development.

The organization of the work of ICARRD has been providing inputs in the form of a concept note, COAG, Council and Conference guidance. We have five issues papers. National stakeholders have been consulted and a geomantic workshop has been organized. We also have national voluntary reports to be prepared by national governments. We have a stocktaking ongoing since the World Conference on Agrarian Reform (WCAR), which was organized in 1979 – 26 years later we are putting back this item on the agenda of the work.

Consultation with regional groups, inter-governmental organizations, civil society and NGOs the society and NGOs, we have also called for proposals and we have moderated thematic e-mail conferences and other technical papers.

For the Conference itself, we will have Plenary technical sessions, Round Tables, sessions on selected themes and we will have regional discussions.

As I said, the expected output will be a global Lasting Platform on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development; State of Agrarian Reform First Policies and Practices; Conference Report and Framework for Priority Action.

Hopefully, a Conference declaration; a number of partnership agreements; and an observatory panel. Additionally there is the work that FAO is doing, such as preparation of database and case studies, and some other material on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. Finally, contribution to achievements of the World Food Summit and MDGs.

The themes of the Conference have been identified as indicative for the moment, because the work is under progress, and we continue to have new themes to develop.

The first scheme is best policies and practices for securing and improving access to land and water. The Second, capacity building for improving access to land, water, agricultural inputs and agrarian services. Third, new opportunities to revitalize rural communities: facilitating people's choice in rural development. Fourth, agrarian reform, social justice and sustainable development. Fifth, food sovereignty and access to resources, which was proposed by Civil Society Organizations.

We are hoping that there will be a follow-up process. The Report of the ICARRD Conference will go to the CSD's 2008–2009. We will report to COAG every four years on this important issue

under the third item, we will have periodic international reports on countries' progress by Observatory Panel, based on a number of already agreed indicators, and promoting partnership and South-south cooperation on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

We have a draft Conference Programme. The first day; opening ceremony, with registration and speeches by Heads of States, Heads of International Agencies, and Delegations; presentation of five key issues paper, which I already mentioned. We will have special committees, presentation of a selection of national reports; presentation of selection of case studies, and other presentations.

In day two, we will organize two Commissions to permit all member countries to participate in the Working Groups. We will have a number of Working Groups, which are already identified, which we will deal with in detail. Commissions of course, will include representation from governments, scientific community and civil society organizations.

Day three, we will have the continuation in the Working Group, but also particularly, we will have an open ended-debate between governments and civil society. Day four, we will have Report of the Conference; brief presentations of partnership initiatives; presentation and adoption of final report; and closing ceremony.

During all the days during the Conference, we will have sessions on selected themes including a Round Table on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, discussions on specific topics, meetings on partnership initiatives, self-organized working group session, exhibits etc. And throughout the Conference, we will hopefully work out a preparation of a final declaration and the follow-up for the Conference.

Presently, the structure of the preparation of the Conference, consists of an International Steering Committee, of which I am the Executive Secretary, and the Representative of the Philippines is the Chair of this Steering Committee. We will have seven regional group members, under which a technical and a policy panel; and a number of high level consultants. The same International Steering Committee will be forming the Editorial Board for the finalization and decision on communications, on preparation of the papers for the Conference.

In Brazil, we will have a National Advisory Group, which is very well constituted and they are in full collaboration and communication with us, in order to prepare the logistics of the Conference.

The Brazilian Committee has a very full participation of many Ministers and civil society organizations. I do not wish to numerate all the details, but no doubt we have a very good collaboration with our Brazilian Committee.

We have already prepared a Web site. The Web site of the Conference is called ICARRD. It is already online and both interaction, research for documentation, search for guidelines and all the information related to the Conference is available on the Web site.

Progress to date. One international trust fund was established with a generous contribution from Brazil, some other contributions are forthcoming, particularly from IFAD, possibly from the Government of Spain, and from other governments.

This is particularly in term of financial resources, but we have a lot of in-kind contributions by the countries themselves, by our colleagues from other international institutions, other UN Agencies and also by a number of civil society organizations.

I should say that the Steering Committee is already constituted and has already had four meetings. We have a technical and advisory panel already constituted and several meetings has been organized. The Brazilian National Committee is fully functional. The Web site, as I mentioned, is working. We have prepared guidelines for national case studies and voluntary national reports. These guidelines have been made available through FAO Representations to the countries. We have already started a number of case studies and we are starting to receive some national reports.

Progress to date in Brazil has been also very substantive. The Brazilian National Committee organized a national stakeholder dialogue, with all concerned ministries plus many civil society

organization and NGOs. Their deliberation took place on 11 November 2005 and we already have the report ready to be submitted to the Steering Committee.

The preliminary list of national case studies is as follows: Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Guatemala, Venezuela, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Tunisia, Iran, Lebanon, Bosnia, China, Philippines, Nepal and Indonesia. However, this list is open and we will keep receiving new suggestions.

We have re-grouped these countries by themes: firstly, theme Access to Resources for marginalized group - there are a number of countries from all regions.

Secondly, Policies and Practices for Securing and Improving Access to Resources - again countries from all the regions but particularly from African regions.

Dynamics of actors and institutions. We have started the case studies preparation and work at national level, which consists of a stock-taking of national reports on that thematic issue and the organization of a two-day national dialogue in which all participants contribute to the information related to that specific theme. This will be a report on case studies and it will be emanated to the Conference Secretariat.

The fourth mechanism for participation and transparency process a number of other countries. The following countries for which themes are under identification are: Angola, China, European countries, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Syria and South Africa. The themes have not, as yet, been quite defined in these countries, but the process of discussion with the Secretariat is ongoing.

The Conference will be organized in Port Alegre from 7-10 March. Porto Alegre is a very pleasant city with all the necessary infrastructure available. We have visited it and are waiting for this Conference.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradecemos la información que nos han dado el señor El Lakany y el señor Koohafkan. Indudablemente es una Conferencia muy importante y subraya la importancia de la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural para la reducción de la pobreza y para la consecución del Plan de Acción de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación y los objetivos del desarrollo del milenio.

Dejamos abierta la sesión para las preguntas y los comentarios que desean hacer los señores delegados.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

At the very outset let me extend India's support and endorsement for the proposal of the Government of Brazil to host the Conference in close collaboration with FAO.

India while supporting the proposal for a conference on Agrarian Reforms, both in the Committee on Agriculture and the Council, had made a very strong plea to have a wide ranging agenda going beyond land reforms and matters immediately connected with it.

We are extremely happy and satisfied to note that our submissions have found general favour and the scope of the Conference has been enlarged to include rural development within its ambit. We are sure that this enlargement of scope will be of immense benefit in discussing agrarian reforms within a larger perspective. This will facilitate a holistic consideration of issues like rural poverty, food insecurity arising from it and a general enhancement of the quality of life of the rural community.

We would like to reiterate, our submission already made before the Council that the preparatory documentation for this event needs to be carried out with the utmost attention to details. We are

sure that the wide area of expertise available within the FAO Secretariat and the talent available elsewhere, will be adequately tapped to put in place a very comprehensive agenda.

We are also of the view that the subject of rural poverty, particularly, a careful consideration of the policy and programme interventions that have led to its considerable decline in many parts of the world, need to be provided a very sharp focus and emphasis.

Documentation is required to encapsulate success and failure studies, to inform the members and to induce a meaningful, purposeful debate on the subject. We look forward to the Conference throwing up at least the broad contours of areas needing greater attention by countries, where agrarian reform and rural development may not have lived up to the expected promise.

The community of developing countries is no longer a group of struggling national entities equally deprived and disadvantaged. Many of the members of this group have made spectacular advances in ushering in economic and social progress as also the equipment of their rural communities. These countries have come a long way from a stage of abject poverty. There is not only the need to draw on the experiences of such countries but to actively involve them in lending practical support to countries that still have a long way to go before overcoming hunger and poverty.

India would accordingly urge that one of the areas of special focus for the Conference should be evolution of a mechanism for ensuring south-south cooperation between the more advanced developing countries and the countries which may be in transition or in the initial stage of their struggle against poverty.

With considerable institutional experience already available with FAO about this aspect, the need is to further intensify and mainstream these efforts through the Agency so as to provide the necessary support to outline the broad contours of the trust areas for agrarian reform and rural development.

With these words, India once again extends its full support to the proposal.

Horacio MALTEZ (Panamá)

En primer lugar, permítame manifestarle nuestra complacencia por verla presidiendo este importante Comité, conocemos sus capacidades y estamos seguros que nos llevará por buen rumbo. También quisiera por su intermedio, felicitar a los Señores Vicepresidentes y a los Miembros del Comité de Redacción. Agradecemos también a la Secretaría por el documento que ha presentado. Agradecemos a los Sres. El-Lakany y Koohafkan por la magnífica presentación, la cual ha aclarado muchísimo los distintos puntos y nos ha confirmado lo que ya sabíamos. Para la República de Panamá, la reforma agraria tiene una importancia fundamental. Como bien lo dice el documento, es un instrumento válido para alcanzar los objetivos del Milenio y también para erradicar el hambre y la subnutrición, objetivos de la Cumbre de la FAO. Creo que la distinguida delegada de la India, tocó algunos aspectos fundamentales los cuales apoyamos, como por ejemplo, la temática que es muy importante para la inclusión de nuevos temas, estudiar muy bien el asunto de la temática y sobretodo la Cooperación Sur-Sur.

Quisiera también agradecer al ilustre Gobierno de Brasil por todo lo que está haciendo para que esta importante Conferencia se realice en su terreno.

No me queda más, Sra. Presidenta, que brindar todo mi apoyo a esta Conferencia.

Noel DE LUNA (Philippines)

I would like to commend the Secretariat for a concise and updated presentation. As we all realize by now, it was only early this year that we had decided to organize this International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. The Conference will be held in Brazil in early March next year. Thus, time is getting shorter and shorter while preparations are picking up speed. It is within this context that I call upon Member Nations to participate more actively to ensure that this Conference becomes a success. The poor and hungry will not be able to uplift themselves without having access to resources and, for the majority of them, this resource is all

about land. Many years have passed, since the last high-level Conference on Agrarian Reform. It is about time we bring back land and agrarian reform to the radar screen of the international development agenda. Lessons have been learned, priorities have changed, but the poor have remained the same. We hope that this situation be reversed.

Mohammed SHARIF (Afghanistan)

I shall be very brief. The Delegation of Afghanistan gives strong support to the convening of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development which the Government of Brazil has kindly agreed to host in March 2006. The developing countries applaud the policies of the Government of Brazil and its zero tolerance to hunger and its determination to eradicate rural poverty. Its policies provide aspiration to other developing countries. We are grateful to the Government of Brazil for its generosity in hosting this Conference.

The last Conference on the subject of agrarian reform and rural development took place in Rome in the mid-1970s. It was a great success. However, since that time, there have been many changes in the rural sector of many nations, both developed and developing nations. In the developing nations, there have been population explosions, enormous land fragmentation and a growing scarcity of water. Rural poverty has declined somewhat but very slowly and in some regions of the world there has been a setback, particularly Africa south of the Sahara. Environmental issues are coming into surface in both developed and developing countries, and there have been drastic changes in the pattern of agricultural trade and huge increase in support to agriculture in the developed countries. In addition to all these changes, Member Nations have agreed on the targets of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goals. In short, there are many vital issues which need serious discussion by Member Nations in the forthcoming Conference in Brazil.

The delegation of Afghanistan is in agreement with the ten preparatory steps for the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development as spelt out in paragraph 5 of the paper. We urge all countries, and particularly the developed countries, to contribute generously to the Global Trust Fund established by FAO to finance the Conference. We hope that the Trust Fund will make it possible to provide financial assistance to the poorest of the developing countries to make it possible for them to participate in the Conference.

Ms Patricia VICENTE VILA (European Community)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 member states. The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania associate themselves with this Statement. The European Union notes that the arrangements for the International Conference for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development are progressing quickly under a strong Brazilian leadership. We do hope that the outcome of the Conference will be as practical as possible, thanks to the lessons learned on country case studies and will generate good ideas and the political will to take forward agrarian reform in ways that benefit poor people in developing countries and lead the basis for the achievement of the millennium development goals.

The millennium summit reaffirmed the importance of rural and agricultural development as an integral part of national and international development policies. The voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security stresses, inter alia, the importance of access to resources for the improvement of food security world-wide.

The Conference in Brazil has the potential to contribute to this for the benefit of all rural populations. We are pleased to see the extent to which opportunities are to be provided for civil society organizations' engagement in the Conference. Civil society organizations have had a major role in agrarian reform and rural development in many countries and the Conference can learn much from their experiences through a constructive dialogue. Their contribution is, therefore, not only welcome but expected as a fundamental input in the political and technical debate so that this Conference leads to a real concrete outcome.

Richard NEWBERG (United States of America)

Three-quarters of the world's poor and hungry are located in rural areas. These people depend directly and indirectly on agriculture and agriculture-related activities not only for their food, but also for their income. Increasing agricultural productivity must have a high priority in any effort to promote rural development, reduce malnutrition and eradicate poverty on a sustainable basis. We recognize that FAO plays a leading role in these efforts.

The United States supports convening an International Conference on Agrarian and Agricultural Reform. The Conference will contribute to the agenda of FAO's Committee on Agriculture Sustainable and Rural Development. We believe ICARRD offers an opportunity to highlight longstanding agrarian reform issues and put forward sustainable, equitable market-based approaches and positive experiences. The main objectives and many of the themes of ICARRD are in line with components my Government has identified as fundamental to increasing agricultural productivity, improving agriculture's social, economic and environmental sustainability and overall national food security.

Perhaps the most important is secure property rights and access to finance. Farmers need secure land titles and access to credit, including micro-credit. Rural women especially, who play a prominent role in agriculture, must have equal access.

The other components deserve mention: supportive policy frameworks: good governance and proper investment encourages greater agricultural productivity and sound natural resource management; robust domestic markets and international trade opportunities: expanding farmers' commercial opportunities – including domestic markets and international trade – is critical to ensuring adequate returns and improving the trade capacity of producers and rural agricultural industries.

Enhanced human capital, strengthened agricultural training and education, and improved health contribute to better scientific capacity, more productive farmers and better decision makers over a range of economic and non-economic activities. Applied Science and Technology, Agricultural Research and Technology including bio-technology, boost productivity and foster innovation and thereby improving and building capacity, and finally, protections for the vulnerable. The land poor face particular challenges. Governments and civil society need to provide relief while working to eliminate the conditions that create vulnerability to food insecurity and famine over the long term unemployment and slow rates of economic growth often outside of agricultural production.

Pornprome CHAIRIDCHAI (Thailand)

Thailand welcomes the International Conference of Agrarian and Rural Development to be organized by FAO and the Government of Brazil. We are pleased to note that the preparation for the event has been in good progress. Thailand believes that access to land is an important prerequisite to the success of rural development. I would like to share with you the results of our Government's survey conducted in the National Poverty Eradication Programme: that a large part of our people totalling 1.9 million, identify that the lack of access to land was the primary source of their poverty. I can ensure you that the Thai Government has a strong determination in improving access to land and we have placed this issue high in our national agenda. I am pleased to see that, agrarian reform will be conceded together with the issue of social justice and sustainable development in issue paper 4 during the Conference. Thailand hopes that the International Conference will provide new insights into the improvement of access to land and will contribute to the achievement of the World Food Summit Goal and MDGs. We are looking forward to participating actively in this event.

Nobuhiko KAHO (Japan)

The delegation of Japan is much encouraged by the steps taken and the progress made in the preparation of international development, as mentioned in document C2005/6. Japan welcomes this Report as well as the presentation made this morning by the Secretariat.

Sharing experiences and lessons we learned from agrarian reform in various countries would surely bring the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In this context, we have highly appreciated the contribution of the Government of Brazil to this significant international occasion. The delegation of Japan profoundly anticipates this viable event of next March will be successful to produce wonderful fruits in Brazil.

Roberto VILLEDA TOLEDO (Honduras)

En la próxima Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural en Brasil buscaremos la oportunidad para que se logre avanzar sobre políticas positivas en el campo del desarrollo rural.

Deseo informarles que, en el marco de la estrategia de reducción de la pobreza, con énfasis en la pobreza rural, el Gobierno de Honduras ha aprobado recientemente una política de Estado para el sector agroalimentario y el medio rural en el cual se han aprobado ya dos leyes de suma importancia, una ley de ordenamiento territorial y una de administración de tierras, en la búsqueda de enfatizar la territorialidad rural para el desarrollo del medio más importante socioeconómico del país. Esperamos que este tipo de enfoques logre tener amplia discusión durante la Conferencia en Brasil.

Mme Anne GERMAIN (Canada)

Tel que démontré avec éloquence dans la présentation de ce matin ainsi que par le délégué, dont l'intervention a précédé la mienne, la réforme agraire est une question importante qui mérite de faire l'objet de davantage de discussions au niveau international et ce, de manière continue.

L'approche favorisée par le Canada, en ce qui a trait à la rencontre dont nous discutons, est qu'elle soit envisagée comme une réunion de niveau technique qui se concentrera sur les obstacles à la réforme agraire et les actions requises pour accomplir des progrès sur cette question.

Nous serons intéressés à revoir les documents de travail et les rapports nationaux que les pays souhaiteraient soumettre lorsque ceux-ci seront disponibles.

Tissa WARNASURIYA (Sri Lanka)

On behalf of Sri Lanka let me congratulate the efforts of FAO and also the Government of Brazil in organizing the very important Conference on this very important topic. I wish to also mention that as a tradition, now at this Conference as India suggested, we must confine to the land area. In expanding the topic, I wish to bring to the attention of this Conference that in addition to land irrigation aspects in improving the access of those resources because those are all man made efforts. Sri Lanka wishes to mention that while looking into these man made efforts, we must not forget that the ecosystems which had been an integral part of our agrarian life throughout history that we had to look at the various services provided by ecosystems like food and purification of water and various benefits bringing to the agrarian life and also the humankind in providing the food and various services. Therefore, I wish to emphasize the need to look at, in addition to the man-made efforts in land reforms, etc. at nature's gift-like ecosystems in this Conference.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

Ante todo deseo congratular a usted no sólo por su elección sino también por la forma en la que está conduciendo esta reunión. Estoy seguro de que llevaremos a buen término las deliberaciones de esta Comisión. Felicitaciones a los miembros de la mesa y, en particular en esta ocasión, a la Secretaría por la magnífica presentación que han hecho sobre la Conferencia. De igual manera a los miembros del Comité Directivo que han realizado un excelente trabajo en la preparación de esta Conferencia, y por supuesto al país que la va a hospedar, sobre un tema tan importante, sobre todo frente al trabajo que toda la comunidad internacional está realizando para cumplir con los Objetivos del Milenio.

Como ya se ha mencionado, el tema es de capital importancia y la forma como se va a tratar durante la Conferencia nos servirá un poco como experiencia de aprendizaje, para los países que, en diferentes formas y en diferentes niveles, han logrado implementar temas de reforma agraria

que no sólo tienen que ver con la propiedad de la tierra sino que incorpora otras áreas de desarrollo rural. Desde este punto de vista, la comparación de experiencias va a ser muy útil para todos nosotros. Pero también sería muy importante, y en esto me uno a los que me han precedido en el uso de la palabra, que este aprendizaje se pudiera traducir en las esferas de cooperación Sur-Sur. Me parece que de este tipo de escenarios, donde estamos mostrando lo que podría traducirse con una especie de mejores prácticas, sería muy importante que salieran por lo menos algunos ejemplos de cooperación entre países que han tenido experiencias exitosas en tema de reforma agraria.

El Gobierno de Colombia está dispuesto a colaborar en todo este proceso, apoyaremos a la Secretaría y a los organizadores de esta Conferencia en la presentación de un par de casos nacionales que ya mencionaron, tanto sobre el tema de derecho de las minorías técnicas, el caso concreto de las indígenas de Colombia, así como el tema de las alianzas productivas. En estos y en cualquier otro tema que la Secretaría considere que el Gobierno de Colombia pueda apoyar, estamos dispuestos a hacerlo. Para concluir, reiteramos con mucho énfasis nuestro apoyo a la realización y a los trabajos de esta Conferencia.

Mahmoud AL NAGGAR (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Egypt fully supports the holding of the extremely important Conference in Brazil, and in this context, we would like to thank Brazil for having agreed to welcome and host this Conference. We have had great experience in this as regards the restoration of desert lands, harnessing of desert lands and the use of saline areas. We give great importance to all these subjects which will be discussed on the agenda, and we would support India's proposal to discuss south-south cooperation in order to link efforts for agrarian reform. We should ensure greater equity when it comes to the distribution of land among the small farmers as another issue which needs to be tackled during this Conference which is that of the marketing of farm products of agriculture produced by small farmers in rural areas. Small farmers have great difficulties when it comes to marketing these commodities.

Mohd MOKHTAR ISMAIL (Malaysia)

Malaysia would like to commend FAO on the decision to hold this important Conference. We would also like to commend Brazil for graciously offering to host this event. Given the still high number of hungry and undernourished people in the world today, the hosting of this Conference is indeed timely. We realize that drastic measures must be taken by governments to address issues related to rural development and sustainable hunger reduction.

In this regard, we certainly hope that the Conference will address issues and shortcomings in a more aggressive manner in the achievement of the relevant MDGs. But what is more important is that this Conference gets the commitment of the political leaders.

Malaysia fully supports this Conference.

Ángel SARTORI ARELLANO (Chile)

En primer término, consideramos importante poder traer este tema a un análisis profundo utilizando los antecedentes que diferentes países ya han experimentado en procesos de reforma agraria. Creemos que la iniciativa de Brasil apunta a lo correcto, en cuanto a poder entregar elementos para un análisis certero después de un tiempo transcurrido con procesos como este, y nos permite tomar decisiones. El tema de la reforma agraria muchas veces cruza sólo lo productivo pero tiene también un elemento de ética política, de consideraciones políticas respecto a los elementos para superar la pobreza, fundamentalmente en sectores rurales, intentando incorporar poblaciones que muchas veces han estado marginadas de los avances del desarrollo y crecimiento que han tenido los países. Sin embargo, junto con celebrar esta iniciativa, consideramos que es necesario que los procesos de reforma agraria no sólo queden en la distribución de las tierras, que creo ha sido en algunas oportunidades el serio problema para que éstas logren un desarrollo, una estabilización, y que permita efectivamente a los campesinos superar situaciones a las cuales no queremos aspirar; al contrario, queremos aspirar a que surjan, a

que tengan también acceso a los beneficios que significa el desarrollo. Estos elementos necesarios que deben acompañar los procesos de reforma agraria, son los soportes, tanto técnicos como financieros, de gestión, que son absolutamente necesarios para que el proceso tenga éxito. Creo que muchos de los países que hemos implementado procesos de reforma agraria, no tuvieron los éxitos deseados, porque esos soportes, esas ayudas, esos complementos necesarios, no fueron extensos, permanentes o fueron sencillamente insuficientes. Chile tuvo un proceso largo de reforma agraria y uno de contra-reforma agraria, y hemos sacado experiencias de estas situaciones, por lo tanto, consideramos que debemos celebrar esta iniciativa de poder hacer una Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Acceso a la Tierra, pero además tomar en consideración estos otros elementos: todo lo que significa la transferencia tecnológica, que los campesinos también puedan utilizar los nuevos conceptos de gestión, que tengan acceso a la investigación y a la innovación agrícola, que no sólo seamos productores de bienes primarios. Estamos comprometidos con este proceso, nos parece interesante, pero queremos resaltar que no basta la redistribución de tierras. El uso inteligente y adecuado del recurso hídrico es importante, sin lugar a duda, para un desarrollo agrícola interesante, permanente y sustentable; todos los elementos que he mencionado confluyen para asegurar, o tener una visión más cercana al éxito, si efectivamente son considerados cuando se toma la decisión de hacer una repartición de tierras.

Termino diciendo que nuestro gobierno esta comprometido con esta iniciativa, y queremos ciertamente participar en los trabajos que de ello se puedan desprender.

Mohamed MOHATTANE (Maroc)

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter la FAO pour avoir pris l'initiative d'organiser cette Conférence internationale. Je voudrais également féliciter le Comité qui veille sur la préparation de cette Conférence, le féliciter surtout sur les étapes franchies, dont la préparation, et bien évidemment en ce qui nous concerne en tant que Maroc, c'est avec beaucoup d'honneur et beaucoup de plaisir que nous allons être avec vous au Brésil, parce que nous sommes conscients de l'importance de l'articulation qu'il y a entre la pauvreté et les structures foncières. Permettez-moi de rappeler assez brièvement qu'au Maroc, les deux tiers des pauvres sont des ruraux et que 80 pour cent du revenu en milieu rural est d'origine agricole, et que plus de 75 pour cent des exploitations ont moins de 5 ha. C'est pour vous dire qu'il y a là un lien étroit entre la pauvreté et la possession de la terre. Permettez-moi également de rappeler qu'au Maroc nous avons arrêté en l'an 2000 une stratégie 2020, en matière de développement rural et récemment nous avons fait l'évaluation à mi-parcours de cette stratégie et nous avons également un plan d'action en ce qui concerne le développement rural et récemment Sa Majesté le Roi, dans le mois de mai 2005 a lancé l'idée d'une initiative nationale de développement rural qui a retenu un programme spécifique au développement rural. Je voudrais, si vous le permettez, Madame la Présidente, faire une remarque beaucoup plus d'ordre méthodologique en soulignant l'importance qu'il y a à raisonner dans cette Conférence, pas seulement en termes de structures foncières, mais aussi en termes de structures agraires qui est un concept plus vaste, et qui renvoie un certain nombre de choses à l'ignorance, à l'analphabétisme, aux structures mentales et également au statut juridique des terres, qui implique un certain nombre de droits positifs, de droits musulmans, etc. C'est pour vous dire aussi que cette dimension juridique de la terre est importante et qu'on doit avoir présent à l'esprit le Brésil.

Anton KOHLER (Switzerland)

Switzerland welcomes the organization of the ICARRD and aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Allow me to underline two or three points which appear important to us. The first one, in document C 2005/6 we miss a reference or link to the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food. Second, we also miss the involvement of other important international institutions, like IFAD, World Bank and others. Third, Switzerland is of the opinion that agrarian reform has its main focus in rural development generally, but with a special focus on the poorest who lack sufficient access to resources, not only to land, but to water, to extension services, to agricultural inputs and so on.

With these constructive points of critique, Switzerland is looking forward to actively participating in the ICARRD.

Ms Mangi RAMABENYANE (South Africa)

South Africa wishes to commend and support the initiative by FAO and the Government of Brazil to host and organize the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development.

Our delegation also wishes to thank the Preparatory Committee for considering South Africa as one of the possible case studies for consideration during the Conference.

South Africa, therefore, in this regard, commits itself to participating fully and actively in this forthcoming Conference and, therefore, to also prepare an initial report. However, it also wishes to propose as one of the thematic areas for consideration, emanating naturally from Issue Paper 4 and also in support of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Food, the sustainable use of safety nets and food aid in leveraging locally-based food supply systems in support of rural economic development. We believe that this has always been the missing link. Every time the debates have been around land access and other issues, but in bridging the gap between production and access, this issue of sustainable safety nets has always been missing. So we feel that this should be considered as one of the thematic areas during the Conference.

Mrs Nancy K. GITONGA (Kenya)

The delegation of Kenya supports the convening of this very important Conference in 2006.

Kenya notes the grim picture of the food situation and the slow rural development in sub-Saharan Africa causing very slow world creation and, therefore, hopes that the Conference will focus on commercializing of agricultural production in order to expedite rural development. Kenya also hopes that the Conference will look at the issues of market access for agricultural produce so that they can access both regional and international markets. It is also hoped that the Conference will also provide the sharing of information; it will be an opportunity to be able to share experience, especially from those countries that have shown tangible growth and rapid success in rural development and, therefore, for the countries that have not done so well this is an opportunity for them to learn and make some progress.

It is Kenya's sincere hope that the developing countries will be given an opportunity or be supported in order to be able to attend this Conference.

Radi AL-TARAWNEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

Allow me first and foremost to express, on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Jordan, our sincere thanks to the Secretariat for having organized this Conference – more specifically as this Conference is being held at a time when the gap in food and malnutrition is on the increase. I would also like to thank, most sincerely, the Government of Brazil for having convened this Conference. Our thanks are also addressed to the Organization.

We would like to express our approval of all procedures that are proposed for this Conference, and we sincerely hope that the papers and studies submitted to the Conference shall also take up our problems and obstacles and propose solutions and recommendations. This is essential in order to increase the benefits from the Conference and the exchange of experiences.

LUO MING (China)

The Chinese delegation appreciates the FAO Secretariat for organizing this Conference and also thanks the Host Country, Brazil. Land reform is a very important measure for rural development and agricultural development. China, in this area, also achieved a great deal, and we would appreciate the opportunity to share the experience and information with other countries. We will support this Conference, and we will send our delegation to participate in this Conference.

Abdel Mohsen Hussain Al-GALLAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

First and foremost, our congratulations to the Government of Brazil for having kindly accepted to host the Conference. We would also like to congratulate the Secretariat for the preparations. We

sincerely hope that the Conference shall also dwell on water resources, such as the treatment of waste water and its use in agriculture. This is a subject that is acquiring increased importance in countries suffering from limited water resources of poor quality. I would like to express my support to Egypt's proposal regarding the assistance extended to small holders in marketing their produce as they encounter difficulties in competing with producers from major countries.

Ms Francesca RONCHI PROJA (International Federation of Home Economics)

I am speaking on behalf of my Federation but also of the Ad Hoc Group of International NGOs which are working closely with FAO. We welcome the opportunity of participating in the preparation of this important Conference, and we have discussed within the group some of the items that are of special interest to many members of the Ad Hoc Group. We have provided some comments, particularly because many members of the group are interested and active at international/national levels in the role of women in agriculture and rural development. This includes:

1. Women's right to land ownership, which is still not allowed in some countries and legal support for women to attain such rights. The exact situation should be investigated in each country, and we hope that this aspect will be taken into account in the documents under preparation for ICARRD.
2. Their right to free water supply for land and family use, easily reachable to relieve the burden often left to women and children of carrying water over long distances.
3. Support to rural women in terms of local infrastructures to relieve the family burden caring for children for aging and sick members, for family food production, preparation and processing and allow women and young girls to participate more actively in community life, income-generating activities and educational projects.
4. Support for obtaining micro-credits for income-generating activities.
5. Support and promotion on home and family economics education and training for both girls and boys to ensure the sharing of responsibilities and burdens within the family by both men and women.

In view of the importance of the above aspects, we think that the issues and their implications are worth a separate attention in the ICARRD Conference.

Guilherme CASSEL (Brasil)

Primero, quiero agradecer todo el apoyo y las manifestaciones positivas de tantos países acerca de nuestra Conferencia. Una Conferencia de este porte y con tantos desafíos no sería posible sin el apoyo de tantos países, es una tarea conjunta a llevar adelante hasta el final. En este sentido, deseo ratificar también la necesidad de que los países contribuyan con el Fondo de la Conferencia, ya que son numerosas las delegaciones que no tienen condiciones financieras para enviar sus delegaciones a Brasil en marzo próximo. Agradezco también las referencias positivas del Secretario Parviz Koochafkan acerca de los trabajos que vamos a realizar en Brasil para la Conferencia. Hace aproximadamente 20 días atrás, realizamos en Brasil un Seminario importante con gobiernos y decenas de miembros de las sociedades civiles que trabajan y luchan por la reforma agraria y el desarrollo rural. Me parece que compartimos con la FAO, con el Comité Directivo un momento importante de preparación de nuestra Conferencia.

Por último quiero reafirmar nuestra convicción de que la recuperación de la Agenda de la Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural, es fundamental para lograr con éxito los objetivos del Milenio, enfrentar el hambre en el mundo y avanzar en busca de la justicia social. Nuestra última Conferencia se realizó hace más de 25 años atrás. Desde entonces hemos avanzado poco, y tenemos deudas enormes con esos temas. Es importante que en marzo abordemos con profundidad, con consecuencia, temas como la democratización de la misma tierra, las cuestiones de género en el medio rural, las gestiones que envuelven los problemas de las poblaciones tradicionales como los indígenas, los negros, los pueblos de la foresta, las cuestiones ambientales

de la misma agua y de la democratización de medios de producción; y sobretudo, los temas relativos a la soberanía y seguridad alimentaria. Nosotros somos optimistas, esperamos realizar un grande evento que pueda sobretudo avanzar en los sistemas que confiamos serán fundamentales para conseguir más justicia social, más desarrollo rural y combatir el hambre, una reforma agraria consecuente y un desenvolvimiento rural sostenible.

Por último, quiero agradecer a la FAO y a todos los países que de alguna forma han contribuido con esta Conferencia.

Hosny EL-LAKANY (Officer-in-Charge, Sustainable Development Department)

Allow me please to thank all the delegates for their support of the Conference in general and for our work along with our Brazilian colleagues and other partners. We thank you for your ideas, your constructive comments, especially some of the missing points. We hope to take care of that, and also we thank you for the guidance you have given us on the conduct of the Conference itself.

We thank all the organizations and the countries who contributed financially to the Conference, especially Brazil, and we call upon others, as well, to support the participation of developing countries.

This is a Conference of countries and civil society. We trust it is going to be a very comprehensive and successful Conference. We are four months away from the Conference. I would encourage those who have not contributed or indicated their intention to participate to do so in the very near future.

May I pass the word now to my colleague, Mr Koohafkan, for any specific comments.

Parviz KOOHAFKAN (Director, Rural Development Division)

Two specific comments. Thank you very much for all this unanimous support.

Regarding IFAD, I should say that IFAD is a member of the Policy & Steering Panel of the Steering Committee and is also an observer in the Steering Committee. Regarding other international institutions and UN Agencies, we have been collaborating with all of them, particularly UNDP, ILO and the World Bank, either in collaboration for the preparation of the thematic reports, country case studies or other issue papers on which we are working.

Many of the themes that you have proposed have been included. We are also open in welcoming new themes that you have suggested and, not only will we try to address many of these issues in a very, very integrated and holistic way, but particularly we have opened an e-mail conference on a debate through our web site with all countries, scientific communities, NGOs, civil society organizations, private sectors and others to enhance our collaboration in this dialogue, but particularly enrich the Conference.

EL PRESIDENTE

Al concluir esta 1ª Sesión, mi agradecimiento muy especial a todas las Representaciones, a las Señoras y a los Señores Delegados que hicieron un gran esfuerzo para que se concluyera exitosamente con una numerosa participación.

Desearía recordarles que la 2ª Sesión de la Comisión I, en la que se examinará el Tema 8 del Programa, Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO, se celebrará el martes 22 de noviembre a las 14.30 hrs. y será presidida por el Vicepresidente de la Comisión, Dr. Hassan Kutaiba, Director General de Suelos y Desarrollo del Ministerio de Agricultura de la República de Iraq. Inmediatamente después de la Sesión del martes, el Comité de Redacción, se reunirá para discutir el Punto 6 en la Sala México.

Asimismo, deseamos felicitar al Dr. Sergio Goveia de Mozambique, por su elección como Presidente del Comité de Redacción. La 3ª Sesión de la Comisión I, en la que se examinará el Tema 7, Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción sobre Género y Desarrollo, por el 2007, que se celebrará el miércoles 23 de noviembre a las 9.30 horas y será presidida por la República de Francia, por su Excelencia el Sr. Embajador Alain Pierret,

Presidente del Comité Interministerial de Agricultura y Alimentación. También les recuerdo que hoy a las 14.30 horas está el Grupo de Trabajo en la Sala Malasia.

The meeting rose at 12.25 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.25 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19 November – 26 November 2005 Rome, 19 novembre – 26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19 de noviembre – 26 de noviembre de 2005
SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I DEUXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEGUNDA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
22November 2005

The first Meeting was opened at 14:50 hours

Mr Hasan Kutaiba

Vice Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 14:50

sous la présidence de M. Hasan Kutaiba

Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda sesión a las 14:50 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Hasan Kutaiba

Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA (continuación)

8. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme
8. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO
8. Programa Mundial de Alimentos Naciones Unidas/FAO

CHAIRMAN (Original language Arabic)

I will now open this second session of Commission I, and before beginning our discussion of the item on our agenda, I would like to make an announcement, if I may.

On Wednesday, 23 November, in the Green Room, there is going to be an event from 12.45 hours and 14.30 hours, and it is going to deal with the Avian Flu. Now, this announcement been made, I would like to have us turn to item 8 dealing with World Food Programme, and here we will be describing the present situation.

ECOSOC and FAO are, as you know, the two parents of the World Food Programme and we have here with us, Ms Sheila Sisulu, representing the Executive Director of WFP, as well as the Secretary of the Executive Board. We also have Leukner Allemagne with us who deals with the external relations within WFP. I would also like to remind you that as regards the document which deals with this item, we actually do not have a written text for this item of the agenda. So, allow me to ask Ms Sisulu, the Representative of the Executive Director, to take the floor.

Ms Sheila SISULU (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I am pleased to be here representing my Executive Director, Jim Morris, who unfortunately is travelling out of Rome and sends his greetings. He would have loved to be here and apologizes for not being here in person.

The World Food Programme 2004 Annual Report to ECOSOC and FAO Council has already been discussed by both the World Food Executive Board in January 2005 and also by the FAO Council in June of this year. I, therefore, do not propose to summarize the Report in my oral remarks here today. I will, however, address a few points which were raised at the discussion of the support at the June Session of the FAO Council. These are mainly the concern over WFP's decreasing level of multilateral contributions and the importance of close cooperation with FAO. I will also update you on major development affecting WFP in this current year.

Looking back at 2004, the World Food Programme reached a 113 million people in 80 countries; 89 million people were reached through short-and long-term emergency operations and 24 million people through development projects. WFP accounted for nearly 50 percent of global food aid deliveries by shipping 5.1 million tonnes of food. WFP entered 2005 facing a massive emergency arising from the Asian Tsunami, where we fed, at the operation's peak, 2.2 million people, and WFP is still providing food at present to 1.2 million people.

Throughout this year, further dramatic events kept unfolding, which present large and expensive security and logistical challenges. Among them are the severe food security crises due to the drought and locust invasion in Niger, where WFP is currently providing food assistance to over 2 million people. Hurricane Stan, in Central America, which affected 1.5 million people and where WFP put in place an emergency response that will feed 285 000 people. And of course, the Pakistan earthquake where 2.3 million people will need food aid for the next 6 months and of which WFP will feed 1 million. The Pakistan emergency is likely one of the most logistically complex and toughest that WFP has ever had to face.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my speech, let me now address some of the concerns raised at the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Session of the FAO Council in June of this year, at the occasion of the discussion of the World Food Programme 2004 Annual Report.

To raise all the resources required to meet rising global food aid needs, a strategy to expand and diversify the donor base has been approved by the WFP Executive Board in October 2004, that reiterates the different ways in which donors can contribute. The WFP Executive Board in November this year, approved the Funding for Effectiveness pay power which makes the case that, if a greater proportion of contributions are provided multilaterally, WFP can be more effective in meeting beneficiary needs on time. Such donations could be provided both in cash or in kind, though cash generally provides more flexibility. Currently only 5.3 percent of contributions received by WFP are fully multilateral, in cash and without requirements as to their use.

With additional and more flexible resources, WFP would have greater capacity to purchase food urgently when needed for emergencies, avert pipeline breaks, reimburse advanced financing and provide regular food rations more efficiently to its beneficiaries. Ideally, all contributions would be provided this way. As a step in this direction, it is recommended that in the next biennium, efforts be made to reach a target of 30 percent of contributions provided multilaterally without restrictions and preferably in cash.

The World Food Programme funding situation, to date, is that the share of the top ten donors in overall terms is decreasing. In absolute terms, the funding from this group has actually increased from US\$1.6 billion in 2002 to US\$2.3 billion in 2005. In other words, we are getting more support from our top donors. Still, they share a smaller percentage of our overall resources. Their relative share has decreased from 89 percent in 2002 to 82 percent this year. This has been made possible by the increased commitment of other traditional donors, new and non-traditional donors, including contributions from the private sector.

With reference to the collaboration between FAO and WFP, also in collaboration with IFAD, we are committed to working together in fighting hunger and rural poverty. We support the twin track strategy for reducing hunger that stresses the importance of long-term investment in agriculture and the reduction of rural poverty, coupled with immediate direct assistance to the poor and hungry.

WFP supports the joint advocacy initiative of the Rome-based Agencies, NGOs and other civil representatives within the International Alliance Against Hunger. WFP, along with other members of the IAAH, formulated a Strategy Paper which was presented to the Committee on World Food Security on 22 September 2004. It maps out some future action by the International Alliance in its effort to promote and support the creation of national alliances, whose scope should be to mobilize all parts of society which can contribute to reaching the aim of eradicating hunger.

FAO remains one of WFPs most important and most frequent partners. In 2004, we collaborated fully in three countries. The major areas of collaborations were in agriculture, crop production followed by food for education and joint assessments. WFP worked closely with FAO and IFAD while preparing our participation at the high level segment of ECOSOC in July 2005 in New York. The Rome-based agencies prepared joint statements for the Roundtable on the Millennium Development Goal on Poverty and Hunger. FAO, IFAD and WFP were pleased that the September World Summit outcome document recognized the importance of food security, rural agriculture development and reduction of malnutrition, particularly among children, as core elements of national development policies.

Let me conclude by saying that partnerships with UN Agencies, governments, international and non-governmental organizations are vital to WFP. We are very proud of our close and important partnership with FAO, and we look forward to sharing this fruitful collaboration for many years to come, in our drive to give a better life to millions of needy people in the world.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

En primer lugar, quisiera agradecer a la Sra. Sisulu, Directora Adjunta del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, por su presentación y pedirle que haga llegar nuestro agradecimiento también al Sr. Morris.

La delegación de El Salvador quiere apoyar, o reiterar el apoyo de nuestra delegación, a este informe, lo cual ya fue expresado por el GRULAC durante las reuniones de la Junta Ejecutiva que celebramos en febrero y en junio, y en las cuales hicimos algunas consideraciones. Quisiera señalar el hecho de que nos hubiese gustado recibir un documento con el Informe de la Junta Ejecutiva en el cual se detallase un fragmento de lo que dijo el Consejo de la FAO en su sesión de junio; esto hubiese sido muy útil para nuestra delegación. Normalmente durante la Conferencia siempre ha sido distribuido un documento que contiene el Informe del PMA y en esta ocasión no ha sido distribuido.

Quisiera aprovechar esta oportunidad para reiterar al PMA nuestro pleno respaldo por las actividades que realiza, así como hacerle llegar a la señora Sisulu y, por su medio, al PMA, el agradecimiento de la Delegación de El Salvador por su constante ayuda, la cual ha sido patentada durante las dos catástrofes naturales que azotaron nuestro país, el huracán Stan y la erupción del volcán Ilamatepec. El PMA como siempre estuvo presente desde los primeros momentos de estas tragedias que golpearon nuestro país.

Para concluir quisiera reiterar la importancia que nuestra delegación le da a un trabajo conjunto entre el PMA, la FAO y el FIDA y felicitamos al PMA por mantener siempre este espíritu de colaboración entre las tres organizaciones que tienen su sede en Roma y que trabajan en nuestros países.

Ms Radha SINGH (India)

India notes with satisfaction the performance of the World Food Programme during the last two years with the incidence of natural calamities increasing in frequency and magnitude, WFP is becoming ever more a crisis management Organization. We congratulate the WFP for handling a series of crisis with great success in collaboration with members of international and national humanitarian and civil society organizations. All these efforts have contributed significantly to mitigation of distress caused by disasters, natural and man made.

In the current year alone, in addition to WFP's remarkable response to the unprecedented devastation caused by the Indian Ocean Tsunami, huge emergency operations have been mounted in Sudan, Southern Africa and most recently in Pakistan and Central America. Unfortunately, the demands placed on WFP by such emergencies, both in terms of financial human resources, result in WFP's development focus being progressively diminished. We believe that unless the problem of chronic hunger is addressed through development programmes and the coping capacity of vulnerable people is strengthened, humanitarian crises will continue to affect the lives of large numbers people within developing countries.

In terms of programmatic content, we commend WFP's focus on women and the special emphasis on mother and child nutrition. WFP's school feeding programme has demonstrated the role that food can play in bringing children to school while improving their nutritional status. We recommend that such initiatives, in line with national priorities and in partnership with national governments and civil societies, be further strengthened.

We, in India, have an abiding interest in strengthening WFP's interventions in the non crisis mode. Such programmes have, in the last four decades or so, demonstrated viability and doability of various methodologies like food for work, food for social work and innovative nutritional inputs and many other. These innovations have contributed significantly to evolution of many national development programmes which have contributed to the reduction of poverty, nutritional up gradation and many other good such initiatives. We strongly feel that WFP should make concerted efforts to be part of a development processes within the developing countries and the paradigm developed in India should prove most useful in that direction.

WFP has made significant progress, in expanding its donor base not only by encouraging new donors, but by attracting donations from the private sector. We strongly endorse this policy and hope that financial regulations and procedures can be adapted to support contributions from new donors.

The review of business processes undertaken by the Organization, has resulted in major efficiencies in terms of larger and more timely food deliveries to hungry people. We encourage further innovative initiatives on these lines. In particular, we are eager to see the results of the proposed hunger insurance scheme that is to be piloted by WFP next year.

We are happy to note, the various areas of collaboration between WFP and the concerned Rome-based agencies, as also the other UN Organizations. Further synergy and coordination will result in pooling of comparative advantages and enhanced efficiency.

Aamir Ashraf KHAWAJA (Pakistan)

We are all aware of the excellent role performed by the WFP in responding to natural and man made calamities. Today, I would like to just highlight three areas relevant to the WFP which are perhaps not as clearly understood in view of an overwhelming stress that is given to the emergency programmes.

WFP's development projects and country programmes. The importance of these programmes is not realized as readily as the importance of WFP engaging its emergency and relief and rehabilitation activities.

In our view, the development projects or country programmes launched by WFP gives it the necessary capability to respond quickly and efficiently to emergency. Otherwise WFP should not be present in a particular country where an emergency arises the logistics of responding quickly to a crisis situation can be enormous. It is more helpful for WFP to be in countries, which are prone to natural and man-made crises, allowing it to respond more quickly to an emerging crisis.

Firstly, the development projects or country programmes are, in a way, pre-emptive measures to avoid crises, especially those crises which are man made and that is the direction in which we feel that an institution like WFP should continue to work.

Secondly, we note with a great satisfaction that WFP is aiming for more multilateral funding. We do feel that it is necessary for WFP to aspire to raise as much multilateral funding as it possibly can in the next biennium. We do note that his figure in the previous biennium was only about five percent, and for the next biennium the target of WFP is much higher – if I remember it correctly it is nearly 30 percent for the next biennium. Basically we wish the WFP all the luck because we think that it will give WFP the necessary flexibility to respond to the different challenges that it faces today.

Thirdly, we would like to point out to the stress on WFP staff in view of a rising number of natural calamities in the last two years. We would possibly like to know if WFP has a contingency planning mechanism to address this element of stress on its staff, because the emergencies both man made and natural are rising year by year and month by month. We would sort of wonder if WFP finds that it is in a position to respond to such a situation in the next two years, or would the time come when WFP would not be able to respond adequately to such a scenario.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

We are pleased to be able to commend the World Food Programme, in the effective way it carries out its humanitarian and development activities.

Our aid agency, the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID), undertook a MARAAF review of WFP, that is Multilateral and Regional Agency Assessment Framework. This review, which found that WFP activities are very closely aligned with the values and principles of NZAID, recognized that WFP contributes effectively to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals. The review assessed the WFP to be both well led and managed, and a very effective and efficient agency.

NZAID's engagement with the WFP is in line with Monterey Consensus commitments and agreement in the OECD Development Assistance Committee, to larger more stable and predictable flows of funds.

New Zealand's core contributions are untagged, hence can be used to supplement necessary operations which have been accorded a lower priority by other donor partners, such as development policy engagement.

While we have had concerns in the past about mandate creep and drift into standard development agency activities, we are comfortable with the calibrated total effort put into this area by WFP, and consider it helps in policy and operational terms to link emergency, recovery and transition phases of crisis.

The early warning, prevention and mitigation at the front end, and managing transition to development at the other, in our view makes for a better humanitarian agency.

That said, we still wish the great majority 80 percent plus, of WFP's focus to be an emergency and protracted recovery work.

In addition to core funding, New Zealand continues to have strong partnerships across our regional and bilateral programmes. In the past financial year, we have made contributions to North Korea, Southern Africa, Latin America, Myanmar and Timor-Leste, as well as a NZ\$5 million payment to the WFP's Tsunami Appeal.

As a consequence of the MARAAF review that I mentioned earlier, NZAID doubled its contribution to WFP in the 2005–2006 financial year, as part of a multi-year strategy to increase its level of support.

While NZAID has annual appropriations for multilateral core funding, and we cannot advise out-year increases, WFP should rest assured that New Zealand is planning on further enhancing its contributions. This will depend on coming budget cycles.

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While NZAID has annual appropriations for multilateral core funding, and we cannot advise out-year increases, WFP should rest assured that New Zealand is planning on further enhancing its contributions. This will depend on coming budget cycles.

Just before I close, I would like to agree with the comment from El Salvador about the usefulness of having a document before us; even a brief one with the kind of information which was provided in the introduction by Mrs Sisulu, would have been useful for us to reflect on beforehand.

Pornprome CHAIRIDCHAI (Thailand)

Thailand congratulates the WFP for its achievements in implementing its programme of work during the biennium 2004–05. We are pleased that WFP has adopted many new policies towards the improvement of its efficiency of the work and improved transparency in its operations.

We are also pleased to see close cooperation between WFP and FAO. Thailand recognizes WFP as the most important organization as far as food aid for humanitarian purposes are concerned. Thailand supports WFP to continue its leadership in providing food aid in emergency situations as demonstrated by the tsunami earthquake last year. However, we wish that WFP operations should also aim at assisting the recipients to be able to live a secured livelihood in the longer term after the operations end. In this way, WFP operations will be able to contribute more to the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, Thailand has the opinion that the sustainability of the impact of WFP operations should, and can, be improved.

I have the honour to share with all of you at this meeting the activities of Her Royal Highness Princess Sirindhorn, the Goodwill Ambassador of WFP, on school feeding. This year, Her Royal

Highness has handed over a school complex to the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia. One of the school activities includes school gardening and school feeding, very much in line with the work of WFP.

Francisco José COY GRANADOS (Colombia)

En primer lugar, déjenme agradecer y felicitar a la Directora Alterna del Programa Mundial de Alimentos, por la presentación que nos acaba de hacer sobre los resultados en este último bienio. Sin embargo, hubiera sido útil tener a la mano un documento de manera que nuestros comentarios y las eventuales preguntas que hubieran podido surgir, tuviesen una base mas informada. Sobre lo poco que alcanzamos captar, hay algunos comentarios que la delegación de Colombia quisiera hacer. En primer lugar, sin duda, hay algunas condiciones de estrechez financiera y ante la recurrencia de catástrofes humanitarias que se presentan en todo el mundo, el Programa está haciendo una labor excepcional; es tal vez el rostro más visible y más amable del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, el primero en llegar a los lugares de dificultad, por esa razón creo que la comunidad internacional debería hacer un gran esfuerzo en apoyar lo que ustedes nos están planteando, sobretudo lo que tiene que ver con el aumento de las contribuciones destinadas a enriquecer los Fondos Multilaterales.

Nosotros llevamos varios años hablando en el Sistema de Naciones Unidas de la necesidad de reforma y fortalecimiento del multilateralismo; una forma de respaldar con hechos esas palabras sería fortalecer estos Fondos Multilaterales que le permitirían al Programa, no sólo continuar realizando la magnífica labor atendiendo emergencias, sino además darle estabilidad a los programas de más largo aliento, como cada vez que se presentan catástrofes como las que hemos vivido en el último tiempo, donde se comenzó a tener dificultades para sostenerlo. Nosotros mismos, a pesar de ser beneficiarios de muchas de estas contribuciones multilaterales para las operaciones que tiene el Programa en Colombia, nos preocupa la sostenibilidad del Programa a largo plazo, por eso quisiera animar a los donantes, tanto a los oficiales como a los privados, a los cuales está extendiendo la mano ahora el Programa a hacer sus contribuciones y a mantener vigente la excelente labor que está haciendo.

David C. AUSTIN (United States of America)

Thank you and congratulations to Mrs Sisulu for your comprehensive summary and also for the excellent work of your colleagues at the World Food Programme this past year. You are to be commended.

The United States of America appreciates the progress made by WFP in contributing to the United Nations operational activities. We welcome the enhanced cooperation between FAO and WFP, both at Headquarters and in the Field. We look forward to their continuing collaboration on the twin track approach to food security, on needs assessments, on emergency responses in the provision of agricultural inputs, and, of course, on nutrition.

We also commend WFP for its work to expand the donor base by attracting new donors, for ongoing improvements in its business process review and for its commitment to the continuous process improvement.

Patrick SAINT-HILAIRE (Haïti)

Je tiens tout d'abord à remercier Madame Sizulu pour son exposé concis et complet. Le débat aurait été peut-être plus animé si on avait eu un document écrit sous les yeux. Ma délégation ne peut que féliciter le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour son action. Le PAM a toujours joué un rôle très appréciable dans la recherche des solutions aux problèmes de l'alimentation en Haïti. Mais quand nous parlons des problèmes, nous parlons de défi, un défi d'autant plus grave qu'il évoque d'autres défis.

On ne parle pas d'alimentation sans parler de santé, on ne parle pas d'alimentation sans parler d'éducation. Le travail du PAM est un travail considérable, c'est un travail qui porte sur des défis et l'unique façon de faire face à ce défi, c'est d'embrasser dans un souci d'équilibre, le double mandat de l'Organisation. Le mandat d'urgence, l'action d'urgence ne peut être durable que s'il y a

un niveau de développement préalable, un travail de développement. Mais à chaque fois nous évoquons les mêmes préoccupations, le déclin des contributions liées au développement, le déclin de la contribution multilatérale. On peut tout simplement dire que Madame Sizulu a bien évoqué les préoccupations des pays membres, notamment des pays bénéficiaires. A chaque fois que nous présentons notre vision du travail du PAM, notre vision de l'action du PAM, il y a deux idées qui ressortent, la première c'est la contribution, les ressources qui sont nécessaires pour les activités de l'Organisation et deuxièmement la nécessité du travail discipliné, la nécessité du resserrement du partenariat avec le PAM et le Fonds international du développement agricole (FIDA) parce que la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté c'est l'affaire de tous. Il faut une mobilisation des ressources en même temps qu'une mobilisation de toutes les volontés.

Philippe MOUMIE (Cameroun)

La délégation du Cameroun voudrait d'abord féliciter le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour l'excellent travail qu'il effectue à travers le monde et l'effort considérable qu'il déploie pour être là où il faut au bon moment. Je voudrais également féliciter et remercier le PAM au nom de notre Gouvernement, pour son intervention récente, lorsque notre pays a été, comme la plupart des pays du Sahel, frappé en 2004 par une sécheresse inhabituelle.

Il y a cependant lieu, tout en remarquant que le PAM peut être certainement, sans erreur, considéré comme au sein du système des Nations Unies, l'organisme le plus sollicité, compte tenu qui existent de l'ampleur des besoins à travers le monde, de suggérer que pour être effectivement là où il faut, au bon moment avec les armes qu'il faut, à savoir les denrées alimentaires en quantités suffisantes, peut-être de revoir le système de constitution de stocks de sécurité. Parce qu'il arrive, bien sûr parfois, que, pour des raisons structurelles, logistiques, les denrées n'arrivent pas au bon moment, là où on les attendait avec urgence. Raison pour laquelle, notre délégation se permet de suggérer que le système de constitution des stocks de sécurité soit certainement revu pour que le principe, ou l'apport du PAM qui avait été l'engagement du PAM, de contribuer à la réalisation du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation qui consistait à aider à produire plus par les éventuels bénéficiaires eux-mêmes, c'est-à-dire à travers les pays en difficulté ou en développement et grâce à l'adoption du système d'achats locaux, que ces stocks de sécurité, au lieu de provenir uniquement des horizons très lointains pour arriver parfois en retard, puissent être constitués même à des niveaux raisonnables dans des endroits à risque ou bien à risque récurrent, où très régulièrement il y a des catastrophes et des besoins en denrées alimentaires.

Une fois de plus, je voudrais vraiment remercier le PAM, le féliciter et l'encourager à aller de l'avant tout en invitant également les donateurs du PAM d'améliorer leur contribution pour que le double Programme d'assistance alimentaire d'urgence, ou d'assistance alimentaire pour le développement puisse être mené de manière équilibrée.

Yoshihiro KURAYA (Japan)

To be brief, I wish to raise just two points. The first point, as Ms Sisulu mentioned in her introduction, the WFP Annual Report was discussed twice, namely at the Executive Board of WFP and at the FAO Council held in June. Therefore, Japan thinks that we should take note of the discussions there.

Our second point is that some other delegations referred to the multilateral contribution. It is important but at the same time it is also important for WFP to make efforts to expand donor bases – as raised by India, the United States and other delegations – so WFP should take that into consideration the different situation of each donor.

My delegation wishes to conclude its statement by reiterating its appreciation for the WFP's activities.

CHEN CHANGBING (China) (Original language Chinese)

I will be very brief in my statement.

The Chinese delegation would like to express its appreciation for the work that WFP has done. WFP, as the biggest humanitarian agency, has played a great role in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. Now we can see that WFP is present wherever there is a need.

China has maintained a very good, cooperative relationship with WFP in the past decade. WFP not only provided assistance to China in emergency services but also, China – in its best ability – responded to the appeals made by WFP regarding the Tsunami, for instance, as well as the earthquake in Pakistan – in providing assistance.

It is our hope that WFP, on the basis of its work done in the past, pays more attention to development programmes and to assist the capacity building of developing countries. In this respect, China is going to continue its cooperation with WFP.

Ms Mangi RAMABENYANE (South Africa)

I would like to thank WFP for the work they are doing in the SADC Region, and also thank Ms Sheila Sisulu for her brief but informative presentation.

South Africa wishes to be recognized as a small, non-traditional donor within the SADC Subregion. It has become a very important player in the issues of food security – particularly, during food emergencies.

For the past 2 years South Africa has donated an amount of over US\$63 million in trying to address the food emergencies facing the 7 countries in the Sub-region. However, this is done on a bilateral basis with WFP. This approach is adopted for the reason that we are a developing region, also it was the attainment of the regional economic integration. However, our delegation notes with great concern that this role taken up by South Africa in the region has increasingly begun to effect the level of contributions by the big traditional donors, as well as the allocation of the food aid resources to the Sub-region.

It is in the light of this that we will want to support WFP's appeal for increased multilateral funding for food aid and other protected activities of the Programme. All of the traditional donors need to enable the attainment of the 30 percent target. However, we appeal that this also be central to the Region.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI ONORI (El Salvador)

Disculpe señor Presidente si le solicito nuevamente el uso de la palabra, pero quisiera únicamente reiterar una cuestión que no mencioné en mi intervención anterior, y es la importancia que nuestra delegación da a las actividades de desarrollo, lo cual me lo han recordado las intervenciones hechas aquí por India, Pakistán y Haití. Es precisamente el desarrollo de esas actividades que permite que el Programa Mundial de Alimentos pueda actuar en forma eficiente cuando se provocan desastres naturales.

Y escuchando lo que mencionaba hace un momento el delegado de Camerún sobre la importancia de estas reservas estratégicas, quisiera señalar que el PMA está ya trabajando en esto. En efecto, en mi país se está negociando el establecimiento entre el PMA y el Gobierno de El Salvador para el establecimiento de un Depósito Regional de Emergencias que permita atender con mayor prontitud a los países centroamericanos y otros de la región en casos de desastres naturales. Como pueden ver, el Programa Mundial de Alimentos está siempre trabajando para atender a los países de la manera más eficaz posible, tanto en situaciones de emergencia como en situaciones de desarrollo.

CHAIRMAN

I would like to call, once again, on Ms Sisulu, if she has any remarks to make or if she wishes to reply to the statements made or make some concluding remarks.

Ms Sheila SISULU (Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme)

I would only like to express our appreciation for the positive feedback we have received from all of the delegates who have took the floor and to assure you that we, indeed, remain committed to

working in the context of partnership with our sister UN organizations here in Rome and beyond. We will adhere to the duality of our mandate and continue to ensure that people moving out of emergency situations are able to get back on their feet, on the one hand, and be ready to get into a development mode, but also to continue beyond the kind of development that WFP does to break the tendency for dependency.

We also appreciate all of the comments regarding the support for increasing our multilateral base of assistance, and there is an appreciation of the effort that has been made – in particular by Jim Morris, the Executive Director – to expand and diversify the donor base.

I also appreciate the delegation of El Salvador for, in fact, bringing to the attention of the house that we are trying very hard. On the one hand, we are working with NEPAD in the region of Africa, but also with particular countries, to assist them in regional management of stocks and food so that these become useful during a time of need.

There was a specific question that I wish to respond to that came from the delegate of Pakistan, regarding whether or not we are satisfied that we are providing the staff – that is indeed greatly stressed by the demand on their capacity. We have mechanisms in place through which we try to ensure that staff, first of all, rotates on a regular basis – they do not stay in family unfriendly stations for extended periods of time – that they have recreation and recovery periods away from these areas and other support mechanisms, such as peer support groups to help debrief them as they come out of these emergencies.

We also do appreciate that the numbers of emergencies have increased dramatically in the past few years. The last Executive Staff Meeting of WFP, in fact, was seized with this very issue. We concluded that we do have the capacity to deal with the current number of emergencies but that we would have to look very closely at our staff complement as a whole to ensure that we have the requisite number of people who can move from station to station that require this high level of commitment and emergency skills. The Human Resource Department will be looking into this matter much more closely to see that our rotation system works well and to see that our incentives do not end up making people really staying too long in one place than they need to.

To conclude, we appreciate all of your comments and we have noted all of them. If there are others that I have not touched on right now, we will return to you bilaterally on the matter. I will pass on your commendations and your support to Mr Morris when he returns.

CHAIRMAN

If I may, I would like to remind you that the Third Session of Commission I will be held Wednesday morning on 23 November at 09.30 hours and, at that point, we will be discussing item 7 of our agenda, and that is the progress made in the implementation of the Gender and Development Plan of Action 2002–07 and that Session will be chaired by Ambassador Alain Pierret who is head of the delegation of France.

I would like to remind you that the First Session of the Drafting Committee will have its first meeting in the Mexico Room, at 18.00 hours this evening. The Chairman of that Committee is Mr Sergio Gouveia of Mozambique and the members of that Committee are Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom.

I am also reminded that refreshments will be available during the Drafting Committee session.

The meeting is now adjourned.

The meeting rose at 15.50 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 50

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.50 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19 November – 26 November 2005 Rome, 19 novembre – 26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19 de noviembre – 26 de noviembre de 2005
THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I TROISIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I TERCERA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
23 November 2005

The Third Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Mr Alain Pierret,
Vice-Chairman of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de M. Alain Pierret
Vice-Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera sesión a las 9.55 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Alain Pierret,
Vicepresidente de la Comisión I

SUBSTANTIVE AND POLICY MATTERS (continued)
QUESTIONS DE FOND ET DE POLITIQUE (suite)
CUESTIONES DE FONDO Y DE POLÍTICA (continuación)

7. Progress Report on Implementing the Gender and Development Plan of Action
7. Rapport intérimaire sur l'application du Plan d'action – Parité hommes-femmes
7. Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la FAO sobre Género y Desarrollo

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier les délégations qui ont bien voulu donner leur voix pour que la France occupe l'un des postes de cette Vice-présidence de la Commission. Je leur en suis personnellement très reconnaissant.

Je voudrais également vous dire que ce matin nous allons examiner le sujet à l'ordre du jour, qui porte sur l'examen du Rapport intérimaire sur l'application du Plan d'action -Parité hommes-femmes et développement pour 2002-2007, et qui est le point 7 de l'ordre du jour de la Conférence. Le document à l'examen porte le numéro C 2005/7.

A mes côtés, à ma droite, Monsieur Hosny El-Lakany, Sous-Directeur général du département des forêts et en sa responsabilité de Sous-Directeur général pour le développement durable, ainsi que Madame Marcela Villarreal, Directrice de la Division pour la Parité hommes-femmes et de la population. J'invite maintenant Monsieur El-Lakany à présenter le point 7.

Hosny EL-LAKANY (Officer-in-Charge, Department of Sustainable Development)

It is my pleasure to introduce Item 7 the second Progress Report on Implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action. The corresponding document C 2005/7 is presented for your review and endorsement.

As you will recall, the Conference at its Thirty-first Session in November 2001 endorsed the agenda and development plan of action 2002–2007. At the Thirty-second Session in December 2003, Conference reviewed progress and requested FAO to present a further progress report on its implementation for this session.

The document you have in your hands outlines the progress made in 2004–2005 biennium. Therefore, it is a corporate report compiled by the Gender and Population Division and by my colleague Ms Marcela Villareal in the Sustainable Development Department, based on inputs from many FAO units and offices, both at Headquarters and in the Field.

I should like to note that, as requested by the Conference an effort was made to make the Report more analytical than the previous years. We have also tried to show better linkages between the corporate Medium-Term Plan and the Gender and Development Plan of Action through a graphical demonstration, presenting the relative share of major outputs for each major programme linked to the Gender and Development Plan of Action. Furthermore, as requested by the Conference in 2003, the document reports on the increased efforts made by the Organization to address the gender-based concerns arising from HIV/AIDS epidemic in rural areas.

As the report demonstrates the focus in this second biennium has been on strengthening related institutional mechanism and arrangements, and building gender sensitivity and gender analysis skills of FAO's staff at the various levels.

These are all areas where some progress has been made, but where a sustained effort is needed throughout the duration of the plan, due to the high turnover of staff. In addition to such institutional measures, many activities were initiated to directly support member countries in all regions in their efforts at improving the status of rural women and farmers and building capacity at country and regional level for gender mainstreaming in policy and programme formulation.

The examples provided in sections 5 and 6 demonstrate the range and nature of activities undertaking in support to each of the four long term objectives of the Plan of Action.

As the report had to be prepared before the completion of the biennium, it is too early to have a comprehensive assistance of actual outcomes and impacts of these activities. The newly-launched corporate auto-evaluation exercise and the preparation of the Corporate Programme Implementation Report for the present biennium, will offer further opportunities to assess the progress made in incorporating agenda perspective into FAO's programmes.

You will also recall that the Gender and Development Plan of Action constitutes an integral and complementary part of the FAO's new programme model, and is closely linked to the corporate Medium-Term Plan. The linkages with the MTP is very specific through cross reference of selected major outputs. Implementation will be monitored on that basis.

The plan also serves as the main instrument for operationalising the priority area for Interdisciplinary Action or the PAIAs, on gender and development, as described in the MTP and the Programme of Work and Budget documents.

This explicit linkage to the MTP, which is further articulated in the biennial output, also allows for an automatic review and updating of the gender related commitments in the context of the regular rollover of the Medium-Term Plan.

The four percent increase in the number of major outputs that divisions themselves selected for cross referencing of gender plan in the rollover 2004–2009 compared to MTP 2002–2007, shows enhanced awareness among staff of the relevance of gender to FAO's work.

We firmly believe, that no enduring solution can be found to alleviate hunger or poverty if we do not recognize and take into account that men and women should participate in and benefit equally from agriculture and rural development. MDG one cannot be achieved without due reduction of gender inequalities.

It is a fact that most of FAO's activities in support of rural women and farmers and for institutional gender mainstreaming, still require initiative and proactive involvement and support by the Gender and Population Division.

While the division does its utmost to use wisely its limited regular budget representing less than one percent of the FAO's Regular Programme resources, additional donor support is of vital importance to the fulfillment of its mission.

Allow me therefore, to take this opportunity to acknowledge, with appreciation, the extrabudgetary funding provided in the present biennium by Belgium, Finland, Italy, Norway, Netherlands and Sweden, in support of gender and population programmes.

Before concluding, I would also like to acknowledge the vital support and collaboration of two non-technical units namely, the Office of Programme Budget and Evaluation and the Staff Development and Training Unit of the Human Resources Policy Division. Furthermore, the dedication and commitment of many staff who have served as focal points for gender mainstreaming in their units during this biennium, also merit mentioning in this occasion.

Last but not least, let me take this opportunity to introduce and thank my colleague Ms Villarreal, Director of the Gender and Population Division. We look forward to hearing your views and comments on this report and to respond to questions or queries you may have.

I thank you for your presence here today and for your continued support to the Organization work on gender and development.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je remercie Monsieur El-Lakany de sa présentation claire et complète du sujet sur lequel nous allons maintenant entendre les délégations qui souhaitent s'exprimer et nous ouvrons ce débat à votre convenance. Nous attendons que les délégations prennent la parole pour nous faire part de leurs expériences et de leurs propositions.

Richard HUGHES (United States of America)

The issue of gender is very important to American farm families in the United States. In fact women are on equal footing with their partner, they handle the finance of the farm, a lot of them have also second jobs and some are involved in school feeding programmes.

The reason I open this before I address the actual statement is that our Under Secretary for Food Consumer Products of the United States Department of Agriculture, is a very strong proponent of gender equality. He was on his way back from China and he kind of jump-started by reading the United States' statement on this particular agenda item on Monday. However, I would like to read it again because it is very important to us.

We congratulate FAO on its Progress Report Implementation on FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action for the period 2002–2007. We appreciate the description of the institutional measures put in place to support implementation of this Plan. The linkages between the plan's objectives and FAO's major programmes and examples of actions undertaken during the present biennium. We commend FAO for an active and productive Gender and Development Programme and recognize the leadership of the FAO's Gender and Population Division.

As the collaboration of FAO Field and Headquarters units in working with countries to achieve such a diverse innovative projects for women.

United States supports the observations and recommendations contained in the report. One, the need for senior management to underscore its commitment to gender mainstreaming by ensuring that technical divisions are accountable and aware of the responsibilities in the implementation of the Gender and Development Plan of Action.

Two, that tool should continue to be refined to help the technical divisions monitor and evaluate the contribution to the Plan of Action.

Three, to strengthen accountability. The gender focal point responsibility should be systematically assigned to senior level management in the Organization.

Four, the technical divisions should also ensure that the capacity of their staff is built so as to contribute to the implementation of the action plan. We note the report findings and gender issues are often not mainstreamed in the Organization's activities and that often women are still added on as isolated components into field projects. We hope the gender perspective will be integrated throughout the planning and implementation of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil this Spring. We are very pleased to endorse this second Progress Report.

So as to contribute to the implementation of the Action Plan, we note the Report's findings and gender issues are often not mainstream in the Organization's activities and that often women are still "added on" as isolated components into field projects. We hope the gender perspective will be integrated throughout the planning and implementation of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil, this spring, and we are very pleased to endorse this Second Progress Report.

Ms Elizabeth NASSKAU (United Kingdom)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Community and its 25 Member States, the ascension countries, Bulgaria and Romania, as well as the candidate countries to the EU, Croatia and Turkey, who also align themselves with this statement.

The European Union believes that gender equality is vital to the achievement of sustainable development and that gender inequality is a major obstacle to eradicating hunger and poverty.

As the Millennium Declaration puts it, "progress for women is progress for all". It is appropriate for FAO to keep its approach to gender issues under review, and we note that this is an automatic result of the updating of the rolling Medium-Term Plan (MTP). This follows the commitment in the Report to the Thirty-second Session of the Conference to use the MTP as an instrument for

gender mainstreaming throughout the Organization. It is also appropriate that FAO has developed gender-sensitive indicators to monitor progress within FAO and through its programmes.

It is essential that FAO should draw on work on indicators undertaken elsewhere in the international system, both to avoid FAO reinventing the wheel, but also to ensure consistency across the system. We are pleased, therefore, to see the wide scale consultation reported in paragraph 22 and request that the next Progress Report should cover not only consultation, but also the extent to which FAO's methodology is aligned with that used in other parts of the United Nations system.

We welcome the regular reporting on the progress of the implementation of FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action to successive Conferences, but given that gender is being mainstreamed throughout the Organization, we are surprised to see that there remain a large number of non-gender related outputs, as shown in the Report.

The Report reveals that many FAO activities have focussed specifically on women and women's empowerment. We welcome this, but note that this is only part of the mainstreaming process. To fully achieve mainstreaming, gender impact must be considered at the planning stage of all activities. We understand this to be the intention of routinely including gender-related questions in the auto evaluation process, as recorded in paragraph 18.

The European Union calls on the Secretariat to address this issue more fully in its next Progress Report and to include in it a summary of all the procedures in place to ensure the gender dimension is considered for all activities before they are approved and that the gender impact of activities is measured afterwards and lessons learned shared with others and applied to new activities.

Finally, we agree with the points in paragraphs 45 to 49 of the Report and with the recommendations in paragraph 50. Nevertheless, if it does not already exist, we would add the need to introduce some systematic screening of all activities – operational or technical – to ensure full gender mainstreaming. We would also like to emphasize the need for continuous sensitizing and training of staff in gender issues at all levels of the Organization, as well as the importance of equal opportunities for both women and men in FAO's recruitment.

Ms Heidi PIHLATE (Finland)

Finland speaks here on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland. We also want to express our support to the statement made by the UK on behalf of the European Union. Switzerland associates itself with this statement.

The Nordic countries welcome the Progress Report prepared by the Secretariat on Implementation of the Gender and Development Plan of Action. The Report is clear and frank, and while describing the achievements, it also highlights the challenges and tasks ahead.

The Member Nations of FAO have set a high ambition level regarding gender issues in the Organization. Women play a vital role in reducing hunger and poverty and achieving food security in the world. They still often suffer from lack of access to productive resources, such as land, credits and inputs. There are also fewer opportunities for education and training for women and their voices do not get heard while drafting development strategies and policies.

The Nordic countries believe, however, that both the effectiveness and sustainability of development can be enhanced by allowing participation and contributions from all members of the society. Therefore, it is necessary for FAO to work at different fronts. The starting point will be desensitizing FAO staff so that gender issues will be mainstreamed in all activities of the Organization. Although some activities are more gender sensitive than others, they all deserve screening through a gender lens.

The other main function should be the awareness raising and capacity building on gender issues among the Member Nations for which FAO provides policy assistance.

When the countries and governments themselves have the capacity to let both women and men participate in, and benefit from, development very much will be achieved.

The third role FAO could play is to act as a rural women's ambassador at all levels and fora.

According to the Progress Report, different tools have been developed and staff trained in their use when there has been a gender perspective in the Organization. We fully support and encourage further development in this respect. The commitment should start from the senior management and flow through the Organization.

We also encourage FAO to move towards gender-disaggregated data collection and reporting, whenever appropriate.

The Nordic Countries wish, however, to express their concern about the following matters.

Firstly, we are worried that in the Director-General's reform proposal the division dealing with gender issues will not be able to carry out its formidable task in the International Alliances Department. First liaison with non-governmental organizations and private sector is a task on a completely different sphere than its responsibility to mainstream gender in FAO's core activities. These two tasks cannot be married without causing confusion or misunderstandings. Therefore, we wish that the location of the Division must be changed, and that gender issues be given a place in the Organization it merits and which is better to its prime goal.

Secondly, we are concerned about the level of funding allocated to gender activities and want to emphasize that, regardless of the budget level of the Organization, sufficient funding has to be assured.

Finally, we are extremely concerned about the low share of female Professionals working for FAO, especially at the regional, sub-regional and country levels and projects. In order to be a credible promoter of rural women's positions the Organization should also reflect gender balance in its own recruitment.

The Norwegian Minister suggested in his speech that FAO sets goals for improvements on the gender balance of the professional staff and updates the membership regularly. The Nordic Countries are very much in favour of this approach.

The Report states that gender inequality is one of the driving forces behind the spread of the HIV virus, and we endorse this statement. In addition, women often bear also the consequences of the virus and AIDS, for example as an increasing workload, both in production and taking care of the sick family members. The linkage between food insecurity, poverty and aids hits women in particularly severe way and deserves all possible attention.

Lastly, we would like to draw attention to the fact that in addition to FAO many other organizations have recognized the importance of gender and HIV-related issues. FAO should, therefore, collaborate closely with those organizations to ensure policy coherence and an efficient use of resources.

Ms Wendy DRUKIER (Canada)

Gender equality is a cross-cutting theme of Canada's international development priorities as stated in our International Policy Statement – a document recently released by the Government of Canada – which is the result of a comprehensive discussion amongst Canadian stakeholders.

Canada welcomes the Report and the special focus on gender, HIV AIDS and food security; issues to which Canada gives great importance.

Canada endorses the recommendations of the Report (paragraph 50), as well as the observations and suggestions made in the Report for refinement of organizational arrangements and procedures to foster gender mainstreaming in FAO's activities with the caveat that accountability measures should be clearly identified.

LE PRÉSIDENT

J'allais me poser la question de savoir si la parité hommes/femmes devait être accompagnée par une parité entre délégation, puisque nous venons d'entendre les représentants de pays développés. Je suis heureux de voir que la délégation du Viet Nam demande la parole. Je la lui donne, mais j'aimerais savoir si il y a d'autres délégations à inscrire sur notre liste.

CHI DZUNG DUONG (Viet Nam)

The Vietnamese delegation welcomes the Progress Report. This Report highlights what has been achieved and difficulties and challenges ahead. We are of the view that the Organization should be encouraged to further work in this direction.

The achievement of gender equality and the advancement of women is one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, committed by the Member Nations at the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.

In the comprehensive poverty reduction and growth strategy and the Plan of Action for advancement of women by 2005, the Government of Viet Nam has detailed gender equality targets to be achieved by 2005 and 2010. To implement these targets in agriculture and rural development since 2002, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam – with the participation of the Viet Nam women's union and with technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank – has been preparing the gender strategy for agriculture and rural development. This work marked the beginning of the gender mainstreaming in development strategy and planning at the Ministerial level in Viet Nam.

We fully understand that gender is considered as a cross-cutting issue in development activities, in general, and in particular, in the agriculture and rural development sector. Therefore, high requirements should be made to include gender issues and perspectives in development projects and programme of FAO.

We strongly believe that FAO could provide technical assistance for gender mainstreaming in agriculture and rural development for developing countries, in its projects and programme in the future.

Sra. Victoria GUARDIA DE HERNÁNDEZ (Costa Rica)

En primer lugar permítame felicitarlo, así como al Sr. El-Lakany y a la señora Marcela Villareal por su informe.

Agradecemos a la Secretaría por este informe tan completo sobre la situación de la mujer rural y al trabajo que viene realizando, promoviendo la igualdad de género en agricultura y en el desarrollo. Pensamos que en la agricultura la mujer necesita un gran apoyo y ayuda. La mujer es jefe de familia, tiene que trabajar el campo, conseguir préstamos para trabajar y necesita una información completa, por eso creemos que la capacitación de la mujer sobre todo en el campo del desarrollo rural es muy importante.

En lo que se refiere a Costa Rica desde hace muchos años adoptamos la fórmula de elección presidencial cada cuatro años, con un presidente y una señora vicepresidenta, que en ocasiones ocupa la presidencia, y probablemente tendremos una mujer presidente, si Dios quiere. En la Asamblea Legislativa hay un promedio de un 30 por ciento de mujeres diputados y han ocupado en muchas ocasiones la Presidencia de la Asamblea Legislativa del País. Tenemos una participación muy completa de la mujer en el aspecto político, tenemos también un ministerio para la mujer.

Estamos de acuerdo con muchas de las delegaciones, especialmente con la de Finlandia y con la de la Comunidad Europea, sobre la gran importancia de la mujer, también en la FAO. Es necesario y debemos apoyar una mayor participación de la mujer en el organismo de la FAO. Por lo tanto, queremos pedir que se apruebe el segundo informe sobre los Progresos de la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la FAO sobre Género y Desarrollo presentado esta mañana.

Mme Wafa'a DIKAH HAMZI (Lebanon) (Original language Arabic)

The Lebanese delegation welcomes this Report on the progress achieved in implementing the gender and development plan of action. It is of utmost importance to link the gender perspective in the planning of the programmes of FAO and not merely to have a programme that addresses women as a marginalized target group, though the need continues to exist for targeting women – in a special manner in some countries and in some areas of particular countries.

The programmes of FAO have evolved in this direction over the last years, particularly as gender perspective is a horizontal, cross-cutting issue that also addresses technical and specialized programme related issues at all levels.

In Lebanon we are currently conducting a review to determine the extent of fulfillment of our commitments, in light of the CEDAW Agreement. There is a particular chapter related to rural women in this context. We speak here of overcoming the constraints and allocating the resources necessary for empowerment of rural women and providing them with access to factors of production and to improve their level of livelihood. FAO has a particular role of providing assistance and supporting field programmes in numerous countries in this particular area, in addition to linking such assistance to the amount of commitment demonstrated in the implementation of the CEDAW Convention.

Ms Wan AZIZAH WAN JAAFAR (Malaysia)

Malaysia notes with appreciation the significant progress made by FAO in implementing the GAD-PoA. It shows its full commitment and support towards the enhancement and empowerment of rural women.

Promoting gender equality in excess to productive resources is an appropriate and timely strategy to address the issue of gender inequality in rural development and will help reduce the number of women living in rural poverty.

The Malaysian delegation also commends the initiatives taken by FAO to enhance awareness, knowledge and skills of its own staff on the importance of this integration of gender perspective into their programmes, planning, implementation and evaluation. This will certainly help to expedite the achievement of gender equality in rural development.

It cannot be denied that gender and HIV/AIDS is a great concern to many countries, including Malaysia. The progression of HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly in the developing countries, has a devastating impact on women. Gender equality is certainly among the critical prerequisites for its prevention.

We are aware that the issue of lack of gender disaggregated data is a common phenomenon in many developing countries. Malaysia would like to call on FAO to develop gender-sensitive indicators and statistics and that the data be made available to member countries. FAO should also provide more assistance to member countries to develop their own gender disaggregated database.

We would also like to propose that FAO gives more emphasis to activities that contribute directly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to promote gender equality and empowerment of women. In this regard, FAO should consider allocating a bigger percentage of the regular programme fund to activities relating to the achievement of this MDG.

Malaysia is pleased to endorse the second progress report.

Mrs Ruth OKWELE (Uganda)

The Uganda delegation would like to endorse the second Report of the Implementation of the Gender and Development Plan of Action.

We want to thank the Division for a well-thought Plan of Action. We also want to observe that some of the issues that were raised by the Minister of Agriculture, in her presentation on gender equality and access to factors of production, have been dealt with in this Plan of Action. In particular, we appreciate the development of SEAGA tools and SEAGA-based training materials.

However, we request FAO to analyze the use of these tools where they have already been used so far. We would also like FAO to support the training of other Member Nations in the use of these tools.

Secondly, we thank the FAO divisions that have indicated that they have implemented the Gender Plan of Action in their field activities. However, we request that this should continue and the divisions that have not implemented it effectively should follow soon.

The Uganda delegation would like to emphasize the point in the Report that this exercise should not just be an academic exercise – just adding women as isolated components into the field projects. It should be real implementation of gender plans.

We hope the budget will enable the Plan to be implemented.

Neil FRASER (New Zealand)

We would like to thank the Secretariat for this Progress Report.

Since 2003, FAO has made considerable progress in implementing the United Nations Gender Mainstreaming Mandate, putting in place a reasonably comprehensive system of processes, tools, capacity development and training. The UN Secretary-General's Report in March 2005 – on Follow-up to and Progress in the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action – recognized that FAO had done relatively well in its efforts to mainstream gender.

To some extent, we believe that these efforts have not been rewarded with sufficient results or outcomes. Gender mainstreaming, as practised by FAO, throughout the UN and more broadly by development agencies has encountered significant implementation problems, resulted in limited and often unintended outcomes, and being reduced essentially to a technical exercise far from the transformative process originally intended.

Despite ten years of concerted global action to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, major challenges still remain.

FAO, like other UN Agencies must continue to tackle these enduring problems, which include: Firstly, the lack of or limited senior management commitment to the gender mainstreaming process and to ensuring accountability on the part of technical divisions for comprehensive implementation – you will recognize this as paragraph 45 of the document before us.

Secondly, uneven and inconsistent monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of gender mainstreaming and the need for more refined assessment tools, including gender-disaggregated data and indicators from paragraph 46 – and a topic which I recall raising in this forum several years ago.

Thirdly, gender focal point responsibility must be assigned systematically at the senior management level, recognized as a legitimate part of the regular work programme and included in position descriptions and in staff evaluations.

Fourthly, appropriate capacity building of staff and the commitment of the requisite financial resources which need to be consistently prioritized and addressed – you will recognize from paragraph 48.

While considerable progress has been made in establishing clear links between FAO's core mandate and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, there is very little analysis and/or evidence presented that support the correlation between gender equality in access to and control over productive resources, women's empowerment, food security and the reduction of rural poverty and hunger. Instead, we read in paragraph 4 that FAO's interventions are expected or believed to be directly conducive to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

New Zealand urges further and rigorous analysis and evidence based assessment. In summary, while this 2005 Progress Report documents FAO's significant efforts over the past two years to implement the Gender and Development Plan of Action, and to mainstream gender throughout all the Organization's policies, programmes and activities, it also clearly demonstrates the degree to

which gender mainstreaming has become a systematic technical process that, to date, has not consistently resulted in transformative, positive outcomes on the ground for poor women and men.

Juan Carlos SÁNCHEZ (Colombia)

Deseo felicitarlo a usted por su elección y la manera tan correcta como está dirigiendo este importante tema, y a la FAO por su muy importante Informe sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción sobre Género y Desarrollo.

Para mi país esta temática es de una importancia fundamental y estaríamos completamente dispuestos, no solamente a nivel regional, y capacitados para realizar trabajos en concordancia con la FAO, puesto que hemos implementado sea nuestra estructura jurídica nacional que nuestra voluntad política para hacer de las normas realidades. Y con esto hemos obtenido resultados muy positivos de accesos igualitarios y equitativos de la mujer a los cargos públicos y a los cargos de elección popular, que tienen prioridad en mi país; un país con el 52 por ciento de población femenina, con acceso a la salud y a la educación. De la misma manera, la mujer en mi país, que es una mujer como en el resto del mundo con los muchísimos problemas de un inconsciente colectivo que la ha perseguido históricamente, es protegida cuando padece problemas o sufre situaciones de ser jefa de familia, teniendo la responsabilidad de sacar adelante no solamente su propia vida sino la de sus hijos. Y en este sentido, apoyamos a la FAO para que siga realizando sus trabajos y que dé ejemplo con su actuación. Vayamos más allá de la retórica y del discurso.

Invitamos al Director General y a la Organización a que cumpla en dar igualdad de oportunidades a la mujer, al acceso laboral al interior de la FAO. Sería un muy bonito ejemplo para todos los países que haya un equilibrio en el número de personal masculino y femenino no solamente en la sede sino también en las oficinas nacionales y regionales.

No me queda más que felicitar a la FAO y alentar por su trabajo, invitando a que apoye todos los países que soliciten su acompañamiento e instar a que nos dé ejemplo con su actuación, pasar de las palabras a los hechos.

AbuBakr EL MABROUK EL MANSOURI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (Original language Arabic)

This is a very important issue for us in Libya, because Libya, in the last three decades has achieved large steps towards improving the situation of women, and in order to appreciate the role of women in society. We appreciate what we have, what has been mentioned in the Report. The Woman in Libya has an important role in this society; she is highly represented in the legislature and, also, in other sectors in the social area.

This role of women was reflected in the reality of things as the number of female students is very high. It is about 60 percent, and this has been the case over the whole decade. Therefore, we have now a large number of women in architecture, engineering and science. The Women are highly represented in these sectors. This role of the women is really commended and the achievements made in Libya receive commendation. We would like to emphasize this issue from here.

As for the service and administrative sectors, women's participation in these sectors has increased over the last few years. Women have established inter-institutions and some of these establishments are run by them. This shows the important social and economic role of women.

I wanted to emphasize these points here. As for our role, for over three decades, we have emphasized the important role of women in the world and that her role should be promoted. We should emphasize that, in certain sectors, women are suffering socially, especially in poor areas where women lack access to education. Therefore, we emphasize here that this Organization and other international organizations, through their programmes could do a lot in order to promote the role of women. They should promote the role of women in all these sectors and fields.

Therefore, we emphasize that this Organization should hasten to have more programmes to promote the situation of women. Women constitute more than 50 percent of the population in the world. Their role needs to be promoted socially and economically.

Abdel Mohsen Hussain AL-GALLAF (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

Kuwait welcomes this report. As for the measures taken in Kuwait, in this area, we have made gigantic steps concerning the implementation of the Plan of Action, in order to achieve gender equality.

The legislation in Kuwait has approved the right of elections for women and for the coming Parliament in 2007. This was an issue of great importance for people in Kuwait at the level of men and women alike.

The Kuwait Government has appointed the first woman for a Ministerial position in planning and administration and in the Municipal Council.

In Kuwait, women participate in all activities, except the ownership and working in farms. Women are in every sector except for agriculture. Therefore, the Kuwaiti Government would like to support all efforts, in order to achieve the gender equality.

The Representative of Kuwait to FAO is a woman and, therefore, the State of Kuwait provides a lot in order to achieve the quality of women and the women also participate in Kuwait in all activities, except the ownership of farms and working in the farms. They are not there, but they are in every sector except in the agricultural sector. Therefore, the Kuwaiti Government would like to support all efforts in order to achieve the gender equality.

Mme Ivone ALVES DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise est heureuse de vous voir présider notre Commission. Nous tenons à remercier la Division en charge des questions de parité entre hommes-femmes pour l'excellent travail qu'elle a accompli. Nous approuvons le deuxième Rapport intérimaire sur l'application du Plan d'action parité hommes-femmes et développement, et encourageons la poursuite de l'évaluation des progrès en matière d'intégration de la parité hommes-femmes et sa promotion à tous les niveaux de l'action de la FAO.

Nous appuyons particulièrement le travail qui est fait sur le VIH/SIDA et la sécurité alimentaire dans les pays en développement.

Enfin, nous faisons nôtres les recommandations faites par les pays nordiques, notamment, en ce qui concerne une prise en compte plus générale de la question de parité ainsi que du budget qui lui est alloué.

Jun FUKUDA (Japan)

Our delegation believes that improvement of gender issues placed as Millennium Development Goal 3 contributes to other MDGs through encouraging women and farm village activities. The MDG 3 contributes to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger to achieve universal primary education, to reduce child mortality, to improve maternal health and to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

In this context, we appreciate FAO's endeavour to introduce gender view points and activities into each programme and to tackle the gender mainstreaming. We also support the second Progress Report on Implementing the Gender and Development Plan of Action. The Government of Japan established initiatives of gender and development last March and strengthened to introduce the view of gender into the process of our ODA.

Based on the opinions raised in this Conference, we hope that the Plan of Action on Gender Development 2002–2007 is going to be implemented on schedule. We support that issues of gender mainstreaming are now in the process of trial and error for every organization. We expect that the Plan of Action will be evaluated with measurable arrangements at the end of termination and improved for the next phase.

Dieudonne MEKEDJUE (Cameroun)

Je voudrais dire ici que le Cameroun se félicite du Rapport intermédiaire sur l'application du Plan d'action parité hommes-femmes et fait ses recommandations dans la mesure où, vous le savez, le Cameroun s'est déjà engagé sur cette voie depuis un certain nombre d'années. Par exemple au niveau de l'Assemblée nationale, le nombre de femmes a largement pris de l'envergure. Au niveau du gouvernement, on constate aujourd'hui que le nombre de femmes ne fait qu'augmenter. De même, deux ministères ont été créés et totalement consacrés aux femmes sans oublier qu'au niveau des postes gouvernementaux certains ministères ont fait la part belle aux femmes. C'est pour vous dire combien le Cameroun est très avancé dans ce domaine et donne son appui total à ce Plan d'action hommes-femmes.

Mrs Nancy R. GITONGA (Kenya)

Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Attaining food security and eliminating hunger are spelt out in MDG 1 as the directing fact on other MDGs. Women empowerment to accept and control productive resources would greatly expedite achievement of MDG 1 and, therefore, a prerequisite to achieving the rest of the MDGs. In this respect, Kenyan expresses appreciation to FAO for developing the Plan of Action and endeavouring to implement the Plan of Action as demonstrable from the report before us. Kenya urges FAO to continue with this initiative and create important linkages with other players so that the ultimate goal of mainstreaming gender into productive activities can be achieved.

We congratulate FAO for setting the pace in endeavouring to support gender mainstreaming within FAO itself.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize, an already established fact, that when women access their resources, the family benefits and by extension the national economy and development benefit. Kenya, in a strategy for revitalizing agriculture, has taken the issue of gender seriously and has mainstreamed gender in agricultural production and marketing. We do appreciate the FAO support in the developing of this strategy and count on its support.

Ms Maria EUTERRES (Timor-Leste)

My delegation wishes to congratulate FAO on the progress made on women's rights. The Government of Timor-Leste has, as one of its priorities, integration of women by promoting parity in all ministries. In particular, we wish to state that we agree that gender mainstreaming should occur in all food and nutritional aspects. This is not always being done. One thing we would like FAO to pay most attention to is the provision of rural credit in order to improve the economy and development of countries through women.

Takesh GRAHAM (Kuwait)

We have just have something to add to our prior statement. Kuwait is now speaking on behalf of the Near East Group. The Near East is underrepresented and, in some countries, there is no representation whatsoever, and I am talking here about both male and female representation. And when it comes to female representation, in particular, you will see a dismal picture. We would like to work closely to produce an Affirmative Action Plan in this regard.

Mrs Lydie ROSSINI VAN HISENHOVEN (Conseil international des femmes)

Permettez-moi de prendre la parole au nom du Conseil International des Femmes (CIF), puisque depuis ses origines en 1888, par ses membres fondateurs, elle a promu les qualités des droits et des responsabilités des hommes et des femmes dans tous les domaines.

Je félicite le Secrétariat pour le document C 2005/7 et remercie toutes les délégations qui se sont exprimées en faveur de la parité. Notre Présidente internationale, le Docteur Anamah Tan, de Singapour, a été élue en août dernier Expert en parité au Comité de la CEDAW.

L'égalité des chances et de traitement est fondamentale pour le développement et la justice sociale. La pauvreté ne pourra être éliminée sans la participation des femmes aux prises de

décisions dans toutes les sphères de la vie. Sans la participation des femmes à la table des négociations, il ne pourra y avoir la paix dans le monde, la sécurité et le développement durable.

A l'occasion de l'Assemblée du Printemps du CECIF, Centre européen du CIF, qui comprend vingt-trois pays de l'Europe, sous la Présidence du Docteur Laura Finne Elonen, de Finlande, et avec le concours du Conseil National des Femmes de l'Ukraine, un Symposium a été organisé à Kiev sur la situation et l'assistance aux femmes face à l'égalité des chances dans la société. Les Présidents des différents Conseils nationaux affiliés ont présenté la situation de leur pays. J'ai pu exposer celui de l'Italie.

Bien que des efforts aient été faits, nous sommes un peu déçus des paragraphes 19, 20 et 21, qui terminent en disant que très souvent les femmes sont encore rajoutées comme une composante distincte dans les projets de terrain PBEE. Toutefois, nous nous réjouissons des paragraphes 22, 23 (nous avons créé aussi en Argentine des potagers), 24, 25 et 26. Notre Plan triennal 2003-2006 s'intitule: "Femmes dans le développement: éradication de la pauvreté, accès à l'eau et la petite fille". Des programmes d'alphabétisation, de nutrition, des programmes sur le problème de l'eau, du trafic des femmes et du SIDA, ont été élaborés par nos Conseils nationaux de par le monde. Des projets ont été conçus dans différents pays, tel un séminaire pour les femmes rurales en Argentine.

Je voudrais insister sur l'accès à l'eau, au crédit, comme l'a dit récemment la représentante de Timor-Leste et à la formation.

Donc je voulais vous parler un peu de nos Conseils nationaux de par le monde; ce qu'ils ont fait ou comment ils ont atteint ou tâchent d'atteindre la parité et l'égalité.

En Hongrie, par exemple, depuis le 16 juin 2002, un nouveau Conseil d'administration général pour l'égalité des chances a été construit au sein du Ministère de l'emploi et du travail. Sa tâche vise à élaborer une loi spéciale contre la discrimination et un nouveau Plan national visant à développer des opportunités d'emploi pour les femmes de plus de quarante ans et pour celles qui réintègrent le marché du travail après avoir élevé leurs enfants.

Le Conseil national des Femmes de Mongolie, le Réseau National des ONG féminines Mongoles, fondé en janvier 2001, compte actuellement quarante organisations féminines non gouvernementales, enregistrées par le Ministère de la justice.

Depuis 1992, un Bureau de la Femme a été créé au sein du Ministère de la population et du travail et en 2000, le gouvernement a décidé de créer un Comité national sur l'égalité des sexes, présidé par un sous-secrétaire des femmes.

Le Conseil national des Femmes de Malte fait partie intégrante du Comité de l'université de Malte pour les questions de genre. En 2002, le Conseil a tenu six Séminaires dont un très important, pour traiter du 'Livre blanc sur l'égalité entre les hommes et les femmes'. Les résultats ont été rédigés et envoyés au Ministère concerné pour être incorporés à la communication.

Je voudrais conclure en remerciant de toutes les informations que je ne manquerai pas de communiquer, comme de coutume à notre Présidente, notre Bureau et nos Conseils nationaux affiliés.

Makalo THEKO (Lesotho)

Our delegation considers that people are the centre of development and that the most important strategy to achieve MDG 1 and related goals is to enlist the energy, knowledge and skills of people. We need a critical mass of inputs to achieve critical success and it is only when we engage both men and women in developing their skills and providing the requisite resources as well as opportunities, that we will realize success in our efforts.

My delegation congratulates FAO for its foresight and leadership in its efforts and we would urge FAO in this regard to consider more targeting and linking of its programmes to regions and countries that are most affected by HIV/Aids. We believe this will augment opportunities for those countries to benefit from ongoing programmes.

Ms Francesca RONCHI PROJA (International Federation of Home Economics)

On behalf of my Organization, I congratulate the Division and FAO for this informative Report. This report was also discussed within the Ad Hoc Group of international NGOs, of which I am a member.

I have two comments to make and these refer to comments made by two delegates before me.

One is the need to give separate attention at the ICARRD to be held in Brazil next year, to the problems of rural women, this need was stressed at the INGO's Informal Meeting which was held on Saturday last within the Conference, and it was also referred to in the official statement that I made on behalf of the Ad Hoc Group at the first meeting of this Commission. I will briefly underline the five points that we made in that respect.

Firstly, the women's right to land ownership; second, the right to free water supply for land and family use; third, support to rural women in terms of local infrastructures to relieve the family burdens posed on women; fourth, support for obtaining micro credits for income generating activities; and fifth, support and promotion of home and family economics education and training for both boys and girls.

The second point I would like to make is that I join the concern expressed by the delegate from Finland on behalf of the Nordic Countries, related to the reform of FAO, which is discussed in this Conference, and which proposes to move the Division on Gender and Population to the Department of Alliances. We would appreciate some clarification from FAO on what effect this change will have on the Division's role and activities within the Organization. We would regret if these changes should mean weakening of the Division which is considered by NGOs very important within FAO.

Ms Bettina CORKE (International Alliance for Women)

I would also like to join and say that my organization is delighted with this Report and we hope it will have every success.

In the statement presented by Finland on behalf of the Nordic Countries, I would like strongly to support and to comment on her sixth paragraph in which she states that we are worried that in the Director-General's reform proposals the Division dealing with gender issues will not be able to carry out its formidable task under the International Alliances. I would just like to add to that say that up to date and after ten years of serving as the Permanent Representative of my Organization here in FAO, I have not seen that the investment and private sector and civil society has not enabled food security and food sovereignty to take place, and that obviously has great implications as far as the discussion that we have in hand here.

We have noted that in other Commissions and discussions regarding budget and reform, that external funding acceptance has not always been carefully applied, and there has been a request for a more open and transparent approach to FAO's acceptance of external funding seconded personnel, which often, in our view, results in special interest trans-national and often deregulated from major government channels and that this has produced less food sovereignty and not more, and in our view it is urgent that the same fate does not await the implementation of this Gender and Development Programme.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Je constate qu'il n'y a plus d'orateurs sur notre liste; je ne dirais pas que nous terminons nos débats, parce qu'il n'y a pas eu vraiment un débat mais toute une série d'exposés faits à titre national que j'ai trouvé personnellement très intéressants dans la mesure que, pour nombre d'intervenants, j'ai relevé que les efforts qui avaient été faits par les autorités et par les femmes elles-mêmes, portaient davantage sur ces femmes qui se trouvent en secteur urbain, en secteur plus favorisé mais qu'il restait encore beaucoup de travail à faire pour les femmes qui travaillent en secteur rural.

Des interrogations ont été faites, des questions ont été posées et je vais maintenant redonner la parole à Monsieur El-Lakany pour vous répondre

Hosny EL-LAKANY (Officer-in-Charge, Sustainable Development Department)

On behalf of the Sustainable Development Department, I thank all delegates and observers for their comments and suggestions, but above all, for pointing out some of the gaps and discrepancies in the report and in our Programme of Work.

We took note of your requests and we hope to incorporate in first in our programme of work and report in the next session.

Some of the proposals and requests will be forwarded to the Senior Management of the Department, but impartial response to some of the concerns expressed, let me assure all delegates that the proposed reform of FAO is intended to strengthen not to weaken all units in FAO.

And now for some responses to specific points, I turn to my colleague Ms Villareal.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Gender and Population Division)

Let me briefly address some of the issues that were brought up in this discussion which I thought was very interesting, and I thank you all for it.

Quite a number of delegations brought up the issue of the representation of women within the Organization. This is an issue which is a very important issue for us. I would like to, before all, underline that FAO is an equal opportunity employer and that we do make efforts to have equal representation of men and women. However, this is not always easy. When we receive applications, most of the times we receive applications that are say of a large percentage male applicants, and we know that we need to undertake much more aggressive initiatives in order to attract many more female candidates to the positions available. A number of delegations brought this issue up – Finland speaking on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Costa Rica, Colombia, and the Near East represented by Kuwait.

We have improved the number of female staff within the Organization from about 22 percent to 28 Percent in the Professional category in the last years. The immediate target is to improve it to 35 percent, but our longer term target is to have 50 percent of women represented at all Professional and General Service levels, including at the highest levels of management. So we do have an initiative that we are developing now with the Human Resources Division here in FAO, and hopefully, we will be able to report even more improvements in the future.

We noted with pleasure that several of the delegations have talked about the issue of increasing the budget and having enough budget for the correct implementation of the activities regarding gender equality within FAO. Among them, Finland talking on behalf of the Nordic Countries, Gabon, Malaysia and others; we have taken note and we will make sure that your considerations are given full account.

There were a number of delegations that raised the issue of what would be FAO's role in the future regarding the implementation of this Plan of Action and regarding the issue of gender equality in general. Several delegations said that we should give technical assistance, among them, Lebanon, Viet Nam, and very specifically on the issues concerning CEDAW and Chapter 14 that deals with rural women. This is one issue that we take to heart, and it is one of the cornerstones of our activities within FAO, to improve technical assistance to the Member Nations on demand.

Several delegations mentioned that we should continue to raise sensitivity and raise awareness on gender issues and the importance of gender equality within FAO. We have taken note, also, of the importance attached by several delegations in the importance of developing much better gender-disaggregated data, helping countries to develop their own gender-disaggregated databases in order for them to follow and monitor and evaluate the issues relating to gender equality within their countries. We will continue to develop more tools as we normally do in our SEAGA Programme – the Social, Economic and Gender Analysis Programme – that seeks to build

capacity, and has done so successfully in many of the Member Nations. We will continue to provide training in how to use these tools as some of the delegations have requested us to do.

We note Canada's request to ensure that accountability measures are clearly identified. This will be a matter of priority for our work within the Organization. We note, also, the United Kingdom speaking on behalf of the European Community and several other delegations have emphasized the need to look systematically at gender issues throughout the process of identifying the problems, developing the solutions and implementing the solutions. So we are very aware that gender issues need to be there from the very beginning, from the conception phase, throughout the planning phase and, naturally, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. This was also raised by delegations like Lebanon and other delegations, and we strongly believe that this is absolutely necessary.

Other delegations also raised the issue of indicators. "Indicators" is an issue we have been working on quite systematically, both within house and with our member countries, and this we do together with other UN Organizations, in order to make sure that we have indicators that are sound, that are useable, that can be followed easily and for which data could be collected at the country level and, therefore, can be adequately incorporated into the policy and planning processes of the countries.

We also take note of the request by the delegation of Timor-Leste regarding follow-up on credit for women. As you know, we are starting the Year of Microcredit, the International Year of Microcredit. We have been working very actively in this sense. We have developed tools to make sure that gender is mainstreamed within credit, in general, and very specifically, in microcredit. We have tools that would help extension workers and other kinds of workers to make sure that gender considerations are integrated there. The whole issue of economic empowerment is essential, and we see credit and microcredit as a means of attaining that.

A number of delegations talked about MDGs. We have redoubled our efforts to positively contribute to the whole MDG process, directly contributing to MDG 1 and to MDG 3. We agree entirely with some of the delegations that emphasize the issue that the MDGs are very closely interlinked, very specifically Lesotho, Japan, Kenya asked us to continue our work in integrating the MDGs and very specifically genderizing all the MDGs and making sure that our work on gender equality would contribute effectively to the attainment of MDG 1, which is one of the focuses of our work.

We also note the concern by the New Zealand delegation in which they requested us to be more explicit regarding the evidence base of this approach. I just would like to note that in the Report that was offered to you we were allowed a 5 000 word limit, so it is quite impossible to really explain in depth of detail the solid, evidence base that we are developing together with other UN Agencies in order to demonstrate these interlinkages and the specific contribution of MDG 3 to MDG 1 and to some of the other MDGs.

We are working very closely with other UN Organizations. We are a very active member of the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. We try to align our work to what is being done within the other UN Organizations. We learn lessons of implementation of gender issues within the other Organizations. We are happy that it was noted that the Secretary-General identified FAO as being successful in its implementation of gender mainstreaming within the Organization. But we are also very aware that there is much more to be done. This is not only an issue of FAO. It is an issue that exists with the other UN Agencies and with the Member Nations. Gender mainstreaming is a process that needs to be given continuous effort and budget and human resources. It is never achieved, from a certain point of view. It needs continuous work, and in this process of trying to move forward towards gender mainstreaming within the Organization, the support that the Member Nations give us is absolutely essential. We count on that. We also know that we need to have adequate funding for this, and this is something that was brought up by the delegation of Malaysia. We need funding in order to ensure that the MDGs are appropriately genderized.

Just to end, I would like to note that we have taken note on your concerns on the process of reform, and we have taken note also on the importance that several delegations have given to the importance of HIV AIDS and its interaction with gender inequalities and with food insecurity. This is an area that we will continue to work on very strongly and again, this is an area where your support is going to be essential.

Finally, we are very closely contributing to the whole process of the International Conference of Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. We are working very closely with them, and they have made this one of their priorities, the correct inclusion of gender issues and women's issues within the whole process. So all of the issue papers are going to have a gender dimension; there are going to be specific items on gender within the discussions, within the side events, within the main panels, and also throughout the whole process of the Conference, women's groups have been incorporated into the discussions as one of the most important stakeholders.

So once again, I thank you all very much for your comments, which will be taken into account in our work and in the next Report that you will receive.

LE PRÉSIDENT

Merci Madame Villarreal pour cet exposé extrêmement complet sur les questions qui ont pu être posées. Je crois que nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de vous avoir entendu et de vous encourager car les questions qui restent à traiter sont considérables. Vous allez avoir devant vous beaucoup de travail. Je tiens à vous remercier pour celui que vous avez déjà fait.

Je vous remercie aussi Monsieur El-Lakany pour suivre ces questions extrêmement importantes.

Je tiens également à remercier le Secrétariat qui est à côté de moi et bien entendu les interprètes.

Je voudrais, avant de conclure, puisque malgré tout nous avons encore quelques minutes, nous sommes largement dans les délais et j'en suis très heureux, faire deux remarques à titre personnel et vous donner quelques indications de calendrier pour la suite.

Les deux remarques que je souhaitais faire sont l'une professionnelle, l'autre peut-être un peu plus personnelle. A titre professionnel, je suis ces travaux depuis 8 jours maintenant et comme d'habitude, nous voyons que les travaux ne commencent pas vraiment toujours à l'heure indiquée. Or, dans les débats et notamment ceux qui se passent actuellement dans l'autre salle on nous parle beaucoup de budget et d'économie. Je pense que les quelques centaines d'heures de réunions, qui sont ainsi égarées, représentent pour le budget de l'Organisation, un certain nombre de milliers ou de dizaines de milliers de dollars qui sont dépensés. Je sais bien, naturellement, que les discussions de couloirs, les conversations sont essentielles dans le multilatéral que je pratique moi-même depuis quelques 33 ans.

Donc, je crois que sur ce plan il y aurait pour la suite, pour les rencontres ultérieures, un effort réel à faire. Mais c'est également une question de courtoisie, courtoisie à l'égard des délégués qui sont là en temps opportun, courtoisie à l'égard du personnel du Secrétariat, qui comme on le sait, a aussi d'autres tâches qui l'attendent dans leurs bureaux respectifs. Courtoisie enfin, envers le personnel d'interprétariat. On sait qu'il est soumis à de fortes tensions. Le travail d'interprétariat est un travail difficile et moins on perd de temps dans ces petites cabines je crois que plus on est heureux.

Je ne veux pas tout de même être trop moralisateur, alors je vais passer au second commentaire.

Il y a vingt ans je dirigeais à Paris, au Ministère des affaires étrangères, le Service des Nations Unies et des Organisations internationales. Un 8 mars j'ai été invité par notre Ministre de la femme, de la condition féminine, une femme bien sûr, à une manifestation au Centre de conférences internationales. Dans la salle, il y avait 400 femmes et 4 hommes. Deux étaient des photographes, le troisième était journaliste, le quatrième c'était moi, qui étais à cette table assis face à 400 femmes. Ce jour là, j'ai vraiment réalisé ce que pouvait représenter la situation d'une femme lorsqu'elle est en face d'un nombre équivalent ou en tout cas d'un nombre infiniment supérieur d'hommes qui discutent avec elle. Voilà, la dernière remarque que je voulais faire.

Maintenant, je reviens à nos travaux et je voulais vous indiquer que la deuxième réunion du Comité de rédaction aura lieu dans la salle du Mexique ce soir à sept heures. Ceci pour des raisons pratiques tenant à d'autres organisations de travail. D'un autre côté, la première Commission tiendra sa dernière réunion demain, jeudi 24 novembre, à une heure qui sera communiquée dans l'ordre du jour que vous trouverez en arrivant tôt aux séances. Cette réunion sera présidée par Mme l'Ambassadrice du Costa Rica, Madame Victoria Guardia de Hernández, que nous pouvons, je crois tous, remercier pour sa présidence efficace et souriante. Je vous remercie. La séance est levée.

The meeting rose at 11.40 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.40 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-third Session Trente-troisième session 33º período de sesiones
Rome, 19 November – 26 November 2005 Rome, 19 novembre – 26 novembre 2005 Roma, 19 de noviembre – 26 de noviembre de 2005
FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I QUATRIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I CUARTA SESIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
24 November 2005

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 15.20 hours

Ms Victoria Guardia de Hernández
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 15 h 20
sous la présidence de Mme Victoria Guardia de Hernández,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta sesión a las 15.20 horas
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Victoria Guardia de Hernández,
Presidente de la Comisión I

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I

EL PRESIDENTE

Abro la última sesión de la Comisión I de la 33ª Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación.

Tenemos como orden del día la aprobación del Informe de la Comisión I que ocupa los siguientes temas: ítem 6, Conferencia Internacional sobre Reforma Agraria y Desarrollo Rural; ítem 7, informes sobre los progresos realizados en la aplicación del Plan de Acción de la FAO sobre género y desarrollo; ítem 8, Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas/FAO.

Invitamos a continuación al Sr. Presidente del Comité de Redacción de esta Comisión, Sr. Sergio Goveia, para que realice la presentación del Informe.

Sergio GOUVEIA (Chairman, Drafting Committee)

The Drafting Committee held two meetings with the task of synthesizing the discussion of the three items that Madam Chair just mentioned: agrarian reform and rural development; another concerning the Gender and Development Plan of Action; and third the United Nations, FAO and WFP.

During the two sessions, I consider that we had smooth discussions. We agreed on the Drafting Committee's Report you have before you. We were able to get a consensus and we compromised on what you have in your papers in front of you.

Nevertheless, we feel that there are minor corrections to be made related to punctuation. I really feel this the task of punctuation should be left to the Secretariat to correct accordingly. However, there are two corrections that were forwarded to us at the last minute. I will mention them and ask Madam Chair to kindly deal with them.

Firstly, in paragraph 11 it is suggested to change "several Members noted", to read: "several Members, including the Near East Region, noted with concern ...".

Secondly, at the end of that same paragraph change "... take positive measures to achieve equal representation" to read "to take positive measures to ensure equal opportunity in order to achieve more balanced representation".

Before I finish I would like to thank the Members that composed the Drafting Committee: Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Japan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Thailand, Tunisia, United Kingdom and the European Community for the whole support that they gave in the Drafting Committee to have these concessions drafted.

Therefore, Madam Chair, this is our work, we put this Report before you for approval. We feel that with the corrections proposed we are able to adopt this document *en bloc*.

EL PRESIDENTE

Gracias por el Informe y agradecemos también a todos los Miembros del Comité de Redacción por el excelente trabajo que han hecho.

Quisiera someter a la Comisión este proyecto de informe que se presentará después a la Conferencia este sábado con las recomendaciones y correcciones que ha presentado el Presidente del Comité de Redacción. Quisiera saber si están de acuerdo para aprobar en bloque este proyecto de informe.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

EL PRESIDENTE

Agradezco el trabajo realizado por los señores Vicepresidentes de esta Comisión que nos ayudaron mucho así como al Presidente y los Miembros del Comité de Redacción, reiteramos nuestro agradecimiento, también a la señora Burlingame, Secretaria de esta Comisión, a los señores Stringer, El Lakany, a la señora Sisulu y a la señora Villarreal que también nos acompañó con el Informe de la Mujer. Quisiera agradecer a los intérpretes que nos han acompañado durante estos días con su trabajo tan extraordinario, al personal de mensajería y a la administración por todo el trabajo que permitió llegar a este resultado y por la buena participación y contribución de parte de las señoras y señores delegados.

Quisiéramos también el apoyo que necesita el *quórum* en el Plenario para apoyar este Informe.

Agradecemos la ayuda, el apoyo y la participación que nos han dado y les deseamos una buena continuación de esta jornada difícil de la Conferencia General.

Damos así por concluido el trabajo del Comisión I.

The meeting rose at 15.27 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 27

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.27 horas