

Rome, Roma, 2004



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food
and
Agriculture
Organization
of
the
United
Nations

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

Organización
de las
Naciones
Unidas
para la
Agricultura
y la
Alimentación

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session • Trente-deuzième session • 32° período de sesiones

Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003
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OF THE CONFERENCE

Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003
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Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
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CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-second Session
Trente-deuxième session
32º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003
Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003
Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003**

**FIRST PLENARY MEETING
PREMIÈRE SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
PRIMERA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

29 November 2003

The First Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.15 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La première séance plénière est ouverte à 10 h 15

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la primera sesión plenaria a las 10.15 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

**INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE
L'AGRICULTURE**

**INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA
ALIMENTACIÓN**

1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons (C 2003/LIM/1)

1. Élection du Président et des Vice-Présidents (C 2003/LIM/1)

1. Elección del Presidente y los Vicepresidentes (C 2003/LIM/1)

2. Appointment of General Committee and Credentials Committee (C 2003/LIM/1)

2. Constitution du Bureau et de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2003/LIM/1)

2. Nombramiento del Comité General y del Comité de Credenciales (C 2003/LIM/1)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: I have the honour to welcome you to the FAO Headquarters and to declare open the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

I am glad to welcome you all to your Organization, especially the new Delegates who are here for the first time. I should also like to extend a warm welcome to the Representatives of the four countries who have applied for Membership in the Organization and whose applications will be placed before the Conference this afternoon.

Our first Item on the Agenda is the election of the Chairperson of the Conference. The Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session in June 2003, designated New Zealand as the country which would provide the Chairperson of the Conference. The Council, at its Session which concluded yesterday, proposed that the Honourable Jim Sutton, Minister for Agriculture and Forestry of New Zealand, preside over this Conference Session. Can I take it that the Conference agrees with this proposal and, if so, can it confirm this by acclamation?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

May I now invite the Honourable Jim Sutton, to come forward and take the Chair.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank the Distinguished Delegates for the confidence in me, I am very conscious that I am here as a Representative of the Southwest Pacific Region and I am very proud to be their Representative this year. It is 55 years since a New Zealander sat in this Chair and it is an honour for me and a responsibility, and I will do my best to serve the Conference well.

Rule VIII of the General Rules of the Organization provides that the Conference, after considering the Report of the Council, shall elect the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference, the seven Members of the General Committee of the Conference and the nine Members of the Credentials Committee.

May I read the proposal of the Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session of the Council regarding the nominations of the three Vice-Chairmen of the Conference? They are as follows:

Hélder dos Santos Félix Muteia of Mozambique; Michael Odevall of Sweden; Juan Francisco Reyes López of Guatemala.

You have just heard the proposal of the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session of the Council concerning the three Vice-Chairpersons of the Conference.

Can I take it that there are no objections? That the Conference approves these names.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We now proceed to Item 2 of the Provisional Agenda, the Appointment of the General Committee and the Credentials Committee. I will now read the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee as submitted by the recently-concluded One Hundred and Twenty fifth Session of the Council. They are as follows: Australia, China, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Greece, Sudan and the United States of America.

You have heard the nominations for the seven Member Nations to be elected to the General Committee. Are there any objections?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

The seven Member Nations proposed by the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session of the Council have been duly elected to serve on the General Committee of the Conference.

I will now read the nine nominations for the Credentials Committee made by the Council at its One Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session in June this year, Armenia, Bangladesh, Canada, El Salvador, Greece, New Zealand, Slovenia, Sudan and Uganda.

You have heard the list of nine Member Nations to serve on the Credentials Committee. Do you wish to endorse this list?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I consider these nine countries duly endorsed as Members of the Credentials Committee.

We now turn to Item 24 Any Other Matters, and Item 24.1, the McDougall Memorial Lecture.

We now turn to Item 24.1 on our Agenda. The Conference will now listen to the McDougall Memorial Lecture. This lecture is part of a series which began in 1959 to commemorate the late Frank McDougall, one of the founding fathers of our Organization, and is delivered at each biennial Conference Session.

The Director-General will now introduce this year's McDougall lecturer.

24. Any Other Matters**24. Autres questions****24. Otros asuntos**

24.1 McDougall Memorial Lecture (C 2003/INF/9)

24.1 Conférence McDougall (C 2003/INF/9)

24.1 Disertación en memoria de McDougall (C 2003/INF/9)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

It is an honour and a great pleasure for me to introduce His Excellency Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, who has kindly agreed to deliver the Twenty-third McDougall Memorial Lecture.

For six years I have tried to persuade him to be the keynote speaker at World Food Day or at the opening of the Conference. He always had a courteous noncommittal reply, coupled with a gentle smile that kept my hope alive.

Today, more than ever, his presence reinforces my strong belief that with conviction and perseverance, it is always possible to achieve genuine goals no matter how ambitious they may seem.

Since 1959, we have had the privilege of listening to the McDougall Memorial Lectures delivered by Statesmen and luminaries who have enlightened and inspired us with their thoughts and vision. Following these traditions, we are privileged today to have with us a most eminent and distinguished personality, who is well known throughout the world.

Beginning his career as medical doctor, Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad became a Member of Parliament in 1964, as Senator in 1973, a Cabinet Minister in 1974 and the Deputy Prime Minister in 1976. He then took over as the Prime Minister of Malaysia in 1981 and served his people for 22 years with utmost dedication, before relinquishing the position last month. Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad has gained great respect and admiration, not only in his own country and region but throughout the world, for the most skilful, determined and visionary leadership with which he oversaw the magnificent transformation of the Malaysian society in every possible way.

Under his leadership, Malaysia has become a great success story, which has made tremendous strides within the span of only two decades in developing and modernising its economy, while making immense progress in consolidating democracy and ensuring public freedom, social justice and equity.

He has guided Malaysia with enormous success into the Twenty-first Century as a well-developed modern nation. He has also been committed to sustainable economic and social development.

From 1981 to 2002, the economic indicators increased: for Gross Domestic Product, in real terms, from around US\$34 billion to US\$117 billion, at an annual rate of growth of 6.8 percent; Per Caput Gross Domestic Product, in real terms, from US\$2 396 to US\$4 847; Agricultural Production Index from US\$68 to US\$130 with the index equal to 100 for 1990.

The social indicators also improved: the percentage of undernourished between 1979 and 1981 and 1999 and 2001 fell from 3.6 percent to 2.1 percent in a population which grew from 14 million to 24 million. The illiteracy rate fell between 1980 and 2000 from 10 percent to 2.4 percent, and the infant mortality rate from 31 to eight per 1,000 live births.

With a courageous and strong personality, Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad had the bravery to stand firm for an autonomous national, relevant and thus successful response to the Asian financial crisis in Malaysia. He has thus emerged as one of the most remarkable leaders and statesmen of our time.

I now have the pleasure of inviting him to deliver his address.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Tun Dr MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD (Malaysia)

Firstly I would like to thank you, Mr Director-General, for your kind invitation for me to give this prestigious McDougall Memorial Lecture at the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. I feel greatly honoured that a non-agriculturist should be asked to speak at this important gathering of a United Nations Agency concerned with agriculture and food.

I would like, with you kind indulgence, to share with you some thoughts which I have about how to reduce the number of unfortunate people who are without proper sustenance and are even starving and dying prematurely because they have no food. My ideas may not be very welcome by some. They may sound too idealistic if not downright absurd. But then in the history of human society, there have been many absurd ideas which assiduously pursued have become so accepted that we now consider the ideas they displaced as absurd.

Thus in the old feudal absolute monarchies, liberty, equality and fraternity were considered absurd. Over time these ideas began to catch on until they became so fully accepted that we are horrified there should be any more feudal authoritarian states still existing. Just as the feudal states tried to violently put down the budding egalitarians, today the egalitarians are equally violently trying to put down the autocrats. Thus have ideas about liberty, equality and fraternity taken hold.

The point that is to be made is that new ideas, although seemingly absurd, should nevertheless be given some thought and pursued if the objective is to improve old or the current systems. Thus those who believe in the benefits of the new ideas should persist, insist and light against odds until eventually they are accepted or accommodated.

We are living today in a world of great wealth and plenty. Never has there been more of everything in human history. There is enough to feed, clothe and house very single one of the six billion plus souls in the world. The problem is that the wealth and plenty are not evenly distributed. There are places where food is so plentiful that people are dying of over-eating and gross obesity even after throwing away much as waste. Then, of course, there are places where people never have enough to eat to sustain life, where some would die of starvation and, at times where famine would strike, whole communities be wiped out.

We know all about this situation of course. So what is new? Before going on to make some suggestions, we need to remind ourselves of the situation which forms the background to whatever solution that may be proposed. In the foreground is the level of civilisation that we have attained. We are so rich and so technologically advanced that we can literally see the sufferings of the starving, the flies which settle and literally eat away their eyes, nose and mouth, the emaciated bodies even as we sit down to a five course dinner with wine and cigars in our luxurious dining rooms or restaurants. And yet we are not moved by these regular television fare as we once were by the pictures of Belsen and Auschwitz. Our conscience is not troubled by this misery happening in real time in front of us. We have become hardened to the sufferings of other people. Yet we and our billions and our huge food surplus can wipe out this scourge completely and forever. It is all doable. Instead we are almost obsessively concerned with making more billions by prising open the poor countries so we may exploit them more fully. Singapore, Doha and Cancun are about enriching the already rich, with just a passing thought of a possible spill over for the poor. Nothing that is specifically concerned with the alleviation of the poverty of the poor is on the agenda of the WTO.

In any society where there is a great disparity between the rich and the poor, there have always been conflicts and instability. The cry for liberty, equality and fraternity came not from the rich, but from the poor. Initially, the poor would be too weak to do anything for themselves, but sooner or later a desperate few are bound to resort to some protest and eventually violence in order to get some redress. Failure to take heed invariably leads to escalation of the protest, more violence and eventually to revolutions.

The French Revolution and the Russian Revolution were brought about by these extreme disparities. As a result wealth is now much more evenly distributed within these countries and

also within many other countries because of the lessons of the revolutions. But what has not been learnt is that a similar violent revolution can follow the extreme disparities between countries which make up the community of nations today. As the aristocrats of the French Revolution cared little for the poverty of the people, we are seeing the aristocrats among the nations of the world, not only caring little for the poor nations, but just as in pre-revolutionary France, are bent on exploiting the poor further. Hence the focus today is on the World Trade Organization rather than on the Food and Agriculture Organization. Yes, there is talk that free trade would bring wealth to the poor, but what are the starving millions going to trade with. Can we imagine those emaciated dying people becoming suddenly invigorated because Cancun had succeeded.

The world is now propagating democracy as the only system of governance for all the countries of the world. Even if we have to kill people and destroy their countries, we will democratise their governments.

But the sad thing is that we do not think we should democratise world governance. The world is rapidly globalising, removing borders and almost dissolving into one entity, one global community, one global nation, virtually. Yet, there is no talk about a global democracy where countries have equality of rights. The best thing about democracy is that the poor wield as much voting power as the rich, and because there are more poor than rich, it has forced those who wish to govern to pay attention to the poor. Many poor countries will definitely improve if there is international democracy.

But perhaps that would not come for a very long time. In the meantime, more are going to die of starvation. We cannot wait.

Fortunately, there can be a short cut not to full international democracy, but to gaining some clout in international matters for the poor countries, sufficient clout to overcome a little of their miserable condition.

We are now negotiating for free trade in the World Trade Organization. The rich want the poor to open up their countries so that they can be fully exploited. The rich are setting the agenda and their agenda is blatantly in their interest. If the agenda is accepted, whatever may be the outcome they would gain.

At Cancun, the poor or poorer members of the WTO talked. The poorest are not even allowed around the table. Cancun may be regarded as a failure by the rich, but it is a victory of sorts for the poor. For the first time the poor presented a united front and refused to discuss the prepared agenda.

But we cannot just refuse. We have to come up with our own agenda that would benefit not just us but the rich as well. Our agenda must be fair to both. Our agenda must focus on equitability. Instead of free trade, we must insist on fair trade, and we must insist that the virtual global nation and those who benefit from it must pay their dues so the poor can also derive some of the benefits.

In most countries, the rich and the businesses pay income and corporate taxes. Since the rich gain their wealth from society, they should return some of their wealth to society. The more stable and supportive the society, the more wealth will the rich acquire. And accordingly the more would be the taxes that the rich have to pay.

By the same token, in a virtual global nation, the corporations which benefit most from global trading and business, must pay tax on their profits to the globalised world, through a global agency, after paying and deducting their taxes to the countries they do business in. It is only logical and right that they do this because the nations of the world and the people, are making things possible for them to make money across the world. The small, petty traders operating within a country benefit not at all from international business, at least not directly. They need not pay a world tax.

At this point it is useful to take a look at the multinationals. Foreign Direct Investments are supposed to contribute towards increasing the economic wealth of countries where they invest.

This is true to a certain extent. But most people who talk about FDI have not troubled to examine what in fact is Foreign Direct Investment.

Malaysia, started inviting foreign investments, long before the term FDI became well known, way back in the early sixties. Our wages were about five percent of those in the countries of the investors. But this was not good enough to attract FDI. We had to give tax holidays for 10 years. After 10 years, the foreign companies, for some reason or other made no profit, probably because of transfer pricing. So in reality, no corporate taxes are paid to the host country. We are told this is also an incentive and any attempt to stop this practice would result in an exodus and no more new FDI.

It is assumed that FDI involves inflows of capital. But actually four-fifths of the capital is borrowed from local banks. The other one-fifth, is in the form of services etc. no cash. So there is really no capital coming in.

Today most of the developing countries want to attract FDI and are offering more and more incentives. Now the lowest level cost countries have entered the competition for FDI. We in Malaysia have to match the offers these countries make. Inevitably the gainers are the foreign investors.

At the same time, rich countries undermine the poor countries by offering land and capital free to the investors.

What is clear is that the profits made by the multinationals come from the contributions of the poor countries through low wages, foregoing taxes, providing capital and a host of other incentives. If the corporations pay a small world corporate tax on their profits, it would not amount to the sum total of their savings through the low wages and incentives etc. that the poor countries have given them. In essence, the tax would be paid out from the profits directly contributed by the poor countries. Surely these corporations would not grudge a small global tax, after all the profits they get from taking advantage of the low costs in poor countries. Yet, the WTO has never considered putting this item on its agenda. It is time that the poorer Members of the WTO insist that the global corporate tax be a part of the conditions for opening up their markets.

But what do we want to do with the money. Dole it out as gifts or lend as before to the poor countries. Let us admit that aid and loans in the past have not benefited the poor countries or their people. Indeed, they have made many countries eternally indebted. We need a different approach to ensure the money will yield a good return.

We know that when a road or a railway system is built, the very construction would create jobs and business opportunities. When completed new towns would sprout up, new businesses created, better prices fetched for local products, lower prices for imported products and a host of other benefits. But because of lack of funds, poor countries cannot build the required infrastructures, and because they cannot build they remain poor and so it goes on.

It is the same with other infrastructures like ports, airports, hydro and other power plants and electricity supply, water supply, telecommunications etc. They generate economic benefits and growth. But more important for many countries where food is scarce, is the infrastructure for agriculture and food production.

Modern science has made it possible for crops to be grown almost anywhere in the world. It is a shame that we are not doing what the ancient Egyptians did with the Nile Valley, converting a desert into a rich fertile land, producing food and building one of the greatest civilisations in the history of mankind. It is the same with the Euphrates, the Tigris, the Indus and the Yangtze rivers. Great civilisations developed as the waters enabled land to be irrigated and food grains produced, while animals were reared.

Yet we know that even today there are a great many rivers and lakes which are not being used to irrigate land to produce food. No matter how barren and dry the land, maybe there are sources of

water not too far away. We can pipe gas and oil thousands of miles across deserts, on the sea-bed, over mountains and across wide rivers. We can surely do the same for water.

Libya, built its artificial river to irrigate its deserts. Many laugh at this effort, claiming that it would soon dry the aquifer. We should instead help this country to maintain the aquifer longer through better techniques and applications. After all when we extract oil from the ground we are also exhausting a natural resource. Water cannot disappear the way oil does. It will recycle itself. It is far better to study and to learn from Libya's great artificial river and examine how we can apply the scheme elsewhere, than to simply dismiss this as Ghaddafi's folly.

One of the most important lessons from Libya is that if money is available then the impossible or the ridiculous can be done. The problem is money, not availability of resources not engineering or technology.

And so we come back to the taxes that I had humbly suggested. We need the money to build the enriching infrastructure, in particular the agricultural infrastructure. If we are concerned that the money would be badly administered as in the past, we must devise new ways and new mechanisms for ensuring that the objectives are achieved. The important thing to remember is that the facilities must be built. The contractors must be those most capable of delivering the project. If they are not local people, that should not be a cause of complaint. Whoever gets the job, the local workers, sub-contractors and suppliers will benefit. The small local businesses will also benefit. There would certainly be huge capital inflows during the construction period, which must benefit the country and the people.

Having built the infrastructures, the operations and maintenance must be done by competent personnel, local if available, but foreign if necessary. Paying for the efficient running of the facilities should also be from the world tax collected. In time the country concerned would be able to operate and to pay for the operations.

The net result of building and providing needed infrastructures in particular agricultural infrastructures for the poor countries, must be to reduce starvation and enrich them and their people, and when people are enriched everyone gains.

Earlier I had explained the true nature of Foreign Direct Investments, I did that to justify the proposal for them to pay a world corporate tax, but I would be remiss if I do not acknowledge that FDI can in some way enrich a poor country.

Malaysia, as I said, has had a long experience with Foreign Direct Investments. Our principle objective was to create jobs for our people. Here the foreign industries did such an excellent job that we now have full employment and have to accept foreign workers.

Beyond that, our people have prospered from a lot of spill over such as construction, supplies and services. To cut a long story short, our people and our country prospered as a result of Foreign Direct Investments.

What is of great interest, however, is the fact that the rich countries and their businesses benefitted in other ways also. A prosperous Malaysia has become a rich market for the products of the rich. With disposable income increasing in tandem with economic growth, imports of foreign goods have been growing rapidly.

A poor country cannot be a good market, this much Malaysia has learned, as a result we have adopted a policy called "Prosper thy neighbour", as against "Beggar thy neighbour". We believe if we can help our neighbours to become prosperous we will benefit from the market created. And so, more than 15 years ago we launched a modest programme called the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme to help other countries gain from our development experience. It has paid off handsomely in terms of increased Malaysian export trade.

If Malaysia's experience is anything to go by, then we can assume, that a prosperous world would be a good market for the rich countries. The taxes they pay should really be regarded by them as

an investment for their future and investment for a more stable world and an enriched market. They will get back more than what they have paid.

I do not know what the financial position of the FAO is, but I doubt that it gets sufficient funds to carry out the onerous work that it has to do in the field of agriculture and food production. Certainly, it will not be able to build the infrastructures that I have mentioned. But the United Nations will not be able to allocate more. The only way is to set up this tax collecting agency as a part of the United Nations system, so as to collect and administer the funds for the specific purpose of building needed enriching infrastructures in the poor countries. Certainly, the infrastructure for agriculture in the countries prone to famine should be given priority.

The United Nations and the World Trade Organization must put this tax item on their agenda. Taxing the rich to help the poor is morally desirable. But this tax will also enrich the rich. Therefore, it is an equitable tax. I would like to thank you, for giving me this opportunity to speak of the subject I first brought up in Hainan China, before an audience of businessmen, officials and intellectuals. The response was utter silence.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I wish to thank His Excellency Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, who recently stepped down from the office of Prime Minister of Malaysia, for delivering the Twenty-third McDougall lecture. As you know Frank McDougall came from Australia. Hence I now call upon the delegation of Australia to come to the podium.

Ian MACDONALD (Australia)

First of all may I say Dr Mahathir, that the warmth and the extent of the applause to you addressed, clearly disputes your comment about the silence in which the address was given. I think the silence was an indication of the respect that the audience has for the comments that you made.

May I commence by congratulating you, on behalf of the members of the Southwest Pacific region, on your appointment as Chairperson of this Conference. We are confident that under your guidance the Conference will be successful.

Can I also thank the Organization and Director-General Diouf, for the opportunity to respond to the Twenty-third McDougall Lecture delivered by Dr Mahathir.

It is indeed an honour to have the former Malaysian Prime Minister at this FAO Conference and in particular, to have him deliver the McDougall Lecture, honouring the contribution of an Australian who was very significant in the founding of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

I do, again, congratulate Dr Mahathir on the role that he has played in contributing to the growth and development of Malaysia and indeed, of the Southeast Asian Region. And, also, for the positive contribution that Malaysia has made to the efforts of the CAIRNS group, in encouraging freer trade in agricultural products.

On behalf of all of us here, I would like to thank you, Excellency, for your thoughtful address highlighting the lack of food and sustenance for many of our fellow citizens of this world.

Your address highlights the value of new ideas and persistence in our shared struggles to reduce hunger and poverty. Dr Mahathir has indeed reminded us all of the need to tackle inequalities and the adverse circumstances throughout the world.

I am sure that we will all reflect on his more specific proposal for tackling the development agenda.

His emphasis on the importance of water resources and of searching for innovative responses to the renewable resource challenges were timely given the FAO Round Table later in this week.

Prior to replying further to Dr Mahathir's comments, I would also like to reflect briefly on the man for whom this lecture commemorates. The Twenty-ninth Session of the FAO Council in 1958 introduced the McDougall Lecture to perpetrate the memory of Frank McDougall who was one of the visionary founding fathers of this Organization.

As many of you will be aware, Frank McDougall was an Australian farmer whose vision of the world without hunger and poverty had its beginnings in the early 1930s. Later, in his role as the International Representative of Australia, he met with United States President Roosevelt in 1942 and urged him to consider making the availability of food the first economic priority after the war.

It was during this meeting that McDougall also outlined his idea of an International Food and Agricultural Organization. Thereby, sowing the seeds that would eventually become FAO. These were the beginnings of an Organization, which I am sure you will all agree, is still uniquely positioned to address the challenges that continue to arise, albeit in a rapidly changing world with evolving and new demands by its members.

Dr Mahathir outlined some of the challenges and opportunities being faced by many of the poorer countries of the world, and most of whom are agricultural producing countries and those that share a concern for the future of world security.

Obviously, we all share Dr Mahathir's concerns that the Doha Round addresses the development agenda. We also believe that it is through such multilateral forums that we can advance broader development. There is a range of Bodies who can contribute to this in their own spheres of expertise.

The importance of the role of the FAO is clear as it is for other agencies, such as the World Food Programme to address this short-term crisis.

It is clear that for many developing countries agricultural and food production is the key to economic growth, employment and poverty alleviation. However, many developing are denied the opportunity to develop their food in agricultural sectors to their full potential, due to the inappropriate policies by other governments, that both prevent them from developing their own domestic agriculture sector and from competing fairly on world markets.

In an age of rapid globalization, these are fundamental impediments to the ability of developing countries to enhance their national welfare and their food security. I do not believe we can or should even want to hold globalization. I do respect Dr Mahathir's views, although I have a more optimistic view, on the future. The challenge is to see globalization delivered in an equitable way, high living standards, more jobs and sustainable development. I believe this requires more open economies and trade, and full participation of all countries including developing and least developed countries, in the world economy and the multilateral trading system.

Dr Mahathir spoke about the World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda. We believe that it is encouraging that developing countries are taking up the challenge, as demonstrated by their more active participation and influence in the work of the World Trade Organization.

A major challenge for all of us at this time is ensuring that developing countries, this time around, are full partners in enjoying the benefits from a successful conclusion to the current WTO negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. The opportunities and challenges of reforming World Agricultural Trade remains a major challenge and opportunity long overdue, facing the international agricultural community. I am sure, and I know it would be high on Frank McDougall's work agenda if he were with us today.

I am sure all FAO members gathered here today are well aware that the break-down discussions at the fifth World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference at Cancun have impacted significantly on the potential meaningful negotiation on urgently needed trade reform. It has implications for the future direction of global agricultural production and trade and, therefore, for global food security.

There can be little argument that protectionism and distortions in world markets for agricultural products, undermine the ability of developing countries, to create strong agricultural sectors and sustained economic growth necessary to enhance development and truly address the food security concerns.

The urgency of this task is all the more evident, if we have to make serious inroads into eliminating poverty in developing countries.

If we are serious about meeting the goals of the World Food Summit by fostering economic development in the developing world, all of us here should be seeking to advance the Doha Development Agenda. There can be no more important task for our Conference here in Rome, than to send the strongest possible message of support for re-energizing the agricultural negotiations process. The importance of agriculture for the development prospects of the world's poorest countries, makes the future of these negotiations an absolutely vital concern to all of us here today.

In addition to reform of Agricultural Trade, I would also like to mention, particularly in my role as the Australian Minister for Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation, one other pressing global issue very relevant to this Organization and that is, the over exploitation of our marine resources. While agriculture is the key to economic development and food security in many developing countries, there are also countries, particularly small island nations, that rely heavily on fisheries resources as a, or even their sole source of income. Given the increasingly important role fisheries play in the world food economy, it is disheartening to see continued decline in global fisheries and a continuing high and growing incidence of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing. This is undoubtedly one of the major threats to sustainability of global fisheries. FAO's role in this area cannot be overemphasized. The contribution that fisheries production makes to food security, for many developing countries represented here today, makes responsible sustainable management of our fisheries resources one of the highest challenges, facing the Food and Agriculture Organization and its members.

In conclusion, the Food and Agriculture Organization must continue to strive to deliver on the goals its founder set for it. It must maintain its relevance to the broader membership in this rapidly changing and demanding era of globalization. It is our responsibility to build on the foundations laid by the pioneers of this Organization, and on the contributions of FAO's ideals made by very many people over the years, since FAO has been operating. We must ensure that FAO continues to be a forward looking innovated organization, well-positioned for the opportunities and challenges of this new century.

Mr Chairperson, our delegates, I have only mentioned two important areas where FAO can make a difference. There are, of course, many many more.

It has been a very great privilege for me to respond to this address in the memory of our eminent Australian. The life and work of Frank McDougall should be an inspiration to all of us who are involved in endeavours in the food and agriculture area. Dr Mahathir's address will also be an inspiration and indeed an encouragement for all of us to do better in the future.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the distinguished delegate from Australia. This concludes Item 24.1. His Excellency Tun Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad will now take his leave.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

In the interests of the safety of all of us, I would like to request your attention for just a few minutes to view a short audio-visual presentation on fire safety.

We have come to the end of our Agenda for the first Plenary meeting. I would like to ask the General Committee members, that is the three Vice-Chairpersons, His Excellency Hélder dos Santos Félix Muteia, Mr Michael Odevall and Juan Francisco Reyes López and the representatives of the following seven countries: Australia, China, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Greece, Sudan and the United States of America to join me immediately in the Mexico Room, which is D-211, for our first meeting. The Credentials Committee will be meeting at 13.00 this afternoon. Its nine members are invited to meet in the Lebanon room, that is D-209, at 13.00 hours. I have one further announcement. The Resolution's Committee is scheduled to convene at 15.00 hours today in the Lebanon Room, D-209.

The Plenary now stands adjourned until 14.30 hours when the General Committee will make its first report and we will also vote on the four applications for membership.

The meeting rose at 11.30 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE-CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
SECOND PLENARY MEETING - DEUXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEGUNDA SESIÓN PLENARIA
29 November 2003

The Second Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.46 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La deuxième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 46

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la segunda sesión plenaria a las 14.46 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Second Plenary Meeting to order. Before proceeding, I shall give the floor to the Secretary-General who has a short announcement to make regarding the participation of the European Community.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The European Community is participating in this meeting in accordance with paragraphs 8 and 9 of Article II of the FAO Constitution. I have been asked to inform you that the declaration made by the European Community and its Member States, is contained in Information Document C 2003/INF/16, which has already been distributed to all Members. I would like to draw the attention of the Conference to this declaration.

3. Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session

(C 2001/1; C 2003/12; C 2003/12-Sup.1)

3. Adoption de l'ordre du jour et organisation de la session

(C 2001/1; C 2003/12; C 2003/12-Sup.1)

3. Aprobación del programa y organización del período de sesiones

(C 2001/1; C 2003/12; C 2003/12-Sup.1)

4. Admission of Observers (C 2003/13; C 2003/LIM/1)

4. Admission d'observateurs (C 2003/13; C 2003/LIM/1)

4. Admisión de observadores (C 2003/13; C 2003/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

Regarding Item 3, Adoption of the Agenda and Arrangements for the Session, and Item 4, Admission of Observers, as instructed by the Conference this morning, the General Committee has met and prepared its first Report containing proposals on the following items: Adoption of the Agenda, Arrangements for the Session and Allocation of Agenda Items, Admission of Observers, Admission of new Member Nations as well as other related arrangements.

I would like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure they have the Report of the First Meeting of the General Committee before them. The Report is set out in Document C 2003/LIM/9. The room messengers will distribute the document to delegates who have not picked up the document from the Documents Desk.

I will now proceed to read the title of each section. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section adopted, and so we proceed to the following section:

The Agenda for the Session, the Draft Report of the General Committee. Are there any comments? There appear to none. I declare the section adopted.

We will proceed to the Establishment of Commissions and Tentative Timetable of the Session. Are there any comments on this section? There appear to be none. I declare the section adopted.

Is there anybody who does not have the Report before them? Be sure that delegates all have a copy of the Report please. We will continue. The next item is the Appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons of the two Commissions. Are there any comments on this section? If there are none, I declare the section adopted.

We now proceed to the section on the Resolutions Committee. Are there any comments on this section? There appear to be none, I declare the section adopted.

The next section concerns the admission of Observers from Applicants for Membership. Are there any comments on this section? There appear to be none, I declare the section adopted.

We now proceed to the admission of Observers from Non-Member Nations. Are there any comments on this section? There appear to be none, I declare the section adopted.

We move to the admission of New Member Nations. Are there any comments on this section? There appear to be none, I declare the section adopted.

We move to the section, Contributions of the New Member Nations. Any objections? There appear to be none, it is adopted.

We move to the Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council. Is there any objection? There appears to be none, I declare this section adopted.

We move to Election of Members of the Council. Any objection? There appear to be none, I move the section adopted.

We move to the Right to Vote. Is there any objection to this Section? There appears to be none, the section is adopted.

We move to the Right to Reply. Is there any objection to this section, if not, I declare this section adopted.

We move to Verbatim Records, there is no objection, I declare the section adopted.

We move to the section Statements by Heads of Delegations. I draw Members' attention to the fact that it sets a time limit of five minutes to speeches. I want to assure delegates that the Chair will show flexibility if anyone wishes to speak for less than five minutes, they are free to do so. There will be flashing lights if you speak for too long.

We move to the admission of Observers from Inter-governmental and International Non-Governmental Organizations. Is there any objection to this section? There appears to be not, I declare the section adopted.

We move next to statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having consultative status. Is there any objection. There appears to not, I declare the section adopted.

We move to the section on Round Tables. There is no objection, I declare the section adopted.

We move to the Informal Meeting of Observers from Non-government Organizations. There appears to be no objection to this section, I declare it adopted.

We move to Attendance by Liberation Movements. Is there any objection to this section? There appears to be not, I declare the section adopted.

Lastly, the Committee recommends that the Conference confirm all the detailed arrangements for the Session and that the normal working hours for meetings of both Plenary and Commissions be 09.30 to 12.30 hours and 14.30 to 17.30 hours. The Committee also invites all delegations to observe the working hours with the maximum punctuality.

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS **QUATRIÈME PARTIE – NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS** **PARTE IV – NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES**

20. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2003/10-Rev.1)

20. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (C 2003/10-Rev.1)

20. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 2003/10-Rev.1)

I move now to Item 20, Applications for Membership in the Organization. The Conference will examine this item on Applications for Membership, there are four applications, those of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Ukraine. Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution states that "the Conference may by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization is present, decide to admit as an additional Member of the Organization any nation which has submitted an Application for Membership and a declaration made in a formal instrument that it will accept the

obligations of the Constitution as in force at the time of admission." The document giving details of these applications is C 2003/10-Rev.1.

I shall now call on the Secretary-General to give details of the voting procedure and to ascertain the number of delegates present.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

For this procedure, delegates will receive one ballot paper for each Applicant Member. Each form has boxes with "Yes", "No" and "Abstention" printed on it. Delegates will vote by marking one of those three choices with an "X" on each of the four ballot papers. Please note that, in accordance with Rule XII.4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, blank ballot papers will be treated as abstentions. Please also note that, according to Paragraph 4(d) of the same Rule, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark other than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote on each of the four ballot papers.

Before we move to that procedure, I would like to ask delegates present to indicate their presence and when I tell you, you will press the green button, do not do it until I tell you, to indicate your presence. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present. Please press the green button.

I have 107 Members present in the room. This way we may proceed to the secret ballot.

CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with Article II.2 of the FAO Constitution, and the provisions of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the quorum required for this election is a majority of the Member Nations of the Organization. This means that at least 92 Member Nations must be represented at this time, and there is. May I remind you that in accordance with Paragraph 15 of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, once voting has commenced no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

In accordance with Paragraph 10(c) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Chairperson of the Conference appoints two tellers from the delegates or representative or their alternates. May I, therefore, ask the delegates of Ethiopia and the United States of America to proceed to the voting area.

The Assistant Secretary-General will now call the voters to the voting area.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

We now have a procedure that in case any delegation present, did not hear their name called and go up to vote, we call their names again. Those of the countries that have not voted and give them a second chance to go up and vote. The Assistant Secretary-General will now read out those members who have not yet cast a vote.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

The Voting is now being completed, the tellers will leave the room and with the assistance of the officers in charge of the election, they will count the votes.

While accounting takes place, we will proceed with the presentations of the B.R. Sen Award, the A.H. Boema Award, the Edouard Saouma Award and the Margarita Lizárraga Medal for 2002-2003.

24.2 Presentation of B.R. Sen Awards (C 2003/INF/6)

24.2 Remise des prix B.R. Sen (C 2003/INF/6)

24.2 Entrega de los Premios B.R. Sen (C 2003/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us begin with Item 24.2 of the agenda, the presentation of the B.R. Sen Awards for 2002 and 2003. The prize consists of a medal, a scroll, a cash prize of US\$ 5000 and a round trip for the winner and the spouse to attend the Conference Session in Rome during which the awards are made. I should like to ask the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the B.R. Sen Awards.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The prestigious B.R. Sen Award is in honour of the late Mr B.R. Sen who was Director-General of FAO from 1956 to 1967.

As agreed by the FAO Conference at its Fourteenth Session in November 1967, a yearly award is to be given to the FAO field officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement to the country or countries to which he or she has been assigned.

This achievement should be primarily in the field of Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development or Food Security. On this occasion the award for the years 2002 and 2003 will be presented to two very deserving winners.

The B.R. Sen Award for 2002 goes to Mr Narendra Singh Tunwar, a national of India.

It is given to him in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the rebuilding of the national seed production system in Afghanistan, thus contributing to an increase in the food security of the Afghan people.

While serving as Chief Technical Adviser on a number of projects in that country, Mr Tunwar has worked over the past decade in Afghanistan to train and build a cadre of dedicated national staff. During this period, he developed a basis for sustainability by establishing the improved seed enterprise under its management.

Seed production of local wheat has expanded. Furthermore, local seed growers have been able to generate more than US\$4 million in income from the proceeds of the sale of seed and fertilizer.

In 2002 Mr Tunwar's work resulted in the development of some 27 varieties of 6 crop species of outstanding quality, and in the production of more than 10 000 metric tons of quality declared seed for national use.

In the particular case of wheat seed production in 2002, 4,500 metric tons were procured by FAO's emergency programme and other international seed relief agencies through the local producers. This presents a unique example of a crisis country which will be able to meet most of its entire wheat seed requirements from its own internal production, with its own varieties.

Mr Tunwar's expertise as a researcher and scientist in the seed and crop sector, as well as his motivational and managerial qualities, were instrumental in the achievement of these results. Mr Tunwar continues to serve as Chief Technical Adviser for two trust fund projects in Afghanistan, both related to strengthening national seed production capacity.

The Award for 2003 is conferred on Mr James William Everts, a national of the Netherlands, in recognition of his outstanding achievement in establishing in Senegal, research and training centre in the field of environmental toxicology of pesticides. This field was new to the country and the region at that time. He accomplished this while serving for nine years as Chief Technical Adviser on a series of projects in Senegal. The ecotoxicological centre for the Sahel, locustox, now has a highly qualified group of Senegalese experts, with an emphasis on operationality in the field; a fully equipped chemical and biological laboratory, linked to the plant protection directorate of the Ministry and a trained team of extension workers.

Mr Everts was instrumental in obtaining support from the Government, donors and FAO to; privatize the centre as a foundation with a public mission, extend its scope of expertise to all pesticides and meet international quality standards.

The newly created Foundation, CERES-Locustox/Centre de Recherches en Ecotoxicologie pour le Sahel, has partners and clients at local, national, regional and international levels. Today, the Foundation is the only African Institution of its kind that has been certified as an OECD laboratory for good practices by the Comité Français D'Accréditation. The Foundation now holds a key position in the area of certification of agricultural exports to international markets. This is the case not only within Senegal, but also in the subregion. These achievements are due in large part to the unique intellectual, managerial and leadership skills of Mr Everts. They are also due to his sense of personal commitment displayed throughout this long-term process. Mr Everts recently joined the Plant Protection Service in FAO's Agriculture Department at Headquarters.

I now invite Mr Narendra Singh Tunwar to come to the podium to accept the Award.

Narendra Singh TUNWAR

I deem it a great privilege and great honour to be selected for the B.R. Sen Award for the year 2002, and I am very grateful to the Selection Committee for the Award.

Before I say something about my wonderful host Country, and the seed programme we have developed, I wish to sincerely thank the Selection Committee for recognizing the importance of the seed programme in Afghanistan's quest towards agricultural rehabilitation and development.

For the first time in Afghanistan since 1978, circumstances and the reality on the ground have changed. When the present seed project started in 1992, the situation was very uncertain and full of risks never encountered before. Most of the Kabul based programmes were closed due to security reasons.

Under such a situation, it was very difficult to implement a typical and time tested seed programme. Instead, a diffused approach consisting of a large number of small seed producing pockets was developed and to ensure that farmers of every region and every and every stratum of society could benefit from the programme.

Over the course of ten years, some of the major achievements were: introduction and maintenance of more than 26 crop varieties of different crops; production and distribution of 52,700 metric ton quality declared seed sufficient to seed more than 558,000 hectare land; additional production of more than 40,300 metric ton seed under farmers to farmers exchange scheme; more than one million farmers received good quality seed of good varieties during the project period; introduction of food-for-seed production scheme in collaboration with WFP to procure seed in absence of stable currency; constitution of several groups and committees to oversee activities and maintain transparency.

A winter agriculture survey carried out from December 2002 to January 2003 in 30 provinces of Afghanistan indicated that improved seeds are widely used. Amongst the sampled households, about 54 percent of wheat planted area in 2003, was sown with improved seed released in the last ten years. All these varieties and 23 more varieties were introduced by the project and are quite popular among farmers.

Regarding dedication of the national staff members, I would fail in my duty if I did not mention the contribution of my national colleagues. They are the real pillars of the programme. During very difficult and dangerous times they continued to carry out all season bound activities to avoid any disruption in the production chain. Without their devotion to duty it would have been next to impossible to implement the project.

The technical support received from AGPS helped in maintaining the desired technical standards and unreserved support and guidance made available by FAO in Bangkok, WFP in Kabul and UNDP in Kabul proved life line to the project.

I thank you and conclude my submission with the following famous description of seed. "This is the seed, compact of God, wherein all mystery is enfolded".

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Tunwar. I would now like to invite Mr James Everts to the podium to receive the Award.

James EVERTS

It is an overwhelming honour to be here today to receive the B.R. Sen Award. In accepting it I am deeply conscious that the contribution that one can make in a field assignment is very heavily dependent on those who you work with as counterparts, and those who support you.

The success of the Locustox project is a clear indication of the strong commitment of the Senegalese Government, the pesticides authority of CILSS and FAO, to develop a sustainable infrastructure for ecotoxicological research, analysis and training in the region. The establishment of this research and capacity building institution, with a national and regional mandate, was facilitated through a trust fund from the Government of the Netherlands whose contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

The competence and enthusiasm of the team and its director, Mr Djibril Mbaye, have paved the way for the international certification of the laboratory and for the foundation to become a regional focal point of a number of international development programmes.

I am grateful to the FAO Representative in Dakar and his staff who supported our work, administratively and morally, during more than nine years.

For their administrative and technical support, I am indebted to the FAO Regional Office for Africa and to the respective divisions in FAO Rome.

I wish to thank my colleagues in the CERES/Locustox Foundation, my predecessor, the staff in the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment. I wish to thank the farmers, the NGOs and all other partners of the Foundation, for their invaluable support, I thank my former colleagues, field workers.

I wish to thank my wife and children, my friends in Senegal, in Rome and elsewhere for being with me, wherever and whenever needed.

I take this opportunity to extend through you, Director-General, my thanks to all FAO staff who have supported the CERES/Locustox Foundation since the beginning.

Finally, I express my pride in being part of this Organization.

Thank you once again for this honour.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Now we proceed to Item 24.3, the presentation of the A.H. Boerma Award, which is a biennial prize given to a writer or journalist whose writing or work on radio or television is likely to have increased international awareness of world food problems and measures to resolve them.

The Award consists of a medal, a personalized scroll, cash prize for a total of US\$10 000 and a round trip to Rome for the winner and spouse. I invite the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the A.H. Boerma Award.

24.3 Presentation of A.H. Boerma Award (C 2003/INF/7)

24.3 Remise du prix A.H. Boerma (C 2003/INF/7)

24.3 Entrega del Premio A.H. Boerma (C 2003/INF/7)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

One of the challenges for FAO is to make development issues interesting to a wide general public. This is no easy task, as development stories compete with politics, crime, disasters and even the weather report to grab audience attention, in newspapers, television and radio all over the world. Yet, one of FAO's role is to bring information on food, agriculture and rural development issues to a global public. Good communicators can make FAO's messages easily understood and interesting to a broad audience. They can help people to understand the issues and how problems can affect their lives.

Recognizing the challenge involved in increasing public awareness of development issues, in 1975, the Addeke Boerma Award was established, a tribute to the leadership of former Director-General, Dr Addeke Boerma. The Award is made every two years to honour the work of a journalist or group of journalists whose coverage of development issues has helped to focus attention on the problems of hunger and malnutrition.

The winners of the 2002-2003 Boerma Award have repeatedly shown, not only that they can inform a vast and often indifferent public, but also that in so doing they can, if necessary, provoke reaction as far as the policy level to bring about change. Though working in very different environments, each in his own way has proven his commitment to ensuring that the hunger story is not just newsworthy but deserves to be placed at the top of the international development agenda.

Accordingly, it gives me great pleasure to announce the Boerma Award Winners for 2002-2003 are: Mr Marcelo Canellas, a Brazilian journalist and documentary film-maker; Mr David Brough, correspondent and commodity reporter for Reuters News Service from the United Kingdom.

Mr Marcelo Canellas has received nation-wide acclaim for his reporting on the plight of the hungry in Brazil. In June 2001, his series of five television documentaries on the causes and effects of hunger in his native Brazil, was watched by an estimated 35 million people and led to a number of concrete initiatives aimed at tackling urgent aspects of the hunger problem.

Last January, Brazil's largest television network, Rete Globo TV also entrusted Mr Canellas with the production of a 30-minute documentary on hunger. By utilizing the technique of interspersing the film with human interest stories, he achieved wide audience recognition of the problem and has confirmed his status as an impartial and thought – provoking television journalist.

Even before the Brazilian Government began implementing its sweeping new programme to alleviate hunger, Marcello Canellas was making documentaries that stirred the public to a new sensitivity of the complexity of the hunger issue and made food insecurity a reality with which all could identify.

In 1999, Mr David Brough was posted to Rome as a Reuters correspondent specializing in commodity reporting. Part of his brief was to focus on the work of the Rome-Based food agencies. By making the most of the information and data he could collect, in a relatively short time, he began to produce stories about different aspects of the food problem which achieved wide circulation. Following a field trip to Ethiopia, he produced a series of groundbreaking reports on pesticide use that received such wide coverage that the pesticide manufacturers fell under public pressure to honour their pledge to assist with the cost of disposal.

David Brough's reporting on commodity and trade stories, including crop assessments and early warning of shortages based on information gathered from FAO, has also helped to raise the profile of this Organization in these areas, thereby contributing to enhance the reputation of FAO as a centre of knowledge and excellence.

Judging by the winners of the present Award, among the qualities that make an outstanding journalist are commitment, impartiality, understanding and judgement not to mention individual style. When these qualities are brought together and used as arms in the fight against hunger, shaking people out of their indifference, and bringing a global conscience to bear upon this urgent issue, we may justifiably expect that positive change will come. At the very least, we should honour those that have been instrumental in informing public opinion.

With this sentiment and these few words, I would thus like to express my profound thanks to Mr Marcelo Canellas and Mr David Brough for their very great contribution towards the work of this Organization and to achieving a world without hunger.

I call upon Mr Canellas and Mr Brough to come to the podium to receive their award.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mr Diouf. I would like to invite Mr Canellas to take the floor.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Marcello CANELLAS

Al final del Siglo XIX, un trabajador analfabeto llamado Jerónimo Pasqualoto salió de Italia escapando del hambre, para intentar una vida en el distante Brasil que, en aquella época, representaba el sueño de abundancia y prosperidad para millares de inmigrantes. Ciento veinte años después, el bisnieto hace el camino de vuelta. Estoy aquí pisando por primera vez la tierra de mi bisabuelo, para espantar el fantasma que lo persiguió. Para mí el hambre es sólo una remota historia de familia mientras que, para millones de brasileños, es parte de su vida cotidiana, de la brutal rutina de privaciones impuestas por la concentración de renta, de tierra y de oportunidades. El país escogido por mi bisabuelo para vivir es rico, pero profundamente injusto. Sé que hoy estoy aquí porque creo en la fuerza humanista del periodismo y en su vocación de dar visibilidad a hechos que están delante de nuestros ojos a pesar de que no siempre los vemos.

Agradezco a la oficina de la FAO en Brasil, en la persona del Dr. José Tubino y su equipo; a la Oficina Regional de la FAO para América Latina y el Caribe, en la persona del Dr. Gustavo Gordillo y su equipo, grandes responsables de mi indicación para este premio. El dinero que recibiré por el premio Boerma será integralmente donado a la Asociación de los Criadores de Cabra de São Sebastião do Umbuzeiro, Estado de Paraíba, en el nordeste de Brasil, una entidad de campesinos pobres que hacen de su organización una manera de vencer la sequía y la miseria a través de la experiencia de solidaridad, del compartir y del trabajo comunitario. El inmenso honor que me está siendo ofrecido hoy es un estímulo que fortalece una convicción: el periodismo todavía tendrá mucho que hacer mientras Brasil, como en los sueños de mi bisabuelo, no sea el país generoso y rico para todos, y mientras haya en el mundo un único hambriento para desafiar a la humanidad que hay dentro de cada uno de nosotros.

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Brough to take the floor.

David BROUGH

I wish to thank the Food and Agriculture Organisation for choosing me as joint winner of the 2002 and 2003 A.H. Boerma award to journalists.

The role of the media is critical in the war on hunger, and FAO has acknowledged this by endorsing the award.

The Rome-based United Nations Organisations dealing with food and agriculture can assist the media's coverage of food shortages, hunger and development by spreading the word about the needs of the poor.

The challenge for the media is to communicate, complicated food and agriculture problems to the widest possible audience, simply and clearly. It is no easy task.

The reasons for hunger are many and complex. It is impossible for people who have never been desperately hungry to imagine what it must be like. Many people simply do not want to read, hear about, or see the suffering of others.

It is the duty of the media to tell the story as it really is. To explain the reasons, and to probe the experts to try to find the solutions.

No one could deny that in the third Millennium, it is a scandal that more than 840 million people around the world go to bed hungry.

The media must focus the attention of the general public on this problem and put pressure on policymakers to find the answers and take action.

Political will is the means of eradicating world hunger. It is up to the media to keep telling the story. It is up to the United Nations to keep battling world hunger. If we keep each other on our toes, we can achieve this lofty goal.

It is imperative to tell people time and time again about the agony of hunger in different parts of the world.

The United Nations system can help by sharpening its message. This will assist journalists in bringing to the attention of the public, problems which, if ignored, will get worse, increasing the divide between rich and poor.

Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

24.4 Presentation of Edouard Saouma Award (C 2003/INF/8)

24.4 Remise du prix Edouard Saouma (C 2003/INF/8)

24.4 Entrega del Premio Edouard Saouma (C 2003/INF/8)

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed to item 24.4, the presentation of the Edouard Saouma award for 2002 and 2003. The Edouard Saouma Award, which was established by the Conference at its Twenty-seventh Session in honour of FAO'S Director-General from 1976 to 1993, is awarded every biennium to an institution which has successfully implemented a project funded by the Technical Cooperation Programme. The prize consists of a medal, a personalized scroll and a cash prize for a total of US\$25,000.

I should like to invite the Director-General to introduce the winners and to present the Edouard Saouma Award.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

The technical cooperation programme (TCP) is a long standing instrument designed to make FAO's specialized competence more readily available to member countries for the solution of urgent and unforeseen problems.

In honour of my predecessor, the 27th Session of the Conference established the Edouard Saouma award. This award is given to a national or regional institution which can demonstrate that it has implemented a TCP project with particular efficiency, achieving outstanding results with very limited means. Among the many high quality award nominations received this biennium, from all regions and all sectors, two National Institutions stand out in particular in terms of efficiency of project implementation, impact and catalytic effect.

The Nicaraguan Institute of Women (INIM) is represented here today by its executive Director, Ms Ivania Toruño de Martínez. This institute has demonstrated exceptional ability in designing and implementing a programme for rural women to ensure better targeting of women in development programmes and to introduce a gender perspective in the working plans of institutions dealing with agriculture and natural resources. The efficient coordination by the institute of an interagency commission which brings together Public Institutions and Civil Organizations has been vital to the project's success. As a result of the sustained commitment of the Nicaraguan Institute of Women (INIM), both the access of women to resources and services and the attention given to women through technical assistance in the sector have significantly increased.

I consider this project as a model for the translation of a conceptual framework into practical action and concrete results, making policy and planning in agriculture and natural resource management more gender-responsive. The Institute continues to be instrumental in monitoring follow-up activities and expanding gender training in the sector.

Mr Tu Jianhua, Director of the Sichuan Provincial Plant Protection Station (SPPPS) in the People's Republic of China, has been invited to represent the team that successfully implemented a TCP project on Rural Rodent Control in Sichuan Province.

The professionalism of the staff in conducting efficient extension work, training of trainers and farmer field schools was the key to the project's success.

The staff was highly motivated and able to transmit its enthusiasm to all those involved in the project, leading to the rapid and widespread adoption by farmers of the Rodent Monitoring and Control Technologies developed by the station. I believe that this is an excellent example of a project that has produced practical and concrete results at the farm level, leading to substantially reduced crop damage both in the fields and in storage, at the same time, reducing the cost of control measures.

Provincial, county and local government funds have been made available for the wide dissemination of the results and recommendations in the province and to date 63.000 farmers have been trained.

I now invite Mr Tu Jianhua to join me on the podium to receive the award.

TU JIANHUA (Original language Chinese)

First of all, please allow me to express, on behalf of the Sichuan Provincial Department of Plant Protection and all the colleagues who have participated in the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Project "Rural Rodent Control in the Sichuan Province", our gratitude and heartfelt thanks to FAO and the Director-General for honouring us with this prestigious award.

I also wish to extend our appreciation to the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, through the Chinese delegation here present. Together with FAO, the Ministry of Agriculture's assistance and guidance contributed to the success and the remarkable achievements of the project.

The "Rural Rodent Control Project in Sichuan Province" is the first project implemented in China to have received the Edouard Saouma Award, which is an honour conferred not only to our team, but also to our country.

Since the 1990s, rodent damage has become a major obstacle in achieving food security in Sichuan Province and has caused an annual grain loss of 2.5 million tonnes. The TCP Project on "Rural Rodent Control" was carried out during 2000 and 2001 to address this problem.

The project accomplished three major achievements. Firstly, we graduated from seasonable to community-based sustainable rodent control, thus increasing rodent control effectiveness by 10 to 20 percent. Secondly, we adopted simple, but effective, station-baiting methods to replace the loose baiting method. A specific case is that we took advantage of the availability of bamboo in rural Sichuan and developed baiting with bamboo stems. This method avoids the poisoning of

untargeted animals and poultry, helps to lessen the chemical control of rodents and protects the water resources and the environment.

Thirdly, the techniques used by the project greatly reduced the bait dosage by three kilogrammes per hectare, on average, thus reducing the cost. Farmers welcome such technologies. In addition, we have been able to further extend this systematic rural rodent control techniques to other areas thus expanding the economic, social and environmental benefits.

The economically viable, technically appropriate and the environmentally-friendly rodent control techniques have drawn the attention of the Government of China. The Central and the Provincial Governments allocated US\$500 000 to extend the project's technical support in the Province in 2003. As a result of the Programme, 1.6 million farmer households, or eight percent of the rural households in Sichuan Province benefited. In order that more farmers may benefit, especially those living in poor, hilly areas, we will continue our effort to spread the techniques.

Meanwhile, we sincerely hope that FAO and donor countries will give the necessary technical and financial support to continue the dissemination and the application of these rural rodent control techniques in China.

EL DIRECTOR GENERAL

El Instituto Nicaragüense de la Mujer (INIM) está hoy representado aquí por la Sra. Ivania Toruño de Martínez, su Directora Ejecutiva. Este Instituto ha demostrado una capacidad excepcional para formular y ejecutar un proyecto destinado a las mujeres rurales a fin de que, en los programas de desarrollo, haya una mejor selección de mujeres y se incorpore una perspectiva de género en los planes de trabajo de las instituciones que se ocupan de temas relacionados con la agricultura y los recursos naturales. Resultó vital para el éxito del proyecto la eficaz coordinación por parte del Instituto de una Comisión Interinstitucional integrada por instituciones públicas y organizaciones civiles. Gracias a la constante dedicación del INIM, han aumentado significativamente tanto el acceso de las mujeres a los recursos y servicios como la atención que se les brinda mediante asistencia técnica en el sector.

Considero que este proyecto es un modelo por lo que se refiere a plasmar un marco conceptual en actividades prácticas y resultados concretos y a prestar mayor atención a los temas de género en la formulación de políticas y planes de agricultura y ordenación de los recursos naturales. El Instituto sigue aportando su contribución a la vigilancia de las actividades de seguimiento y la ampliación de la capacitación en temas de género en el sector.

Señora Ivania TORUÑO DE MARTÍNEZ

En ocasión del 32º período de sesiones de la Conferencia de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación (FAO), dirijo un saludo a todos los representantes Miembros en nombre del pueblo de Nicaragua, en nombre del Gobierno que preside el Ingeniero Enrique Bolaños Geyer y, muy especial, de las mujeres nicaragüenses y en el mío propio.

Recibimos con orgullo la elección que se hizo del Instituto Nicaragüense de la Mujer (INIM) al otorgarnos este premio de excelencia, distinción que interpretamos como un reconocimiento de la comunidad internacional a los esfuerzos que hemos desarrollado para insertar a las mujeres nicaragüenses en las estrategias de desarrollo del país. Lo recibo también, específicamente, en nombre de las mujeres del campo, de las mujeres del sector rural. Ellas han dado magníficos ejemplos de coraje y dignidad; el proyecto "Creación de un Programa para la Mujer Rural", que nos hizo acreedores de este premio, inició en 1999 y tuvo como objetivo asistir al Gobierno de Nicaragua en la creación de este programa para abordar el desarrollo rural desde una perspectiva de género a fin de reducir la pobreza rural y mejorar la seguridad alimentaria.

Este programa inició como un proyecto solicitado desde el INIM y nuestra misión de incidir en las políticas públicas. Nuestro proyecto diseñó una metodología para el seguimiento de las políticas con perspectivas de género en el sector agropecuario. Asimismo, se formularon las declaraciones de políticas con enfoque de género en las instituciones que integran la Comisión

Interinstitucional de Mujer y Desarrollo Rural y se promovieron acciones con el sector privado y con otras organizaciones vinculadas al desarrollo rural del país.

A través de la ejecución de este proyecto se alcanzaron la formulación del programa coordinado por el INIM (recursos humanos y financieros del Estado destinados a crear una estructura operativa en apoyo a la mujer rural), el Programa de Acción para la Mujer Rural en todas las instituciones que conforman la Comisión Interinstitucional de la Mujer y Desarrollo Rural y el establecimiento de instancias de coordinación con el sector privado y la sociedad civil.

Funcionarios de las instituciones del sector público agropecuario entraron en el proceso de sensibilización sobre el tema de enfoque de género. También logramos que en el último Censo Agropecuario realizado en nuestro país se incorporara el enfoque de género.

Este premio honra a todas las mujeres nicaragüenses que con vocación y firmeza queremos construir un futuro diferente, digno y de bienestar para todos; también estimula el espíritu de la mujer nicaragüense para rescatar los sueños de un país quebrantado en los últimos años, en las últimas ocho décadas, por el flagelo de la pobreza, como consecuencia de guerras, desastres naturales, corrupción, un mal endémico en el mundo entero, que han provocado un retroceso en nuestra economía de casi ocho décadas.

Aprovecho este foro para reconocer públicamente que el Premio Edouard Saouma no hubiese sido posible sin el apoyo y la asistencia técnica brindada por la representación de la FAO en Nicaragua. Gracias además a la unidad de género de la Oficina Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, sin cuyo acompañamiento no hubiésemos alcanzado estos logros.

Con su decisión, apoyan nuestras posibilidades de éxito y este acompañamiento de amigos verdaderos, de naciones hermanas, el que necesitamos para el cambio a favor del desarrollo, la gobernabilidad, la paz, desde una perspectiva de género como parte de la justicia social.

Tengan la seguridad que sabremos honrar esta distinción y que nuestra lucha continuará por esa equidad de género.

CHAIRPERSON

We proceed with Item 24.5, "The Margarita Lizárraga Medal". I would like to invite the Director-General to introduce the winner.

24.5 Margarita Lizárraga Medal (C 2003/LIM/13)

24.5 Médaille Margarita Lizárraga (C 2003/LIM/13)

24.5 Entrega de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga (C 2003/LIM/13)

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

At its Twenty-ninth Session in November 1997, the FAO Conference instituted the Margarita Lizárraga medal, upon the proposal of the Council, to be awarded every two years to a person or Organization that has served with distinction in the application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

The medal pays tribute to Dr. Margarita Lizárraga, Senior Fishery Liaison Officer, for her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. Her productive work in the field of fisheries for almost forty years, great dedication to FAO and her strong commitment towards fostering the promotion of the fisheries sector, especially in developing countries.

For the 2002-2003 biennium, the Secretariat short-listed three nominations on the basis of criteria agreed upon by the Selection Committee.

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), an international Non-Governmental Organization based in Chennai, India, has, by its comprehensive, sustainable and catalytic initiatives through workshops, outreach and advocacy activities, mobilized grassroots support and enhanced human capacity building for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The dissemination of information undertaken by ICFS through its widely circulated flagship magazine, Samudra, has increased awareness about the Code and contributed

to national fishery policy formulation and implementation in accordance with the Code's principles and articles.

May I now call on the Representative of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers to come to the podium to receive the award.

Ms Chandrika SHARMA

Director-General, Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, I am honoured and pleased to receive the Margarita Lizárraga award medal in recognition of ICSF's role in support of the FAO code of conduct for responsible fisheries.

ICSF had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Lizárraga in the process leading to the adoption of the code in the mid-1990s. Those memorable occasions gave us the chance to witness first-hand her commitment to promoting responsible fisheries and, as important, ensuring the meaningful participation of small-scale fishworkers in the process.

Dr. Lizárraga's association with us, however, goes back before she joined FAO to the time of the International Conference of Fishworkers and their supporters held in Rome in 1984 parallel to the FAO World Conference on Fisheries, Management and Development. Ten years later, in June 1994, Dr. Lizárraga travelled to Cebu in the Philippines to represent FAO at the ICSF Conference on The Team Struggle of Fishworkers – New Concerns For Support. The Commission was to brief fishworker organizations from all over the world present at that Conference about FAO's code of conduct for responsible fisheries, and to seek their participation in the process of its formulation. Her sincerity, conviction of purpose and enthusiasm prompted ICSF to engage with this process and subsequently in popularizing the code.

The code has since become an integral tool of much of ICSF activities that encompass, among others, research, training capacity-building and outreach aimed at facilitating the participation of fishworkers in decision-making processes affecting their lives. Yet, eight years after the introduction of the code, the ground reality of the fisheries world leaves us no room for complacency. The lives of millions of fishworkers and their families in coastal fishing communities continues to be characterized by poverty, social and economic vulnerability, insecure access rights to land and sea resources to which they have traditionally enjoyed access and lack of alternative employment possibilities, even as the resources that have sustained them are under stress. This is the challenge before us today.

We consider the larger political significance of this award to be a recognition of the beliefs that ICSF espouses, the centrality of fishworkers and the inherent viability and superiority of the small-scale fisheries to achieve the goals of a just sustainable participatory and self-reliant process of development.

And these were also values central to Dr. Lizárraga's larger vision for responsible fisheries management and development. Dr. Lizárraga is no more in our presence, but the values that she stood for are an enduring and reassuring motivator that challenge us to stand by our commitment to placing people at the center of our concerns for responsible fisheries. It is, thus, with great honour, that we accept the Margarita Lizárraga award medal and are grateful to FAO for bestowing it on us. Thank you.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Mexico, who donated the award, and India, whose citizens have received the award, have expressed their desire to comment very briefly. I now invite them to do so, starting with Mexico.

Rafael TOVAR Y DE TERESA (México)

El Gobierno de México desea expresar su agradecimiento a la FAO por mantener vivo el recuerdo de una extraordinaria mexicana, quien fue también funcionaria de esta Organización y supo traducir los altos objetivos de la FAO en acciones concretas a favor de las poblaciones pesqueras pobres, así como para la conservación de los recursos pesqueros mundiales. Margarita Lizárraga emprendió siempre un trabajo sistemático y decidido para hacer realidad el Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable que se ha constituido, en pocos años, en la referencia obligada para las políticas y normas que en materia de pesca emanan de esta Organización.

Mi Delegación se siente complacida por esta tercera entrega de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga, en esta ocasión para el Colectivo Internacional de Apoyo al Pescador Artesanal, con sede en la India, el mismo que se ha distinguido por la responsabilidad y el ahínco con que aplica el Código Internacional de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable.

Mi Gobierno agradece la decisión del Consejo para fortalecer esta distinción que otorga la FAO, única que reconoce hasta ahora la trayectoria de un funcionario de su Programa Regular. Por ello, apreciaremos que la Secretaría de la FAO brinde una amplia difusión a la convocatoria para dicha distinción con las especificaciones adecuadas para la presentación de candidaturas.

Finalmente, el pasado 4 de marzo, mi país cumplió su promesa de contribuir con recursos extrapresupuestarios para el otorgamiento de la Medalla Margarita Lizárraga y deseamos hacer un llamado a todas la Representaciones para que se unan a este esfuerzo y pueda mantenerse esta noble distinción que otorga nuestra Organización.

Ramesh C.A. JAIN (India)

My delegation takes this opportunity to thank FAO and the Selection Committees for recognizing the efforts of my country in the field of agriculture and rural development, by conferring two of the four awards today to an Indian national and an Indian institution. We congratulate the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF) who are being conferred the Margarita Lizzárga Medal for their comprehensive, sustainable and catalytic initiatives, mobilizing grassroots support for the implementation of the Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries.

The Government of India is extremely pleased that this medal pays tribute to the late Dr Margarita Lizzárga her decisive role in promoting the Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries in developing countries. The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers is an international NGO, based in Chennai in India. Its information dissemination through its flagship magazine, Samudra, which is Hindi for "the ocean", has not only increased awareness about the Code, but has also contributed to the formulation of national fisheries policy.

My delegation is also pleased to express its happiness on the conferment of the B. R. Sen Annual Award for the year 2002 to Mr N. S. Tunwar. This award established in the name FAO's former Director-General and a distinguished Indian national, is given to the field officer who has made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the country or countries to which he or she has been assigned. Mr Tunwar continues to work as a Senior Technical Advisor of Seeds in Afghanistan since 1992. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mr Tunwar my delegation's best wishes in his future assignments.

I also assure FAO that my Government would always be keen in providing services of our agricultural experts and scientists in furtherance of agricultural development and food security in developing countries.

Once again, I thank FAO for recognizing the contributions of the two award-winning Indian national and the Indian institution.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I thank those two speakers for observing my request that they be brief. Had I known that it was going to take a little longer to count the ballots than expected, I would have invited them to address us at length. We have not quite finished the ballots, there are four applicant Members so more counting than usual, and so we will take a short break now and resume when the results of the ballot come to hand.

The meeting was suspended from 16.35 to 16.54 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16.35 à 16 h 54

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.35 a las 16.54 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Would delegates please resume their seats. We now return to Item 20, Application for Membership in the Organization. The votes have been counted and the Secretary-General will read the results.

20. Applications for Membership in the Organization (C 2003/10-Rev.1) (continued)

20. Demandes d'admission à la qualité de Membre de l'Organisation (C 2003/10-Rev.1) (suite)

20. Solicitudes de ingreso en la Organización (C 2003/10-Rev.1) (continuación)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Federated States of Micronesia, valid papers deposited 121, abstentions 2, defective ballots 1, votes for 117, votes against 1; therefore votes cast 118. A two-thirds majority is required of 79. Having obtained the required majority, Federated States of Micronesia is admitted to Membership.

C 2003/RS/1

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 1	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	121	4. Votes for Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	117
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	2	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	1
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	1	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	118

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrages exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	79
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Federated States of Micronesia

having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature Mr Mengistu HULUKA (ETHIOPIA)

Firma

Date

Fecha 29 November 2003

Signature Mr Geoffrey W. WIGGIN (USA)

Firma

Stephen Dowd

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

May I move now to Timor Leste. Valid papers deposited 121, abstentions 6, defective ballots 0, votes for 112, votes against 3, votes cast 115. The required two-thirds majority is 77. Having obtained the required majority Timor-Leste is admitted to Membership.

C 2003/RS/2

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 2	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	121	4. Votes for Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	112
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	6	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	3
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	115

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrages exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	77
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Timor Leste

having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature Mr Mengistu HULLUKA (ETHIOPIA)

Firma

Date

Fecha 29 November 2003

Signature Mr Geoffrey W. WIGGIN (USA)

Firma

STEPHEN DOWD

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Tuvalu. Valid papers deposited 121, abstentions 8, defective ballots 0, votes for 113, votes against 0, therefore, votes cast 113. The two-thirds majority required is 76. Having obtained the required majority Tuvalu is admitted to Membership.

C 2003/RS/3

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 3	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	121	4. Votes for Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	113
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	8	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	113

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrages exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	76
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Tuvalu

having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature Mr Mengistu HULLUKA (ETHIOPIA)

Firma

Date

Fecha 29 November 2003

Signature Mr Geoffrey W. WIGGIN (USA)

Firma

Stephen Dowd

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Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Finally, Ukraine. Valid papers deposited 122, abstentions 9, defective ballots 0, votes for 113, votes against 0, therefore, votes cast 113. The two-thirds majority required is 76. Ukraine having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership.

C 2003/RS/4

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 4	ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION DE MEMBRES ADMISION DE MIEMBROS
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	122	4. Votes for Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	113
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	9	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	0
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	113

7. Two thirds majority of the votes cast Majorité des deux tiers du suffrages exprimés Mayoría de dos tercios de los votos emitidos	76
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Ukraine

having obtained the required majority is admitted to Membership

ayant obtenu la majorité, est admis Membre

habiendo obtenido la mayoría, es admitido Miembro

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature Mr Mengistu HAILLUKA (ETHIOPIA)

Firma

Date

Fecha 29 November 2003

Signature Mr Geoffrey W. WIGGIN (USA)

Firma

Stephen Dowd.

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer

Fonctionnaire électoral

El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Federated States of Micronesia, Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Ukraine are now members of FAO and the Delegations will take their place among us.

May I take this opportunity to welcome the new members of the FAO.

I will pass the floor to the Director General.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr Chairman allow me to extend a very warm welcome to the four newly elected Member nations. These new members have expressed their firm belief in the spirit of universalism of the United Nations system and a clear desire not only to improve the living standards of their citizens but also to contribute to the world of the Organization as a whole.

By joining our Organization, they have expressed their faiths in multilateralism, which is surely the key to resolving many of the problems faced by our global community.

I welcome them to an Organization where regardless of geographical location and size, we will work together to forge a mutually beneficial relationship.

Redley KILLION (Micronesia)

It is, indeed, a special honour for me to be here, to witness on behalf of the Government and the People the Federated States of Micronesia, the admission of our young Nation to this august party as a full Member with rights and obligations under the FAO Constitution.

The historic significance of this event is that it fulfills our long standing objective and commitment to ensure a peaceful world with salvation supply of food.

As our contributions may be limited perhaps, our marine resources, given our vast ocean area, and our limited land areas and land resources, we will do our part to contribute to the objectives set fourth in the Constitution of ensuring humanity is freedom from hunger.

This is indeed, a historic event for my Nation. I would like to thank you and all Members for this esteemed Body for the honour bestowed upon my country today.

Estanislá DA SILVA (Timor-Leste)

On behalf of the Government of the people of Timor-Leste, I would like to thank the Community of Nations and Members of FAO for accepting our membership of FAO.

I would like to stress that as a new Member of FAO, we will follow the rules and accept the challenge to address food security and poverty reduction in Timor-Leste as an overall strategy against food insecurity in the world.

Once again, thank you for accepting us.

Sam P. TEO (Tuvalu)

I bring you all greetings from the people and the Government of Tuvalu and I congratulate you Mr Chairman on your election and wish you every success in exercising the responsibilities of your high office in working with the Director-General to win for FAO the recognition it richly deserves.

On behalf of the Government and the people of Tuvalu, I extend my grateful thanks and deep appreciation to all the distinguished delegates for their invaluable support and confidence.

Tuvalu is committed to the ideals of FAO and stands ready and willing to serve our Organization and to work with all the Members and the Director-General to promote and achieve its goals.

Tuvalu is very proud to be a Member of the FAO.

Sergiy RYZHUK (Ukraine) (Original language Russian)

Today is an outstanding day for Ukraine. Our State has become a full-fledged member of the Food and Agriculture Organization which is one of the most respected international Organizations of the United Nations system.

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf and the whole Secretariat of FAO for their efforts for this event to take place. In Ukraine, which is one of the most prospective countries of Europe, in terms of its natural richness, industrial and agriculture potential. We deeply realize the historical significance of the long awaited event which is accession to the global agricultural community.

In twelve years of its independence, Ukraine's economy has passed several stages of development which resulted in significant increase of volumes of output and internal and external trade.

The Ukrainian Government consistently implements economic reforms which have become the major factor of positive development in the agriculture of our state. Growth of industrial output, which is experienced in Ukraine, takes place also due to the improvement of the situation in agriculture and food processing.

As of today, Ukraine has a developed infrastructure of markets, however, we fully realize that the future sustainable economy of our State will primarily depend on deepening the cooperation of Ukraine with international economic organizations including FAO and WHO.

As a European country, Ukraine is set, together with other countries, to contribute to meeting the global challenges of humankind, including the elimination of hunger and poverty.

We are deeply convinced then, that mutual beneficial cooperation between FAO and Ukraine, as a full-fledged Member of the Organization, will enable us to ensure future implementation of economic reforms in our country and enable us to use the potential of our State in humanitarian programmes and initiatives led by FAO.

Let me reaffirm Ukraine's support for the basic plans and goals of FAO. Please accept our most sincere thanks for your support.

CHAIRPERSON

Could I from the Chair say how delighted I am to welcome to the FAO family three close friends from the broad race of Pacific region, the Federated States of Micronesia, Timor-Leste and Tivalu and a warm welcome also to Ukraine.

Speaking with my national hat on, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tivalu, join New Zealand in the Southwest Pacific region of mainly island states like New Zealand. The region now has sixteen members and New Zealand has long worked closely with them in the Pacific forum. As small island states they rely greatly on economic sectors like fisheries where FAO membership will be of enormous benefit.

New Zealand was at the birth of the newest state, Timor-Leste. We have a close, friendly and continuing involvement with them and we look forward to working with them in FAO. We look forward also to the role Ukraine will play in FAO as a large and important country with immense agricultural potential.

I am conscious of the time but I am also conscious of the great significance of the events of this afternoon and I will invite a reasonable participation by delegates who wish to join in congratulating or expressing welcome to the new Members, but I will feel obliged to move onto the final item on the agenda after this.

It may be that not everybody who would like to speak at this stage will be able to do so but I hopefully will have a reasonable spread of Representation. Can I have an indication from countries who would like to say a few words at this point. I take the call first from Australia.

Ian MACDONALD (Australia)

As co-chair of the South Pacific Regional Group and as the Southwest Pacific Regional Representative on the FAO Council, I would like to very briefly warmly welcome the newest recruits of the Region, the Federated States of Micronesia and Tuvalu.

Australia is keenly aware that small island developing states face a number of significant challenges due, to amongst other things, their size, remoteness from markets, reliance on imports to supply many basic needs and their dependence on a narrow base of exports. They are vulnerable to forces outside their control due to their economic exposure and susceptibility to natural disasters. In this regard, Australia considers the FAO has an important catalytic role to play in assisting the Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu, the Ukraine and Timor-Leste in moving towards sustainable management of agriculture, forestry and fisheries resources and ensuring sustainable management of land, water resources and environment protection.

I would also note Australia's very special relationship with our new Member, Timor-Leste and extend a very warm welcome to its Minister for Agriculture of Forestry and Fisheries, Mr De Silva. Australia has worked hard, together with the United Nations and other members of the international community, to bring an end to violence in that country and to help rebuild the economy of the world's newest nation.

We are pleased that Timor-Leste is now a Member of the FAO and we look forward to new opportunities to work together in this Organization.

I would also briefly want to welcome the Ukraine. While Ukraine is a long way away from Australia, I do want to acknowledge the very constructive role that Ukraine played in the recent meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in Hobart, in supporting attempts to stop illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing of the Patagonian toothfish.

To all four new Members, I extend Australia's congratulations and welcome.

Ms Erika LUEDIG (United States of America)

The United States really values the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization and we are quite happy to have four new Members who will all work together to help improve world hunger.

ANDRADJATI (Indonesia)

As a close neighbouring country to Timor-Leste, the Indonesian delegation welcomes and congratulates the new Member State of Timor Leste to FAO and hopes that as a new Member, the country can cooperate with FAO to achieve the objectives of the Organization. As for the other new Members of the Organization, the Indonesian delegation also welcomes and congratulates them on their membership.

Milan PAKSI (Slovak Republic)

On behalf of the European Regional Group, we would like to congratulate the entrance of the four new Member States to FAO, particularly our direct neighbour, our Ukraine colleagues, we welcome to the Organization.

Charles MILLON (France)

Au nom de la France, je voudrais me féliciter de voir la FAO recevoir aujourd'hui quatre pays dont certains sont très proches de la France, non seulement par leur positionnement géographique mais aussi par l'histoire. Je voudrais me féliciter de voir l'Ukraine rejoindre la FAO pour poursuivre en Europe et dans toute cette partie du monde le combat contre la faim et la pauvreté. C'est là un signe d'espoir pour l'Europe et pour le monde et je voulais le souligner au nom du Gouvernement français.

Mario Arvelo CAAMAÑO (República Dominicana)

En nombre de mi delegación y de las delegaciones del Grupo de América Latina y el Caribe, en mi condición de Vicepresidente del GRULAC, dado que la Delegación de Chile está ausente en este momento y ejerce la Presidencia, queremos dar la bienvenida a las distinguidas representaciones de los Estados Federados de Micronesia, la República Democrática de Timor-Leste, Tuvalu y Ucrania a esta Organización, garantizándoles que cooperaremos con ellas en el mismo sentido en que hemos cooperado con los grupos regionales hasta el momento.

Arnaldo DE BAENA FERNANDES (Brazil)

On behalf of the Brazilian delegation, I would like to welcome the four new Members of FAO, Micronesia, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Ukraine. The Brazilian delegation also expresses its warm welcome, especially to Timor Leste, a Portuguese-speaking country with which we have maintained very close relations and we would like to stress this relationship here at the FAO multilateral scenario.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

On behalf of the Africa Group, I would like to join in with the others to welcome the new Members who have become part of the United Nations family in fighting against hunger. We all know the task ahead of us, and I can only hope we will improve our thrust with more hands to help us fight this challenge.

Dato'Abi Musa Asa'Ari MOHAMED NOR (Malaysia)

Malaysia, on behalf of the Asia Group, would like to extend our warmest welcome to the four new Members to FAO that is, Micronesia, Timor Leste, Tuvalu and Ukraine. We are very happy to have four more developing countries with us, and I believe it will enable us to become stronger and stronger.

CHAIRPERSON

This concludes Item 20 of the Agenda, and brings the membership of the Organization up to 187 Member Nations and one Member Organization.

Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new countries. We as a Group in the Near East are very glad to have these four countries, which have just joined FAO. We hope that we are going to cooperate with them in order to achieve the goals of FAO.

Mohamed Farkash EL-HADAD (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to welcome these four countries as new Members of FAO and we hope that we will all be cooperating in order to achieve the objectives of FAO.

Ms Anna BLEFARI MELAZZI (Italy)

I am speaking not only on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, but also Italy. It is really a great honour and pleasure for me to welcome the new Members of this very important Organization.

I would like to congratulate and welcome them. The European Union together with Italy, are very happy and look forward to working very closely with them in this new cooperation. I am sure that with these new Members, the Organization will become stronger. Once again, congratulations and best wishes.

CHAIRPERSON

Following the recommendation of the First Report of the General Committee, we will now move on to sub-item 16.5, Amendment to Regulation V of the Financial Regulations: Split Assessments. The One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Council, which concluded its work yesterday

evening, reaffirmed the principle endorsed at its One Hundred and Twenty-third Session that the Approved Programme of Work and Budget should be protected from the effects of fluctuating exchange rates. The Council considered Split Assessments to be an appropriate means for providing this protection, recalling the recommendation of external experts, KPMG, and including FAO's Investment Advisory Committee and the External Auditor, (i.e. *Cour des Comptes*), but recognized that some Members had difficulties with specific modalities. The Council noted the importance of reaching a consensus decision on this topic at the Thirty-second Session of the Conference and urged all concerned to work together towards this aim.

May I suggest that we establish a Working Group of the Conference, resolving the details of the modalities to facilitate reaching a consensus on this topic? I would propose that the Working Group comprise two representatives from each of the Regional Groups. May I also propose that the Independent Chairperson of the Council, Ambassador Mekouar, Chair this group?

Do you agree?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to ask the Chairs of the Regional Groups to inform the Secretariat of the membership of the Group as soon as possible, but no later than Monday afternoon. Given the tight time frame, I would suggest that the Group meet without further delay.

The traditional flag raising ceremony for the new Member Nations will be held at the side of Building A, where the flags of all Member Nations are flown, on Monday morning at 09.00 hours.

That concludes our business for today. I look forward to seeing you at 09.30 hours on Monday morning. The Plenary now stands adjourned.

Al-Baghdadi Ali AL-MAHMUDI (Liban)

Monsieur le Président, Son Excellence le Directeur Général, Messieurs les Chefs et Membres des Délégations, J'ai l'honneur, en tant que représentant du Liban, d'exprimer ma gratitude et de féliciter le représentant du Nicaragua et de la République Populaire de Chine, titulaires du Prix Edouard Saouma pour cette année.

Je tiens également à rendre hommage à cette occasion au rôle primordial de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'Alimentation et l'Agriculture (FAO), ainsi qu'à son appréciation des projets innovateurs à leur juste valeur, ce qui constitue une motivation de plus pour les autres acteurs concernés pour poursuivre le processus de développement durable et la lutte contre la pauvreté.

La remise du Prix Edouard Saouma au Projet de Coopération Technique, qui n'a eu de cesse de contribuer aux efforts de l'Organisation tout au long de son mandat de Directeur-Général 18 ans durant, confirme l'importance et le soutien à ce Programme, d'autant plus qu'il constitue un moyen efficace et rapide pour mettre en évidence les problèmes et les souffrances des agriculteurs et des producteurs. Il représente également un modèle à suivre pour les projets pilotes et le transfert des technologies en vue de résoudre les problèmes et d'alléger les souffrances.

Permettez-moi de réitérer mes félicitations au Nicaragua et à la République Populaire de Chine pour avoir mérité le Prix Edouard Saouma et de souhaiter le plein succès à la FAO dans ses efforts incessants pour lutter contre la pauvreté et éradiquer la faim.¹

The meeting rose at 17.35 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 35

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.35 horas

¹ *Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au report verbal*

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
THIRD PLENARY MEETING TROISIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE TERCERA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 December 2003

The Third Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.45 hours
Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La troisième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 45
sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,
Président de la Conférence

Se abre la tercera sesión plenaria a las 09.45 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,
Presidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

The Director-General will now deliver his Statement to the Conference.

DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S STATEMENT TO THE CONFERENCE (C 2003/INF/5-Corr.1)

DECLARATION DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL A LA CONFERENCE

(C 2003/INF/5-Corr.1)

DECLARACION DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL A LA CONFERENCIA

(C 2003/INF/5-Corr.1)

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Monsieur le Président de la Conférence, Monsieur le Président indépendant du Conseil, Mesdames, Messieurs les Ministres, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs.

Les Sommets mondiaux de l'alimentation à Rome en 1996 et 2002 ont fixé et reconfirmé l'objectif de réduction de moitié, d'ici 2015, du nombre de personnes qui ont faim.

Face à l'inacceptable persistance de la sous-alimentation dans un monde où les ressources abondent, et des risques de n'atteindre cet objectif qu'en 2150, il faut mobiliser la volonté politique des décideurs nationaux et l'énergie de la société civile ainsi que les moyens bilatéraux et multilatéraux.

C'est dans cette perspective que devraient se situer les travaux de la trente-deuxième session de notre Conférence.

Si, dans 19 pays en développement, le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim a diminué de plus de 80 millions au cours de la dernière décennie, il a malheureusement augmenté dans beaucoup d'autres.

Au niveau mondial, il n'a baissé que de 19 millions entre 1990-1992 et 1999-2001. Il faudrait donc accélérer le rythme annuel de réduction à 26 millions par an, soit plus de 12 fois la cadence actuelle qui est de 2,1 millions. En 1999-2001, dans le monde, 842 millions de personnes étaient sous-alimentées dont 798 millions dans les pays en développement, 34 millions dans les pays en transition et 11 millions dans les pays développés.

En octobre 2003, on recensait 38 pays en situation de crise alimentaire grave nécessitant une aide d'urgence. Parmi ces pays, 23 se trouvaient en Afrique, huit en Asie, cinq en Amérique latine et deux en Europe. Le rapport 2003 sur l'état de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde montre que 65 à 80 pour cent des urgences alimentaires sont dues à la sécheresse et aux inondations, d'où l'importance des petits ouvrages de collecte d'eau, d'irrigation et de drainage dans les pays en développement, surtout en Afrique et dans les Caraïbes.

En 2003/2004, la récolte mondiale de céréales, évaluée à 1 milliard 874 millions de tonnes, restera inférieure aux besoins prévus. En 2004, pour la quatrième année consécutive, il faudra à nouveau prélever sur les stocks. Les prix des produits agricoles de base ont fléchi dans la seconde partie de la décennie, malgré un raffermissement du cours de certaines denrées, comme le blé et les oléagineux, entre 2001 et 2002.

La production mondiale estimée en 2003 à 249 millions de tonnes de viande et 599 millions de tonnes de produits laitiers continue de croître bien plus rapidement que l'agriculture dans son ensemble et représente aujourd'hui 45,2 pour cent du PIB agricole total. Le commerce mondial de poissons et de produits de la pêche a augmenté de 8 pour cent depuis 1998, en grande partie grâce à une grande augmentation du volume des échanges. Les produits forestiers apportent aussi une contribution importante au commerce international. La valeur des exportations mondiales en 2001 était de 141 milliards de dollars E.-U. et celle des importations de 131 milliards de dollars E.-U.

Mais de façon générale, il reste beaucoup à faire pour corriger les déséquilibres et les inéquités du commerce des produits agricoles et alimentaires. Les négociations dans le cadre multilatéral sont indispensables pour aboutir à des solutions plus justes. L'Organisation encourage donc les pays à

repandre rapidement les discussions qui ont rencontré des difficultés certaines à Cancun. J'ose espérer que la Table ronde sur ce sujet contribuera à cette reprise.

Dans le cadre du suivi des Sommets mondiaux de l'alimentation, l'Organisation apporte son concours aux États Membres pour la préparation de stratégies à l'horizon 2015 et de programmes à moyen terme de sécurité alimentaire et de développement agricole. En outre, en collaboration avec les institutions financières, elle appuie la préparation de projets bancables pour accélérer le renversement des tendances négatives des ressources destinées à l'agriculture.

Plusieurs Tables rondes seront organisées à cet effet en collaboration avec les banques régionales de développement, entre ministères de l'agriculture et des finances, au cours des Conférences régionales de la FAO en 2004. Le Fonds fiduciaire de la FAO pour la sécurité alimentaire et la sécurité sanitaire des aliments créé en 2002 a déjà reçu la première tranche de cinquante millions d'euros de l'Italie sur les cent millions prévus; 9,3 millions de dollars E.-U. de la Libye et une première contribution de un million de dollars E.-U. de l'Arabie Saoudite. J'ose espérer que d'autres pays apporteront aussi leur contribution à ce Fonds.

Le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire (PSSA), lancé en 1995, a mobilisé à ce jour, 548 millions de dollars E.-U. dont plus de la moitié provient des budgets nationaux des pays en développement. Aujourd'hui 89 pays participent à ce Programme.

La Coopération Sud-Sud de solidarité a permis de mettre sur le terrain et à un coût marginal près de 700 techniciens, pour travailler dans les communautés rurales au profit des agriculteurs pauvres, et des accords ont déjà été signés pour 2 800 techniciens et experts.

Le Système de prévention et d'alerte rapide contre les ravageurs et les maladies trans-frontières : des animaux et des plantes (EMPRES) continue d'avoir un impact réel grâce à l'alerte ainsi lancée, la réaction rapide et l'activation du réseau des meilleurs centres de recherche dans ces domaines. Les principales maladies concernées sont notamment la fièvre aphteuse, la peste porcine, la peste bovine et la fièvre de la Vallée du Rift, en plus des problèmes liés au cricket pèlerin.

De nombreux autres programmes opérationnels sont financés notamment par le Programme de coopération technique.

Le Codex Alimentarius a récemment adopté de nouvelles directives pour l'évaluation des risques liés aux aliments dérivés des biotechnologies. Cinquante nouvelles normes de sécurité alimentaire et de qualité des aliments ont également été établies et un Fonds fiduciaire multi-donateur a été créé pour assurer une participation plus efficace des pays en développement aux travaux du Codex. La FAO assure le Secrétariat de la Convention internationale pour la protection des végétaux, pour la prévention de l'introduction et de la propagation d'organismes nuisibles. La Convention a fait l'objet d'amendements en 1997 et sa version révisée a été ratifiée par 52 des États ayant ratifié la version antérieure. La Convention de Rotterdam sur la Procédure de consentement préalable en connaissance de cause contribuera à protéger l'homme et l'environnement contre les produits chimiques dangereux, notamment les pesticides. Elle a été ratifiée le 26 novembre par un cinquantième État et pourra donc entrer en vigueur en février 2004. Le Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture a mis en place un cadre international strict pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable des ressources phytogénétiques. Il a été ratifié par 33 États. En outre, la FAO accueille actuellement le Secrétariat intérimaire du Fonds mondial pour la conservation, pour la diversité végétale qui vise à assurer un financement durable pour la conservation à long terme des collections végétales.

Enfin, la FAO supervise la préparation du premier rapport mondial sur l'état des ressources zoogénétiques dans le monde et la définition d'actions prioritaires pour une meilleure utilisation et conservation de ces ressources. Le rapport devrait être soumis à la Conférence en 2007.

Continues in English

The reform of FAO which began in 1994 has led to a 30 percent reduction in staff.

As a result of decentralization, the ratio of staff in decentralized offices to staff at Headquarters has risen from 20.6 percent in 1994 to 31 percent. During the 2002-2003 biennium, FAO was represented in 131 Member Nations, compared to 106 in 1994.

Delivery in 2003 of the regular Field Programme should be slightly higher than in 2002 with an amount of US\$189 million. Emergency assistance projects have reached an all-time high this year, at about US\$250 million, because of the exceptional increase in assistance to Iraq under the "Oil-for-Food" programme. That would imply an overall Field Programme delivery in 2003 in the range of US\$440 million, which is significantly higher than the 2002 level of US\$340 million.

Looking to the outside, FAO has continued to increase its cooperation with regional and international partners during the last two years.

The Organization held numerous consultations with the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme to improve the coordination of activities of the three organizations.

New approaches have also been adopted to strengthen links with other United Nations agencies, with development and financing institutions, such as the World Bank and the regional development banks, and with the OECD and the European Union.

Partnerships have been set up in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals, poverty reduction strategies and national food security strategies.

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations and civil society has been intensified. A programme of action was adopted in follow-up to the World Food Summit, producing solid results, including participation of farmers' organizations in preparation of the agricultural programme of NEPAD, of representatives of civil society in developing guidelines for implementation of the right to food and in determining ways of providing agricultural assistance in emergency situations.

FAO's partnership with the private sector has also been broadened during the last two years, particularly under the World Economic Forum.

FAO has continued to work together with the media to sensitize international public opinion to the problem of hunger.

Whereas FAO's Internet site offered 6.5 million pages of information in 1999, it offered 48 million in 2003. The success of this site is indicative of the rapid development of WAICENT (World Agricultural Information Centre) and its compilation and dissemination of information on programmes of the Organization's technical departments.

FAO has also produced nineteen multimedia presentations in 2003, together with a booklet entitled *FAO Serving its members* which provides a synopsis of the main programmes, the budget and the reforms that have enhanced its efficiency.

World Food Day was celebrated in 150 countries. The TeleFood awareness-raising campaign against hunger and malnutrition has helped convey FAO's message to more than 500 million people. A total of US\$11 million has been raised, serving to finance more than one thousand food security micro-projects in 114 countries.

I should like now to turn to the agenda of this important Conference session and to refer in particular to the Organization's Programme of Work and Budget.

In Commission I, examination of FAO's initiatives to combat hunger will provide an overview of what has been done to realize the commitments of the World Food Summit and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

In Commission II, the main item for examination is the Programme of Work and Budget for 2004-2005. Three proposals have been put forward. The first is premised on real growth of 5.5 percent above the current approved budget. The second envisages a zero real growth scenario, which is an elegant way of proposing a further budget freeze. Finally, at the last session of the

Council, certain member countries felt the need for a third scenario, that is Zero Nominal Growth. In practical terms, this third proposal means a budget reduction of US\$35.2 million in 2004-2005.

FAO's budget was reduced in 1996-1997 and has never increased in real terms since then. Its present budget of US\$651.8 million for 188 Members is US\$21.4 million less than the 1994-1995 budget when the Organization had only 169 Members. Cumulative inflation in Italy during this period has reached 35 percent. We have managed to maintain the most important programmes, but this has only been possible thanks to unprecedented efficiency savings and to the prudent management of risk linked to the exchange rate.

The achievement of efficiency savings of US\$50 to 60 million borders on the prodigious and cannot be repeated.

It is my duty to paint a true picture of what the Organization would look like under a Zero Nominal Growth scenario, considering that it has already experienced a 30 percent reduction in posts since 1994. The consequences would not be limited to reductions in overall expenditures on fisheries or forestry programmes. They would also entail a loss of 160 posts across the Organization, rising to 650 in the absence of a Split Assessment of contributions.

These are the facts and facts are stubborn.

Continúa en Español

La producción alimentaria mundial es hoy en día ampliamente suficiente para garantizar una alimentación adecuada a todas las personas.

La existencia del hambre en un mundo de abundancia no es solamente un escándalo moral, sino también el resultado de políticas económicas miopes. Quienes no comen lo necesario no pueden trabajar ni estudiar correctamente, son más vulnerables a las enfermedades y mueren jóvenes. La revuelta contra la subnutrición y la pobreza favorece reacciones extremistas que en ocasiones empujan al crimen y a la desestabilización de los Estados. Es por ello interés de todos y de cada uno, ricos o pobres, combatir el hambre, la injusticia y la exclusión.

Es necesario por ello que la Organización reciba el apoyo de la opinión pública y de los responsables de las decisiones políticas en sus Estados Miembros. El crecimiento de los recursos financieros de los asociados para el desarrollo es indispensable a fin de hacer frente a los desafíos del nuevo siglo.

Se trata de proteger los recursos vegetales y animales, incluyendo la prevención de la pesca ilegal; luchar contra la deforestación y los incendios forestales, proteger la calidad de las aguas, y analizar los efectos de la utilización de la biotecnología, para lo cual la FAO deberá intervenir en los sectores legislativo, técnico, científico, comercial, y de la formación y la información.

La FAO deberá prestar apoyo a los países para aumentar las inversiones; promover actividades generadoras de ingresos en las zonas rurales, en los sectores anteriores y posteriores a la producción agrícola; y reforzar los sistemas formales e informales que permiten el acceso a los alimentos de los grupos más vulnerables.

La mejora del manejo y la utilización de los recursos hídricos es crucial para aumentar la producción agrícola. Además de colaborar en la creación de pequeñas estructuras locales de recogida de aguas, riego y drenaje, en la rehabilitación de grandes sistemas y en la ordenación de las cuencas fluviales, la Organización deberá alentar los esfuerzos de investigación sobre las técnicas de desalinización del agua de mar.

La Organización deberá prestar una mayor atención al equilibrio entre el necesario aumento de la producción, en especial, mediante la utilización de los insumos y la protección de los recursos naturales.

La FAO deberá especialmente reforzar la capacidad de los países para participar en las negociaciones con el objeto de limitar los obstáculos técnicos al comercio y las ayudas que causan una distorsión del nivel de los intercambios internacionales de productos agrícolas.

Garantizar la calidad e inocuidad de los alimentos es fundamental para luchar contra la inseguridad alimentaria mundial. No obstante, el mundo se enfrenta a un número creciente de crisis relacionadas con los efectos de nuevas prácticas agrícolas y agroindustriales que hacen necesarios nuevas medidas legislativas y de reglamentación, institucionales y científicas.

La infección por el VIH/SIDA tiene efectos devastadores, en particular, en las zonas rurales. Se calcula que el número de personas empleadas en el sector agrícola que han muerto a causa del SIDA hasta la fecha asciende a ocho millones, mientras que el número de personas que podrían morir desde el presente hasta el año 2020 se estima en 16 millones. La FAO deberá seguir trabajando para establecer las dimensiones agrícolas del fenómeno y las medidas que habrán de adoptarse en el contexto de sus programas y proyectos, especialmente en cooperación con el Programa conjunto de las Naciones Unidas sobre el VIH/SIDA (ONUSIDA).

Asimismo deberá mantener su colaboración con la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) con vistas a hacer frente a las enfermedades vinculadas con la alimentación, como la obesidad, la diabetes, las enfermedades cardiovasculares y algunos tipos de cáncer, que a menudo coexisten con las patologías provocadas por la subnutrición en los países en desarrollo.

Al menos 245 millones de personas que viven en las zonas rurales montañosas de los países en desarrollo y en transición sufren la inseguridad alimentaria y el hambre o están expuestos al riesgo de sufrirlas. La FAO, que proporciona los recursos para la Secretaría de la Alianza Internacional para el Desarrollo Sostenible en las Regiones de Montaña establecida durante la Cumbre Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible de 2002, deberá proseguir sus actividades encaminadas a responder a las necesidades de esas poblaciones y a proteger, al mismo tiempo, los ecosistemas de montaña.

Alrededor del 70 por ciento de las personas pobres de todo el mundo vive en las zonas rurales y dependen de la agricultura para su supervivencia. La agricultura da empleo al 40 por ciento de la población, esto es, 2 500 millones de personas, en los países en desarrollo. Por lo tanto, resulta claro que no será posible reducir el hambre y la pobreza sin un desarrollo agrícola rural sostenible que garantice ingresos y empleo. La FAO coordina las actividades del Programa de acción para la agricultura y el desarrollo rural sostenibles aprobado durante la Cumbre de la Tierra, celebrada en Río de Janeiro en 1992. En la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Sostenible celebrada en Johannesburgo en 2002, se reafirmó la pertinencia y la necesidad, de dicho programa con objeto de determinar y aplicar las políticas y prácticas beneficiosas para el desarrollo agrícola y rural, tales como la protección integrada contra las plagas de los cultivos, la utilización de la bioenergía y la ordenación participativa de los bosques y de otros recursos naturales de las comunidades. La FAO deberá proseguir su colaboración con los Estados, los asociados para el desarrollo y las instituciones financieras a fin de garantizar las inversiones necesarias.

La FAO ha sido encargada de coordinar la preparación de los acontecimientos previstos para la declaración y la celebración del Año Internacional del Arroz en 2004. El arroz es el alimento básico de la mitad de la población mundial. El aumento de la producción y de la productividad de los sistemas arroceros puede, por tanto, tener un papel decisivo en la lucha contra el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria.

En el plano institucional, la FAO deberá seguir apoyando los esfuerzos del Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas con miras a mejorar la coordinación e integración de las actividades de los diferentes asociados del sistema internacional.

La Organización deberá asimismo encontrar un equilibrio adecuado, pero flexible, entre los programas normativos y operacionales, así como con las actividades de asistencia para las políticas nacionales y regionales.

La Organización deberá igualmente tratar de responder a las necesidades específicas de sus Estados Miembros, que se encuentran en diferentes estadios del desarrollo, en particular, los países menos adelantados, los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo y los países sin litoral. A este respecto, resulta prioritario reforzar los recursos humanos. La Organización dispone actualmente de las técnicas modernas de formación a distancia, que se aplicarán en el marco de la cooperación con determinadas universidades de sus Estados Miembros.

El desafío inmediato para la FAO y sus Miembros consiste en encontrar los medios para reducir el hambre y garantizar el derecho humano fundamental a la alimentación.

Es preciso actuar con decisión y de inmediato a fin de que todas las partes interesadas, en los países y en el plano internacional, puedan desplegar esfuerzos concertados a tal fin, en el marco de una Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre.

STATEMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL TO THE CONFERENCE

DÉCLARATION DU PRÉSIDENT INDÉPENDANT DU CONSEIL À LA CONFÉRENCE DECLARACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE INDEPENDIENTE DEL CONSEJO A LA CONFERENCIA

Aziz MEKOUAR (Président indépendant du Conseil)

Nous voici de nouveau réunis après deux ans pour constater ce qui a été accompli et donner des orientations pour l'action de la FAO pour 2004 et 2005. Au cours de ces deux années, plusieurs événements d'une très grande importance ont eu lieu avec pour centre notre Organisation et le Directeur général nous a décrit dans le détail ce qui a été réalisé. Pour ma part, je me contenterai de n'en citer que deux: Le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après, qui a adopté la déclaration intitulée "Alliance internationale contre la faim" et le Traité sur les ressources phytogénétiques qui a fait l'objet de très longs débats et négociations.

Ces deux événements d'une portée considérable pour notre monde et si différents dans leur essence, organisés et débattus au sein de la FAO, montrent combien notre Organisation est et doit rester centrale pour le futur de l'humanité. Au cours de ces deux années où j'ai eu le grand honneur de présider le Conseil de la FAO avec l'appui extraordinaire des Représentants des pays membres, j'ai pu me rendre compte encore davantage des compétences exceptionnelles que recèle notre Organisation et combien les femmes et les hommes qui y travaillent font preuve d'abnégation, d'esprit d'entreprise et combien ils sont mobilisés sous la conduite du Directeur général pour mener à bien leur travail. Il s'agit pour nous de les soutenir, de les encourager avec les moyens dont nous disposons pour qu'ils puissent remplir la tâche que nous leur assignons et les résultats que nous attendons d'eux. Notre Conférence qui débattera au cours des prochains jours justement de ce que la FAO devra réaliser au cours des deux années à venir et des moyens dont elle disposera pour le faire, prendra certainement les décisions qui s'imposent pour rendre notre Organisation encore plus forte et encore plus efficace, pour qu'elle puisse apporter sa contribution à l'amélioration des conditions de vie de l'humanité et notamment à assurer au plus grand nombre le droit fondamental de tout être humain, le droit d'être suffisamment et sainement nourri.

CHAIRPERSON

Before moving on to the next item on our Agenda, I would like to invite Mr Andricopoulos, the Chairperson of the Credential Committee to join me on the podium to present the first report of the Committee.

Evangelos-Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Président de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs)

La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs a tenu trois séances les 17, 28 et 29 novembre 2003 pour examiner les pouvoirs des délégations des Membres présents à la Trente-deuxième session de la Conférence de la FAO. La Commission a élu le Représentant de la Grèce, M. Sarantis Andricopoulos (Grèce), comme Président et la Représentante de El Salvador, Mme María Eulalia Jiménez, Vice-Présidente. La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs a été informée de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation, "Délégations et Pouvoirs", ainsi que des usages et des critères que respecte l'Organisation en matière d'acceptation des pouvoirs, conformément aux usages de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies dans ce domaine.

Conformément au paragraphe 2 de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation et aux critères suivis par la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs lors de ses précédentes sessions, la

Commission a examiné les pouvoirs ou les renseignements que le Directeur général a reçus au sujet de la composition des délégations figurant sur les listes jointes au document C 2003/LIM/10. La Liste A de ce document comprend 91 Membres qui ont soumis des pouvoirs officiels ainsi que l'exige le paragraphe 2 de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation. La Liste B comprend 70 Membres dont les pouvoirs ont été considérés comme des renseignements sur la composition de leur délégation. Dix-sept Membres ont informé le Directeur général de leur intention de ne pas assister à la Conférence et six Membres n'ont fourni aucune indication quant à leur participation ou à leur représentation à la session de la Conférence. J'ai déjà mentionné la liste détaillée des pays qui ont fourni des renseignements ou des pouvoirs (Annexe au document C 2003 LIM 10). La Commission recommande à la Conférence d'accepter les pouvoirs des délégations des deux listes, étant entendu que les pouvoirs officiels des délégations figurant sur la Liste B seront communiqués dès que possible au Directeur général. De plus, conformément à l'usage établi à la FAO et aux Nations Unies, la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs recommande que, dans l'attente de son rapport final, toutes les délégations soient autorisées à participer pleinement aux travaux de la Session de la Conférence. Afin de faciliter les travaux de la Conférence, sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'ouvrir un débat sur ce rapport, je propose que les délégations qui auraient éventuellement des observations sur le document que je viens de lire les communiquent directement au Secrétariat qui en référera dans la version ultérieure du rapport.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Andricopoulos for presenting the report, the work of the Committee as a whole and for inspecting the Credentials presented for this Conference.

May we now move to Item 16.6, the Composition of the Finance Committee. This item was added to the Conference Agenda on the recommendation of the General Committee following its first meeting on Saturday, 29 November.

I would like to ask Mr Pucci, the Legal Counsel, to introduce this item.

16.6 Composition of the Finance Committee (C 2003/LIM/21)

16.6 Composition du Comité financier (C 2003/LIM/21)

16.6 Composición del Comité de Finanzas (C 2003/LIM/21)

LEGAL COUNSEL

I should like to say a few words by way of introduction of this Agenda item. The document which is before this Plenary meeting of the Conference is document C 2003/LIM/21, entitled Composition of the Finance Committee.

The document consists of an extract from the Report of the Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session of the Council, including a Draft Conference Resolution for adoption. You will recall that, at its Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, the Council unanimously supported a proposal that Rule XXVII, paragraph 1 of the General Rules of the Organization be amended to provide for an increase in the membership of the Finance Committee from 9 to 11 Members and to change the election formula as set out in Rule XXVII, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph (c) of that Rule.

The Council transmitted to the Conference a Draft Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization. This Resolution, as already said, is presented in document C 2003/LIM/21.

In accordance with Rule XLVIII paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization, these rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a Plenary Meeting of the Conference. Furthermore, under the terms of Rule XII, paragraph 7(a), and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote - that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations - shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. Votes cast shall mean affirmative and negative votes and shall not include abstentions.

Finally, Mr Chairman, when a two-thirds majority of votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, and I quote: "the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one-half of the Member Nations of the Organization." Therefore, the

number of votes for or against the proposal should be at least 94. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

So, Mr Chairman, the proposed Resolution amending Rule XXVII paragraph 1 and paragraph 3 (c), is before the Plenary meeting of the Conference for adoption. I understand that the Secretary-General will provide additional information on the vote be taken.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Mr Pucci. Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this question?

It appears not. We will now proceed to a vote on this matter. I will give the floor to Ms Gardner who will explain the procedure to us.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We are to have a nominal vote this morning on the Composition of the Finance Committee. Decisions on Amendments of the General Rules of the Organization shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast. We will begin by establishing the quorum. Could I ask all delegates present in the room to press the green button on their desk when I indicate so. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present. Please press the green button.

We have one hundred and twenty-three delegations present in the hall. We can proceed to the vote.

We shall now proceed to vote on the draft resolution set out in the document, C2003/LIM/21. Delegates are now requested to press the green button if you wish to vote in favour. Press the red button if you wish to vote against and the yellow if you wish to abstain. We are going to open the vote now. Would you please press your button.

I am going to close the vote. The vote is now closed. We will wait a few seconds for the electronic print-out to arrive.

I will read the results from the electronic print-out. This was a roll call vote. Present 185. Number of votes cast, 118. Majority required 79. Number of votes for 117. Number of votes against 1. Abstentions, 6. No replies, 61.



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01/12/2003
10.48.26

Vote on: "Composition of the Finance Committee"
Vote sur: "Composition du Comité Financier"
Votacion para: "Composición del Comité de Finanzas"

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	118
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	79
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	117
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	6
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	61

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BHUTAN, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P. REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, DJIBOUTI, ECUADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUINEA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAMAICA, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KOREA, REP. OF, KUWAIT, LAOS, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MICRONESIA, MOLDOVA, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, QATAR, ROMANIA, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA, UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, TUVALU, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VANUATU, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against: LEBANON
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: BAHAMAS, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BOTSWANA, RWANDA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, ARGENTINA, AZERBAIJAN, BELGIUM, BELIZE, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM. REP. OF, COOK ISLANDS, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, FIJI, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA - BISSAU, GUYANA, ICELAND, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LIBYA, LUXEMBOURG, MALI, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NAURU, NEPAL, NICARAGUA, PALAU, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SEYCHELLES, SOLOMON ISLANDS, ST. KITT'S AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, THE F.Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TURKMENISTAN, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd 1. 12. 2003

The Resolution is, therefore, adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

We have now completed the adoption of the Resolution on the Composition of the Finance Committee. I shall now like to give the floor once again to the Legal Counsel to introduce item 16.7, Suspension of Rule 27.2 of the General Rules of the Organization, which is called for as a direct result of the increase of seats on the Finance Committee from 9 to 11.

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Conference has adopted, just now, an amendment to Rule XXVII of the General rules of the Organization.

I should like to explain briefly why a suspension of Rule XXVII, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization is required. In this regard, I should like to invite, again, the attention of

the Conference document C 2003/LIM/21, if I remember correctly it is the last paragraph of that document, concerning an extract from the Report of the last Session of the Council, including the Resolution that the Conference has just adopted.

The Council endorsed the proposal that the revised provision of Rule XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization, should apply to the elections to the Finance Committee, that are to be held at the Hundred and Twenty-sixth Session of the Council on 11 December 2003, with respect to the biennium 2004-2005.

Rule XXVII, paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization, provides that nominations for the election to the Finance Committee must be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference and Council no later than 10 days before the opening date of the Council Session at which the elections are to be held. In accordance with this Rule, the deadline was 29 November 2003, which was last Saturday.

In order to allow for consultations among Regional Groups, prior to the elections that are to be carried out under the regime of revised Rule XXVII of the General Rules of the Organization, the Council noted that it would be necessary to suspend Rule XXVII, paragraph 2. The Council, therefore, recommended to the Conference that the adoption of the Resolution amending the General Rules of the Organization, be followed by a decision to suspend Rule XXVII paragraph 2, concerning the nominations for election to the Finance Committee.

Rule XLVIII, paragraph 1 of the General Rules of the Organization, provides that any of the Rules may be suspended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a Plenary Meeting of the Conference. As was the case with the previous vote, under the terms of Rule XII paragraph 7(a), and paragraph 8 a nominal vote, that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations, shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. Votes cast shall mean affirmative and negative votes and shall not include abstentions. Whenever a two-thirds majority of votes cast is required by the constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for or against should be at least 94 if these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

So the question which is now before the Plenary Meeting of the Conference is whether Rule XXVII paragraph 2 of the General Rules of the Organization is to be suspended.

Finally, I should like to provide an important practical clarification regarding the new deadline for nominations for election to the Finance Committee. As recommended in the first report of the General Committee, should the suspension be approved, the Conference is invited to set the new deadline for nominations for election to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, 10 December 2003 at 12.00 hours.

CHAIRPERSON

I will now ask Secretary-General to explain the voting procedure.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We are to have a nominal vote on the suspension of Rule XXVII .2 of the General Rules of the Organization, as explained by the Legal Counsel. Votes on the suspension of the Rules of the Organization shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast.

CHAIRPERSON

Since we have already ascertained that we have a quorum, we shall now proceed to vote on the suspension of Rule XXVII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization. Ms Gardner, please go ahead with the vote.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are required to press the green button, if they wish to vote in favour of this Resolution, they are required to press the red button if they wish to vote against the Resolution, and a yellow

if they wish to abstain. May I just take the time to repeat, green if you wish to vote in favour, red if you wish to vote against and yellow if they wish to abstain. I am going to open the vote now, please vote.

Present 185. Number of votes cast 119, majority required 79, votes for 118, votes against 1, abstentions 5, no reply 61.



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01/12/2003
10.57.28

Vote on: "Suspension of Rule XXVII.2 of the General Rules of the Organization"
Vote sur: "Suspension du paragraphe 2 de l'Article XXVII du règlement général de l'Organisation"
Votacion para: "Suspensión del Artículo XXVII.2 del Reglamento General de la Organización"

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	119
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	79
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	118
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	1
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	5
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	61

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMBODIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CROATIA, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P. REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUINEA, HAITI, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRAQ, IRELAND, ISRAEL, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KOREA, REP. OF, KUWAIT, LAOS, LIBERIA, LIBYA, LITHUANIA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MALI, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MICRONESIA, MOLDOVA, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PARAGUAY, PHILIPPINES, QATAR, ROMANIA, SAMOA, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, SYRIA, TANZANIA, UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, TUVALU, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VANUATU, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against: PAKISTAN
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: BOTSWANA, JAMAICA, RWANDA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SUDAN
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, AZERBAIJAN, BARBADOS, BELIZE, BENIN, BOLIVIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM. REP. OF, COOK ISLANDS, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, GAMBIA, GEORGIA, GRENADA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA - BISSAU, GUYANA, ICELAND, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LUXEMBOURG, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NAURU, NEPAL, NICARAGUA, PALAU, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PERU, POLAND, PORTUGAL, SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, SEYCHELLES, SOLOMON ISLANDS, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SURINAME, TAJIKISTAN, THE F.Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TURKMENISTAN, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VENEZUELA

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd 1.12.2003
Mr Stephen Dowd

The Resolution is therefore adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

You have heard the result of the vote. We will now continue with our next item.

The Conference will now proceed with Agenda Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. I would like to invite Mr Hartwig de Haen, Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Department, to introduce this Item.

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2003/2)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2003/2)

5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2003/2)

Hartwig de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

It is a great pleasure for me to introduce the Agenda Item: "The State of Food and Agriculture". I will not attempt to detail all the contents of the document before you and I am referring to document C2003/2. Rather, I would like to focus very briefly on some of the major current issues in food and agriculture.

In addition, FAO has just issued the 2003 edition of its annual report on The State of Food Insecurity in the World, and I should like to highlight the key findings of that report as well, which is available to you at the Documents Desk in all the official languages.

In 1999-2001, as the Director-General has already indicated, according to FAO's latest estimates, there were 842 million people chronically undernourished in the world. Of these, almost 800 million live in the developing countries.

What raises particular concern is that our latest estimates seem to indicate that progress in reducing the number of undernourished in the developing world has reversed.

The three red triangles, that you hopefully can recognize on this graph, show estimates of the number of undernourished people in the developing countries in 1990-1992, 1995-1997 and 1999-2001.

In the first half of the 1990s, the number had declined by 37 million people, however, in the second half of the 1990s, it has increased by 18 million people. Thus the net reduction since the World Food Summit reference period which is 1990-1992, the net reduction since then is only 19 million people.

It is certainly too early to judge whether the recent increase represents a major shift in the historical decline of global hunger or a short-term spike caused *inter alia* by a series of crises and conflicts. In any case, we are not on track towards reaching the World Food Summit target and the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger in the world by the year 2015.

Without intensified efforts, we project that the number of undernourished in 2015 will have been reduced to only 610 million people under a business-as-usual scenario. This is illustrated by the upper of the two ranges on the right-hand side of the graphic. The lower range on the right-hand side illustrates the trend that would lead us to reach the target. If we are to reach that target, from now on an annual reduction of 26 million people chronically undernourished will be necessary. As the Director-General has already outlined, rather than the average of approximately 2 million per year achieved over the 1990s.

The next graphic shows where the undernourished live. Most of the undernourished live in Asia. Of the nearly 800 million undernourished people in the developing countries, Asia and the Pacific account for more than 500 million. Almost 200 million live in Africa south of Sahara, shown in yellow.

The rest are distributed across all other regions, including industrialized countries and countries in transition. A different picture emerges if we ask, what percentage of the population is undernourished. This is shown here for the developing country regions, and as we had to report in the past, by far the highest prevalence of undernourishment is found in sub-Saharan Africa, where

one third of the population does not have access to enough food for an active and healthy life. This percentage is twice that found in any of the other developing country regions.

As we also show in our latest report, countries had very different experiences during the last decade. We have classified them in four different categories, according to whether the numbers of undernourished increased or decreased during the first and the second half of the 1990s respectively.

Here you see in green the 19 countries, including China, which has heavy rate and in the total numbers of course, which improved their food security situation throughout the 1990s by a total of more than 80 million people. I am especially happy to report that 22 other countries, shown in blue, succeeded in turning an increase which they had experienced in the first half of the 1990s into a decrease in the second half of the decade. They range from large countries like Bangladesh to very small countries like Haiti.

On the other hand, some 17 countries, shown in yellow, experienced a reversal in the progress that had been made in the first half of the 1990s and increased the numbers of undernourished in the second part of the 1990s.

Finally, 26 countries, shown in red, experienced an increase in the number of undernourished people throughout the decade. I should like to underline that these four categories of countries are to be found in all regions of the world. I would also like to add that in addition to undernourishment, which we have shown here, we observe also a rising problem of overnourishment and related chronic diseases. This includes more and more developing countries, and as you know, and I confirm, the issue will be discussed in a special session of the Committee on Agriculture in February 2004.

Our analysis confirms that a focus on agricultural growth, as an engine of overall economic growth, is necessary, although not sufficient to reduce undernourishment. The slides show average rates of growth of agricultural GDP over the last decade for the four country groups which we have just shown.

At the top are the countries that reduced undernourishment throughout the last decade. They exhibited an average annual growth of agricultural GDP of more than 2.5 percent.

In contrast, at the bottom of this graph, are countries that saw increases in the number of undernourished throughout the decade. They had a much lower average rate of agricultural GDP growth, and this was only slightly more than 1 percent.

This leads me into discussing recent trends in agricultural production, crop and livestock production together.

After the good output growth recorded in 1999, agricultural production growth has slowed down in the developing countries in each of the following years. Most of the slow-down is accounted for by lower output growth in Asia, including China, and as you see here in yellow, the annual rates of growth of agricultural production.

The developed countries have achieved consistently lower agricultural output growth than the developing countries. However, they have also shown the same downward trend in growth rates in the recent years, but even negative growth in the year 2002, shown in red.

Cereals provide close to 50 percent of global calorie intake, although the share has declined over time. Since the sharp increase in 1996, global cereal production has stagnated, as shown by the yellow line on the graphic. At the same time, global utilization of all forms, has been continuing on an upward trend, which is shown by the brown line here, I hope you can recognize it. Utilization has exceeded production by significant amounts since 2000-2001 marketing year. As a result, in 2004, stocks are expected to be drawn down for the fourth consecutive year. Most of the recent reduction in stocks is accounted for by China, I mention China because of its size and it has an influence on these aggregate figures, that is significant.

Another important source of food supplies is fisheries production. Global fish production from capture has been fairly stable since 1995, it is shown by the upper line on the graphic. Indeed, supplies of fish are increasingly coming from aquaculture, which is shown by the lower line on the graphic. Aquaculture now accounts for almost 30 percent of total fisheries production, with most of the expansion in Asia.

Agricultural commodity prices have been low over the last few years. The graphic on display shows a price index for basic foodstuff, in yellow on the top, and prices for cotton, which is on the bottom left-hand side and coffee on the right-hand side, as examples of important commodities.

After peaking in the mid-1990s, agricultural commodity prices showed significant downward trends, moving towards earlier levels, as is illustrated here. I would stress that in recent years prices have begun to recover slightly for a number of commodities, including basic foodstuff.

These low international prices have obviously hurt agricultural exporting countries and benefited net agricultural importing countries. However, I would also like to say that even net-agricultural-importing countries have a problem for their farmers with low prices, the lower prices, in so far as they are transmitted to the farm gate, act as a disincentive to agricultural production and hurt poor farmers' incomes.

Developing countries are relying more and more on agricultural and particularly, in food imports. This is especially the case for the least developed countries as illustrated in this graph. It shows the agricultural imports, in the brown line, and exports, in the yellow line, of the least-developed countries. Since the late 1980s, they have become net agricultural importers and as is very clear here, their agricultural trade deficit has been widening.

Our analysis shows that agricultural trade can contribute to food security, be it through exports or imports. This graph is taken from this year's State of Food Insecurity Report. The point is made by the graphic, it shows the sum of agricultural imports and exports expressed in relation to agricultural GDP, for developing countries with different prevalence of chronic undernourishment.

At the top are countries with low rates of undernourishment, for the two groups at the top, the volume of agricultural trade is equivalent to 40 percent of agricultural GDP. For the countries with higher rates of undernourishment, shown further down on the graphic, agricultural trade plays a less significant role relative to the size of agricultural sector.

Unfortunately we note an underinvestment in agriculture in developing countries, both from domestic and external sources. Taking external assistance to agriculture as an example, the Graphic shows that it has halved in real terms since the 1980s. However, it has lately been showing a levelling off, which we hope will be the prelude to a new increase. The awareness for the need to invest in agriculture has risen recently, but of course the facts still have to follow this awareness. In our view, there is also a need to distribute external assistance to agriculture more equitably among recipient countries. Indeed external assistance to agriculture does not seem to reach the most food insecure countries. This Graphic shows the amount of external assistance to agriculture per agricultural worker for countries with different levels of undernourishment. At the bottom are the countries with the highest prevalence of undernourishment. External assistance to agriculture per worker in this group of countries is far lower than for the countries with the lowest prevalence of undernourishment, shown at the top.

Finally, food emergencies are still frequent, particularly, but not only in Africa. Often they compound already serious situations of chronic food insecurity. The point we want to make here is that emergencies are increasingly caused by humans and in most cases through conflicts. At the top of the Graphic we show the percentage of food emergencies that we have classified as human-induced, for two different periods in time. The period 1986-1991, shown in yellow, the total human-induced emergencies was 15 percent. Over the last decade, shown in red, the share has grown to more than 35 percent in the period 1992-2003.

In conclusion, we have seen that to reduce food insecurity three things are necessary. A focus on rural people and agricultural development, approximately 70 percent of the poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Increased investments in agriculture both from domestic and external sources, also agricultural trade can play a significant role as a factor of success. Although necessary, these factors are not sufficient to ensure success. Success also depends on policy reform and adequate institutions, market infrastructure, social safety nets and last, but certainly not least, peace and stability.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I move to give the floor to the Heads of Delegation who have requested speaking time in advance, I have an announcement for participation in Commission II, they need a quorum for the Commission to start. Those delegations who are supposed to have somebody there, please see to it as quickly as possible.

The Conference is reminded that Heads of Delegation are called upon to speak on this specific agenda item rather than give a country-specific overview of agriculture.

Conference will also recall that it was decided on Saturday that statements should be limited to a maximum of five minutes. In order to help speakers there are two lights on the lectern, the Secretary-General will switch on the white light when a speaker reaches four minutes, and a red light at the agreed five-minute limit. In view of the number of speakers and the limited time at their disposal, may I appeal to you to respect the five-minute limit, if possible.

I now call upon the first speaker, His Excellency Helmut Angula, the Minister of Agriculture, Water and Rural Development for Namibia, to take the podium.

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION

MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES

Namibia, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Denmark, Brasil, New Zealand, Indonesia, Sénégal, Austria, Israel, Morocco.

Helmut ANGULA (Namibia)

The statement that water is life is as true today as it has been since time immemorial. In 1945, when the visionary founders of this very Organization agreed to establish it, the aim was to free the human race from hunger and malnutrition through, *inter alia*, the promotion of agricultural development and trade, so that all people, irrespective of where they find themselves, could have access to adequate nutrition and safe food at all times. However, this goal has been as elusive as the quest to attain universal and global peace and stability, or as the quest to control inflation. Instead of attaining this goal, the number of hungry and malnourished has been on the increase, such that today more than 840 million people go to bed on an empty stomach. A third of these people live in Africa, a situation worsened by the HIV/AIDS pandemic that is ravaging the continent. It is this reality that prompted the Heads of State and Government to declare war on hunger, during the World Food Summit in 1996. That Summit adopted the goal of reducing by half the number of hungry people globally by 2015. This goal was also reaffirmed by the same Heads of State and Government five years later, in this very same city, in 2002. This commitment was further amplified by the Millennium Development Goals, which in addition to the above goals, have also adopted another goal of halving the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015.

The questions we need to ask ourselves are. Why is it proving so difficult to realize these noble goals? What are we individually and collectively doing to ensure that these goals are attained? What human catastrophic proportion are we waiting to witness before we do something about this global tragedy?

In Africa, our leaders have decided to pool their collective intellectual capacity and designed a New Partnership for African Development, NEPAD. One of the key components of NEPAD is the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme, CAADP. This Programme requires the African Union Member States to increase agricultural production and productivity through increased investment in irrigation. This requires water, hence my opening statement that water is life. However, in Namibia, water is a very scarce resource. The average rainfall is 250 mm per annum, of this little rain, nearly 83 percent evaporates immediately and is lost into the atmosphere. This is merely due to a sparse vegetation cover and large bare land areas that are exposed to the sun, heat and wind. Of the remaining 17 percent, 3 percent is lost as surface runoff, leaving only 14 percent to sustain the natural vegetation, and 1 percent to recharge our underground aquifers.

Namibia has no internal perennial river, the only perennial rivers to which Namibia has access are on its international borders, meaning they are shared with other countries. As such, the utilization of water from these rivers require adherence to existing international protocols on shared water costs. As a result, Namibia relies heavily on rainfed agriculture with only a miniscule 7 500 ha under irrigation. The absurd consequences of this scenario is that in good years, which is normally one out of ten, Namibia produces about 35 percent of its domestic food consumption requirement. The rest has to be imported, putting a heavy burden on our meagre fiscal cake. To redress this situation, and in line with the World Food Summit, the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Development Programme outlined under NEPAD, the Government of the Republic of Namibia has elaborated the Green Scheme and the Horticulture Development Initiative. The two schemes are aimed at increasing the agricultural land under irrigation, from the current 7 500 ha to about 45 000 ha. This requires water, which in turn requires massive investment to sustainably harvest and utilize this scarce resource for this purpose. Such massive investments are only viable if there is guaranteed market access. In this regard, we are disappointed by the failure at Cancun and therefore call for the resumption of WTO negotiations. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has committed itself to mobilize over 1 billion Namibian dollars, plus/minus US\$150 million over a period of ten years. However, this figure falls way short of the capital required for this life-line development. It is the Government's intention to resource the shortfall from national and international financial institutions and development partners. This is where we feel FAO could play a crucial role in assisting us to identify and engage potential development partners in financial institutions to help realize this noble dream. This scheme has the potential of enhancing Namibian household national and regional food security. Although being the driest country in sub-Saharan African, Namibia has the potential to increase access to water that breathes life into the Green Scheme. Namibia has the will and commitment to work towards attaining the Millennium and World Food Summit Goals. We lack capital, however.

Lastly, let me, through you, Director-General, thank FAO for the invaluable support that this Organization has extended to Namibia since our independence. For FAO to sustain this much-needed support, to countries like Namibia, it is crucial that this Conference grant FAO adequate resources in the form of Real Growth Budget.

Yoshiyuki KAMEI (Japan) (Original language Japanese)

It is my great honour to represent the Government of Japan at this Thirty-Second Session of the FAO Conference and to have the opportunity to express Japan's views on the state of food and agriculture. First of all, I would like to sincerely congratulate Honourable Jim Sutton, on his appointment as Chairperson of this distinguished forum. I believe his leadership will lead this forum to a successful conclusion. I would also like to express my highest appreciation to the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, and his staff for the strenuous efforts afforded in organizing this Session.

Recalling our international commitment to halve the number of undernourished people throughout the world by not later than 2015, I am gravely concerned that approximately 800 million people in

developing countries are still undernourished and that the current progress moves too slow to achieve the aimed goal.

In order to reach food security for all, I firmly believe that developing countries should make their own self-help efforts to secure sustainable agriculture, which should be placed as the prime basic principle by which their own food needs could be met. In this sense, donor countries and international organizations should endeavour to assist as much as possible these efforts for self-reliance in developing countries. I also believe that the longstanding problems of hunger and malnutrition will be overcome by these efforts.

Japan endeavours to raise the production of staple foods in developing countries and to establish fair trade rules as further assistance to self-help efforts made by developing countries. We also intend to help establish the emergency rice reserve system in the East Asian region in order that food security in this region can be ensured. In addition, from the humanitarian point of view, Japan will continue to provide food aid under emergency situations.

In order for developing countries to achieve sound socio-economic development, we fully recognize the importance of market access for their agricultural products. Indeed, Japan is the largest food importer from developing countries with net imports reaching US\$15 billion. Furthermore, last April, we substantially expanded the tariff preferences for developing countries. Through many approaches such as the aforementioned measures, Japan is making strong efforts to substantially contribute to the development of the developing countries.

Notwithstanding the unfortunate results of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, the final outcome of the ongoing WTO negotiations will have substantial impacts on food security and rural development throughout the world. I would underscore that it is imperative for us to fully respect the everlasting principle of the coexistence of various types of agriculture. In this regard, and bearing in mind the Doha Ministerial Declaration, Japan will continue to strive to establish new trade rules that properly reflect the non-trade concerns, which also include food security, during the negotiations hereafter.

I am pleased to inform you that Japan's Official Development Assistance Charter, the foundation of Japan's foreign aid policy, was substantially revised last August. In the revised Charter, it is clearly stated that the overall objective of Japan's ODA is to contribute to the peace and prosperity of the international community, and thereby to help ensure Japan's own security and prosperity. With this spirit in mind, I strive to address the priority issues such as poverty reduction and sustainable growth in developing countries by the continued assistance to the agricultural and rural development.

I would also like to add that it is equally important to further raise the awareness of the international community regarding issues on agriculture and food security. In this connection, two major international conferences were held in Japan this year, which I would like to touch upon here. Taking this opportunity, I would like to once more express our gratitude to Dr Diouf and many colleagues here present today who participated in the conferences, for their valuable contributions. The first event is the Ministerial Meeting on Water for Food and Agriculture co-hosted by Japan and FAO, which was held on the occasion of the Third World Water Forum in March. At that meeting, the ministerial recommendation was adopted aiming at achieving food security, poverty reduction and sustainable use of water. Through the meeting, participants' commitment was reaffirmed to earnestly address global water issues.

The second is, the Third Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD III) held in September, which had quite a fruitful discussion on African development. Prior to the discussion, the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Koizumi, unveiled Japan's initiative to the assistance for Africa, which consists of three pillars of human-centred development, poverty reduction through economic growth and consolidation of peace. I would also like to evidence that agricultural development was one of the highlights in the Conference.

As Japan's experience shows, agricultural development is the foundation of the development and prosperity of the nations. Agricultural development, therefore, must be regarded as one of the

highest priorities in the developmental policy perspectives for the nations. At every opportunity, I continue to stress the importance of agricultural development for developing countries.

With regard to the domain of forestry, I would like to emphasize that Sustainable Forest Management is one of the major policy issues and that it is necessary to combat illegal logging that threatens SFM. FAO actively participates in the Asia Forest Partnership, which Japan proposed and which was established in the WSSD. In addition, pursuant to the bilateral cooperation between Japan and Indonesia in combating illegal logging, the Joint Announcement and the Action Plan were formulated last June, which I, myself, signed and reaffirmed our resolution to take further measures on this issue.

Together with the cooperation from FAO that supports forest policy development and governance in developing countries, Japan will promote sustainable forest management on a global scale through national forest programmes.

With regard to fisheries management at a global level, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing is the most serious problem, especially in tuna fisheries. This is because IUU fishing seriously undermines the international efforts to conserve and sustainably manage living marine resources.

In accordance with the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, adopted at the Twenty-fourth Session of the Committee of Fisheries in 2001, Japan is actively involved in many efforts in order to tackle IUU fishing. In particular, in cooperation with relevant regional fisheries management organizations, Japan implemented the so-called positive list scheme by which distribution of tuna caught by the vessels not duly authorized will be excluded from international trade. As a responsible fishing nation, Japan reaffirms its support to FAO's efforts to combat IUU fishing and calls for Member States and relevant regional fisheries management organizations to take immediate action for its solution.

I would like to draw your attention and inform you that the coming year, 2004, is the International Year of Rice. In addition to the fact that rice is the staple food in Japan, rice production in paddy fields plays a vital role, not only in economic terms, but also in many aspects of our society including the cultural and environmental ones, and makes up the beautiful nature and landscape of our country.

With the cooperation of FAO and other interested nations, I hope IYR will provide a precious opportunity to raise awareness of the important role of rice and rice production. Japan is also prepared to extensively promote the initiatives with regard to IYR.

Finally, I would like to state that FAO is the key international organization playing a very important role in the field of food, agriculture and rural development. While much expectation is placed on the Organization from Member countries and the international community, we need to recognize the fact that many Members are facing difficulties in disbursing their assessed contributions. In the light of this, I would like to sincerely recommend FAO to administer the available resources with more efficiency and effectiveness in the execution of its expected duties.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.

Saeed Bin Mohammed Al-RAQABANI (United Arab Emirates) (Original language Arabic)

First of all, on behalf of my Delegation, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, upon your election as Chairman to this General Conference. We are fully confident that, thanks to your leadership, we will be able to achieve our goals, namely, to achieve food security and sustainable development. We should also like to express our appreciation to Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of this Organization. We thank him and express our best wishes for his activities and we thank him for what the Organization has achieved in the field of raising the efficiency of this Organization and we thank him for the presentation he submitted this morning on the State of Food and Agriculture.

The previous Conferences, particularly the World Food Summit, were opportunities when a call was made in order to cut the number of hungry people by half by the year 2015. However, this target has not been achieved so far and a number of people are still suffering from malnutrition and hunger. The international community, and more particularly, the rich countries are requested to give assistance to poor and developing countries, particularly those affected by poverty and hunger and famine. We should give a greater attention to these countries, particularly within the framework of the WTO negotiations.

This Session of our General Conference will deal with a number of items, among which are the items related to the Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing activities, and we should like to put on record the importance of this item since the IUU fishing does affect small fishermen and we do have this sort of activities and we believe that the proper management of fishing resources should be controlled in order to prevent the depletion of our fishing resources.

During this General Conference, a number of round tables will be organized and we do hope that this Organization will give further support to the developing countries in order to take part in these events and that this Organization will provide them with the special training in order to help them contribute within the WTO negotiations and this, obviously, with the aim of achieving food security and food safety for all of us.

The United Arab Emirates, despite the difficult climate situation and thanks to the efforts made by His Highness the Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nayan, were able to achieve a great deal down the road of sustainable development and, despite the fact that we live in a desert area where rainfall is very scarce, we were able to tap every drop of water. We were able to build a number of dams. Actually, we built 113 dams in order to make the best of the water resources available. We also treated sewage water and we used this treated sewage water in various landscaping activities and we encourage our farmers to opt for the modern and most efficient irrigation methods in order to increase the efficiency of water resources. We were able, so far, to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of dates. One hundred percent of our needs are covered. One hundred percent of fish, 87 percent of vegetables, and we also achieved 83 percent of our needs in fresh milk. Our country did pay special attention to the environment and combating desertification. We were able to establish green areas and, also, we planted millions of palm trees. Furthermore, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nayan did support these activities, the activities of achieving sustainable development and combating desertification and deforestation.

We do believe that we have a responsibility to bear in supporting poor countries. We have to give special assistance to countries suffering from catastrophes and conflicts.

We do hope that this Organization will be given the necessary wherewithal in order to uphold its noble objectives.

Ms Mariann FISCHER BOEL (Denmark)

At the World Food Summit in 1996 we set up ourselves a most ambitious goal, a commitment to intensify the combat against hunger. The goal was to halve the number of hungry and undernourished people before 2015.

Last year, we met again here in Rome, at the World Food Summit: *five years later*, on the initiative of FAO. FAO has a very important role to play in assisting Members to achieve food security and I would like to compliment FAO for the success of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, in adopting the Declaration International Alliance against Hunger. The message in the Declaration is clear. We have to do much better, because hunger is not acceptable for any human being in a world of plenty and in a world of enough resources to feed everybody well.

We all realize, of course, that the reason for hunger situations are many and complex. Climatic changes, regional instability, wars and inadequate infrastructure are just some of the causes that often lead to hunger. But these causes must now be confronted more directly and the specific problems must be solved, because they together lead to the sad result that hundreds of millions of

children, young and elderly people are deprived of the most basic requirement to stay alive: enough food.

The developed countries have a major responsibility to assist the agricultural, the fishery and other food sectors in the developing world, and in Denmark, these sectors have a high priority within our developing assistance. In 2002, the figures for Denmark's development assistance was approximately 1 percent of our gross national product. Over the next five years, the government will maintain development assistance at a level, which means that Denmark will be in the leading group. It is my conviction that agriculture, general and other food-producing sectors as well, must be at the very top of the international agenda. It is, also, thought-provoking to note that only very few countries in the world have achieved a healthy economic development without first developing their agriculture. Increased investments in the food-producing sector can directly reduce the number of hungry people and an increased food production further leads to a remarkable positive economic growth in the society, as a whole. The World Food Summit: *five years later*, Declaration was not only a Declaration of goodwill, because very soon the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Food started its work to identify the many different elements that have to go hand-in-hand in a developing country to eliminate hunger in all its forms. I will not go into detail with these elements, but I can assure that Denmark is looking forward very much to the specific, practical and operational recommendations from that Working Group.

In Denmark, we share the hope that every developing country will succeed in tackling the food insecurity problems. I mention this because the responsibility for fighting hunger lies mainly with the national governments and, of course, not least with the governments in the countries most severely affected by hunger.

Food security is largely determined by the domestic, political and economic environment. Good governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, are essential preconditions for food security. In this respect, the treatment of women is of particular concern. Women are discriminated against in many countries. At the same time, women constitute the majority of the work force in the agricultural sector in a lot of countries. It must be stressed that improving conditions for rural women is essential to achieve food security.

Domestic economic policies and institutions are other fundamental factors to ensure food security. In short, domestic policies for food security must be put on the agenda by national governments. Action must be taken to improve the food-producing sector. Agriculture, fishery and forestry are, of course, the key sectors here. And the government must ensure that the food-producing sectors are developing in a sustainable manner.

Let me now turn to another important topic, trade, in which Denmark is very committed, and which, in a sustainable, substantial way, can assist the poor countries in developing their agricultural production where they possess a competitive advantage. In Cancun, we failed to reach the trade solutions that are so needed by the poor countries, and we must now, as soon as possible, double our efforts at the negotiation table to identify, through dialogue, the shared interest in good commercial and development policies. More trade and more free competition for agricultural products between developed and developing countries and, also between developing countries, is a very important element within the development policies, but trade itself cannot solve the problems alone. A number of accompanying measures are needed. Also in this area, we look for FAO to assist the international community.

I mentioned earlier that Denmark gives great importance to official development assistance and that also a substantial part of this is allocated to the agricultural sector. In this connection, I strongly appeal to the developing countries, as well, to place agriculture and other food-producing sectors as top priorities in their further development policies.

José Francisco GRAZIANO DA SILVA (Brasil)

La Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después acordó dar atención al Derecho Humano a la Alimentación Adecuada y a la urgente necesidad de forjar una Alianza Internacional entre los países con voluntad política para cumplir con la meta de reducir el hambre en el mundo. El gobierno brasileño reconoce que el Derecho Humano a la Alimentación y la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre son principios fundamentales a ser puestos en práctica para cumplir con la meta de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

Aunque los datos del informe sobre la Seguridad Alimentaria en el Mundo del 2003 muestren una reducción significativa de 3 millones de personas subnutridas en Brasil en la década pasada, de mantenerse ese ritmo tendríamos que admitir que no se cumpliría la meta de reducir el hambre a la mitad antes de 2030, quince años después de la fecha acordada por la FAO. Peor: no lograríamos erradicar el hambre antes del final de la primera mitad del siglo XXI, casi 50 años después del compromiso asumido con nuestro pueblo en las elecciones presidenciales del año pasado. Por todo eso, el Gobierno del Presidente Lula reafirma su compromiso de implementar el Programa Hambre Cero hasta 2006 de modo de garantizar a todos los brasileños el derecho de comer todos los días la cantidad de proteínas y calorías necesarias para una vida sana.

En verdad, estamos trabajando para garantizar en nuestro gobierno el derecho a la alimentación. Creemos que es tarea del Estado asegurar ese derecho, de manera que la alimentación no sea sólo fruto de caridad, de favores personales, ni sea instrumento de uso político.

Este derecho sólo podrá ser atendido con la creación de una Política Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria.

El Presidente Lula inició su gobierno en enero de este año lanzando el Programa Hambre Cero como prioridad política de su programa social, porque reconoce que una población desnutrida no está en condiciones de educarse y trabajar para tener una vida digna y que la alimentación es un derecho comparable con el derecho a la vida.

Ese compromiso del gobierno brasileño se consolidó con la creación del Ministerio Especial de Seguridad Alimentaria y de Combate al Hambre que tengo el honor de dirigir.

Se creó también un Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria para construir la Política de Seguridad Alimentaria de forma participativa, proponer y pronunciarse sobre sus directivas y movilizar la sociedad civil, estimulando la creación de consejos provinciales y municipales, requisitos para la implantación del Programa Hambre Cero.

Estos consejos provinciales y municipales están siendo creados en preparación de la II Conferencia Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria, que se realizará en marzo del año 2004 y en la cual esperamos contar con la presencia de mil delegados.

Es imprescindible que la acción que venimos desarrollando en nuestros países para reducir el hambre y la desnutrición crónica pueda contar con un forum que permita consolidar las acciones nacionales en una acción global fortalecida por la Alianza. Por eso en esta Conferencia, el gobierno brasileño hace un llamado para que todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, hagamos un esfuerzo especial para fortalecerla y para renovarla. De esa manera, nuestra Organización tendrá mayor capacidad de responder a las urgentes demandas que emanan de su mandato.

Un paso concreto será el fortalecimiento de sus órganos rectores para hacerlos más eficaces, hecho con nuestro propio esfuerzo y el de la Secretaría. Un primer movimiento en esa dirección sería el fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, que cuente con una bien definida participación de la sociedad civil organizada. Consecuentemente, fortalecido, ampliado en su mandato y en su capacidad de sumar apoyos, ese forum podría efectivamente articular la iniciativa de la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre y de negociar el apoyo político y los recursos necesarios para acelerar los programas nacionales e internacionales de reducción del hambre y de la desnutrición crónica y de lucha contra la pobreza.

Un segundo paso indispensable sería fortalecer el Fondo Internacional de Combate al Hambre. En su presentación en Davos, ante el Foro Económico Mundial, así como en su reciente intervención ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el Presidente de Brasil, Luíz Inácio Lula da Silva habló del combate al hambre no sólo como la principal prioridad de su gobierno, sino que propuso la creación de un fondo internacional para combatirlo, financiado por el sector privado. Esa alianza implica promover el establecimiento de asociaciones entre gobiernos, organizaciones sociales, sector privado, comunidades e instituciones internacionales.

Sería deseable correlacionar de alguna forma creativa las dos iniciativas. Para esto propondría que la Conferencia determinara un estudio a la Secretaría, para apreciación y decisión durante la próxima sesión del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria, sobre la posible nueva configuración del Comité, con la participación de la sociedad civil, así como la ampliación y refuerzo de su mandato para correlacionarlo con los trabajos del Fondo Internacional de Combate al Hambre.

Es evidente que la asignación de recursos en la lucha por reducir la inseguridad alimentaria es una fuente potencial de más recursos para la promoción del crecimiento económico y desarrollo.

En el ámbito local, Brasil está estimulando la creación de Programas Municipales de Seguridad Alimentaria integrados, uniendo la producción al consumo de alimentos de calidad. Por ejemplo: la agricultura familiar para programas municipales de alimentación, merienda escolar y restaurantes populares, el incentivo a huertos comunitarios y bancos de alimentos.

La agricultura familiar es la gran generadora de empleos y productora de alimentos en los países. Año tras año, se verifica que el empleo agrícola está disminuyendo. Como las ciudades no consiguen generar los empleos necesarios para aquellos que no consiguen permanecer en la actividad agrícola, el problema social se agrava.

¿Cómo superar tales circunstancias? Los esfuerzos deben ser multidireccionales y simultáneos; el alivio de la pobreza gana real sentido si resolvemos el problema agudo de la desigualdad. Hay que reducir el déficit de desarrollo que conocemos y que tiene eje en carencias del campo donde opera la pequeña agricultura, de base familiar. Hay que agregar componentes regulares y permanentes representados por el crédito, tecnologías, recursos de infraestructura, almacenaje y transporte, circuitos de comercialización, combinados con programas dirigidos a la educación y a la salud pública.

El escenario internacional no está disociado de este cuadro interno. Son claras sus interrelaciones con el problema de los flujos comerciales, financieros y tecnológicos.

Nuestro desafío será por lo tanto encontrar un nuevo modelo.

Los esfuerzos que hagamos en las áreas mencionadas y/u otras resultarán productivos si tomamos en cuenta la dimensión central del comercio internacional y, en particular, del comercio en productos agrícolas. En realidad, la agricultura es el área de producción donde los países en desarrollo cuentan con ventajas comparativas y donde los más pobres de los pobres pueden ganar su vida.

No fue al azar que llamamos las presentes negociaciones comerciales como "Agenda Doha de Desarrollo". La expectativa de los países en desarrollo es que las negociaciones reanudadas marquen el camino a un desarrollo integrado y equilibrado, sea económico-que social. Esperamos que impregnen la Organización Mundial del Comercio en sus deberes con el desarrollo.

La agricultura está al centro de la Ronde Doha y el objetivo del desarrollo es esencial allí.

Los hechos recientes en Cancún constituyeron el resultado de una agenda extraordinariamente compleja en la que es central la cuestión de los productos agrícolas. Los países desarrollados ignorarán entretanto el significado y la importancia de estas cuestiones, con lamentable desconocimiento de los daños potenciales de esos temas para un conjunto significativo de países en desarrollo.

En el capítulo de la desigualdad siempre creciente entre países, a pesar de los esfuerzos de la mayoría de los países en desarrollo, bajo el impulso de uniformidad que la economía actual en sus

características globales nos condiciona, las negociaciones en curso deben retomar con seriedad el significado concreto y global de medidas para garantizar el tratamiento Especial y Diferenciado [S&D], en conformidad con la plataforma de Doha.

Es imperativo hacer valer los valores del multilateralismo en la búsqueda del entendimiento entre todos sin discriminación, sin imposiciones o ideas dogmáticas o preconcebidas. Seamos imaginativos y flexibles, respetando en su totalidad el mandato y los plazos de Doha.

Brasil se ha asociado al esfuerzo de agregación de intereses y aproximación bajo un grupo importante de países que se afirmó como el G-20, con el potencial de sumar un creciente número de países y grupos de afinidad, formando un conjunto con significado político propio en lo que se refiere a las negociaciones comerciales de la OMC, con énfasis en las negociaciones agrícolas, capaz de ofrecer plataforma de negociación coherente, sólida y representativa.

Para terminar, deseo expresar mi agradecimiento al Director General de la FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, y a la Organización en su conjunto por el sólido apoyo que ella ofrece a nuestro gobierno, para la ejecución del Programa Hambre Cero y de otros programas prioritarios del país.

Lumay SHERWIN (New Zealand)

First, it was with very great pleasure that New Zealand welcomed two new members from the Southwest Pacific to this Organization. FAO can take heart – an organization is in good health when countries continue to seek membership.

We take much less pleasure in the fact that the pressing issue of ensuring food security to many millions of people remains unresolved. We, FAO, Government, Member States, NGOs and individuals must work harder and more effectively to bring the relief that these people deserve. But this is not a new message. Indeed, this message has been a consistent one at the Millennium Summit, at the World Food Summit *five years later*, at the Johannesburg Summit, at Doha, and at Monterey. The entire international community pledged itself to bringing the relief that these people deserve.

The question is how? New Zealand believes that we need to focus on four issues: first is development. Particular focus needs to be put on establishing more coherent approaches. Ten months ago donors and their development partners gathered here in Rome at the Harmonization Forum to commit to working together in new ways. This is about putting development partners in the driver seat and aligning donor support around development partner strategies and processes. It means lowering the transactions costs of aid delivery. Here lies a challenge for FAO to think about what this means for the way it works.

Development that works to improve food security and eliminate poverty also means development based firmly on gender equity, sustainability and real partnerships; development that builds national capacity; development that empowers; and development firmly based on human rights.

New Zealand believes trade in agriculture is crucial for the developing world. The World Food Summit Plan of Action explicitly recognizes this. Sadly, agriculture and trade policies remain highly distorted. OECD countries give over three hundred billion dollars to their agriculture sectors but only US\$10 to 12 billion to agriculture in developing countries. Where I ask you is the coherence in that?

New Zealand believes the problem is not too much agricultural trade liberalization, but too little. Trade is essential to enable the level of specialization in production that is an essential component of economic development.

Tomorrow, Round Table 2 will be held on agriculture trade. New Zealand is gratified that so many Heads of Delegation, 59 at last count, wish to attend.

New Zealand hopes that an outcome of the Round Table will be a call – from across the spectrum, from the north and the south, rich and poor – to WTO negotiators to get Doha back on track. Too much is at stake for short term political posturing.

In an interdependent world, trade needs rules and agreements. And we all need to honour those rules. In this, FAO again has a unique role to play in the practical, normative work of Codex and the IPPC. We trust that the FAO budget agreed this week, will fully recognize and fund this important development work.

This is what the Members of the Organization have consistently called for – at Council; at Conference, in Finance Committee and in Programme Committee.

New Zealand believes that if funding for this normative work is not forthcoming, then we face real questions of credibility and of governance.

FAO has done some excellent work on rules for fishing. Fisheries are an overwhelmingly important issue for the Southwest Pacific. IUU fishing devastates resources, livelihoods and economies. This is why New Zealand is working with others on a fisheries Resolution for this Conference.

We hope as many members as possible will join with us by endorsing the Resolution as it is only by such public pressure that we can shame those states and individuals who refuse to honour the commitments they have made.

Bangaren SARAGIH (Indonesia)

Food insecurity is our common enemy. Set aside its indispensable instrumental value of which we may have different interests, we all agreed, and rightly so, that food security is a basic human right, for assurance of which we have all pledged to jointly cooperate. This is one of the few global issues for which we all agree to have a common vision and mission.

Nevertheless, I agree with the idea of hierarchical responsibility. Each country should be the first to be held responsible in assuring food security for all of its people. In line with this thinking, Indonesia has strengthening national food security as the first priority of its development programme.

We have been doing whatever we can in strengthening our national food security. Thank God, who has made us free from acute food insecurity incidence. All food security indicators show positive long-term trends. The prevalence of undernourishment has been declining significantly.

We are committed to continuing with strong efforts to strengthen our national food security. We are optimistic that the World Food Summit target and the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger or malnutrition by 2015 will be achieved for our country. I must admit the roles of various friendly countries and multilateral institutions cooperation are indispensable to our success in strengthening our national food security.

With all the positive trend of progress mentioned about, Indonesia however, remains vulnerable to temporary or transient food insecurity incidences, particularly those induced by natural calamities. The temporary food insecurity could be severe and generally occurs all of a sudden. It is during such a food crisis that we need external emergency food aid most.

Being one of one of the most populous developing countries. Indonesia's performance significantly affects the state of food insecurity in the world.

The document distributed by the organizer of this conference informs us of one alarming problem: reversal trend in the state of the world food security from improving between 1992 to 1997-99 to worsening between 1997-99 and 1999-01.

The document clearly stated pessimism in achieving the World Food Summit target and the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger or malnutrition in the World by 2015. This is an utmost critical issue we must focus our attention to. We must be able to mobilize decisive and comprehensive action to achieve the great common goals. Our challenge, then, is how to achieve an accelerating high agriculture growth in developing countries where the food insecurity incidence is stubbornly high.

There are at least three strategic issues we are to discuss if we agree to foster high agriculture growth in developing countries.

First, what is the agreeable action to reverse the declining trends of agricultural commodity prices in the international market. It is unfortunate, that we failed to have an agreement in WTO Ministerial Meeting in Cancun. We must resume a new round of discussions within the WTO framework.

Second, we must find ways to increase external assistance to agriculture development in developing countries. The developed countries and multilateral development institutions have the key roles in this respect. Perhaps the traditional food aid in kind can be converted into investment capital aid for agriculture development in developing countries.

Third, we must find ways to generate agriculture technological innovations suitable and easily accessible for developing countries. We must reverse the declining trends of supporting funds for international agricultural research institutions, which had been contributing in the generation of global agriculture technologies in the past.

The three proposed actions may not be easy to accept by all of us. Indeed, there is no easy way to achieve such a noble goal of halving both food insecurity and poverty incidence in the world. But I am optimistic since we all have pledged to commit, we shall be able to achieve the target no matter how difficult it may be.

Michael Odevall, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair
Michael Odevall, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Michael Odevall, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Habib SY (Sénégal)

Cette rencontre pour nous revêt une importance toute particulière dans la mesure où elle permettra sans aucun doute de dégager des orientations à même de répondre aux nécessités de sécurité alimentaire qu'impose la crise économique et sociale dans laquelle s'enlisent chaque jour nos pays.

En ce qui concerne le Sénégal, il est important de rappeler que les résultats de la campagne agricole 2003-2004, jugés dans l'ensemble satisfaisants, font suite à deux campagnes successives marquées par une relative sécheresse éprouvante du reste pour le monde rural à cause notamment de la perturbation des nombreuses filières.

Cette situation avait amené l'État à assister d'urgence le monde rural en fournissant dans un premier temps des vivres d'appoint. Pour sortir de cette situation presque récurrente, le Président de la République, Maître Abdoulay Wade, a immédiatement manifesté sa volonté en décidant de doper certaines productions. C'est ainsi que des objectifs de production ont été assignés à certaines filières entre autres le maïs, le sésame, le manioc et le niébé.

Avec le soutien remarquable de la FAO, la production de sésame est passée de 2 000 tonnes en 2002-2003 à 15 000 tonnes en 2003-2004 et celle du maïs de 72 000 tonnes à 500 000 tonnes, soit des taux respectifs de plus 750% et de plus 694,44%. C'est ainsi que les prévisions de production portent sur 1 501 332 tonnes auxquelles viendront s'ajouter celles de la contre saison et de la décrue évaluées à 98 647 tonnes de céréales.

La production par habitant est passée de 79 kg en 2002-2003 à 152 kg en 2003-2004 et reste également supérieure à la moyenne de 1998-2003 de 37,50%. Enfin, la production nette disponible qui se dégage est évaluée à 1 295 926 tonnes. L'analyse du bilan céréalier prévisionnel fait ressortir ainsi les stocks évalués à 1 444 465 tonnes couvrant 67% des besoins.

Au sortir du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 à Rome, le Sénégal s'est immédiatement attelé à la mise en œuvre des stratégies et programmes dans les domaines aussi variés que sont la décentralisation, la promotion de la femme, la protection de l'enfance ainsi que la relance du secteur agricole qui occupe la majorité de la population. L'avènement de l'alternance politique le 19 mars 2000 est venu consolider et renforcer ces acquis si bien que toutes ces préoccupations ont été largement prises en compte dans la politique du Gouvernement avec les nombreux

programmes et projets élaborés et mis en œuvre ayant pour ultime objectif la lutte contre la pauvreté en général et l'éradication du fléau de la faim en particulier.

Des perspectives novatrices se dessinent donc pour le secteur agricole notamment avec le Projet de loi d'orientation du secteur agricole qui sera bientôt soumis à l'Assemblée nationale, le Programme national de développement agricole, la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action prioritaire 2003-2005 issu de la stratégie nationale de la réduction de la pauvreté dont 80% des ressources seront destinées au monde rural et le Programme d'urgence des cultures vivrières dont le maïs occupe une place prépondérante.

Au plan sous régional, on notera la mise en œuvre de la politique agricole commune, dans le cadre de l'union économique et monétaire ouest africaine, dans l'optique d'assurer au mieux la coordination et l'harmonisation des politiques agricoles des États Membres de l'Union mais aussi le développement des complémentarités indispensables en vue de l'accroissement de la production agricole, de la promotion et de la consommation des produits régionaux.

Au plan continental, le NEPAD constitue un "challenge" (défi) pour les États africains sur la voie de la réduction du fossé qui les sépare des pays développés du Nord. Il constitue aussi un moyen d'intégration des économies africaines avec le développement des infrastructures routières inter pays permettant une plus grande fluidité des échanges.

Par ailleurs, l'élaboration du Programme pluri-annuel relatif au volet "Agriculture et accès aux marchés" peut aider à la recherche de débouchés à nos produits agricoles et c'est la raison pour laquelle la FAO, en soutien au NEPAD, a déjà élaboré plusieurs projets agricoles visant à la sécurité alimentaire.

Au plan économique, le Sénégal s'est engagé depuis la moitié des années quatre-vingt dans des stratégies de développement plus participatives. C'est ainsi que l'État a décidé de se désengager progressivement mais totalement du secteur productif en prenant parallèlement un certain nombre de mesures administratives, budgétaires, fiscales et douanières tendant à encourager le secteur privé.

En ce qui concerne la réforme agraire, le Gouvernement a préparé un Projet de loi d'orientation agricole dont le but visé est de promouvoir une agriculture plus productive où les investissements seront sécurisés.

Dans le domaine de la gestion des ressources naturelles, le Sénégal a déjà mis en place une Commission nationale de développement durable regroupant l'ensemble des acteurs pour l'élaboration de sa stratégie de développement durable.

Le Plan d'action sur la parité hommes – femmes, qui tire sa substance des recommandations de plusieurs sommets à l'échelle mondiale, a rencontré un engagement résolu des autorités sénégalaises à réaliser des objectifs de développement agricoles et durables par la pleine participation et sur un pied d'égalité des femmes et des hommes aux processus décisionnel, politique et de planification.

L'éradication de la pauvreté et la sécurité alimentaire durable pour tous reste au premier rang de nos priorités. Ce qui passe par le développement de l'agriculture et en constitue la principale composante.

Enfin, le Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire, mis en œuvre avec la FAO, bénéficie régulièrement de ressources additionnelles dégagées sur le budget de l'État. Pour pérenniser les résultats probants appréciés par la Communauté nationale et internationale, le Programme national d'appui à la sécurité alimentaire est en cours d'élaboration tandis qu'un Programme national de développement agricole sous-tendu par des programmes régionaux de développement agricole sur la base d'une approche villageoise est en cours de finalisation avec le soutien remarquable de la FAO.

En signant en avril 1994 les Accords du Cycle d'Uruguay qui incluent l'Accord sur l'Agriculture et la création de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce, notre pays a marqué son adhésion aux règles

du système commercial multilatéral et son engagement en faveur d'un commerce ouvert sur le monde. Les discussions lors des dernières sessions du Comité des pêches, ainsi qu'au cours d'autres réunions internationales, notamment le Sommet international pour le développement durable, ont mis en lumière les tendances négatives en matière de pêche au niveau mondial et leurs effets nuisibles sur les moyens d'existence et la sécurité alimentaire. Aussi, nous invitons le Directeur général de la FAO à convoquer une réunion de haut niveau, de préférence au niveau ministériel, pour considérer les problèmes mentionnés ci-dessus et leur trouver des solutions.

Pour conclure, avec cette note d'espoir qui découle de la rencontre au sommet de l'Union africaine à Maputo (Mozambique) au cours de laquelle les Chefs d'États et de Gouvernements, en partant du constat que les pays qui allouent d'avantage de ressources publiques à l'agriculture ont une incidence de la faim moins élevée, ont vivement recommandé le rééquilibrage des ressources budgétaires en portant la part du secteur agricole à hauteur minimum de dix pour cent. Nous espérons que tous les États Membres de notre Organisation pourront s'inspirer de cette pertinente résolution pour donner à la FAO un budget à croissance réelle à même de lui permettre de relever les nombreux défis réaffirmés ici même à Rome en 2002 par nos Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: *cinq ans après*.

Monsieur le Président, je voudrais enfin vous remercier pour votre aimable attention et par la même occasion vous réitérer mes félicitations ainsi que mes chaleureux remerciements aux autorités italiennes et aux organisateurs de cette 32^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO pour les excellentes conditions d'accueil de séjour et de travail qui nous ont été réservées.

Josef PRÖLL (Austria) (Original language German)

First of all I would like to extend to you, Mr Chairman, as well to the Vice-Chairman of this Conference, my congratulations on your election to this responsible function. At the same time I would like to express my sincere wishes of success for the proceedings of the Thirty-second FAO Conference.

International society is still facing, after the historic summit in Rome, one of the greatest challenges, to fight jointly against hunger and to improve food security in a more determined way.

It is a basic human right to have enough to eat in order to have the ownership of one's life. It is our duty and responsibility to ensure this basis for the existence of every human being, either access to land, food, water, seeds, as well as to information and education.

Particularly, in the light of the growing political, economic and social tensions of our times, we realize the need for the implementation of long overdue measures in the fields of sustainable food security and food safety, which were also pointed out at the World Food Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.

Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, has been the one who mentioned at the Johannesburg Summit five key sectors, where more action is needed, namely: water, energy, health, agricultural production, biodiversity and the protection of the ecosystem.

These sectors are the key elements for the fight against hunger and poverty.

Last year at the World Food Summit: *five years later*, we underlined again the need to reduce the number of undernourished, no later than 2015. We are obliged, therefore, to strengthen all efforts to approach this target.

Therefore, the following framework has been and is still an indispensable condition: democracy and a good and transparent governance; the observance of human rights; conflict prevention in compliance with the United Nations system; sustainable economic growth in rural areas; investments in employment and education; and a preventive health care system for the poor.

Hunger constitutes a core problem in rural areas. Agriculture has always been the key sector for these areas. In providing food security, women also play a crucial role. It is, therefore, of utmost importance that their rights, their living conditions, working and economic conditions be improved.

Again, I would like to draw the attention to the right of every human being to adequate food. On the occasion of the World Food Day, my country organized a seminar on The International Alliance against Hunger with international participation. This event has to be seen in connection with a great number of meetings and activities implemented after the two FAO Summits, by the High Commission on Human Rights, by several countries, NGOs and academic institutions. All these activities had the aim to increase the importance of the right to adequate food on a national and international level.

There is a strong link between nutrition, food security and the supply of drinking water and processed water. Especially in this year, The International Year of Freshwater the consciousness of the fact that without water there is no food, becomes even more evident.

The sustainable use of water, necessary for production, for consumption and foodstuff is of particular importance, in the North as well as in the South. There is the need for approaches, for solutions, regarding the secure access to water and the sustainable and efficient collection of water resources, questions that will be discussed today in the first Round Table.

In the future, water will have to be available to a rapidly growing world population. How to deal with the use of this scarce resource will be one of the great challenges of the Twenty-first Century.

Please allow me also to make a few comments on Austrian agriculture.

Austria's agriculture and forestry is characterized by small- and medium-size structures, the holdings manage a total of 80 percent of the federal territory, more than 70 percent are located in less favoured areas. Under these conditions, Austria's farmers ensure a supply of high quality food.

Austrian farmers care for and tend the cultural and recreational landscapes, they maintain the settlement in mountain areas and less favoured areas, too, they also safeguard jobs in the fields of trade and industry, as well as in-service enterprises, provide renewable energy and resources and make important contributions to the protection of soil, forests and water.

The key for combating the hunger in the world is, in my opinion, undoubtedly the maintenance of a competitive and sustainable agriculture. Agriculture provides a wide number of tasks, including guaranteeing the quality standards of foodstuff, protecting soil and water and keeping stability within regions. If multifunctionality has to be preserved, farmers have to be compensated.

I would like to mention the support for the ecological development of the Austrian agriculture through the European Union, where already more than 10 percent of the Austrian farmers are using the organic biological methods of farming.

Sustainable agriculture, and in this context the rural areas, could help to solve a lot of critical problems which the world of today is facing.

I would also like to mention the importance of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which is presently in the process of ratification in Austria.

We must consider this treaty as an essential contribution to the objective of global food security, as it regulates the access to plant genetic resources in the global community for the benefit of agriculture.

I would like to refer to the binding character of the right to adequate food. Austria supports strongly all activities of FAO in this sector at regional and international level.

It must be clear that all states are asked to take up their responsibility with determination for global food security for all people.

In this sense, it must be our common concern to support fully the work and the activities of FAO and to be able to contribute, therefore, to the alleviation of hunger in the world, to reduce poverty and to reach peace throughout the world.

Yisrael KATZ (Israel) (Original language Hebrew)

On behalf of the Israeli Delegation, allow me to congratulate you on your election to chair this Conference, I wish to extend our best wishes to all the participants. We also wish the Director-General and the staff of the Organization, success in pursuing the goals of this Conference.

The State of Israel highly regards the activities of the Food and Agriculture Organization. The State of Israel is ready to assist and cooperate with FAO and with individual Member Nations in the endeavour to combat hunger and achieve food security. Israel is ready to share its experience in research, extension and technical cooperation, as well as technology transfer and practical dissemination of its know-how for the purpose of ensuring an efficient crop production and sufficient food supply.

Since joining the FAO in 1949 Israel has taken an active part in various activities of FAO. Senior Israeli experts have been part on the permanent staff of the Organization, more recently an Israeli scientist has joined a group of experts at FAO Headquarters here in Rome, in the Visiting Experts Programme. The service of other professionals including scientists, extensionists, engineers and so forth, have been sent for short-term assignment and consultancy missions within the framework of the TCDC Programme (Technical Cooperation Development Countries).

Israel's agriculture has made remarkable achievements due to its expertise in water management and developing a state of the art irrigation technology. The country is situated on the edge of the desert and its water balance depends on a moderate and erratic rainfall. In order to maintain a reliable supply of drinking water for households and municipal needs, on the one hand, and enable the continued existence of viable agriculture, on the other, innovative ways had to be found to diversify water resources. With this goal in mind, we have undertaken the harnessing of all available water sources such as marginal, recycled brackish, saline and flood water. In the last few years Israel has begun a project to develop desalination facilities.

Traditional and wasteful irrigation methods and equipment have been gradually replaced by new irrigation networks, drip irrigation systems and microirrigation components, while filtering and fertilizers mixing units have been installed. In macro terms, the national water balance will likely reach a new equilibrium, in which both the farming and urban populations will enjoy sufficient water supply at reasonable cost. In micro terms, the new efficient and water saving technologies, some of the inexpensive and easy to use, have enabled irrigating various crops with only 40 percent of the water volume being used with traditional techniques.

Since the early nineties, the threat posed by desertification has grown real and acute. Traditionally arid zones have been affected and even widened. In addition, regions which in the past, received adequate rainfall are no longer able to maintain agriculture without supplementary irrigation. This phenomenon is taking place in parts of central and Western Europe. Israel has developed irrigation technologies to meet these various challenges, but much work remains to be done. We are ready to share that knowledge with both developed and developing countries.

However, Israeli innovations in agricultural production go far beyond water use and irrigation. The combination of inquisitive researchers, extension personnel and responsive farmers and a vibrant agrotechnology industry have enabled Israel to meet its domestic needs, while developing a worldwide network for the export of fresh products and the dissemination of know-how and inputs. Of special note is the seed industry for new high yielding varieties of fruits, vegetables, flowers and field crops, climate controlled greenhouses, and prevention of penetration of harmful insects. In animal production, there are simple and effective technologies for livestock, such as cooling systems in cowsheds in the desert, high-tech computerized equipment to monitor animal behaviour, milking parlour control and production management software.

The State of Israel and its Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Development and Foreign Affairs, as well as other entities of the public sector and Nongovernmental Organizations, have been involved for five decades, in technical assistance programmes with many developing countries, focussing on transfer of agricultural know-how and training programmes.

As a member of the international community, Israel long ago set for itself the goal of sharing its achievements in agriculture with the developing countries and more recently with countries in transition. The country thus became a full partner in the struggle for food security. Our experts are involved in promoting more efficient production management methods, agrobusiness concepts, and diversified economic activities in rural areas with the aim of contributing to their development and prosperity.

Closer to home, Israel is an active and willing partner in promoting regional agricultural cooperation with its neighbours, and sharing its broad experience in the field of agriculture.

Mohand LAENSER (Maroc)

Je voudrais vous féliciter de votre élection à la Présidence de cette Conférence. Je voudrais aussi remercier la FAO qui a fait d'énormes efforts pour aider mon pays et les pays en développement et ceci afin de lutter contre la pauvreté de par le monde. Je voudrais tous vous remercier d'être présents ici.

Nous sommes ici réunis pour essayer de trouver la façon de relever les défis qui sont ceux de la Communauté internationale. Nous devons, je le répète, faire d'énormes efforts pour atteindre les objectifs de lutte contre la pauvreté et d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire à tous.

Le Maroc a fait d'énormes efforts pour renforcer son partenariat avec la FAO et je voudrais la remercier. La FAO a répondu de façon tout à fait positive à notre appel. Le Maroc, d'autre part, a mis en oeuvre toutes les résolutions adoptées par notre Organisation. Il a intensifié la coopération Sud-Sud et la coopération au sein des organisations internationales pour justement mettre en œuvre ce programme de sécurité alimentaire.

Mon pays a entamé un certain nombre de missions avec beaucoup de pays amis d'Afrique, ce qui nous a permis d'aider les paysans et le monde agricole de ces pays. Maintenant, pour renforcer la solidarité entre les populations et dans le cadre de sa présidence du Groupe des 77, le Maroc va recevoir une conférence importante sur la Coopération Sud-Sud à Marrakech en 2004. Cela permettra aux organisations, aux ONG, aux institutions et aux partenaires de renforcer leur coopération.

Le Maroc a fait des efforts considérables pour lutter contre la pauvreté et ceci sous le patronage de notre roi Mohammed VI qui a toujours fait part de sa solidarité vis-à-vis des autres pays africains. Sa Majesté, Mohammed VI, dans son discours lors de l'Assemblée générale de New York, a lancé un appel à la Communauté internationale, afin qu'elle appuie l'initiative du NEPAD qui met l'accent sur un développement durable du continent africain.

En plus de nos efforts aux niveaux internationaux et régionaux, nous avons fait de la lutte contre la pauvreté une priorité à l'intérieur de nos politiques. Nous avons aussi fait part de l'espoir de pouvoir un jour combattre la désertification et de rationaliser les ressources halieutiques.

Dans le but d'atteindre les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire qui sont les nôtres, nous avons développé un système d'irrigation pour notre pays. Bien sûr, notre agriculture est une agriculture pluviale mais nous mettons sur pied de nouvelles méthodes d'irrigation. Nous avons mis en œuvre 48 projets dans différentes régions de notre Royaume et créé une banque pour financer entre autres ces 48 projets en cours. La femme joue un rôle essentiel dans les zones agricoles et rurales de notre pays.

Je voudrais une fois de plus remercier le Directeur Général de la FAO et je formule tous les vœux de succès à notre Organisation dans sa quête pour la réalisation de nos objectifs pour combattre la pauvreté et aller vers la sécurité alimentaire.

The meeting rose at 12.40 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.40 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
FOURTH PLENARY MEETING QUATRIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE CUARTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
1 December 2003

The Fourth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.48 hours

Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatrième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 48

sous la présidence de Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la cuarta sesión plenaria a las 14.48 horas

bajo la presidencia del Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2003/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2003/2) (suite)

5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2003/2) (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Italy, European Community, Lesotho, Australia, Syria, Sri Lanka, Tunisie, Norway, Slovakia, Ukraine, Angola, Tuvalu, Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Philippines, Côte d'Ivoire, Armenia, Cuba, Lao, Oman, Germany, United States of America, Swaziland, Pakistan, Lebanon.

Giovanni ALEMANNO (Italy) (Original language Italian)

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to take part in this Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session of the Conference of FAO, this as current President of the European Union and also as Representative of the Italian Government here this afternoon.

Italy is proud to be the host country of this institution, which is so important, in addition to two agencies in the United Nations family, which work in the same area of agriculture and food production. In 1996, at the World Food Summit, and later on at the Millennium Declaration Goal, we underwrote the commitment to halve by the year 2015, to halve I repeat, the number of people who suffer hunger throughout the world. Clear from the very outset was the fact that this objective, this goal, was a very ambitious one, but not something we could not achieve. Such as this Conference of FAO is important to us, we feel the need to consider what has been done so far and to assess whether or not we have respected the commitment we undertook, but also and, above all, to maintain ever high the attention and interest and awareness of governments on the main purpose. That is, to construct a world which will be without hunger and will be poverty free. The problem of hunger in the world, in fact, despite the countless statements of intent, still awaits concrete and rapid solutions. This is due to the difficulties encountered by States introducing the underwritten commitments into their national policy. At times the limited efficiency of intervention is linked not to the lack of commitment, but to a lack of coordination among the initiatives promoted by individual governments and by international organizations. The ones promoted by nongovernmental organizations, by religious movements and by all those who work so hard for development and cooperation.

Rome represents a privileged observation point because located here are three very important agencies, FAO, the World Food Programme and IFAD, in addition to many other international institutions, all I repeat based here. We have the clear impression that the enormous efforts which are deployed day by day, by the aforementioned institutions, would be much more efficient and effective if it were possible to create a greater degree of strategic coordination as well as operational coordination among them. This because the theme of development is not a theme which can be tackled in a unilateral manner, because involved herein are issues which have to do with international trade, but also with environmental concerns. Summits such as the Cancun or Johannesburg ones are destined to a lack of success if we do not create a very strong multilateral system where various specialized organizations cooperate and work together in due synergy. FAO, in this sense, has a strategic role to play because it will not be easy to have a multilateral understanding of agreements if we are not able to bring the various parties concerned and

countries concerned onto the same footing. This means to create life opportunities which would at least be comparable in the various countries concerned. It means, above all, to be committed to the struggle against hunger, poverty and social outcasting, guarantee in each and every country food security for the entire population. To work for the development of the real economy means to alleviate the poverty of individuals in countries and to decrease the pressure of migration from those areas.

Agriculture, therefore, is a key economic sector, in order to cancel, to wipe out poverty and food insecurity and very often it is the fly-wheel for the entire economies of countries which are not endowed with other natural resources. The growth of the agricultural sector, in any case, is not a sufficient condition in order to attain and achieve the objective of reducing poverty and heightening world food security. World production of food over the last 40 years has increased at a rate higher than that of the world population. Despite that fact, hunger, malnutrition persist in the world and this is not due to the lack of the availability of food, but rather the possibility, mainly in terms of income, to have access to those food supplies.

Agriculture represents for all countries in the world much more than a mere economic activity or endeavour. It represents the activity which places said countries to ensure access to food in an independent manner. Each and every country must be assured the right of its own agriculture and its own agricultural model.

Together with the agricultural activities, we also have new social environmental responsibilities which have to find proper support in financial terms. It is a matter of measures, which cannot be distortive measures, which in the classification of the World Trade Organization are included in the green box, that is, transforming the state agriculture, which corresponds to services and the production of public goods. A more equitable transfer than what occurs through market systems alone, because of the cost and financial support must be redistributed among citizens on the basis of their ability to contribute avoiding that, through high tariffs or rates, they would have a negative effect on the income of families at large. The green box measures are the ones finalized to develop and revitalize rural areas, and the same aim or purpose which must also be involved in cooperation efforts for the development of emerging countries and this through resources which would improve the living conditions of the people in those areas of the world.

The European Union has made two precise choices in regard to its agricultural model, orienting it in a clear way towards development based on internal resources and this through the re-enhancement of the multifunctional nature of agriculture.

We believe that the challenge which we must tackle in the years to come is that of being able to share this type of development model with developing countries. This type of policy could also be sustained and supported by a rethinking of international cooperation mechanisms, through an ever greater importance therein assigned to endeavours earmarked for rural development. Sustaining a model of sustaining agriculture does not mean to alter or distort the course of international markets but to reassert the right of countries to their own agriculture and to the conservation of their resources for food security purposes.

I would like to call to mind that in order to contribute to the equitable and sustainable development of developing countries, the European Union, from its very constitutional treaty has identified objectives and measures to be able to integrate economic dimensions, social and environmental dimensions in its overall activity for international cooperation and development. For this reason, we feel that it is necessary to support attempts and efforts to update the FAO's budget to a more equitable level so it can maintain its activities in a suitable way, compared with the present challenges. As a Member country of this Organization, and as Italy, the host country, we would like to reiterate our commitment to continue the allocation of funds to trust funds in such a way as to give a clear signal and an example of the support that we do provide to a fundamental element in international cooperation, that is, this agency, FAO.

Franz FISCHLER (European Community)

I welcome this opportunity to address the Conference of FAO on behalf of the European Community and its 15 Member States.

Let me start by thanking FAO for the valuable and much appreciated work carried out around the world to improve agricultural productivity and the conditions of rural populations. I note that the EC, as such, has recently become a full member of the CODEX Alimentarius Commission. This is a positive achievement and we intend to play a full role and to work with other members of the CODEX in a spirit of mutual cooperation and support.

I would also like to thank Mr Alemanno for his timely intervention on food security and the important role FAO plays in this respect. If we want to reach the ambitious goals of the World Food Summit and those stated in the Millennium Declaration, we need to translate political will into coherent actions. These actions need to be focused not only on aid delivery and aid resources, but also on securing the necessary policy and institutional changes at domestic and international level to speed up progress in fighting hunger and poverty.

It is essential to strengthen people's access to food by tackling poverty. The situation is particularly troublesome in sub-Saharan region particularly in many least-developed countries. There are a significant number of factors that contribute to this situation, some of which are beyond our control and some of which are not. As an example of an action within our reach, the corner stone of ACP-EU Cooperation and Trade Relations, the Economic Partnership Agreements, offers an excellent opportunity to move forward. With the negotiations on the Economic Partnership Agreements, we have opted for a different approach, regional integration. The EPAs will be important building blocks for increased economic development, a means to remove cross-border barriers, ensure political stability, increase trade between neighbouring countries, but first and foremost, an instrument for development.

Regional integration strengthens ties and cooperation between neighbouring countries. Integration can be further extended to include monetary and agricultural policies and many other areas in order to increase development, security, trade and cooperation. Recent experiences of regional integration are good examples of how development and integration can come from both inside and outside. Although not being the answer to everything, we believe it to be a solid and fundamental foundation upon which to commence.

We shall enhance and strengthen our efforts to ensure that the right foundation for growth and development is present. Agriculture plays an important role, it not only provides food on the table, it also brings valuable foreign exchange currency for many developing countries and contributes to further development and growth. We are convinced that trade has a fundamental role to play.

This brings me to the failed WTO negotiations in Cancun and the disappointment this has created. The misplaced cheering which was heard in the immediate aftermath has been silenced as those who did the cheering have started to realize the grave consequences of the breakdown of negotiations. It was for developing countries especially, that a deal in Cancun would have carried most weight. After all, Doha was launched as a development round, an initiative that the European Union sponsored from the very start. A result in Cancun would have spelled out a meaningful further reform of the international agricultural trading system, as well as in respect of certain developed country policies, where no changes have been made to date. It would have resulted in deep cuts in trade distorting domestic support and in all forms of export subsidization, including export credits, state trading enterprises and other forms of export support. But just as importantly, it would have meant greater market access for all, in particular of the developing countries. We would like to see other countries contribute with a similar gesture towards the least developing countries, as we have done, everything but arms initiative. These countries need market access today, not tomorrow. I feel that the negotiations did not pay as much attention to market access as they should have. There is a large, unused potential for the developing countries

to not only increase trade with their developed country partners but equally so between the developing countries themselves.

It is, in fact, regrettable that public scrutiny of the negotiations has centred almost exclusively on the support policy of developed countries, neglecting the all-important pillar of market access. It is also regrettable that the role of the WTO and that of support policies have been misinterpreted to the degree they have. Many such policies aim at achieving important objectives, such as the improvement of rural livelihood and the preservation of the environment insofar as they actually achieve valid objectives with no or limited trade distorting effects.

As the last CAP reform does remarkably well, support policies cannot be contested within the WTO. The fact is that the WTO was never entrusted with the task to redesign and harmonize domestic policies and phase out all kinds of support, notably in agriculture. It is worth recalling that the task of the WTO is to ensure and monitor effective and fair trading rules and combat all those measures that distort trade.

A success in Cancun would have meant special and differential treatment for the developing countries, to enable them to participate more effectively and more fully in the world trading system but at a pace which took into account their state of development. Without privileged treatment, most developing countries cannot, at this stage, compete. The failure of the WTO negotiations in Cancun was not due to agriculture, in fact an agreement was within reach and with a little more combined effort, we could have reached a compromise.

The European Union offered significant and targeted measures to give developing countries a better deal. We accepted the approach that rich countries have to contribute to reduce trade distortion and shoulder the major part of the burden of liberalization. We are still ready to contribute to reach these objectives, but the EC cannot solve all these problems alone. The European Commission has just tabled a comprehensive strategy to kick start the Doha Round when WTO officials meet on 15 December in Geneva. That is why I want to take this opportunity to call upon all members of the international community to move with us in that direction. The stakes are too high to contemplate failure.

CHAIRPERSON

Could I at this stage remind delegates to pick up their mail and documents left at the documents desk on the first floor of this building. I have been told that there are many delegations who have not picked up messages that were left there on Saturday.

One other procedural matter. Those delegations who have somebody who is supposed to be in Commission I could they please get them there so that Commission can get to work.

Daniel RAKJORO PHORORO (Lesotho)

You are very fortunate in that you are being addressed by someone who represents a king. It is an honour for you; it is not an honour for me to talk to you. Therefore, I ask according to the norm of Kingdoms you do not use red lights to distract that person, so please switch it off until I have finished my statement. Thank you.

My Delegation is attending this conference, with a heavy heart. A heavy heart although we have enjoyed the hospitality of the Italian Community and of FAO, we are leaving behind masses of starving people. This is so as in my country, the Kingdom of Lesotho, we are experiencing the worst drought, which the weather gurus tells us, is the worst in the last 100 years. It has been continuous from March until today. As a result, half of the population is facing severe famine this year. This is a spill over of last year's famine which affected six of the southern African countries.

We think this serious severe drought is going to extend to next year and the year 2005. Metaphorically speaking, the food insecurity situation in southern Africa and in my country is a burning issue. At the moment, the land is scorched by the sun's heat, the crops are wilting, the trees instead of flowering are withering and the rangeland is parched, scorched and burns very easily.

However, in reality, the animals look more like skeletons than like living things. Children, HIV affected households and unemployed men are in a desperate situation.

It is as a result of this situation that my government came up with some alternative measures. Last year for example, when the donor community seemed unresponsive to the appeal for assistance as we already had this kind of situation last year. My government had to increase the budget of the Minister of Agriculture by 100 percent from its meagre resources. This year, government has cut transport fleet by half for every ministry, enabling the use of funds for improving agriculture products. It just shows how desperate the situation is.

Nonetheless, bleak as the picture is, my delegation is not attending this Thirty-second Conference not with any sense of despair due to the crisis we are facing but as a challenge to us. We are meeting that challenge headlong by transforming the agriculture sector and our first priority is irrigation, low-cost gravity irrigation.

We are also relying and improving on the quality not the quantity of the delivery systems. We also want to make the private sector and the NGOs our allies. These are our three long-term, or medium- to long-term, or even immediate to long-term plans aimed at reversing the situation that is now occurring in my country.

We are not in despair, but we are heartened because of NEPAD's Consolidated African Agriculture Development Programme and its first pillar being Land Management and Water Resources Control. This is consistent with our priorities in Lesotho. Concerning the four other priorities, which you all know, we mean to have partnership with the private sector and the NGOs.

We are heartened that FAO at least believes in the formulation of NEPAD's Consolidated African Agriculture Development Programme. We are heartened that we have the South-South Cooperation and one can mention that we are in this arrangement with India and we mean to seek other friends.

We are heartened because we have the Special Programme for Food Security. We are heartened because the World Bank at last seems to be with the G22, instead of the G8, whereby they have realized the inequities of subsidized exports.

These positive landmarks are a source of optimism which is has on the agenda three imperatives.

Firstly, we cannot carry on the business of agriculture with business as usual.

Secondly, we have to fast track our programmes and approaches. Here we invite FAO, especially the Land and Water Department, to be proactive and help us as we want them to help us, especially with land water control.

Thirdly, the FAO Director-General has offered the services of the Investment Centre to formulate investment proposals. This has happened before. When these proposals are made, we do not have the funding coming through. Now really, if you want to defeat hunger, malnutrition and poverty we want to get away from this financial drought. The financial drought we are feeling is caused by the developed countries. It is time. The window of opportunity is there. NEPAD's programme is consolidated. It is there. Let us see donors funding this programme, than we can be on our way to Sustainable Agricultural Development and away with famine. Let us get rid of financial drought because there is no solution otherwise.

Michael Odevall, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair

Michael Odevall, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Michael Odevall, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Being myself a representative of the Kingdom of Sweden, I fully understand your problem. However, we have all decided to limit ourselves to five minutes and to make this conference manageable I think we have to stick to that. I could, however, consult with the Secretariat to make

an exception for Monarchies, but I do not think that will win a majority. Even though that will be favourable for my Minister tomorrow when she speaks, but I think she will stick to the five minutes as well.

Ian MACDONALD (Australia)

I welcome this opportunity to address the forum on the key issues for the Food and Agriculture Organization from Australia's perspective.

This year's annual report by FAO on the State of Food and Agriculture highlights many issues of key importance to Australia, including, the critical role that agriculture plays in addressing the persistent problem of food insecurity, the impacts of major developed country trade policies on developing countries, the urgency of the Doha Round WTO negotiations and the need to address significant fisheries issues given the prominence of fisheries in the economies of many developing countries.

The Report also highlights the key role of FAO in addressing many of these pressing issues and the related need of all members to insure that FAO remains focussed and responsive to the challenges we face.

Paramount amongst these challenges is the need to redouble our efforts to develop and implement strategies that address food security, and promote policies that allow developing countries to achieve the full benefits of their agricultural sectors in a sustainable fashion.

Drawing on our own experience the Australian Government has worked hard particularly through our overseas agricultural assistance programmes to foster the development of agriculture in developing countries within our own Asia and Pacific region. Specifically, we focused on providing technical assistance and capacity building programmes aimed at assisting developing countries to capitalize on their agricultural potential.

However, developing countries are continually frustrated by the lack of access to the markets of developed countries and the need to compete with heavily subsidized products of developed countries in international markets.

Indeed, the State of Food and Agriculture reports that the net agriculture trade position of developing countries has worsened over time. Unless we grasp the opportunity presented by the Doha Development Round, it is inevitable that this trend will continue.

It is against this background that Australia and our fellow Cairns Group countries, are deeply disappointed with the failure of the Fifth WTO Ministerial Conference to advance the Doha Development Agenda so that negotiations can achieve urgently needed agricultural trade reform.

I am pleased to note that the Cairns Group recently presented a statement to the United Nations General Assembly that calls on all WTO Members to re-engage in negotiations without further delay.

If I may quote specifically from part of that Statement, "The central importance of agriculture for the welfare and economic development prospects of the world's poorest countries and developing countries as a whole makes the future of these negotiations a vital concern to us all." "Seventy-three percent of the world's poor live in rural areas and depend upon agriculture for their livelihood. They struggle to survive on less than US\$2 per day, at a time when rich developed countries spend nearly US\$ 1 billion a day on farm support. Total support and protection for farmers in OECD countries amounted to US\$ 318 billion dollars in 2002, more than five times the amount those countries spent on development assistance."

"The Cairns Group urges all WTO members, especially the major developed countries, to reaffirm their commitment to the integrity of the Doha Development Round and to re-engage in negotiations without further delay. All WTO members will lose if we fail to grasp this critical opportunity for long overdue agriculture forum."

Australia notes that there will be an opportunity for these issues to be discussed in the second of the Round Tables on Tuesday afternoon. I trust that this Conference will clearly add its voice to calls for the re-energizing of the Doha trade negotiations. We need to start the Doha negotiations as a matter of urgency and we need enhanced flexibility by major countries and groups.

If we are serious about addressing food security for developing countries we cannot allow the benefits of improved agricultural trading rules to be delayed any longer.

I would like to make a few brief comments on the fishery sector, an area where FAO has made many valuable contributions over recent years and where we must continue to ensure that FAO is adequately resourced to pursue its important work.

Australia believes fisheries management is one of the key challenges facing FAO and other international bodies, as well as each and every nation here today. And we are aware of the vital protein source provided by seafood, particularly in developing countries. Unfortunately, both collectively and as individual nations, we are not doing enough to address the rapid decline of global fisheries resources and protecting them for future generations.

Indeed, there is a continuing high and growing incident of illegal unreported and unregulated fishing, which Australia considers to be one of the major threats to sustainability of global fisheries.

As part of Australia's statement today it is with great pleasure that I announce a new cooperative initiative to assist in the global fight against illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

Following on from an OECD Round-table on Sustainable Development in June this year, concerned ministers have agreed to establish a Ministerial Task Force on IUU fishing, to be chaired by the United Kingdom. The aim of the Ministerial Task Force will be to produce a crisp analysis of IUU fishing on the high seas, together with recommended actions that can both be implemented by task force members and advocated as the best course for others to follow. Australia will participate in the Task Force, along with colleagues from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Chile, and Namibia.

I would like to reassure FAO members that the ministerial task for and IUU fishing will not undermine or duplicate existing multilateral organizations dealing with fisheries or IUU fishing. Rather, the Task Force will complement these organizations and provided guidance on future directions in the fight against IUU fishing.

The Task Force will consult regularly with FAO and other organizations in the conduct of its work. Ultimately I would hope that the Task Force will provide the political will necessary to drive the changes that are needed to deal with this very complex problem.

I am also pleased to announce that Australia will contribute to the operations of that Task Force by providing an Executive Director to head the Secretariat. Australia's contribution once again demonstrates our commitment to finding solutions in the global fight against IUU fishing.

With regard to aquaculture, Australia is delighted at the positive role being played by the committee of Fisheries, Subcommittee on Aquaculture. With aquaculture production now representing a third of world fisheries production, there is a clear need to insure an appropriate FAO budget allocation for aquaculture related programmes.

Finally, I turn to the vital role that science plays in underpinning agricultural productivity and development, safe trade and food safety. Science has been and will continue to be, an essential element in the agricultural development and sustainable production.

An example of the day-to-day role of science within the FAO is its work on food safety, which is an increasingly important dimension in the international trade in food. The efforts of FAO's standard setting bodies, the International Plant Protection Committee and CODEX are vital in terms of global harmonization of plant quarantine and food standards. I would like to highlight the importance of ensuring adequate resources are allocated to allow the Joint FAO/WHO evaluation of Codex to be implemented in full.

In conclusion, I express my appreciation for the opportunity to address the conference today and to highlight some of the key issues facing FAO Members. I hope and I feel sure that this Conference will proceed in a constructive atmosphere and that we will be successful in addressing the important issues before us.

Adel SAFAR (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to you Mr Chairman for having been elected Chairperson of this Conference. We are sure that you will Chair the Sessions of this Conference with wisdom and efficiency. I have the pleasure, together with our colleagues, representatives of the States of different regions of the world, to participate in the meetings and discussions on the future of food and agriculture, I would like to reiterate the importance of the leading role played by FAO in addressing important issues of food security and the elimination of hunger in the world.

I would like to commend the continuous strenuous efforts that are being exerted by the Director-General of FAO throughout the years of his tenure and to commend the successes that have been achieved by FAO under his wise leadership.

We meet here today, in such a time where we witness changes in the world economy that affect directly or indirectly all the sectors of life in the developing countries.

FAO had organized several conferences on hunger and poverty with the most important of them in 1996, the World Food Summit, that had determined the Millennium Development Goal and especially to halve the number of people suffering from hunger by the year 2015. However, unfortunately this has not been achieved because of the slow progress in achieving the development programmes in the developing countries, those countries that have not yet fulfilled their international commitments and obligations.

Therefore, the FAO had to organize the World Food Summit: *five years later* and it also gave further impetus to the initiative of the International Alliance Against Hunger.

The Arab Republic of Syria has set forth strategies for the agricultural development for the years 2001-2010 and the five year plans, and through those plans it has focussed on the achievement of the national food security, through the increase of the local production of the main foodstuff and other commodities. Syria has also implemented a number of programmes in order to fulfill its needs in terms of food supply and has given the priority to agriculture, hence it has achieved a self sufficiency in a number of commodities, such as grains, pulses, vegetables and fruits. However, there is still a need to import other commodities, such as rice, sugar and sorghum, and we would still like to achieve the food security in general, and improve the income of the people, in order to provide them with the necessary foodstuff.

Within the purchase power and within the potentials that are available in Syria, we have endeavoured to provide the services to farmers in such a way that they would implement their agricultural plans. Within this context, we have launched an optimistic project to implement the modern irrigation methods and to reduce the problems such as scarcity of water and to increase the yield of the agricultural lands and reduce the costs of production although, this needs huge resources. However, the agricultural sector suffers from a number of difficulties and problems, such as the drought and the impact of drought and hence we need to improve agricultural research and to improve the investment in the agricultural sector.

There are a lot of investment possibilities and advantages, through the laws that have been enacted and especially the law on investment for the year 1991 and its amendments.

I would like to indicate the problems that are faced by the population of the occupied land of the Golan Heights and Palestine, because of the repressive practices of the Israeli occupation that has paralyzed the infrastructure.

The Arab Republic of Syria, acts for the comprehensive economic development on the one hand and the liberation of occupied land on the other hand, and this within the international legitimacy

of these resolutions, and the resolutions on the establishment of equitable and comprehensive peace.

I would like to reiterate the importance of the sincere efforts and constructive efforts that are being made by states, institutions and organizations in order to translate our effective will and political will into acts against poverty and hunger.

I would like to extend my thanks to FAO and the other international and regional organizations, as well as financing institutions that all act for the implementation of this noble goal in Syria and in all the developing countries. I wish all the success to your Conference and peace be upon you all.

Sumanaweera Banda DISSANAYAKE (Sri Lanka)

Let me congratulate you Mr Chairman on your election as the Chairperson of the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. I am sure, that under your guidance, the deliberations of this Conference will be most fruitful.

Let me also bring to you Mr Chairman and Dr Diouf, the best wishes of our Excellency the President and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Ranmil Wickremasinghe, we have embarked on a new agricultural strategy for Sri Lanka to uplift the farming community. His wishes are that FAO will play a greater role in uplifting the economies and the well being of the small farmers, particularly in the developing world. Through his steadfast commitment to this objective, the Honourable Prime Minister has given top priority to develop the agricultural sector in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka's agriculture is presently at a crossroads. After a number of years of internal strife, with conflict in the north and east, Sri Lanka is now emerging into a peaceful era. Peace and good weather this year have yielded 19 percent increase in rice production and the yield of other crops too have improved significantly. With this, a new development pattern is being witnessed in the agriculture sector. There is a tremendous interest in increasing the production of agricultural crops. The Government is geared to undertake this task, of meeting the challenges for these new production increases.

A major effort is underway under the Regaining Sri Lanka Initiative, a programme that will revive the economy to re-establish a sound macroeconomic environment, bring the debt crisis under control and establish a better enabling environment for productivity growth in both private and public sectors. Success in this effort will require substantial improvements in the legal, commercial, and physical infrastructure, increased reliance and support to private sector development, and refocusing of the public sector to concentrate on more efficient provision of public goods and social needs.

Performance in the agricultural sector has been constrained by poor rural infrastructure, an unstable macroeconomic environment resulting in high interest rates, ill-defined property rights, and inefficiencies in public sector support services. Together, these have limited the ability of farmers to increase the efficiency of their operations and discouraged private sector based commercial and agribusinesses. The new agricultural strategy of my Ministry provides a framework that addresses many of the constraints. It is built on a continued shift in focus from agricultural development, guided and supported extensively by public sector activities, towards a much improved policy environment and rural infrastructure that encourages commercial and agribusiness development, to increase productivity and diversify its cropping systems to encourage the growing of new crops using new technology.

In this regard, the Government has embarked to encourage the private sector to work closely with the public sector and introduce new technology dealing with micro-irrigation systems particularly drip and sprinkler irrigation, as well as introduce higher yielding hybrid varieties of fruits and vegetables. It is in these areas that we humbly request other FAO Member Nations represented here and FAO in particular, to help us in identifying sources of these technologies and assist in obtaining them.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank FAO for the continuous assistance rendered to Sri Lanka. In this regard, more recently, FAO has provided assistance in our significant activities: special programme for food security; emergency assistance to flood-affected rice farmers in five districts of Sri Lanka for US\$400 000; emergency provision of agricultural inputs to resettling farm families in the north and east for US\$400 000 and legal assistance to the conservation of crop wild relatives in Sri Lanka for US\$275 000.

The success of these programmes has resulted in a large number of farmers benefiting through the provisions of inputs, particularly seed and fertilizer. I express my sincere gratitude to FAO for this much needed timely intervention. In addition, I would also like to thank FAO for the assistance to the forestry and fisheries and other sectors that have helped Sri Lanka's economy immensely.

We are living in a globalized world and are subjected to all the consequences of competition. To meet these challenges, my Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock has embarked on three main areas in agriculture: production increase, productivity improvement and upgrading quality. While the first two are immediate responsibilities of my scientists and managers, the area of quality is something we commonly share. As an example, Sri Lanka survives in today's international spice trade, because of the superior flavour, fragrance and chemical properties of our spices and we still insist on further improving the quality of our spices, and embarking to attain the similar levels of quality in all other agricultural crops.

Sri Lanka still continues to support the farming sector through a number of institutional support programmes such as the Farmer Insurance and Pension Scheme, and a Farmers Bank. Farmers are encouraged to organize themselves to viable Farmer Companies and help maintain the irrigation management systems and coordinate input supplies and output marketing as well. The new agricultural strategy under the Regaining Sri Lanka programme is being developed with focus on increasing agricultural productivity, total production and to meet the ever-increasing demand for food and enhancing farmer's income.

The highlights of my Government's basic approach for the improvement of the agricultural and rural sector and we look forward to working closely with FAO on these issues. It is in this connection that I request FAO's assistance in helping us to access new technologies that will not only help increase output, but also look into the issues of minimizing post-harvest losses, increasing value addition, improving quality and better marketing. Together, I am sure we can ensure an improved quality of life for our farming community and a better environment for social and economic development for the population of Sri Lanka.

Lord Buddha has taught us that "Jighaccha parama roga", meaning, "hunger is the greatest ailment". Sri Lanka, I can assure you, we will continue to contribute to the global efforts of the FAO in achieving World Food Summit targets for the reduction of the number of hungry people on the planet earth.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank His Excellency Mr Dissanayake, from Sri Lanka. Before I give the floor to the next speaker, I have just received information from the Secretariat of Commission I, that they are lacking Delegates. They urgently need that the Member States elected to Commission I try to send a representative to the Green Room so that the work can start. As you all know we have a heavy workload in front of us and it is necessary to use every minute and every hour, so please see to it that your representatives, that are participating in Commission I in Green Room, immediately approach the Meeting.

Habib HADDAD (Tunisie)

C'est pour moi un plaisir et un honneur, au début de mon intervention, d'exprimer mes plus chaleureuses félicitations à M. Sutton (Nouvelle Zélande) à l'occasion de son élection à la Présidence de cette Trente-deuxième session de la Conférence de la FAO, lui souhaitant un plein succès dans son entreprise et dans les travaux de cette Conférence qui constitue une opportunité pertinente en vue d'échanger nos points de vue sur les questions de sécurité alimentaire, de

développement agricole durable et d'arrêter les politiques, les programmes de travail susceptibles de nous aider tous à faire face aux défis qui s'imposent en la matière.

De même, je voudrais exprimer mes plus amples remerciements et l'expression de toute ma considération, à Son Excellence M. Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de l'Organisation et à l'ensemble de ses collaborateurs pour les efforts inlassables qu'ils n'ont cessé de déployer en vue d'améliorer la situation de la sécurité alimentaire dans le monde.

L'un des thèmes principaux qui sont d'actualité est celui de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde. Il s'agit-là en effet d'une question primordiale qui occupe une place de choix dans les préoccupations de nos pays respectifs, compte-tenu de ses implications négatives et néfastes tant pour la stabilité que pour la sécurité mondiale. Ceci nécessite la concertation de tous les efforts dans le cadre de la concorde et de la solidarité entre l'ensemble des Nations et des peuples, en vue d'assurer le droit de l'homme à une alimentation adéquate et saine en tant que droit fondamental parmi les droits humains. Ceci nécessite donc une action solidaire et concertée de la part de la Communauté internationale afin d'atteindre cet objectif.

Si nombre de pays dans l'hémisphère sud de notre planète souffrent de situations économiques fort difficiles, compte-tenu d'un certain nombre de facteurs qui ont amené une aggravation de la pauvreté, il n'en demeure pas moins que les scénarios envisagés jusqu'à maintenant demeurent en-deçà des attentes et, si l'on veut assurer l'efficacité de telles entreprises, il faut redoubler d'efforts en vue de soutenir cette œuvre de la part notamment des pays développés. Le Continent africain est parmi les régions du monde qui souffrent le plus des effets du sous-développement, de la pauvreté et de l'insécurité alimentaire. La part moyenne des individus de la production alimentaire n'a en effet cessé de baisser au cours des 40 dernières années de même qu'a augmenté le nombre de ceux qui souffrent de la pauvreté et de la sous-alimentation.

Je voudrais, à ce propos, faire ressortir l'importance du NEPAD, le nouveau partenaire pour le développement agricole en Afrique, en vue d'améliorer la situation du développement général en Afrique et du développement agricole qui est placé en tête des préoccupations. Et ceci compte tenu de l'apport que peut fournir ce secteur vital afin d'atteindre un certain nombre d'objectifs susceptibles d'améliorer la situation de la sécurité alimentaire et par là améliorer la situation de la sécurité et de la stabilité, assurer un environnement favorable à l'investissement, réduire le volume des importations alimentaires et augmenter le volume des exportations agricoles.

Il convient d'insister sur la nécessité de multiplier les efforts en vue de venir en aide à cette initiative qu'est le NEPAD et ce, en contribuant à apporter les financements nécessaires à cette entreprise.

La Tunisie a placé la question de la sécurité alimentaire en tête de ses préoccupations et en a fait l'un de ses axes stratégiques. Ceci se traduit par l'ensemble des mesures de réformes économiques et sociales qui ont été instaurées par le Président Zine El Abidine Ben Ali et qui accordaient la priorité au développement rural, à la promotion du niveau socio-économique des zones d'ombre de l'intérieur et à assurer la pleine participation de la femme à leur développement. C'est ainsi qu'on a pu assurer l'intégration des groupes à besoins spécifiques dans le cycle économique et leur assurer de meilleures conditions de vie par rapport au passé.

Ce programme, ce train de mesures et ces réformes ont eu leur effet positif indéniable en renforçant l'esprit de solidarité entre les groupes, les régions et les générations, permettant de réduire le niveau de la pauvreté de 22 pour cent en 1975 à seulement 4 pour cent en 2002, sans compter un ensemble de développements positifs en matière de production et de productivité dans le cadre des principales productions alimentaires, notamment les céréales, les produits laitiers, les viandes, ce qui a eu un effet notable pour ce qui est de relever le niveau d'auto-suffisance et d'améliorer la situation de la balance commerciale et alimentaire.

La situation dégradée dans un certain nombre de pays est fort préoccupante et nous interpelle en vue de mettre en œuvre des mécanismes complets pour faire face à cette situation. L'insécurité alimentaire dans les pays les plus défavorisés constitue une menace pour l'ensemble de l'humanité, compte-tenu de ce qui peut en découler comme impact négatif pour la sécurité et la stabilité dans

le monde, et comme déséquilibres graves dans les situations financières des pays, sans parler des flux d'immigration qui peuvent en résulter.

Sans nul doute, les décisions de la Trente-et-unième Conférence de la FAO et leur mise en œuvre sont susceptibles d'alléger quelque peu ce tableau fort sombre et font l'unanimité de l'ensemble des pays membres. Néanmoins, il faut réaffirmer le fait que malgré l'évolution à réaliser, malgré les acquis obtenus au cours des dernières années, les pas franchis par la Communauté internationale en vue de combattre la pauvreté demeurent timides et bien en-deçà des ambitions et des attentes des peuples et des nations. C'est ce qu'a dit le Président Ben Ali dans son discours devant le "Sommet mondial de l'alimentation: cinq ans après" en l'An 2002, lorsqu'il a affirmé que les résultats réalisés demeurent fort timides et ce malgré le fait que les événements, récents à l'époque, conféraient un caractère nouveau aux responsabilités de la Communauté internationale qui en est d'autant plus appelée à mettre un terme à ces problèmes et à ces obstacles qui entravent le développement économique et social.

Où en sommes-nous aujourd'hui par rapport à ces objectifs et notamment l'objectif qui consiste à réduire de moitié l'ensemble de ceux qui souffrent de sous-alimentation et de famine, alors que les chiffres et les statistiques indiquent que ce nombre demeure élevé et atteint pas moins de 840 millions de personnes dont 800 millions vivent dans les pays en développement? Le fait d'atteindre un tel objectif requiert certes un certain nombre de conditions en tête desquelles je citerai la nécessité d'œuvrer en vue de réaliser l'ensemble des programmes et des plans d'action qui ont fait l'objet d'un consensus sur le plan international, notamment les décisions des dernières sessions de la Conférence de la FAO et celles relatives également à la lutte contre les pandémies.

La réforme de la structure du commerce mondial et l'amélioration des opportunités qui en découlent pour les pays en développement, voilà autant de préoccupations vitales qui nécessitent une volonté réelle de la part de l'ensemble des États y compris ceux qui sont nantis et disposés à appuyer l'œuvre de développement dans les pays pauvres et en développement. Ceci est seul à même de mettre un terme à l'aggravation de la pauvreté.

La Tunisie, en tant que pays convaincu de la nécessité de l'ouverture et de la solidarité, réitère ses engagements en matière de coopération internationale afin d'œuvrer pour la sécurité et la paix dans le monde. C'est dans ce cadre que s'inscrit l'appel du Président de la République, appelant à la création d'un Fonds mondial de solidarité en 1998 en vue de venir en aide aux régions les plus défavorisées et les plus nécessiteuses et d'assurer leur pleine intégration dans le circuit économique mondial. Ceci procède d'une profonde analyse des souffrances du monde et procède d'une expérience pionnière en matière de solidarité nationale qui a apporté des résultats extraordinaires.

En effet, si l'on analyse la situation actuelle, on peut réaliser sans peine que le monde au-delà de la mondialisation de son économie, a d'abord besoin de la mondialisation de ses préoccupations, et des préoccupations les plus urgentes, notamment celles relatives à la sécurité alimentaire à laquelle il faut accorder l'intérêt adéquat et examiner les voies et moyens d'y trouver une solution.

Nous espérons que la Communauté internationale saura diligenter l'effort nécessaire en vue de mettre en œuvre ce projet civilisationnel précieux afin d'affronter la pauvreté et la sous-alimentation et d'améliorer les conditions de vie de l'ensemble des êtres humains.

Lars SPONHEIM (Norway)

We have all committed ourselves to reducing by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and to reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. However we are proceeding at a speed that is nowhere near what is needed for our goals to become reality. The Millennium Development Goals have led to an emphasis on rural development and sustainable livelihoods. Agricultural development in poor countries is a crucial part of poverty alleviation. Now is the time for FAO to capitalize on the thrust to support agriculture, livestock rearing, fisheries and forestry. As members, we have to consider what role and ways of working FAO should take. The challenges ahead of us are tremendous. In this process, FAO's role in establishing international codes, rules and guidelines to secure sustainable development cannot be

underestimated. As members of FAO it is in our interest to contribute to making the Organization function and function well. FAO has made good efforts to increase the cooperation with other members of the UN family. Further progress needs to be made, not least in strengthening agricultural policy advice at the country level.

We commend FAO and Member States for having concluded the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The treaty ensures that plant genetic material remains in the public domain and is accessible to all. Now effective implementation of the treaty is essential. Norway is in the process of ratifying the treaty and we urge other nations which have not yet done so, to follow suit.

Today, millions of people around the world depend on forests for their income, for medicines, building materials, fuel and food. FAO has had a leading role in the Collaborative Partnerships on Forests and we expect the Organization to continue its efforts to promote sustainable forest management.

One major issue on the Agenda of this Conference is Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. This is a major threat to fisheries conservation and marine biodiversity. We urge FAO to play an instrumental role in establishing cooperation with agencies and organizations with a view to preventing and finally eliminating IUU fishing.

Norway supports the ongoing work of the International Working Group Elaborating Voluntary Guidelines for the Right to Food. A set of operational guidelines may help us reach the objective of food security. We support closer inter-agency dialogue on this issue.

FAO's operational programmes and field activities have a particular strength when they are linked to FAO's normative role and activities. One of these norms is gender equality. FAO's report on the Gender Plan of Action shows that much stronger efforts are needed in the fight for gender equality in agriculture, fishing and forestry. HIV/AIDS has been referred to as "a silent complex emergency". In a growing number of countries, particularly in southern Africa, HIV/AIDS is destroying the social fabric and it is devastating for food security. FAO needs to intensify its efforts to address this problem.

Norway has adopted a cautious position on genetically modified foods. Since 1997 the use of GM foods with inserted genes coding for antibiotic resistance has been forbidden, and labelling GM foods is mandatory. FAO is in a unique position to provide sound scientific advice in this and related fields. No other organization has a similar mandate, a similar position and a similar technical strength.

Norway places great emphasis on continuing to maintain a firm focus on food safety, with a food chain approach. FAO is, and should be, a key actor in setting rules and undertaking normative work in this regard, including through the Codex Alimentarius system. These safety standards are becoming increasingly important in the context of international food trade.

Over the last five years, Norway and other partners have supported an initiative among agricultural universities in developing countries to radically change their approach to agricultural training. The participating universities have developed, on a regional basis, a new vision with a focus on contributing to the fight against poverty. Students are to be trained to become rural entrepreneurs and to create opportunities locally. I urge all interested partners to examine these "home-grown" visions and to help make them reality.

In conclusion, Norway stands committed to the Millennium Development Goals. We stand committed to increasing our development aid to one percent of GNI (Gross National Income) by the year 2005 and we stand committed to increasing our efforts in the area of rural development. FAO must be a strong partner in our efforts to reduce poverty.

Zsolt SIMON (Slovakia) (Original language Slovakian)

It is a great honour for me, on behalf of the Slovak Republic, to address the delegates of the Thirty-second FAO Conference. I would also like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairman of this Conference.

Our country as part of the group of Central and Eastern European countries expresses its interest in making a contribution to an effective and active activity of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and to the fulfilment of its mandate and initiatives eliminating hunger and undernourishment, thus to creating a more meaningful subsistence for future generations.

I appreciate the efforts by the global community, under the leadership of FAO, to contribute with the new, reform steps and measures to the mobilization of awareness of the population around the world, leading to the more efficient implementation of conclusions from the World Food Summit: *five years later* and the role of FAO within the Millennium Development Goals.

In this connection, the Slovak Republic is preparing for a broader involvement in the fulfilment of the seven commitments from the Plan of Action and the gradual development of technical assistance in favour of countries from Central and Eastern Europe, and also other developing countries, where the population is affected by hunger, and undernourishment according to the concept and mechanisms of national development and humanitarian aid, that has been approved by our Government over the past two years.

The threat of hunger, undernourishment and problems resulting from food insufficiency and often also insufficient understanding of the importance of related industries within the strategy of national economies, may have a negative impact on development. Therefore, I consider it purposeful and important to develop and implement the main programmes, such as preserving natural resources and the base of raw materials, support systems for plant and animal production, nutrition, quality and safety of food, forestry, which are all included into the biennium FAO Programme of Work and Budget. It is also in compliance with the Programme Declaration of the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2002 that the availability of safe and quality food also in the Slovak Republic will make it necessary to strengthen the regional and sub-regional cooperation base even more, in solving the existing and emerging problems in agriculture, sharing our experience and knowledge with other countries with economies in transition and with developing countries within the TCP and programmes oriented to information to what we know as communications support.

The Slovak Republic, also from its position of being an acceding country to the European Union in the future, will coordinate participation in cooperation with FAO and the European Community and its 15 Member States. As a follow up thereto, it will support such orientation of the FAO Programme in the future that will, one: create room for purposeful partnership relations and cooperation with international organizations, NGOs in favour of cooperation between the Member States of FAO with special focus on developing countries.

Two: continue in developing strategic, statistical documents, the outlook on the status of food and agriculture, expand the systems focusing on prevention and early warning against danger-hunger in this case.

Three: secure development and implementation of the conclusions from the global forum and regional conferences, for example, the Pan European Conference, in the field of quality, food safety, effective activity by the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat, building information systems and internet portals in the areas of biosafety.

Four: secure utilization of results of the global network of scientific and research base to solve the security and safety of food, protection of genetic resources, including application of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

As not even at the beginning of the third millennium, any more effective measures and methods have been found to get closer to the goals adopted at the World Food Summit, that is to reduce the number of starving people by half by 2015. On the contrary, the number of starving and undernourished has been increasing. I consider it necessary to address delegates inviting them to pay increased attention to approval of the FAO budget for 2004-2005. In the discussions on the budget, I recommend to support such solutions, so that we can reach a full understanding for a consensus, especially for the Organization to fully implement its main programmes, its mandate and tasks, which is also necessary for the entire international community in solving open issues in the constant fight with hunger and undernourishment on the planet earth.

It is my wish that the working atmosphere at the Thirty-second FAO Conference may contribute to such conclusions and resolutions that would make it possible to accelerate the progress in fulfilling the commitments adopted at the World Food Summit. Thank you for your courteous attention.

Serghy RYZHUK (Ukraine) (Original language Ukrainian)

Effective management of urgent global problems of the present, which are faced by every member of the international community lies in their management on a multilateral basis by joint and coordinated efforts, positive tendencies in ensuring global food security are a result of goal-oriented initiatives implemented by FAO together with the World Food Programme and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. In this regard, we should note the key role of the second World Food Summit: *five years later*.

Ukraine is ready to promote and support the provisions laid down in the final declaration of the second World Food Summit, International Alliance Against Hunger, which declares the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

Ukraine made its contribution within the framework of the Millennium Summit having reaffirmed its readiness to fight against hunger and poverty in the entire world, in particular through cooperation among countries in the United Nations system, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

I have the pleasure to note that on 29 November, an outstanding event took place in the history of relations between Ukraine and FAO when our country became a full-fledged Member of the most representative institution of the United Nations in the field of agriculture. In the context of the Ukraine's full-fledged membership of FAO, I would like to inform you that during recent years, our State has experienced the growth of industrial output, which takes place also due to the growth in the field of agriculture and food processing. The positive tendencies in this field resulted from the policy of political and economic reform, implemented by the Government of Ukraine and agriculture is paid special attention in this regard.

In Ukraine's economy, agriculture is an exceptionally important sector which to a great extent determines the economic situation in the country. A considerable share of GDP is produced by agriculture, which is 11.2 percent. The industrial potential created within the agricultural field allows us to provide food for our people, raw materials to our industry and also to export a lot of our products.

The activation of reforms of land and property relations in agriculture represented a milestone of the development of Ukrainian agriculture and considerable and important changes took place in the agricultural sector. Radical changes have taken place with regard to the State role in agriculture. As of today, we have created new ground organization of agricultural production and business and the newly-adopted land Code of Ukraine provided reliable legal basis for development of agriculture. These positive tendencies practically demonstrate the readiness of our country to utilize our experience and scientific potential to the projects of humanitarian orientation, launched under the auspices of FAO.

Coming back to the consideration of FAO initiatives, and the elimination of hunger in the world, I would like to mention the following. Nowadays, many developed countries of the world pay considerable attention to the settlement of problems related to international terrorism, prevention of ecological man-made disasters, etc., at the same time, they forget about the disasters of humanitarian character, which include poverty and hunger. At the same time we should notice that the problems of poverty and hunger are most urgent for the least-developed countries and the developing countries and they are unable to overcome them by themselves.

In this regard, I would like to express my solidarity with the representatives of developing countries as regards their appeals to the developed countries, to activate their efforts in rendering assistance to the poor countries, as was declared during the second World Food Summit, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the final declaration of the second World Food Summit, and the decisions of the Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

Coming to the end of my speech, I would like to note that today we have all the necessary preconditions for the implementation of the main decision of the World Food Summit, which is to decrease the number of people suffering from hunger by 50 percent. I would like also to call upon all FAO Member States to take more active actions aimed at the achievement of this noble goal.

Zacarias SAMBENY (Angola) (Original language Portuguese)

First and foremost, I would like to add my voice to what has been said by other delegates, in extending congratulations to you, Mr Chairperson, and other members of the Bureau on your election.

I take advantage of this opportunity to greet and to thank on behalf of my Government, the Director-General of FAO and his senior staff members for the constant support that they provide to my country, and thank them for their efforts. The support of their efforts and those of my Government for improving the agriculture and fisheries production for the wellbeing of our population.

Considering the study under consideration, that is the State of Food and Agriculture, I would like to offer the following considerations. Despite the commitment undertaken by Heads of State and Governments at the World Food Summit in 1996 and 2002, and at the Millennium Conference, that is, the commitment to reduce poverty and the malnutrition of populations by half, between now and the year 2015, we do note that the number of undernourished people in developing countries has not decreased. On the contrary, it has increased, and particularly so in sub-Saharan Africa.

It is quite disturbing to note that in conformity, considering the data in the document now before us for consideration, that the rates of agriculture and livestock production has decreased over the last three years. This after having experienced peaks of growth in 1999, particularly once again in sub-Saharan Africa. These trends are so important that it is indispensable to reflect and to react by assigning even higher priority to agricultural development. This on the part of national governments and support thereto on behalf of the international community. On the other side, the governments and regarding Africa, I would like cite the example of Africa: at the Second Session of the Assembly of the African Union, the Heads of State and Government decided to attribute to the sector of agriculture over the next five years, to allocate or dedicate at least 10 percent of the national budgets.

Regarding the international community at large, and despite the fact that it does recognize the essential role which agriculture may play in the fight against hunger and poverty and in moving on development, public aid to development, promised by developing countries, at a rate of 0.7 percent of GDP, has decreased by approximately 22 percent between 1991 and the year 2000.

This also applies to the financial institutions, the World Bank and the other development banks. We are very much in the same situation within FAO, which has witnessed an ongoing decrease in its budget and this when the Organization itself is expected to assume an increasingly important role in supporting this reduction in the number of undernourished persons in the world. It is very

important for the numerous statements of good intention which have been voiced in international for a to become concrete. This also with respect to things such as market access, abolition of protectionism and subsidies. Nonetheless, I think we should congratulate countries such as Denmark, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden, who have reached and even gone beyond the quotas contributed by the UN in terms of public aid to development. We would exhort other countries to follow this example closely.

Regarding the fisheries sector, we must recognize that a good part of the fisheries regions of the world are faced with problems of overfishing. Now, only the application of suitable policies whose basis is the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries may in any way eliminate such a situation. What is of great concern to us, in particular, is the activity of certain fleets that operate on the high seas and illegally enter national waters. We are also quite concerned about the transfers and the problems of overfishing. This is why we do feel it is most important to ensure the application of an international plan against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

I would like to support the proposal presented by the Senegalese delegation regarding the organization by FAO of a meeting of the Ministers of Fisheries in order to take a very close look at the aforementioned problem.

Ever since the month of April 2000, since my country has been living, it is the first year of peace and stability, after practically three decades of armed conflict. Individuals and goods may now circulate throughout the entire country, and conditions which will render it possible to ensure production and trading of foodstuffs and access to the aforementioned has greatly improved. A large number of internally displaced people or refugees in neighbouring countries are now returning to their homes and this began last year. A considerable number of former militaries of UNITA have been demobilized, and they are now being integrated into the social and production system of my country. The ongoing flow of populations has led to increase in the number of vulnerable groups that have been lacking support during this phase of transition.

The production of grains in 2003 increased by 23 percent compared with the preceding year. The surplus of other crops, such as manioc, groundnuts, beans and sweet potatoes have also increased with respect to the preceding year.

The hungry people who still need food assistance amounts to approximately 1.4 million, a part of whom are now preparing their land and reorganizing their fields. They need food assistance until the main harvest which will then take place in 2004. I would like to thank WFP for all the work of assistance it has been doing in Angola and which it has done over these very difficult years. I also thank WFP for its intention to continue assisting the most vulnerable population groups during this transfer phase after the rediscovered peace. Conditions have now been established to mobilize the financial investments and to make full use of the rich potential which Angola has in terms of water and land. The 130 billion square metres of water and 1 million hectares of irrigated land can be placed at the disposal of farmers. We hope during this phase of transition with the ongoing and most precious support from FAO, as well as support from multilateral organizations, bilateral cooperation, and we would like to thank all those who have manifested their understanding, comprehension and also thank them for the zeal which they do invest in their assistance to Angola.

By way of conclusion, I would just like to applaud the admission of new countries to the large family of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia, Ukraine and in particular, the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste with whom we have very close bonds of friendship and a common history.

Samuelu PENITALA TEO (Tuvalu)

I bring you all greetings from the people and the Government of Tuvalu. I feel greatly honoured and privileged to participate in this Thirty-second Session of FAO Conference representing Tuvalu, a small island country in the Pacific. It is also a matter of immense pleasure and pride for Tuvalu to have been accepted as a Member of the FAO at this forum.

Tuvalu, with a population of approximately 10 000 Polynesians, occupies a land area of 26 square kilometres on 9 atolls in the central Pacific Ocean, just south of the equator. It has an Exclusive Economic Zone of nearly 35 times as large: 900 000 sq. km. The country's dispersion, isolation and meagre natural resources limit the prospects of economic development.

Tuvalu has entered the new millennium carrying unique achievements for a developing country on the one hand, and the need to help people related livelihood opportunities alongside the threat of sea-level rise.

Key development policies since independence in 1978 have been aimed at creating the necessary environment for providing survival and basic services for all. These policies have largely been effective for that purpose, and they have been retained in the policies of all governments to date. As a result, there has been a continuous improvement in all common social indicators, especially in health and education and today, Tuvalu has reached standards which are considered quite satisfactory for low-income country. This does not mean that Tuvalu has achieved homeostasis toward sustainable development.

The reality of Tuvalu and many of the small islands states in the Pacific is very different. Warm and tropical our islands may be, but our needs are great and we need strong support from FAO and other UN agencies and the donor communities.

Tuvalu is grateful for all the support it has received from FAO through its Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Island Countries located in Apia, Samoa. Recently, funds have been approved under the regional programme on Food Security for the home gardening project on all the islands of Tuvalu. Technical assistance was also provided by FAO for the review of the fisheries sector and development of a strategy paper on Tuvalu. We greatly appreciate the help and this makes it essential that the FAO Office in Apia, Samoa, be maintained with professional staff to cover specific needs of the region.

I take this opportunity also to thank the Director-General for his visit to the South Pacific earlier this year on the occasion of the Fifth meeting of the South West Pacific Ministers of Agriculture. This is a clear indication of the commitment by leaders of FAO to ensure that they obtain first-hand knowledge and appreciation of how its development support assistance is being utilized to achieve the development aspirations of the people and countries of the region. Tuvalu stands to give support to the continuation of this type of commitment.

Tuvalu would also be seeking assistance for development work in aquaculture, sea mountain fishing and agriculture. Another important development is the establishment of an agricultural mission to assist vegetable crop and fruit tree production in Tuvalu, with the assistance from the Government of the Republic of China in Taiwan. At this juncture my Government would like to note with appreciation the monetary support of the Republic of China in providing funds to enable my delegation to attend this meeting.

It is hoped that FAO would be able to identify and promote greater cooperative management of its members to work for peace and most important of all, to promote continuous dialogue through a permanent forum that will allow a culture of peace to prevail throughout the world and at every level of society.

While we recognize the extent of the challenges that FAO has to face in the 21st century, there is no reason for pessimism. I am convinced that if we remain strong and united and achieve greater cooperation and collaboration among all Member States, we shall together overcome all obstacles.

Fahad Bin Abdulrahman BALGHUNAIM (Saudi Arabia, Kingdom of) (Original language Arabic)

It is indeed my pleasure to extend on behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia my heartfelt congratulation to his Excellency the President of the Conference Mr Jim Sutton and the Members of the Bureau for the trust the Conference placed upon them. I assure all of you of our full cooperation and our commitment to do everything possible to make this Conference a success and to reach positive resolutions and results that would contribute to strengthening the pillars of world

food security. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to His Excellency, the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf and his associates for the invaluable efforts they have been making to organize this session, wishing them every success. It is indeed also my pleasure to welcome the admission of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia and Ukraine as new Members of this session, hoping that they will play a positive role that will contribute to achieving the goals of the Organization.

It is indeed a matter of concern for us to see that the growth of most of the developing countries' economies has been slow, at very modest rates, that lead to higher inflation, higher unemployment, higher cost of living, to the extent that it makes them unaffordable for the citizens of those countries. Notwithstanding, the setting up of the WTO at the beginning of 1995, and one of its main goals was the need to make positive efforts to ensure that the developing countries, in particular, the least developed ones, would get a larger share of the expansion in world trade. It is regrettable to note that the current situation in trade of food products of the developing countries is slowly growing and it is likely that the food gap will widen and those countries will become food net importers.

My delegation has already made an appeal from this same podium stressing the need for the international community to close ranks, to assist the developing countries in reforming their economic situation and increasing the financial resources necessary for agriculture development programmes in assisting them to acquire the technologies needed to improve and intensify their agricultural production. We should not let the principal of intellectual property rights impede the enjoyment by those countries of those technologies. We should realize the principal of fair competition in trade exchanges by year, subjecting the goods to the market mechanism. We should eliminate trade distortions. We should promote further transparency in transactions and we should assist the developing countries and their goods in accessing world markets. We should not resort to standard specifications as a trade impediment to the inflow of goods.

My delegation would like to emphasize the importance of biosafety in food and agriculture, and the importance that FAO continue to monitor the effects of possible gene inflow and competition, and also the adverse affects that might result from the genetically modified products on the health of animals and human beings and their future ramifications for sustainability of agriculture and world food security.

It is important to make every effort to control national epidemics because of their adverse affects on the health of men, animals and food security in addition to their economic and ecological effect. It is important to compel countries to apply the quarantine rules and regulations and to resort to transparency in reporting to international organs and organizations specialized in this field.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made strenuous efforts with the view to achieving comprehensive and overall development in all economic sectors. The agricultural sector had the largest part since it is a main pillar and a mainstay of national production in addition to its contribution to food security. Since the beginning of the implementation of the developmental programme of action, we adopted a number of agriculture programmes and policies which had positive affects on the productivity and on employment for large sectors of the population. The agriculture sector has increased exponential growth which leads to an increase in the value of the agricultural national product from 990 million Riyals in 1970 to 36.1 billion Riyals in 2002, an increase of 11 percent which led to a platform for food security and better food safety for the citizen.

Currently and in the future, the Kingdom, by reforming its agricultural development policy, will continue to establish agriculture infrastructure and increase its studies and ambitious plans. It will reform and modify its agricultural policies and programmes with a view for them to be proportionate to its resources and commensurate with them. This will lead to a better use of its technical economic cadre and establish a balance between hydrological security and food security, thus conserving the gains made by activating the role of the private sector and encouraging foreign investments in the agriculture sector, particularly in aquaculture, and along the coastal

lines, zeroing in on food crops – which has a comparative advantage in the Kingdom – and by resorting to modern irrigation agricultural means and creating a rural development that would be marked by the proper balance and by activating the role of agriculture cooperatives as well.

While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia achieves its food security goals with its proper means it did not ignore its humanitarian role as part of international committees' solidarity and extend a helping hand to the poor and deprived in many of the world's countries. It has provided financial resources to projects and development programmes for developing countries from 1973 to 2002 amounting to US\$ 79 billion, which amount to 4 percent of its average annual national gross product, including grants and concession development loans from the Development Saudi Fund. This has benefited 73 developing countries in continents through bilateral and multilateral channels. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has provided concession development loans to developing countries and to the less developed countries from 1975 until the end of 2002. More than US\$6 billion to finance 345 projects in 64 developing countries have been granted, out of which US\$1.2 billion earmarked for the agriculture sector, which amounts to 20 percent of the total loans to support, diverse agriculture products including irrigation, agriculture reforms, well digging, vital crops, buildings and fisheries.

US\$2.2 billion have been given in the form of grants to finance development projects in 22 countries with extremely difficult ecological or economic conditions or that have experienced civil wars in order for these to be able to overcome such conditions. Our contributions to IFAD, since its inception and until 2002, have reached US\$ 380 million dollars.

As to the provision of food and fighting malnutrition, the Kingdom has contributed to WFP since its inception in 1963. Its total contributions until 2002 to WFP have amounted to US\$413 million dollars. In addition to that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has contributed to the trust fund on food security and food safety in FAO, whose establishment has been declared by the Director-General of the Organization during the World Food Summit: *five years later* in June 2002. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has opened further its markets to import goods from all countries including the developing ones, and the least developed ones by reducing custom dues within the Government Corporation Council Custom Union which has seen the light of day at the beginning of this year, and now the custom dues have come down on all goods to 5 percent.

My delegation commends the current efforts made in order to modernize and develop FAO organs with a view to enable it to play its role in developing and promoting agriculture sectors in the developing and least developed countries, with the view to eliminating hunger and malnutrition.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of continued efforts by the Organization and further effectiveness in its role, with a view to finding appropriate solutions to increase productivity and to overcome obstacles which it confronts. Not to mention the importance of necessary technical assistance to the developing countries to benefit from multilateral negotiations and to be admitted to WTO.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has meticulously examined the PWB of the Organization for 2004-2005 and it appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General and his associates and we approve of the conclusion of the results. My expressed and heartfelt thanks to Jacques Diouf and all his associates in the Organization for the efforts they made to prepare for this Conference. My deepest thanks to you for your attention, wishing you success in your work.

Luis P. LORENZO Jr. (Philippines)

First of all, we would like to congratulate the new members of FAO, the Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste and Ukraine.

Seven years ago, nations gathered here in Rome to renew commitments and set new targets for reducing hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the world.

Today, these goals have remained elusive, and worse, a new menace – the spectre of terrorism has diverted world attention from this imperative.

By accident of colonial history and cultural fragmentation, the Philippines is vulnerable to terrorism, but we have not been diverted from the fact that terrorism is the offspring of unmitigated want and desperation. It is precisely because of this that the Philippine government under President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is locked in a strategic war against poverty and hunger even as it escalates its battle against terrorism.

It is thus in this context of the Philippine government's determined response to the challenge to produce and equally distribute more food and wealth for the Filipino people that I share with you our humble contributions to our common vision of a hunger-free world.

The Philippines' agriculture and fisheries modernization law guides our actions.

Together with our stakeholders in the private sector and peoples' organizations – full partners of the government – we have laid out roadmaps for the development of strategic commodity systems towards food and economic security and competitiveness.

These roadmaps stand on the "supply chain" or "seed-to-shelf" paradigm, where each stage of production is benchmarked against sound marketing and the best global practices.

The initial results, while admittedly modest, mark an indelible turning point in the history of Philippine agriculture.

Thus, in contrast to the dismal 1 to 2 percent average growth in the last quarter of the last century, we have maintained an unprecedented five years modest growth rates of no less than 3 to 4 percent per year. Having broken the vicious boom and bust pattern of growth with modest, but stable growth, we now set the stage for still higher sustainable growth of 6 to 9 percent per year in the next six year medium-term plan.

At this juncture, allow me to thank FAO for the long history of consistent and targeted support that definitely made a difference to Philippine agriculture and rural development. Many of our successful programmes, from hybrid rice to Farmers' Field Schools to farm systems diversification, have benefited from seminal and ground-breaking FAO support.

The Philippines also shares FAO's concern on many countries' failure to meet commitments to the World Food Summit goals and urges all, particularly the rich developed countries, to prioritize support for these countries' food programmes.

The Philippines welcomes the declaration of 2004 as the International Year of Rice, the fulfillment of an initiative we helped push in our own humble way. Activities and programmes to make this special year most meaningful have already been lined up, and we have declared November as Rice Awareness Month.

But beyond these activities, the Philippines strongly suggests that more focused and tangible objectives for rice be defined, the straightforward programme to achieve them crafted and implemented, to be reviewed as to achievement and impact five years later.

An issue that we can all address is the steady deterioration of support and focus on rice research and development even though the social returns to rice R & D investments are among the highest.

As an Organization that continues to focus on water resources and their impending scarcity, the Philippines suggests that we all resolve to pool resources and efforts, through the International Rice Research Institute and the National Rice R & D networks, in specifically targeting the development of varieties and farm management systems that will significantly reduce, say, by half, the water utilization of the major rice-based production systems within the next five years.

Not only will this initiative lead to cheaper and more production of rice to reduce hunger and food security in the rice-eating world, we would have significantly eased the increasing pressure on the world's water resources. The economy- and sector-wide impacts would be tremendous.

But all of such progressive initiatives, as we have experienced in the recent past, are in danger of bearing stillborn children. The grossly unfair trade environment, a cesspool of developed country

trade distortions and discriminatory trade barriers, remains the most potent abortifacient cum retardant against the unborn developmental aspirations of countries like the Philippines.

Our agriculture sectors, more particularly their capabilities to support our basic development goals of food and livelihood security, rural development, the full and unhampered expression of our competitiveness, have been unduly prejudiced by the unfairness of the subsisting WTO agreement on Agriculture, now under negotiation since the year 2000.

Beyond the gross handicaps that have effectively prevented us from even, the minimal exploitation of our just benefits under the multilateral trading system, our domestic markets have been deluged by the developed foreign competition that are heavily supported by trade-distorting export competition and domestic support measures.

The impact of this gross unfairness is the persistence of undue extreme stress on our agricultural systems and economies. We each have our own areas of competitiveness and yet trade distortions, not to mention other non-tariff and technical barriers, have either prevented us from the exploitation of market access opportunities or altogether shut us out of the competition.

More disturbing is that even in our own markets, our own producers are in increasing distress, significant proportions are destitute. Heavily subsidized producers have infinitely more access to our markets than our own small farmers. Progressive government development programmes, including the many initiatives assisted by FAO, have been effectively frustrated and negated and the precious but scarce resources they entail utterly wasted away.

Unbridled trade liberalization that has singularly and mistakenly focused only on tariff elimination and blind to our development needs, and the sophisticated protectionism of the developed in the form of trade and production distorting subsidies, has no human face and is fast dismantling, rather than helping us build, our launching pads to economic and social development the true intent of the multilateral trading system. Such liberalization contradicts the Doha mandate, it insults and mocks the very mission of this Organization.

What happened in Cancun stemmed from the advocacy of this position by the champions of fairness in trade, developed and developing, and not the tired North versus South story some major parties would like to hoodwink us with.

In Cancun, and in our recent experience in these negotiations, we saw the emergence of "fair trade coalitions of the reformed and willing to engage" expose those major parties belonging to the "coalition of the unwilling" hiding behind the skirt of political difficulties to real reform.

We have taken the hard and painful policy reform decisions much earlier. It is only now that some of the major parties to these negotiations are beginning to undertake their own glacial process of resolving policy reform issues.

We maintain that these recent decisions can never compare in difficulty with those that we have made as early as a decade ago. We have weighed them and found them wanting when ranged against what we have already undertaken.

Given the political difficulties of some of these parties in reducing their levels of effective and real protection, the Philippines, together with our fair trade allies, can only demand for a judicious stay in, and a viable defence against, any further onslaught on our unduly endangered strategic agriculture and fisheries sectors that spell the very survival of our rural economies, the peace and development of our societies.

In conclusion, we exhort all parties, particularly the developed countries, to help each other deliver a reasonably fair outcome through meaningful engagement and dialogue to flesh out the appropriate viable commitments in the successor Agreement.

We also commend, as we exhort continuation, of FAO's valuable assistance and support to enable developing countries to meaningfully engage in these negotiations. We are ready, as we have been through these years, to engage all in arriving at a reasonable consensus, particularly on the developmental aspects of the Doha Development Agenda.

Let the outcome of these negotiations be propellant to true global prosperity, rather than mere further enrichment of the select powerful few, while leaving the majority destitute. Let a fairer trade regime unleash the unbridled development potential of the long-suppressed poor and developing countries of the world.

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, the Philippines conveys its thanks for this opportunity, and commits full support to the FAO.

Kobénan Kouassi ADJOUANI (Côte d'Ivoire)

C'est pour moi un réel plaisir de saisir l'opportunité que m'offre cette 32^{ème} session de la Conférence de l'Organisation des Nations Unies pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture pour vous exposer, au nom du Gouvernement, la situation de l'alimentation et des productions alimentaires en Côte d'Ivoire.

En Côte d'Ivoire, le secteur agricole au sens large génère des revenus importants pour l'économie et crée de nombreux emplois, notamment en milieu rural. En effet, le secteur agricole contribue pour 38 pour cent au PIB national, les exportations agricoles représentent 70 pour cent des recettes d'exportation et le secteur agricole fournit environ 66 pour cent des emplois nationaux.

Je voudrais avant tout exposer la situation de l'alimentation et des productions alimentaires avant la crise que nous traversons. Depuis l'indépendance, l'État de Côte d'Ivoire a consacré d'importants efforts pour le développement des productions alimentaires, notamment les productions végétales, animales et les ressources halieutiques à travers différentes sociétés d'État et programmes de développement.

Ces efforts ont permis d'obtenir des résultats probants qui ont mis le pays à l'abri de la famine et de l'insécurité alimentaire. En effet, le développement des productions vivrières suit plus ou moins la croissance démographique, cela permet de couvrir globalement les besoins alimentaires des populations, hormis d'une part, le riz pour lequel les importations ont atteint 641 000 tonnes en 2001, soit près de la moitié des productions au niveau des besoins nationaux, et d'autre part, les légumes pour lesquels des pénuries sont observées certaines années.

La production vivrière estimée à 9 559 000 tonnes en 2001 occupe plus de 2 300 000 actifs agricoles pour une superficie globale estimée à 2 120 000 hectares. Ce secteur procure à l'économie ivoirienne un chiffre d'affaires de plus 700 milliards de F CFA et dégage une valeur ajoutée de plus de 370 milliards de F CFA, soit 17 pour cent du PIB.

Quant au secteur animal et les ressources halieutiques, il contribue pour environ trois pour cent au Produit intérieur brut agricole et un pour cent au PIB national. Néanmoins, ce secteur joue un rôle important dans l'économie nationale en termes d'équilibre inter-régional, de sécurité alimentaire de production rurale, de gestion de l'espace et de l'emploi, compte tenu du fait que l'élevage se pratique sur toute l'étendue du territoire national.

Pour les productions animales et les ressources halieutiques, les taux de couverture des besoins nationaux sont respectivement de 59 pour cent pour les viandes, et de 30 pour cent pour le poisson; les différences étant comblées par des importations.

Au cours des dernières années, il est apparu une spécialisation soutenue dans le secteur de la production vivrière car certaines cultures sont devenues des produits de rente.

La part des importations des produits alimentaires dans la balance commerciale est en régression, sauf pour le riz, le poisson, les viandes et les produits laitiers dont les productions nationales sont insuffisantes, ce qui nécessite des importations relativement importantes.

Avec la crise socio-politique que connaît la Côte d'Ivoire depuis le 19 septembre 2002, la sécurité alimentaire est menacée du fait que les populations qui ont consommé toute leur récolte de l'année, y compris la part réservée aux semences, se trouvent confrontées à des problèmes d'ordre financier, d'intrants (semences, engrais, pesticides, etc.) et d'encadrement.

Suite à la crise, les activités agricoles et d'élevage ont connu des perturbations dues au déplacement des populations agricoles, à la destruction de la presque totalité du potentiel de production, par exemple, plus de 90 pour cent de la production animale se trouve au Nord en zones occupées.

Face à l'accroissement des besoins alimentaires, le Gouvernement a entrepris différentes actions avec l'appui des partenaires au développement, notamment la FAO et le Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM), qui ont permis d'améliorer la situation alimentaire sur le terrain. Nous citerons entre autres la fourniture d'urgence de semences et de petits matériels agricoles aux populations affectées par la crise, l'apport d'aide alimentaire sous forme de vivres, l'appui technique à l'évaluation des récoltes actuellement en cours, le contrôle de la fièvre aphteuse en Afrique de l'Ouest.

Ces actions qui ont facilité le retour progressif des populations dans leurs zones de résidence ont eu un caractère plutôt ponctuel. Les solutions à la situation actuelle nécessitent des actions à long terme en vue d'arriver à une sécurité durable en Côte d'Ivoire.

C'est dans ce cadre que la mission conjointe FAO/PAM/État, actuellement en cours, devrait permettre de faire une quantification réelle des besoins sur le terrain afin de permettre la consolidation des requêtes en vue de solliciter une assistance de la Communauté internationale pour la mise en œuvre d'un programme de relance des secteurs agricoles et des ressources animales en Côte d'Ivoire dans le cadre de la reconstruction nationale.

Je félicite le Directeur général de la FAO et tout son personnel, particulièrement la Représentation de la FAO en Côte d'Ivoire, qui n'a ménagé aucun effort pour aider notre pays à travers plusieurs appuis ponctuels.

Par ailleurs, pour permettre à notre Organisation d'atteindre ses objectifs, le Gouvernement de la Côte d'Ivoire estime que la FAO doit disposer de ressources adéquates. C'est pourquoi il lui faut un budget de croissance réelle pour mener à bien l'ensemble de ses programmes et particulièrement ceux du terrain.

Je voudrais profiter de cette tribune pour remercier l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale et les partenaires au développement pour le soutien continu qu'ils apportent à la Côte d'Ivoire au moment où celle-ci traverse des épreuves difficiles.

David LOKYAN (Armenia)

I have the honour to greet all the delegations and participants of this Session and extend my thanks to the FAO management for the invitation and the warm reception.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia and the whole Armenian nation has always appreciated the Food and Agriculture Organization's mission very highly. The membership of Armenia to this Organization has a decade of history. However, our cooperation has shown that FAO is always there, where there are risks of poverty, hunger and malnutrition; where there is a need to address the food security and agricultural efficiency problems through consistent reform measures in the agrarian sector.

Overall, the reforms of the agricultural policy run by the Government of Armenia has been realized and characterized by the following principles which have been oriented to combat the above-mentioned problems: diversity of the forms of ownership and farm management, liberalization of the economy and the gradual elimination of state intervention; state assistance for the development of the social and service infrastructures in agricultural and rural communities; improvement of the sector's relevant legislation and the investment climate; export promotion of agricultural products and the provision of support in marketing for the protection of the domestic market; expansion of the opportunities for the development of the international integration linkages; and implementation of the targeted programmes for social and economic development of the remote, bordering and mountainous rural settlements.

Thanks to the implementation of the reforms pursuant to these principles, a number of issues of vital importance have already been addressed in the country recently.

Presently, it is because of these important achievements that changes in the style of work and the mindset of the entities running economic activities have occurred. It is evidenced by the fact that the farmers are no longer linking their production problems with the state protectionism. The style of their operations is changing gradually, their independent management capacities have increased with the growing perception of the actual need for technology transfer, introduction of science, extension and training.

Similar to many economies in transition, in Armenia as well, agriculture has played a buffer role in terms of the mitigation of the social problems. It is particularly obvious in relation to job opportunities and food security aspects.

In order to improve Armenia's agricultural sector and assist Armenia's population whose 50 percent is under the poverty line standards, we need international assistance to resolve a few problems to render the agricultural economy more prosperous and relieve the food shortages and quality issues; land consolidation and the creation of cooperatives, improved seed selection through genetic changes as well as improved selective methods for animal husbandry, the expansion of external trade possibilities and the food safety modern procedures, and the adoption and use of CODEX Alimentarius standards in Armenia, decreasing government and bureaucratic involvement in agriculture, government assistance for the creation and the restructuring of existing production infrastructures, the availability of financial resources within a strategic framework orientation, and the improvement of the human factors and work habits in the work place.

On the other hand, food security appears to be a global and vulnerable challenge facing Armenia, since, after independence, the main railway and road communication routes of my landlocked country have been blocked.

As one may easily observe, under the scarcity of the natural resources and with the external blockade of routes, if the agricultural sector of Armenia ensures a certain degree of development, it is at the expense of the hard working efforts of the farmers and to the advantage of the private farming practices and the donor community assistance.

Nevertheless, one should confess that the agrarian reforms do not yet ensure the expected outcomes, and the agricultural productivity is still low.

In spite of these difficulties, at the end of 2002 Armenia has joined the World Trade Organization and has assumed certain obligations. Armenia, in the agricultural sector, has been obliged to tax the sale of agricultural goods.

The fulfillment of those duties will avoid creating a serious problem for agriculture, only in case we are able in the coming four years to increase the agricultural economic capacities of the farms through the joint efforts of the donor community and the government and to increase the production return rates. Four years is not a long period. Hence, we expect that our collaboration with the international organizations should, to the maximum extent, be targeted for resolving this problem.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia connects the development of the agricultural sector directly with the development of the rural communities. Therefore, there is the fundamental and serious issue of the implementation of the projects related to the development of the social infrastructures of villages, particularly rural roads, health, as well as educational and cultural infrastructures. It will contribute to the expansion of the non-agricultural employment possibilities in the villages, and the alleviation of rural poverty.

I am convinced that the difficulties of the transitional period are temporary and with the assistance of the international community, we shall be able to find more efficient and rapid solutions to agricultural problems.

One of the best examples of that is the development of our continued cooperation with FAO. Particularly, the opening of this prestigious organization's representation office in Armenia and the appointment of FAO's Subregional Representative for Europe, Her Excellency Mrs Maria Kadlecikova, as the FAO Representative for Armenia.

Allow me to also extend the deepest gratitude of the Government of Armenia to Dr. Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the donor community and all those countries of goodwill for their efforts in assisting Armenia.

Jim Sutton, Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair

Jim Sutton, Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Jim Sutton, Presidente de la Conferencia

Alfredo JORDÁN MORALES (Cuba)

Permítanme expresar nuestro reconocimiento por su elección para la conducción de las labores de este 32° período de sesiones y hacer extensivo también al resto de los integrantes de la mesa.

En la declaración de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación celebrada en junio de 1996 figura el objetivo de reducir el número de hambrientos en el mundo de 800 a 400 millones para el año 2015, como voluntad expresa de toda la comunidad internacional. Desde entonces, la población mundial ha alcanzado la cifra de más de 6 mil millones de habitantes y el número de hambrientos y desnutridos se calcula en 840 millones, de los cuales el 95 por ciento reside en los países en desarrollo. El documento sobre el estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación de la FAO confirma esta desfavorable situación que se manifiesta en la lenta disminución de los niveles de nutrición, el creciente número de países que enfrentan emergencias alimentarias, la reducción sensible de la ayuda alimentaria y la disminución creciente de la producción agrícola con relación a las necesidades de los hambrientos y los desnutridos. Sin embargo, la asistencia oficial al desarrollo es cada vez menor y las condiciones que se imponen en el comercio internacional con políticas de subsidio y prácticas comerciales injustas por parte de los países desarrollados agudizan la crítica situación del mundo en desarrollo, limitando el cumplimiento de los compromisos que hemos adoptado en la Cumbre de 1996 y del 2002.

Por otro lado, continúan deteriorándose otros elementos decisivos para la seguridad alimentaria, como son la degradación constante de los bosques a causa del manejo inapropiado y la ocurrencia cada vez más creciente de los incendios forestales. De igual modo, los recursos pesqueros siguen acusando una disminución sensible, entre otras causas, porque no se aplica plenamente el código de conducta para la pesca responsable. Sobre estos temas que requieren de una atención urgente nos referiremos más adelante.

En este desalentador contexto y en medio de la difícil situación económica que nuestro país ha tenido que enfrentar provocado principalmente por el injusto y criminal bloqueo económico, financiero y comercial al que hemos estado sometidos por más de cuatro décadas y rechazado reiteradamente por la comunidad internacional, hemos continuado desarrollando nuestro sector agrícola empleando alternativas para incrementar la producción de alimentos con muchos menos recursos, especialmente de aquéllos dependientes de las importaciones, y con ello va el cumplimiento a los acuerdos y compromisos contraídos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación.

El objetivo central del estado de Cuba en materia de agricultura y alimentación ha sido y sigue siendo el de proporcionar adecuada seguridad alimentaria a toda su población y, aunque su producción no cubre la demanda total, los alimentos llegan a todos sus habitantes con equidad, favoreciendo especialmente a los niños, ancianos, embarazadas y enfermos.

Esta política de alcanzar la seguridad alimentaria plena, constituye la mayor prioridad del estado de Cuba en materia de agricultura y alimentación, que se complementa con la aplicación de programas adecuados de salud, educación, cultura, deportes y otros, como elementos indispensables para el bienestar social y del nivel y calidad de vida creciente de nuestros ciudadanos.

El sector agrario cubano en su conjunto genera una parte importante de los ingresos externos del país por concepto de exportación y del empleo de la población ocupada en economía nacional, aportando aproximadamente la mitad de los nutrientes consumidos por sus habitantes, pues no hemos estado exentes de afectaciones debido a fenómenos naturales, la elevación de los precios de insumos esenciales en el mercado internacional y la baja sensible de los mismos en los principales rubros de exportación.

Para contrarrestar estas dificultades el país ha emprendido en la última década importantes transformaciones para lograr la reanimación del sector, que incluyen el otorgamiento en usufructo gratuito y a perpetuidad, de tierras agrícolas y la venta con facilidades de pago a los trabajadores agrícolas y a todo aquel que desee explotar las tierras para la producción de alimentos.

Mención especial merece el novedoso programa nacional de agricultura urbana que consiste en aprovechar los espacios cultivables dentro de las ciudades y su periferia, aplicando métodos extensivos, basado en prácticas sostenibles que permiten el reciclaje de los desechos, y sin utilizar agrotóxicos, que ha generado casi 300.000 nuevos empleos.

Para este año, esperamos producir más de tres millones y medio de toneladas de alimentos, principalmente hortalizas y vegetales, con lo cual se supera los 300 gramos diarios por cápita recomendados por la FAO.

Esta experiencia, que ponemos a disposición de todos los países que lo requieran ya se está aplicando en algunos países de nuestra región, como contribución al logro de la seguridad alimentaria y una mayor posibilidad de empleo para sus pueblos.

Nuestras excelentes relaciones con la FAO se han fortalecido cada vez más. Durante los últimos 40 años, se han ejecutado en Cuba más de 150 proyectos de cooperación que han beneficiado a los sectores agropecuario, alimentario, pesquero y forestal del país y la acción de la FAO, a pesar de los modestos recursos aportados, ha resultado positiva y oportuna.

Al mismo tiempo, estamos apoyando a la FAO en la implementación del Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria (PESA) a través de acuerdos tripartitos en 5 países, y reiteramos nuestra disposición de continuar aportando el más valioso de los recursos con que contamos, que es el capital humano, como expresión de nuestra permanente práctica de solidaridad.

En el examen de la situación financiera de la FAO hemos podido contactar una vez más, que los recursos presupuestados para el próximo bienio resultan insuficientes para atender las prioridades de los países en desarrollo, razón por la cual apoyamos la propuesta del Director General de un crecimiento real.

Hoy más que nunca, estamos obligados con la contribución de la FAO y de todos los Estados Miembros a enfrentar con carácter cada vez más urgente, el desarrollo agrícola y la garantía de la alimentación para todos los pobladores del planeta, con la voluntad política, la seriedad y persistencia que demandan las difíciles circunstancias y condiciones actuales de la población mundial, en especial, la de los países en desarrollo.

Como ya dije antes, la atención a los recursos forestales y pesqueros requieren igualmente de una atención urgente, por lo que quiero hacer un llamado al Director General para que convoque una reunión de alto nivel, preferiblemente de ministros, para tratar estos problemas y juntos fortalecer la aplicación de acuerdos anteriores y solicitar a la comunidad internacional una cooperación más efectiva con el consiguiente respaldo de recursos.

Es deber de todos luchar y aunar esfuerzos por un mundo más limpio y puro, por un mundo de justicia y equidad y por un futuro mejor para las generaciones venideras, por lo que reiteramos aquí la convicción y la afirmación de nuestro Presidente, el compañero Fidel Castro, cuando hizo las siguientes aseveraciones, y cito... "un mundo mejor es posible"... "obremos el milagro de convertir en posible lo imposible".

CHAIRPERSON

Before I call the next speaker, I want to remind participants in Round Table One, that it will start in the King Faisal Room at 17.30 hours sharp. Delegations of FAO Members which have not registered for Round Table One, do have the possibility to follow the debate in the Austria Room.

The other announcement is that the Secretariat informs that the next General Committee meeting will not be held tomorrow morning, but on Wednesday morning at 08.30 hours in the Mexico Room.

It is now my pleasure to call the next speaker, His Excellency Ty Phommassack, Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Forestry in the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Ty PHOMMASACK (Lao, People's Democratic Republic of)

First of all, on behalf of my delegation, allow me to present my sincere congratulations to the elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

In addition to the general food production status of the country, allow me also to brief distinguished delegates on the status of implementation of the National Poverty Eradication Programme, which the Government and the People of the Lao PDR's long-term development strategy and programme, aiming to eradicate poverty up to the year 2020 and achieve, by the implementation of this Programme, this development goal to graduate from the status of Least Developed Countries. The Programme as such represents true and concrete political will and action-oriented commitments of the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to the realization of the Declaration of the World Food summit; the projected Action Plan and targets derived from it and commitments also to materializing the Millennium Development goals, as well as the Brussels Least Developed Countries Action Plan.

The strategic vision behind the Programme is poverty eradication through strong economic growth, the continued and continuous building-up of the country in all areas and by means of integrated development, and an increased focus on the poorest districts to ensure that they become increasingly integrated into the national economy.

Thanks to the increase and more focused investment efforts in the past 10 years, Lao has been able to reduce the incidence of poverty in the country from 45 down to 30 percent. The Programme will continue to focus on the poorest districts and the Government actions have and will continue to prioritize development intervention linked to increasing the production capacity of existing agricultural and forestry systems within the framework of favourable economic environment conducive to growth and sustainable development. This relates to improving on delivery technologies and of inputs, including improved rice seeds, crop diversification, animal health care, strengthening of research networks and extension services, and improved operation of existing irrigation systems. Thus the Agriculture and Forestry sectors remain the pillar of the Lao economy and has a central role in the materialization of the National Poverty Eradication Programme, but since our development approach is an integrated type of development, improvements to be provided to the agriculture and forestry sectors has been and will remain to be coupled with rural infrastructure in order to facilitate access to markets, rural credit and so forth, along with support to local level institution development and delivery of basic social services, especially clean water and sanitation.

The Government of Lao PDR has made significant efforts to ensure that adequate public resources, both in terms of human and financial resources, are provided to target poor districts. In addition to our own resources, we have received strong support from our partners in development, with regard to assisting Lao PDR in the realization of the National Poverty Eradication Programme. This is clearly proof that by strengthening the Lao Government's coherence and harmonizing development efforts with the provinces, district and village communities and consolidating its alliance with our international and regional partners in development, we can realize the poverty eradication targets that have been set.

Food production this year is expected to give fairly good results; despite the fact that some regions have been hit by severe droughts. For this year, as every year, with continued strong support from the government of Lao, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has and is remained focused to taking the most appropriate measures and making more investment to providing timely and needed delivery of technical support to the farming communities, in order to achieve targeted production and to further accelerate on the diversification and intensification of agricultural commodities production. The Government has provided direct public resources to assist development at the grassroots level.

The Lao Government and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry highly appreciates the invaluable support of our partners, including FAO, in the development of the country's efforts to achieve our development goals. Allow me, on behalf of my delegation, to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your valuable contribution to our country's poverty eradication effort. We will remain strongly supportive to the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

May I take this opportunity to present once again, my best wishes to distinguished delegates for a very fruitful and productive meeting.

Khalfan Ben Saleh AL-NAABI (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

It is noteworthy that this Conference is held at the same time that the Sultanate of Oman is celebrating its thirty-third national day. I avail of this opportunity to inform you of what we have done during three decades in the sector of agriculture and fisheries, so that it becomes a promising economic sector, with a diversification of national income and resources, as a main pillar for the improvement of the rural community, which is one of the sectors that gives more opportunities for employment and it is linked with the history and the civilization of Oman.

We have improved our agricultural sector on the basis of established facts, which is that the national resources are the right of this generation and the coming generations. The developmental process is a concept that is based on sustainable development with the rational use of water, land, maritime, pastoral areas and the preservation of the rural community. Their participation in decision making, in development and good governance, as well as the active participation in the implementation of the developmental programmes, encouragement of the investment on the basis of the free market and the improvement of the economic yield in all sectors of the economy, as well as the balance between the non-oil economic sectors and the other sectors, the implementation of the international trade agreements and the increase of the competitiveness of the Omani commodities. In order to implement such goals, we have set forth policies and strategies such as: the increase of production and the improvement of the quality of plant, animal and fish products through the improvement of guidance services, good governance and the introduction of modern technologies; the improvements of the agricultural management methods, the policies for responsible fisheries and the training of farmers, breeders, and fishermen. Also the encouragement of the private sector to invest in these sectors and to give incentives, loans and to carry out feasibility studies; modernizing the marketing methods in the agricultural and fisheries sectors and to focus on the improvement of the technical standards, to support the infrastructure of the plant and animal production; improving the agricultural veterinary quarantines as well as the laboratories that are used for the soil and water analysis, disease diagnosis, the fight against agricultural pests and the manufacturing industries; as well as the preservation of water resources and the improvement of irrigation methods.

These strategies are based on the fact that we have to improve the animal resources through the improvement of selection methods and the veterinary services, as well as the improvement of the natural pastoral areas and the implementation of pasturage management methods; the fight against the agricultural pests through the integrated pest management programmes; the fight against animal diseases; as well as the rational management of fisheries and the regular supervision of the fish reserves.

In this regard, throughout the last three decades, we have achieved a lot of improvements and in terms of figures these sectors have contributed 3.1 percent of the GDP and on the other hand in the trade balance, they have contributed more than 71 million Omani Rials in the non-oil sector; 59 percent of the animal and plant agricultural production sector, and 41 percent of the fisheries. On the other hand, there were more services in the domain of the re-exportation of the foodstuff for an amount of 62 million Omani Rials. Since 1991 until 2002, there was a tremendous improvement in the production of vegetables and fruits, as well as the farm crops and they have all registered rates of growth of 3 percent, 4 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively. As for fisheries, this has become one of the main pillars of the provision of food in Oman. For example, in 2002, there was a production of 143 000 tons of different types of fish that were consumed locally, with the exportation of the surplus. There was a very important social impact of these improvements. For example, with the employment of at least 141 000 workers in the plant and animal production, and more than 30 000 people in the maritime fisheries.

Here I would like to say that we indeed respect what has been done under the Code of Responsible Conduct for Fisheries and I would like to commend the efforts made by Dr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO, and the efforts of the Organization in order to provide food for all the people who are suffering from hunger in the world. I would like to thank you all for the efforts that have been made in order to mitigate the sufferings of millions of people in the world.

Matthias BERNINGER (Germany) (Original language German)

If you look at the posters outside this hall, you see that 800 people going hungry is a challenge to FAO and it is our duty to cut back on this figure. We all know that in recent years, the number of people who are hungry in the world has increased so this challenging task for FAO is becoming heavier and heavier and we all have to cooperate and pull together under the aegis of FAO, and elsewhere where we fight our successful fight against hunger.

Our Federal Government feels that it is absolutely essential to ensure the right to food for everyone, and we therefore work very hard towards cooperation with the developing countries, and we think that next year will be a year when important decisions can be made.

In Cancun, the community of nations was not able to come to an agreement on these matters, but we have to try again and we think that it is a great pity that there was no final conclusion. At the beginning it looked not too bad, but then as the negotiations went on it became clear that there was a lack of unity there. So we are very happy now to see that the European Union has declared that they are going to change their negotiating points and stress the importance of agricultural subjects, because agricultural subjects are the key to improving their situation and we all have to make all possible efforts to ensure that this is done.

The question of the support given, the aid given to agriculture and this is, of course, a problem that we all recognize and it is a matter that has to be dealt with. We have different levels in different parts of the world, different problems and different incomes resulting from the situation, but our basic task is the coordination with other organizations and we must follow the practical example of the help already given.

Germany commits herself to work together with FAO to give help and assistance in Iraq, or in Afghanistan. There we have some special problems and we have been able to make some progress already and we need to provide much seed and assistance to ensure that production can be increased and improved. This of course can create a certain competition on international markets and for practical reasons we need to ensure healthy competition on the international markets. In September 2003, Germany convened a meeting in Berlin to discuss the international aspects of assistance, in particular for agriculture and what was discussed there and agreed there, will be implemented in the future. Tomorrow, together with India, we are going to have a Round Table discussion on this matter.

We have to reduce the numbers of people who go hungry in the world and FAO must be the centre and focus for sustainable agriculture and for improvement in the production achieved through sustainable agriculture, so as to provide food security which needs a common effort on

the part of not only the rich countries, but of all countries in the world in order to make the best possible use of all the existing resources. We must also ensure fair access for all countries to the food that is produced and we are making in Germany all possible efforts in this respect.

As regards the FAO budget, we would like to say that we must try and achieve a real agreement here, in order to avoid excessive controversy on the levels of the budget and we must make every possible effort to achieve a consensus. Obviously, FAO must not suffer constantly from currency fluctuations, which is what has been happening. We must protect the Organization from this, but in addition we must try to ensure that there is a proper balance because otherwise FAO will not be able to cope. I think we must also look at what still needs or can be improved in the work of FAO. In this way, we can ensure that the best possible use is made of the resources available. I hope that on this basis we can all achieve a consensus.

Germany is ready and willing to commit ourselves to FAO, especially to help in special cooperation. For instance, in the case of Afghanistan, we have been able to take some bilateral steps to provide greater assistance, also in the coming year, but we think that FAO is the key organization for dealing with these kinds of problems in countries like Afghanistan. We have seen in a recent report that the developed countries are providing a lot of direct and continued assistance to their agriculture, as much as 10 billion worth. Obviously this is something that needs to be corrected and we have to work together to remedy this situation. Germany is ready to work in this direction with FAO and with all other countries.

J. B. PENN (United States of America)

It is an honour to be here in Rome to join you at the Thirty-second Plenary Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization. I am very pleased to represent the United States of America and Secretary Veneman as we continue to review the State of Food and Agriculture and the mission of this organization. I would like to thank Director-General Jacques Diouf, for his work on behalf of FAO this past year, particularly in helping with the reconstruction of agriculture, water resources and food security in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Over a year ago many of us in this room were together at the World Food Summit: *five years later* to renew our commitment to reduce by half the number of hungry people in the world by the year 2015.

We began by recognizing that progress toward this goal was seriously lagging and that more efforts, are needed.

There was broad agreement that we must look for solutions by embracing new technologies, including biotechnology; enhancing global food security through trade liberalization; and by providing development aid and humanitarian relief to needy countries.

According to this year's State of Food and Agriculture report, substantial progress in reducing hunger was made in many, but not all, regions of the world. However, as we have heard, these efforts were still not enough to meet the targets set at the World Food Summit.

One of the most effective ways to reduce global hunger is by raising agricultural productivity through science and technology.

Science and technology contributed to substantial gains in global agricultural productivity throughout the twentieth century and the experience demonstrates what happens as agricultural productivity increases: farm and rural incomes rise; then nutrition and food security improve; more food becomes available for export, increasing export earnings; food costs drop, giving consumers more money to spend on other products and services; and in many developing countries today, consumers spend well over one half of their disposable income for food; as productivity continues to increase, more farm labour and other resources are freed up for productive uses in other parts of the economy, stimulating economic growth and higher incomes.

The answers are not always the latest, biggest, and most expensive technologies. Many conventional technologies and systems that have been widely used for decades can be adapted to bring significant productivity gains to the world's poorest countries.

At the USDA sponsored Science and Technology Ministerial in Sacramento, California, this year, a wide range of technologies were highlighted that can help support improved agricultural performance in sub-Saharan Africa and other developing nations.

But countries must be willing to accept sound scientific principles, and technologies must be assessed objectively for benefits and risks based on science – not on fear, rumour or politics.

At the same time, countries must have the appropriate policies and infrastructure to succeed. In every part of the world, sustained growth is correlated with open markets and open economies.

The United States remains committed to achieving an international trade agreement toward liberalizing agricultural trade.

International trade can, and must, play a central role in addressing the world's food security needs. In today's global economy, open markets and free exchange can do a major part for getting food to people when governments do not place unnecessary barriers on the trading system.

The current State of Food and Agriculture report suggests that trade policies of developed countries have hampered the agricultural progress of developing countries by restraining commodity prices. Many factors, such as currency exchange rates, technological innovations, shifts in consumer preferences, and macroeconomic factors, affect international commodity markets. Attributing market trend to a single factor over-simplifies real market dynamics.

In the past, countries have talked about the central role of trade as a tool for driving economic development. An open trading system can provide greater market access for developing countries, attract investment, stimulate growth, and improve overall world food security.

We need participation of all countries in the WTO process. Experience clearly shows that countries actively engaged in trade, show faster growth and faster economic prosperity. Developing countries have much to gain from successful reform of the international trading system.

We were particularly disappointed in the outcome at Cancun, but we must continue to work together with all WTO members, in good faith, to make progress. Negotiations require commitment, hard work and flexibility. Some countries must now decide whether they want to have an issue or whether they want to make progress by showing flexibility in long-held national positions.

Getting the WTO negotiations restarted is not proving to be easy, as consultations in Geneva thus far show. But we will do our best to resume the long journey toward worldwide, multilateral trade liberalization. We are prepared to proceed from the Derbez text, which emerged from the Cancun Ministerial. It is not a perfect document from any one member's perspective, but it does provide a basis for a framework that could put the negotiations, over modalities on tract in the near term.

The United States today is providing development aid and humanitarian relief to millions of people in Afghanistan and Iraq.

President Bush has made it clear that whatever challenges and obligations the United States has at home and abroad, global hunger and poverty still will remain a top US priority.

As you have heard, the US has a wide variety of programmes involving billions of dollars, addressing specific, hunger, health and development needs.

While our humanitarian assistance programmes are designed to avoid tragedy today, achieving real world food security requires cooperation and economic growth in countries across the world.

I applaud the work of the members of FAO towards the goal of alleviating poverty and hunger. We need to continue to work together, both within the FAO and in coordination with other international organizations.

The production of food remains the most important work of humankind. How we meet our obligation to feed the world will be the true measure of our generation. And I believe FAO's leadership can play a pivotal role in helping us to meet that goal.

But before we can achieve real progress, FAO must first have a clear vision, one that will enable it to prioritize its efforts and take advantage of the synergies that exist between it and other organizations. Taking advantage of these partnerships will make scarce resources go further, particularly in helping countries make the transition from emergency to rehabilitation.

The United States believes that FAO must take a leadership role in operating an efficient and effective organization one that ensures equal representation when recruiting for senior international positions and hires well-qualified field personnel. These are critical to the success of the Organization.

We all recognize the important role that FAO plays in reducing hunger. That is why it is essential to take an in-depth look at how best to allocate scarce resources and to use the most effective tools necessary to achieve real progress.

Noah M. NKAMBULE (Swaziland)

On behalf of my Delegation and myself, I wish to express our sincere appreciation for the warm welcome accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful city. Allow me to convey warm and cordial greetings from His Majesty, King Mswati III and the people of Swaziland to His Excellency the Director-General Dr Diouf and to this august gathering.

I wish to assure you and His Excellency of my Delegation's utmost support to the deliberations of this Conference and to FAO activities in general.

In 1996 Heads of State and Government resolved here in Rome to reduce by half the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015. Five years later, the same Summit was convened to review the situation and indications were that the goals set in 1996 were not going to be met unless governments, international donor organizations, as well as civil society redoubled their efforts and commitment to tackle the problems of hunger and poverty.

Documents availed to us by the Secretariat indicate a global improvement of the World Food Security Situation in the long-term. However, regions such as sub-Saharan Africa still have a high incidence of hunger and undernourishment estimated at 33 percent of the population. The main culprits for this gloomy situation are unregulated population growth, a persistent drought, floods, transboundary animal diseases and limited access to the resources necessary for creating an enabling environment for increased agriculture and food production. It is for these reasons that adequate and effective population policies and mitigative measures have to be developed. My delegation concurs with the Secretariat's view that the current food and hunger projections offer very good reasons for placing high priority on agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa.

The State of Food and Agriculture in Swaziland is similar to that which obtains in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa. However, there are specific circumstances which are peculiar to Southern Africa and Swaziland. Some of these unfortunate circumstances include a very high incidence of drought and other natural calamities, high prevalence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, inadequate agricultural policies and a high poverty rate estimated at 66 percent. It is currently estimated that about 20 percent of the Swazi population of one million requires food aid to sustain itself.

I wish to thank FAO and WFP, as well as other donor countries and organizations who have positively responded to our pleas by providing my country with food aid and basic agricultural inputs over the last two years of a persistent and severe drought. May I hasten to add that the situation is not likely to improve during this 2003-2004 farming season, where rains have come very late and the little that has come is erratic. This has led to very high mortality for our livestock, particularly cattle and very low water levels in existing dams that support irrigated agriculture. I wish, therefore, to appeal in advance to the international community including, FAO and WFP for continued emergency assistance in the form of food, agricultural inputs and supplementary feed for our livestock.

In recent years, our country has succeeded in concluding various policies aimed at creating an enabling environment for increased food and agricultural production. These include the Livestock Development Policy, the Cooperative Development Policy, and the Forestry and Resettlement Policies. A Land Policy awaits final approval by the relevant authorities. Currently a Comprehensive Agricultural Policy is being formulated to further harmonize the concluded policies. In this regard, allow me to extend the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland's, sincere gratitude to FAO and the International and Bilateral donors who have provided us with invaluable assistance and support in these endeavours.

Recently, Swaziland has undertaken various programmes to improve its food and agricultural production environment. One major dam in northern Swaziland has been completed to irrigate about 7 500 hectares of sugar cane, food and other cash crops, and to improve smallholder livestock production. Another 150 million cubic metre dam in south-eastern Swaziland is due for construction very shortly, and will irrigate just over 11 000 hectares to support a diversity of cash crops and livestock enterprises. At full strength, these two dams are intended to address the food security and poverty reduction challenges and other socio-economic problems faced by the country, such as poor nutrition especially among the populations affected by HIV/AIDS and the high rate of unemployment. We wish to appeal for further assistance from FAO and other donors to support us to develop our remaining rivers for irrigation so that more small-holder farmers can be engaged sustainably in increased food and agricultural production for income generation and the creation of employment and the enhancement of international trade opportunities.

These initiatives form part of Swaziland's Programme and Plan of Action to implement the Millennium Development Goals.

We are aware that we are living in a world which is confronted with the problem of dwindling resources for human development. This trend is vividly demonstrated in the national budgets of most of our countries.

FAO is equally not immune to these budgetary constraints. It is not surprising, therefore, that the budget has been a topical issue at the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. In spite of this, we still need to apply prudence and pragmatism in resolving FAO Budgetary constraints. Contradictions created by setting goals which are unmatched by resources for our Organization should be avoided.

Bold steps must be taken to allocate sufficient resources to FAO in the form of a real growth budget for the 2004-2005 biennium.

Components such as the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) have proved to be very effective and instrumental in addressing specific member country issues in a very timely manner. In Swaziland for instance, the TCP on the Special Programme for Food Security has enjoyed widespread support from both the Swaziland Government and women farmers. It addresses very pertinent food and agriculture production issues through the development, and efficient use of water for small-holder irrigation and livestock production schemes.

With respect to medium and long-term solutions to the financial constraints to our Organization, my delegation took note of the challenges proposed by the eminent guest speaker, Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamed, in his McDougall Memorial Lecture, which advocated inter alia the broadening of the financial support base for the resources necessary to carry forward FAO's mandate through a Global Tax Fund administered within the UN system.

CHAIRPERSON

Delegates, I would like to point out that there are two more interventions set down by country representatives, following which there will be two very important contributions by the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), followed by the Executive Director of the World Food Programme. These are very important messages from sister UN Organizations and then, to wind up the session, we will have a very brief statement from the Delegate of Lebanon, regarding this morning's vote on the Finance Committee to be added to the

Verbatim Records, so you know now what is in front of you, it is a not very long and it is going to be very interesting.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan)

The facts stated in FAO'S report on the State of the World Food and Agriculture, are extremely disturbing, more so given the global communities' commitment to food security and poverty alleviation both under the Millennium Development Goals and the Declaration made at the World Food Summit.

It is disturbing to note that as many as 38 countries are faced with serious food shortages. That the number of undernourished people in the developing countries has increased by 18 million over the six-year period of 1995-2001. While production of staples has increased in different developed regions, on balance world grain stocks are expected to decline further for the fourth year in running.

Even of greater concern, is that the position projected for the future does not instil much more confidence. The hopes that had built up after the Doha Declaration following the break up of talks on the Agreement on Agriculture at Cancun, have suffered a major set back.

It is time for the international community to sit down and contemplate. The world is much more interdependent than a few decades back. National interests cannot be sustained outside the common global interests. To take something we must be ready to give up something. His Excellency Mr Tun Mahatir bin Mohammad underlined this fact in his eloquent presentation of the McDougall Memorial Lecture. Member States have to rise above their confined individual interests and work toward creating a fair and equitable system in the interest of the entire global community, particularly in the context of agriculture development, and trade in agricultural commodities and global food security.

Pakistan is involved in two regional food security compacts with its neighbours in South Asia under the Association for South Asian Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the regional states of Central and Western Asia under the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). We are most ready to join other Member States on the appeal of the Director-General, over the theme of the World Food Day for an International Alliance Against Hunger, and would be ready to join other Member States in taking this to a reality.

At the national level, we have undertaken major programmes under the Poverty Eradication Strategy and Poverty Reduction Programme. We have set up national alliances involving civil societies, NGOs and others, through safety net programmes such as the Food Support Programme, Social Protection System, Woman Welfare Programme, Land for Poor Small Farmers Programme and Micro Credit Schemes. These cover activities such as food stamp, empowerment of the poor through increasing their ownership of assets and improving gender equality in terms of distribution of family income and access to food. Strategic stocks are being maintained in the public sector to back up the food security objectives.

We hope together this will alleviate the national food security problems, which were perceivable some time back.

Pakistan is an agrarian economy. Agriculture contributes 25 percent of the national GDP, 70 percent of the national export earnings and absorbs 48 percent of the total labour force. Most important it serves as the main means of livelihood for 98 million or 70 percent of the national population who reside in the rural areas. Pakistan has achieved good success over the past few years in increasing its agricultural production despite being confronted by five years of the most severe and protracted drought. This has also been a period of major macroeconomic reforms in Pakistan where we dismantled tariff and non tariff barriers on trade in agricultural commodities, discontinued price support mechanisms for agricultural crops and phased out the State's role in input supplies and agricultural services. An ambitious programme has been launched to move the agricultural economy towards a more profit oriented, market-led and private sector driven economy. This, by no means, is an easy task, given the context of 80 percent of the landholdings

being in the hands of small landholders, and that 33 percent of the rural population or some 48 million people are living below the poverty line in the rural areas.

We have found FAO a good partner in this effort, responding appropriately and promptly whenever called upon. At this stage we would like to express our thanks to the Director-General, FAO, to Mr Carsalade and other FAO staff members for this prompt and timely response. Not the least, I take special pleasure in recording a special appreciation for the role and tireless efforts and contribution of the outgoing FAO Representative, Mr Adel Aboul Naga, who was sitting on the very last day in his office in Islamabad trying to finish, tidy over, leftover jobs. This speaks volumes of his dedicated efforts and we hope there would be more FAO Representatives like Mr Aboul Naga.

Turning to the agenda before the Conference, Pakistan as a member of the FAO Council, Finance Committee and the World Food Programme Executive Board, has already had the opportunity to have its views represented in the documents before the Conference. We, however, would like to underline that the prevailing world food and agriculture situation, and the commitment undertaken by the world community through the Millennium Development Goals and the World Food Summit Declaration, would predicate the FAO to play an even larger and more proactive role. To enable the Organization in this respect, it is essential that it be supported with adequate financial resources. The historical position where, over the last several decades, Zero Nominal Growth or Negative Growth Budgets have been approved has badly impaired the capacity of the Organization. This situation must not be allowed to continue indefinitely. We, therefore, urge all Members to join us in voting a Real Growth Budget at this Conference.

We also urge a consensus support for the proposal for Split Assessment to reduce the budget's vulnerability to exchange rate fluctuations.

On the programme side, we would like to have seen a much larger level of resources being earmarked for the Technical Cooperation Programme. TCP does not only provide a significant support to the developing countries in various critical areas identified by them, but the experience gained under TCP no doubt feeds back into the normative programmes of FAO, and as such are of great value to everyone.

We now hope that the shortfall will be overcome by supporting FAO with extra-budgetary resources for the TCP.

Structural economic reforms undertaken by a number of developing countries and the new trade imperatives emerging from the post-Cancun situation would require more TCP investments to be focussed on capacity development within the developing countries, to enable them to come in conformity with WTO trade imperatives.

We would also note with concern, that the TCP is still very far away from the 17 percent budgetary level recommended by us in the Conference at its Session in 1989, and we hope that at some early stage this would be covered up. However, at the same time we would also like to note that there is a large unspent balance of TCP funds from the previous two biennia reported in the documentation before us. FAO needs to look into streamlining the TCP implementation to ensure that such carry-over which perhaps had come on because of certain changes towards decentralization should not occur in the future.

An important issue on the Agenda is the Equitable Geographical Representation on FAO staff and we hope Member States would form consensus on the majority supported Option II. We welcome the progress report on implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan. Despite being a very traditional society, Pakistan has taken steps to empower women by reserving 30 percent seats in all national and state legislators, and local selfgovernment bodies for women. Female education programmes are being funded at high priority to achieve universality of female education. Public services have been opened to women and key decision-making positions are now held by a number of women. Women productive programmes are being supported through institutionalized micro credit schemes under the Pakistan Khushali, Wellbeing, Programme.

The role of water and related infrastructure in ensuring sustainable food production represents a very crucial policy issue. Particularly to us in Pakistan, with one of the largest irrigation network in the world, responsible for contributing 80 percent of the agriculture production in the country. Water hold a special stake for us, we therefore, strongly support all suggestions for improving water use efficiencies for agriculture production. At the same time we urge that horizontal expansion is equally emphasized given the need to support the ever growing populations in regions such as the Asian subcontinent. Pakistan also associates itself with the Round Table report on food safety issues and calls on the FAO along with WHO to undertake special programmes in this area.

In closing, but not the least, we would like to note Pakistan's full appreciation and support to the World Food Programme. In very trying circumstances, and oblivious of personal risk, WFP staff members have been working to cater for millions of needy people under numerous man-made and natural calamity situations. Along with emergency assistance we would also urge larger contributions to WFP regular resources in support of Food for Work Programmes. We find these programmes not only improve food security but does not develop dependency or cause local displacement in production. More contributions in cash are also supported as these will enable larger purchases of surpluses in developing countries, which is both cost- effective and more prompt. We hope that members in the WFP Executive Board will be able to support these suggestions.

Louis LAHOUD (Lebanon) (Original language Arabic)

It is my deep pleasure to participate with you on behalf of Lebanon, and I shall start off by congratulating the Minister for Agriculture of New Zealand for having been elected the Chairperson for this Session. I would like to commend Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General of FAO for his continuous effort and his insistence on the implementation of human rights based on constructing a world free from hunger and poverty.

We fully realize that our meeting of today as has always been the case in each and every session of the FAO, lays major responsibility on our shoulders towards all people concerned with agriculture in the world. They always look at us as an Organization and Members who look towards us in order to find out what are the tangible resolutions and recommendations that we will come up with based on development to achieve food security, social stability and economic stability throughout the world. The radical and swift changes that have overtaken the food and agricultural sector in the world and that have been the result of major global changes related to globalization and opening up of markets requires a renewed and new look to this sector, based on scientific approaches in terms of evaluation, planification and implementation, indeed this is a very important responsibility that we all bear.

Agriculture represents a basic axis in the economies throughout the world. Most developed countries rely on the supportive policy towards this sector in order to be able to compete vis-à-vis other sectors, given its vital role in social and economic stability of all sectors, and this is the reason why we believe that we have to focus on agricultural strategy in Lebanon, particularly since 40 percent of the Lebanese people benefit either directly or indirectly from this sector.

Agriculture and the rural society in Lebanon do not fare well. The suffering of the sector is high, and our capabilities are modest and often the agricultural production does not find ways for exportation. However, all these impediments are not irreversible, not at all. Indeed, we are sure that Lebanon can resume its comparative advantage in agriculture and we can give back our rural community its confidence. Our rural community that has been obliged to emigrate from the rural areas to the urban areas or even outside the country with all the negative implications on social and economic stability of the country.

The agricultural sector in Lebanon has witnessed vital changes throughout the last decades such as the rising number of the landholders that resort to agriculture, which has lead to a rising number of the smallholder farmers and to the multiplication of the economic activities. The farmed agricultural land in Lebanon that is used has reached 250 000 hectares and this is more or

less a stable figure, while the agricultural land that is still unused represents around 100 000 hectares. This phenomenon is rising and is on the rise because of Israeli aggressions throughout 30 years and the mines that have been left behind after the withdrawal of the occupation in the year 2000 and the impact has been not only on agriculture, but also human beings.

The aggressions by Israel continue to take place on Shaba farm lines and on the adjacent Palestinian lands. The space of grasslands has been reduced and permanent farmland spaces have risen. Agrofood industries represent an important sector of the industrial sector and artisanal rural production is still effective because of the rising increase on such products.

Lebanon, as of the early nineties, has started to eradicate all banned agricultural plants and has tried to seek alternative plans. However, we have not yet been able to fulfill this requirement, and Lebanon is still suffering and we are still awaiting this to happen.

In Lebanon, our Government is combating poverty through comprehensive rural development programmes and the improvement of decentralized administration and the local community empowerment on the basis of cooperation with NGOs and the civil society. We also seek to insure the comparative advantage of some fruits and vegetables throughout the year and on the basis of our good weather and good human resources, the extension services, the transfer of technology and on international specifications and standards, to improve agricultural and food products, as well as improvement of agricultural quarantine laws.

Lebanon, is part of various international, regional and Arab agreements with the Arab area and the European sphere that would enable it to improve the opening up of markets for its agricultural products and would, at the same time, lay more responsibilities on Lebanon.

We have more pressure on water resources, given the fact that there is a rising increase to meet the needs of urban areas and industries.

As for the forestry, the Ministry for Agriculture is managing for us in a regular manner throughout massive forestation programmes. In cooperation with FAO, we have combated the cephalaria pest that is existent in the cedar forests in Lebanon.

Lebanon looks positively at the proposed programmes on our Agenda, and we wish our Conference all the best and all the success.

Lennart BÅGE (President, International Fund for Agricultural Development)

I have great pleasure in being able to address you at this Thirty-second FAO Conference. The excellent report prepared by FAO for the Conference on the State of Food Insecurity highlights the alarming trend that in many countries the number of food insecure is growing.

The problem is not global food shortages, rather it is the millions of people, especially in rural areas, where three-quarters of the extreme poor live. These people that cannot grow enough food to earn enough income to meet their family requirements.

Paradoxically, even as the focus on hunger and poverty has sharpened, development assistance for agriculture and the rural sector has fallen sharply, by nearly a half over the 1990s. Only about 8 percent of official development assistance is currently directed to agriculture. I think the rural poor deserve better.

FAO and IFAD, together with the World Food Programme share a common vision of a world free from hunger and poverty. Building on our complementarity, we are working more closely together than ever before. At the Financing for Development Conference last year, just to name one example, we spoke in a single voice to highlight the importance of rural and agricultural development to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and to raise additional funding.

There are welcome signs that the centrality of rural and agricultural development is now being recognized. The G8 Summit last summer, for example, emphasized, and I quote, "we undertake to work towards reversing the decline of official development assistance to agriculture and increasing trade opportunities for developing countries". Developing countries, for their part, are

also giving renewed priority to agriculture and this needs to be adequately reflected in the poverty-reduction strategies and other country strategy frameworks being developed.

Higher productivity and output by smallholder farmers requires better access to land, to water, to technology and the fruits of science to finance, very often microfinance systems, and to support the institutions. Better transport and communications infrastructure and facilities for storage, for crop processing and marketing are also needed so that high yields and good harvests are not followed by a collapse in prices. Perhaps most important, small-scale producers need to be able to organize themselves vis-à-vis the market and gain a stronger voice in decision-making processes, what we call the *empowering of the poor*, and, of course, among whom women are at the most disadvantaged position.

IFAD, in the last quarter century, has supported projects and programmes totalling investment costs of over US\$22 billion reaching some 200 million poor people. Our experience, across the developing world, be it in Latin America, in Africa or Asia, has repeatedly shown that whenever poor people are offered the opportunity, they grasp the chance to build more productive lives for themselves, their families and their communities.

Higher output needs to be complemented with access to efficient markets. Today, for too many smallholders the market is either not accessible or even hostile. Such access must start with efficient local markets but even poor farmers in the most remote areas are affected directly or indirectly by what happens in international markets. Studies, we have all heard them quoted, have shown the serious effects that subsidies and protective trade policies have had on poor cotton farmers in West Africa. During my own visits to Africa recently, I have seen many examples. I have seen, for instance, farmers trying to grow poultry, face competition, from below production cost frozen chicken imports. We have seen examples that can be multiplied in areas such as sugar, rice and dairy products, and there are many more.

Reform of the agricultural trading and subsidy system is central. For millions of smallholder farmers, no single measure is more important than the successful outcome of the Doha Round. The promise of Doha to be a development round must be fulfilled.

Our three agencies in Rome are fully committed to supporting these efforts. The Governing Council of IFAD in February next year will focus on *Trade and Rural Development* from the perspective of the millions and millions of smallholder poor farmers. For too long, the interests of these hundreds of millions of poor farmers have received little attention at the negotiating table. It is time that their voice was heard and that their concerns and needs are taken fully into account.

Today, on World AIDS Day, we must underline that the majority of the AIDS victims in Africa are now rural and how deeply the HIV/AIDS pandemic has aggravated the underlying food insecurity and weak public institutions in many parts of Africa. In order to help respond to this triple crisis, at the initiative of the Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan, the Rome-based UN agencies and UNAIDS have led an effort to strengthen our collective capacities in the international system. The aim is to increase our support to national governments in Eastern and Southern Africa who are facing the AIDS onslaught in their societies. Countries with lower infection rates still have windows of opportunity to vigorously address, through preventive measures, the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Do not miss this opportunity.

The poor should not be seen as objects of charity but as partners in development and as true agents of change. Rising incomes for the poor will mean higher purchasing power for both domestic and imported goods and services. Today's poor and food insecure will become tomorrow's customers, promoting more rapid development and growing trade exchanges for the benefit of all.

Achieving the Millennium Summit goals remains a formidable challenge as the report to this Conference underlines. But if the renewed recognition for rural and agricultural development is maintained, I believe the goal is not beyond our reach. Some fear that the demands of combating terrorism and conflict could divert resources and attention away from eradicating poverty and hunger, but it is clear that poverty, alienation and hopelessness often provide a breeding ground

for strife and terrorism. The world of stability and security cannot be built on foundations of poverty and hunger. Thus, even as we try to overcome the scourge of terrorism and the aftermath of war, we must redouble our efforts to overcome poverty and hunger, as the overriding goals of international development cooperation.

James MORRIS (Executive Director, World Food Programme)

My presentation is actually the one you have been waiting for all day. The last one. You have heard lots of speeches today and I am pleased to have a chance to be with you.

Last year at the height of the food crisis in Southern Africa, I spoke with a woman out in the countryside in Mozambique. We met in a small hut overrun with her children. She was one of millions of the continent's AIDS widows. I do not know if she too had the disease. I did not ask her. Our connection lay in the fact that the World Food Programme provides food to her family and she thanked me warmly for that, but then she said something I found quite touching. She said the food was a wonderful gift, but what had really made her happy was the feeling that she was not alone, that someone cared about what would become of her and her children.

Three million people died of AIDS this year, 500 000 of them children. Five million more acquired the disease, 700 000 of them children. Forty-two million people now have AIDS worldwide and the toll keeps on rising.

The numbers are devastating. Yet, for a change, there is some good news today – World AIDS Day. Funding in the battle against this disease is up 50 percent to US\$4.7 billion a year. President Bush announced a US\$15 billion US initiative, the European Union has committed more than US\$1 billion to the Global Fund, and WHO has launched its 3 by 5 campaign to get anti-retroviral drugs to 3 million people in developing countries by 2005 – ten times the number that receive them today.

The AIDS coverage in the media focuses on demand for anti-retroviral drugs, but if you were to go out and talk to families in Southern Africa, you would get quite a different picture. These people talk about *food* and that is where FAO, IFAD and WFP come into the picture. Peter Piot, head of UNAIDS often tells about one of his early visits to Southern Africa: "I was in Malawi and met with a group of women living with HIV/AIDS. As I always do, I asked them what their highest priority was. Their answer was clear and unanimous: food. Not care, not drugs for treatment, not relief from stigma, but food". Is that so surprising? My colleagues at FAO calculate that 7 million farmers have been lost to AIDS in Africa alone. Eight out of ten farmers in Africa are women, mostly subsistence farmers, and women are disproportionately affected by the disease. Seven million farmers lost in Africa is more than the entire number of people doing farming in North America.

The challenges that AIDS presents to the Rome-based food agencies are tremendous and now being recognized – we need to find ways to lessen the physical burden of farming for those infected, especially women, and formulate nutritionally adequate rations for those who are HIV-positive. People fortunate enough to receive ARVs need sound nutrition and clean water or we might just as well be throwing the pills away. AIDS has created a new kind of food crisis. The disease magnifies the impact that war, economic mismanagement and natural disasters have on very poor countries. The effect is much like tossing gasoline onto a smouldering fire. It has been my privilege to serve as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Humanitarian Crisis in Southern Africa. Working with FAO, UNICEF, WHO and many NGOs we fought off famine there and we learned a great deal in the process we are not applying worldwide. Director-General Diouf and I have committed ourselves to strengthening our joint food needs assessment in emergencies to take in a wider range of health and other factors and we are improving efforts to distribute seeds and other inputs to farmers in crises.

I am proud how the cooperation between FAO and WFP has taken off. Last year FAO and WFP had joint projects in 44 countries, more than double the level of the year before, ranging from collaboration on school feeding and school gardens, to community development and training, to vulnerability assessment. Last Friday WFP signed an agreement with FAO which will lead to

even more work together, reaching out to rural families whose communities have been devastated by AIDS.

The battle against AIDS is a battle against time. WFP food aid is helping HIV-positive parents live longer and continue to provide and care for their families. In sub-Saharan Africa, where there are 14 million children today orphaned by AIDS, we are working with governments to integrate AIDS prevention in school feeding programmes. AIDS has turned children into parents. It is not so unusual to see a 10 or 12-year old tending to smaller siblings without the guidance of an adult. Food aid, especially at school, can help relieve these children of the responsibilities of being breadwinners and caregivers, so they can be children again.

This year, the WFP will deliver food to some 110 million people globally – an all-time record. In Iraq, we carried out the largest humanitarian aid operation in history – moving 1000 tons of food an hour, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. We did this despite all of the security obstacles and are proud of that achievement. But nothing has made us more proud than our drive to make food the front line of defence against AIDS.

Without food aid, the poorest people with HIV will always have to choose between access to medical treatment and their next meal – even where drugs are free. We are talking about whether to spend money on a bus fare to the nearest clinic or buy basic foodstuffs. No one should have to make that choice.

For all those whose lives have been decimated by hunger – victims of drought, war and AIDS – hope is the most valued commodity. Since I joined the World Food Programme I have seen incredible suffering. Not long after I met with that widow in Mozambique, I came across a quote from Mother Teresa that reminded me of our conversation in that hut. "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted are the most terrible poverty." More than the poverty we measure in dollars or euros, it is this poverty we must bring to an end.

Salif DIALLO (Burkina Faso)

Je voudrais tout d'abord saluer, au nom du Président du Burkina Faso, Son Excellence Blaise Compaoré, la tenue de la présente Conférence, la 32^{ème} de notre Organisation, et remercier le Directeur général de la FAO et son équipe pour les efforts consentis dans le sens de l'atteinte de nos objectifs et de nos engagements pris au dernier Sommet à savoir: réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition à l'horizon 2015.

Le constat fait au dernier Sommet mondial de l'alimentation (FAO, 2002) en guise de bilan est que le nombre de personnes mal nourries a baissé seulement de six millions par an au lieu des 22 millions nécessaires pour atteindre en 2015 l'objectif assigné en 1996 au Sommet, et réaffirmé dans la Déclaration du Millénaire des Nations Unies en 2002.

A ce rythme, c'est avec 45 ans de retard que le but fixé serait atteint. Dans le même temps le marché mondial des produits agricoles continue d'être un défi à l'équité pour les pays en développement.

Le problème de l'alimentation au Burkina Faso, à l'instar des autres pays du Sahel, connaît ces dernières années une ampleur qui interpelle les décideurs et toute la Communauté internationale. En effet, des 800 millions de personnes sous alimentées, plus du tiers vit en Afrique, et environ 1,2 million vit au Burkina.

Le Burkina a adopté des politiques et des stratégies de réduction de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la pauvreté à travers le Cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté (CSLP), le document de stratégie durable (SDR) et la stratégie de développement durable de l'agriculture irriguée en cours d'élaboration.

Ces stratégies visent la mise en œuvre: d'une politique d'éradication de la faim et de réalisation d'une sécurité alimentaire durable, au niveau des ménages comme au plan national; d'une politique créant des conditions qui favorisent la stabilité de l'emploi, particulièrement dans les zones rurales, y compris les emplois hors exploitation, afin de procurer des gains suffisants pour

l'accès aux céréales et légumineuses et faciliter ainsi l'achat des biens de première nécessité; d'approches qui encouragent la mise en œuvre de techniques et technologies appropriées à travers l'exécution de travaux à haute intensité de main-d'œuvre; d'approches permettant aux femmes de tirer un juste revenu de leur travail, et encourageant la conservation et la gestion durable des ressources naturelles.

Constatant en outre que 51 pour cent des pauvres au Burkina Faso vivent dans des zones rurales et tirent l'essentiel de leurs moyens de subsistance, de l'agriculture et du développement rural, mon Département a engagé depuis la saison agricole 2001-2002, une vaste opération de production en saison sèche de céréales et de légumineuses à haut potentiel protéinique: le Programme de promotion de la petite irrigation villageoise (PPIV).

Ce programme qui constitue une opérationnalisation et une vulgarisation du Programme spécial de sécurité alimentaire (PSSA), que la FAO a si bien initié et appuyé, connaît aujourd'hui un engouement et un engagement des producteurs qui ont anticipé nos prévisions.

A sa deuxième campagne pilote, le Programme de promotion de la petite irrigation villageoise a permis d'emblaver plus de 6 000 hectares, de produire plus de 25 000 tonnes additionnelles de céréales en saison sèche, occasionnant une baisse de plus de cinquante pour cent des prix au consommateur, et de créer plus de 24 000 emplois directs et connexes en milieu rural.

La bonne pluviométrie enregistrée cette année au niveau régional, associée aux efforts des producteurs, a permis une production agricole globale de 3 647 000 tonnes réalisant ainsi un excédant céréalier.

Mais ceci ne doit pas nous faire perdre de vue les efforts nécessaires pour pérenniser les productions agricoles et dont le soutien de la Communauté internationale reste indispensable pour l'amélioration des capacités, les investissements et la valorisation des productions.

Permettez-moi de réitérer mes remerciements et ma reconnaissance à la FAO pour ses efforts et son dynamisme dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.²

The meeting rose at 18.33 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 33

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.33 horas

² Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au procès-verbal

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
FIFTH PLENARY MEETING CINQUIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE QUINTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 December 2003

The Fifth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.30 hours

Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La cinquième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 30

sous la présidence de Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la quinta sesión plenaria a las 09.30 horas

bajo la presidencia del Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2003/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2003/2) (suite)

5. Examen del Estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2003/2) (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Guatemala, Malawi, Finland, Myanmar, Sudan, Samoa, Ireland, Kenya, Chile, Kuwait, Canada, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Netherlands, India, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Mozambique, Cyprus, Maldives, Libya, Tanzania, Sweden, South Africa, Yemen, Bahamas, Mauritanie, République du Congo, Lithuania.

CHAIRPERSON

We are going to be pressed for time today. The Round Table 2 will start in the middle of the afternoon, which means that the Plenary will not have the ability to run over time. There will be little flexibility for the Plenary to run over time, because the same interpreters who will be interpreting for the Plenary will have to move to interpret for Round Table 2. Therefore I implore speakers today to exercise some self discipline and confine your speeches, as well as you can to the five-minute limit. It would be most unfair and discourteous for speakers earlier in the day to indulge themselves with seven, eight, nine, ten minutes as many were able to do yesterday, because what you will do is you will be denying later speakers all opportunity to present their speeches. Therefore, please, look realistically at your prepared scripts and carve out things you know you will not be able to get through in five minutes, or almost get through in five minutes. I just implore speakers to do that for the sake of those who will be following them.

May I announce that the Working Group on Split Assessments has just about got all its Members. The list of Members at present comprises from the Africa Region: Senegal and Tanzania; from Europe: France and one other still to be decided, Asia: India and Japan; from North America, Canada and the United States of America; from the Near East, Egypt, Qatar and Saudi Arabia; from the Southwest Pacific, Australia and New Zealand; from GRULAC - that romantic land which comprises the Latin America and the Caribbean - have not got their nominations in yet. If those who have an influence on that could get those hurried along because this Working Group has to get on with its work as soon as possible.

My final piece of housekeeping is to remind Heads of Delegation that you received in your pigeon-holes an invitation like me to a reception tonight from 20.00 to 22.00 hours on the Terrazzo Caffarelli, Piazzale Caffarelli, Campidoglio. They tell me it is one of the most beautiful views over Rome and it will all be over at 22.00 hours, so please come along and enjoy yourselves there.

We move now to the List of Speakers today. The first speaker is His Excellency, Señor Juan Francisco Reyes López, the Vice-President of the Republic of Guatemala.

Juan Francisco REYES LÓPEZ (Guatemala)

Permítaseme antes que nada felicitarle por su designación como Presidente de esta Conferencia. Tanto su experiencia personal como el prestigio que goza Nueva Zelandia entre nosotros

garantizan el éxito de su gestión. Quiero agradecer asimismo a todos los Estados Miembros por haberme electo y haber electo Guatemala por unanimidad para ocupar la vicepresidencia, elección que aprecio y que he aceptado como un reconocimiento a nuestro esfuerzo de gobierno y al de nuestra misión permanente ante la Organización con sede en Roma, y que han permitido llevar a Guatemala a los más altos espacios de participación como jamás en el pasado.

Hemos puesto nuestro mejor empeño por coadyuvar a que la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación, FAO, ocupe el liderazgo que le corresponde y porque seamos todos, sin excepción alguna, fieles al compromiso que hemos contraído para beneficio de quienes más lo necesitan.

Agradezco al Director General de FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, que me ha invitado nuevamente para dirigirme como invitado especial a esta Conferencia en sesión plenaria tal como lo hice en el 31º período de sesiones que precedió a la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después, Cumbre en la cual también tuve el honor de participar y en la que también me dirigí a su plenaria.

Hubiese querido participar en la sesión inaugural de esta Conferencia, pero el compromiso de hacer entrega de la Presidencia de ONUDI en Viena, organización que tuve el honor de presidir hasta la mañana de ayer, recién me permitió llegar a Roma ayer por la noche.

Es este un momento especialmente emotivo para mí ya que será la última vez que lo haga como Vicepresidente de la República de Guatemala, cargo del que haré entrega, Dios mediante, el próximo 14 de enero cuando por primera vez en nuestra historia un gobierno libremente electo y que sucediera a otro gobierno igualmente electo haga la correspondiente entrega del poder a un gobierno también electo con el voto popular, consolidación esta del sistema democrático y en cuanto gobierno y partido político, testimonio del respeto a la voluntad soberana del pueblo.

En este momento, oportuno para compartir con ustedes, no existe mejor instrumento para alcanzar nuestros fines que la unidad; es más, la unidad constituye, nada más y nada menos que el imperativo categórico para que todo pueda alcanzarse. Sentencio que no lo lograremos si no la recuperamos.

Manifesté en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación: cinco años después, y vuelvo a decirlo ahora, que ésta no es la Organización de unos pocos ni la Organización de muchos, sino la Organización de todos. Debemos relacionarnos con la más profunda solidaridad y realizar el mejor de nuestros esfuerzos porque la humanidad pueda romper los lazos que siguen atando a tantos hombres, mujeres y niños a la miseria y a la pobreza.

Nuestro Embajador en esta Organización, recogiendo la visión y el compromiso del gobierno de Guatemala en esta materia y con instrucciones precisas sobre el tema sugeridas de sus abundantes consultas sobre evaluaciones y estudios, hizo saber en el pasado período de sesiones del Consejo, recién finalizado, que hablar de un crecimiento nominal cero en el presupuesto de la FAO es hablar de reducción del presupuesto y no de crecimiento alguno y que incluso, la mención de un crecimiento real cero es simplemente mantener el *status quo*, por lo que debe evitarse expresiones que producen confusión.

Es una terminología inconsistente que oculta la realidad: hemos estado reduciendo el presupuesto, y eso es preocupante. Guatemala cree en el crecimiento del presupuesto de la FAO si queremos ser congruentes con los compromisos adquiridos para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza. El crecimiento real, el crecimiento que no precisa de calificativo es lo que necesitamos y no otra cosa. Pretender el cumplimiento de compromisos sin dotar a la Organización de los instrumentos adecuados no es sino la más escandalosa de las incongruencias, el más absoluto divorcio entre lo que se dice y aquello que se hace. "No debe existir divorcio entre fe y vida", ha dicho Su Santidad el Papa Juan Pablo II, y recogemos nuevamente sus palabras puesto que tienen valor para todos los hombres por igual, católicos, cristianos en general y hombres y mujeres de buena voluntad, reconocemos esto independientemente de nuestra fe, pues es la coherencia entre la palabra y la acción.

Por ello, hago mis mejores votos para que no sea necesario votar sobre esta materia en la Conferencia, sino que la determinación de crecimiento sea producto del consenso. Obviamente, el mayor esfuerzo en términos cuantitativos recae sobre los Estados Unidos de América, Japón y la Unión Europea, pero en términos cualitativos las cantidades mínimas en su conjunto pueden constituirse individualmente, para muchos, en un esfuerzo aún mayor del que otros deben afrontar. No olvidemos por favor el sentido distributivo de esta entidad, no olvidemos que la paz requiere que no exista hambre ni de pan ni de justicia.

Hago un llamado a la unidad. Si no existe unidad y comprensión entre nosotros, no habremos de alcanzar lo que nos hemos propuesto: un mundo donde no exista la injusticia, donde haya paz, donde exista Dios, el Eterno, el Misericordioso, lo cual sigue siendo, en este momento, imposible.

Respaldamos el crecimiento, la expresión presupuestaria y el pago de cuotas en dos monedas, de tal forma que el riesgo cambiario deje de pesar solamente sobre la Organización y que exista una adecuada defensa contra las fluctuaciones monetarias. Permitir que la depreciación monetaria se absorba por la Organización es, ni más ni menos, permitir la mismísima reducción del presupuesto. Debemos insistir en la optimización de recursos y en la austeridad, en el máximo rendimiento de los recursos siempre escasos y que sólo es alcanzable con la coordinación de esfuerzos entre todas las agencias y organizaciones, pero nuestro celo por la austeridad y la optimización de los recursos no deben ser un obstáculo para el crecimiento sino, por lo contrario, algo distinto por hacer.

La unidad y la congruencia de nuestras palabras y de nuestros actos es lo que tiene que reflejarse en el incremento de nuestro presupuesto. Son, hoy por hoy, los temas que deben constituir la prioridad absoluta de esta Conferencia. Quisiera no permitir distracción alguna en cuanto a la unidad de la Organización y al presupuesto adecuado, imperativos categóricos de nuestra acción, si en verdad queremos alcanzar lo que queremos, lo que decimos querer y que sabemos debemos hacer.

Sin embargo, y puesto que es la última vez que me dirigiré a ustedes como Vicepresidente de la República de Guatemala, Presidente del Foro de Vicepresidentes de Centro América, Vicepresidente de esta Conferencia e invitado especial, considero importante insistir sobre otros asuntos que en otras ocasiones hemos compartido.

Siguen utilizándose los alimentos como un instrumento de presión política, incumpléndose así el terminante compromiso contraído y vulnerando los derechos humanos de quienes los padecen. Debo recordar que el ser humano es un fin en sí mismo, anterior y superior a los Estados, y que nada justifica que se vulneren sus derechos humanos por nobles que parezcan los fines. Los alimentos no deben usarse como instrumento de presión política y, sin embargo, se persiste en ello.

He insistido tanto en el pasado e insisto nuevamente hoy sobre este tema ya que, si se quisiera, seríamos capaces de cumplir con un compromiso que no precisa otra cosa que la simple voluntad política. ¿Qué podemos esperar del cumplimiento de compromisos más complejos si en este momento no llegamos a cumplir con el ya mencionado? En un día, el 11 de septiembre se perdieron 3 mil vidas. La enfermedad y el hambre mata 400 mil personas todos los días en los países en desarrollo.

La asistencia bilateral es importante y mucha de esa asistencia alcanza niveles de excelencia en cuanto a objetividad, neutralidad e imparcialidad. Sin embargo, existe una mayor posibilidad que la imparcialidad, la neutralidad y la objetividad se alcancen con acciones multilaterales donde pesos y contrapesos así lo garantizan.

Nadie que lo necesite debe de ser excluido de la asistencia. Si los alimentos no deben ser objeto de instrumentalización política, tampoco deben de excluirse de asistencia quien pueda y quien quiera hacerlo. Debo reiterar lo que ya dije en la Cumbre: vemos en el caso de la República de China, miembro al igual que la República Popular de China de la Organización Mundial del Comercio que, sin embargo, en nuestra Organización no puede coadyuvar a la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza ni como Miembro ni como Observador, a pesar de su extraordinaria

experiencia en materia agrícola y del éxito obtenido en materia alimentaria. Desde el 1º de enero de 2002 los dos gobiernos, el de la República Popular de China, en Pekín, y el de la República de China, en Taipei, se volvieron miembros de la Organización Mundial del Comercio.

Tomemos este antecedente para comprender que no existe razón para que no puedan coexistir en otras organizaciones apolíticas y humanitarias como lo es la FAO. En nuestros esfuerzos comunes por reducir el número de 800 millones de personas que padecen el hambre en el mundo, bien valdría la pena, insisto, en considerar la posibilidad de invitar a la República de China para que participe como Miembro o como Observador lo antes posible. Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, entre otros países, hemos insistido e insistiremos en este tema.

Debo reiterar que, al ver el problema del hambre y la pobreza en el mundo, tiene que citarse obligatoriamente el ejemplo de los 23 millones de personas que viven en la isla de Taiwán y el de su gobierno, que durante 50 años, además de procurar suficiente alimentos para su pueblo, ha ofrecido una válida asistencia en el campo de la agricultura a los pueblos de muchos países en vías de desarrollo, tanto en América Latina como en África y en Asia. A través de su Centro Asiático de Investigación y Desarrollo con sede en Taiwán ha provisto 300 mil ejemplares de semillas para más de 180 países, incluyendo la República de China.

Todos tenemos que estar en esta lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza. No se justifica que nadie quede excluido y reitero el concepto del libro sagrado de los mayas, el Popol Vuh: "que nadie se quede atrás, todos juntos adelante".

Quisiera hacer referencia una vez más a otro tema toral: resulta bastante incómodo hablar de lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza cuando se vuelve con renovado vigor a los subsidios que se otorgan a la propia producción y que impiden el crecimiento de los otros. Lo meramente esencial, si bien es importante alivio, no puede erradicar el hambre y la pobreza. Si por un lado se asiste, pero por otro lado se impide el desarrollo, nada se habrá solucionado, el hambre y la pobreza persistirán sin esperanza alguna. Los subsidios impiden el desarrollo de los otros, ¿Por qué? Porque sólo el trabajo productivo hace que se pueda salir del hambre y la pobreza y si se distorsiona la competitividad en el mercado, los que están atrás, atrás quedarán. Y jamás habrá trabajo suficiente para éstos en sus propios países.

Cito nuevamente a la organización no gubernamental Green Peace: "Sólo si los pobres son capaces de alimentarse a sí mismos se eliminará la pobreza".

Hablar de erradicar el hambre y la pobreza en el mundo y subsidiar la propia producción interna constituye el más absurdo de los absurdos. Es como dar un abrazo de cariño y, a la par, la más excluyente puñalada. No puede haber en esto un doble discurso. Una gran coalición contra el hambre y la pobreza, como la que invocara el Presidente Rau de la República Alemana, no puede convivir con una política de subsidios a la propia producción, visibles o encubiertos. Los subsidios a la propia producción impiden el acceso de otros al mercado e, impidiendo este acceso, se impide el acceso al trabajo y a poder alimentarse.

Es preocupante también la posibilidad de que políticas erradas de salud y producción agrícola lleguen a incidir en el consumo y la producción del mundo, reduciendo la capacidad de exportación y de empleo de los países en desarrollo. Caso evidente es el peligro que corre la producción azucarera y de otros productos agrícolas, por el estudio recientemente publicado por la OMS "Reporte del Estudio de un Conjunto de Expertos OMS/FAO sobre Dieta, Nutrición y Prevención de Enfermedades Crónicas", cuyas recomendaciones serán la base para la formulación de la nueva Estrategia Global de la Salud, en enero 2004, durante el período de sesiones de la Junta Ejecutiva de la Organización Mundial de la Salud en Ginebra. Esta estrategia a seguir podría servir de base para cualquier tipo de política relacionada con la salud del hombre y, por lo tanto, a la formulación de una nueva política agrícola de FAO. Es una propuesta que llevaría a revolucionar todo el sistema agrícola mundial y despierta una gran preocupación en los países en desarrollo ya que sus productos vendrían a ser, si no eliminados, drásticamente reducidos en las dietas de los países desarrollados con la consecuencia catastrófica para el comercio de los productores. Todo esto, sin consistencia alguna.

Debo finalmente recordar el planteamiento de universalización de la alimentación escolar surgida en el Embajador de los Estados Unidos de América, George McGovern: la universalización de la alimentación escolar a todos los niños del mundo, es el reto más transcendental que la humanidad puede plantearse. No quisiera que quedase ésta tan solo en una buena idea y la mejor de las intenciones.

Concluyo esta alocución con una necesaria referencia a problemas puntuales que afligen a Guatemala y a acciones de Gobierno que hemos realizado. Guatemala, país caficulator por excelencia, eficiente productor de azúcar, de banano, sufre las consecuencias de precios en los productos que son capaces de desplazar del mercado a un porcentaje cada vez mayor de productores, con su dramática incidencia en el nivel de empleo y, con ello, en la pobreza.

Enfrentamos un reto que es difícil que asumamos solos: una transformación estructural sin precedentes, recién salidos de un conflicto armado que se extendiera por 36 años y que debemos asumir justo ahora cuando nos esforzamos por construir la paz con el cumplimiento de los acuerdos que la hicieron posible. Fenómenos naturales recurrentes, inundaciones y sequías, el huracán Mitch que causara estragos en el área centroamericana, la grave amenaza recurrente.

Debo señalar, por elemental consecuencia, que, por primera vez, hemos logrado eliminar inveterados privilegios y que hemos incrementado, como debía incrementarse, la carga tributaria.

¿Por qué esta necesaria alocución a lo nuestro una vez más en esta Conferencia? ¿Qué relación entre lo propio y la lucha mundial contra el hambre y la pobreza? ¿Qué relación con el cumplimiento de los compromisos de la Cumbre y con alcanzar sus metas?

Guatemala, a pesar de las dificultades, se afana por erradicar el hambre y la pobreza. Tiene solvencia para recibir apoyo puesto que se apoya a sí misma y elimina la posibilidad de que el esfuerzo de los habitantes de países desarrollados pudiese quedarse en beneficio de los ricos del país en desarrollo y no llegue hasta los pobres, preocupación atendible en quien asiste. Por otra parte, necesitando asistencia también busca asistir en lo que puede, tal y como lo hacen otros países de América Latina. Participa, así, en esta Organización con el protagonismo no tenido en los decenios anteriores, comprometida con la verdad y con toda causa justa.

El próximo mes de abril habrá de celebrarse en Guatemala, por primera vez, una conferencia regional de nuestra Organización. Para entonces estará instalado ya un gobierno distinto pero estoy seguro que dará continuidad a lo que hemos emprendido y que mantendrá el protagonismo y la alta participación que hemos alcanzado en este sistema multilateral de Naciones Unidas. Resulta especialmente prometedor que en la Conferencia Regional de Guatemala se prevea la realización de una mesa redonda a la que invitan el Director General de la FAO y el Director del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Se busca que participen en ella, al más alto nivel, los distintos Ministerios de Finanzas para alcanzar el compromiso de una necesaria asignación presupuestaria para lo estrictamente agrícola y pecuario, incluida la infraestructura de producción. La pobreza y la miseria están especialmente en el agro, ese es el planteamiento: ¡Vayamos a su encuentro!

Concluyo formulando mis mejores votos porque esta Conferencia, reunida en Roma, sea capaz de recuperar para la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación la unidad que debe de existir en su seno si queremos que pueda alcanzar sus objetivos y que también sea capaz la Conferencia de dar congruencia a la acción con la palabra y dé así a la lucha contra el hambre y la pobreza los recursos que requiere siendo la aprobación del crecimiento presupuestario el ineludible imperativo categórico que debe de afrontar.

Que no exista ya nunca más al divorcio entre fe y vida y que Diós, Nuestro Señor, el Eterno, el Misericordioso, derrame sobre ustedes y sobre todos los pueblos de la tierra, especiales bendiciones.

Ha sido en verdad un privilegio el poderles hablar en esta plenaria. Un privilegio que agradezco a todos. En idioma maya kiché: Maltiox.

Chakufwa CHIHANA (Malawi)

It is my honour and privilege this morning to have this opportunity to share with you the views of my delegation on the State of Food and Agriculture in Malawi, and other general topical issues that are affecting the wellbeing of humanity throughout the world.

I wish to convey you and the Director-General of FAO, best wishes from the State President of Malawi, His Excellency Dr Bakili Muluzi, who attaches great importance to this organization because of the crucial role the organization plays in fighting hunger and poverty in the world.

I wish also to join others in congratulating you, Mr Chairman, for the election to the high office of the Chair of the Thirty-second Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference, and wish you the best of luck and success in your task of guiding the deliberations of this Conference. Special thanks and appreciation also go to His Excellency, the Director-General, Dr Diouf, for his able stewardship of this Organization, which touches the lives of many people throughout the world.

Sixteen months ago, the Heads of State and Government from all over the world gathered here in Rome to assess the progress made in achieving the goals of the first World Food Summit held in 1996, to reaffirm their political will and commitment to fight hunger and poverty in the world. As we all know, the leaders noted with disappointment that not much progress was made in our fight against global hunger and poverty. Consequently, they unanimously reasserted their commitment and determination to vigorously pursue these objectives in order to achieve our goal of halving the world's poor and undernourished by 2015. This is undoubtedly a daunting challenge considering that there are still over 800 million people worldwide who are undernourished, according to the Report of the Director-General of FAO. We therefore need to act decisively now to ensure that the challenge before us is successfully dealt with.

In Malawi, poverty is arguably the most pervasive and widespread problem. About 65 percent of our people, 6.3 million, live below the poverty line and 28 percent are deemed to be in abject poverty with little or no access to clean drinking water, energy, telecommunication and better health and education facilities. According to the World Food Summit goals, Malawi must therefore reduce this figure by 3.3 million by 2015. I wish to assure you that Malawi is fully committed to this objective and will do everything possible in its capacity, and with her cooperating partners' support to ensure that this objective is achieved.

In this regard, the Government of Malawi has formulated a Poverty Reduction Strategy Framework in which a number of programmes interlinking short-, medium- and long-term initiatives are being implemented to achieve these goals. More support, however, is required in the form of technical and financial assistance from all our cooperating partners, both traditional and new ones, to help us achieve the goals of the World Food Summit in full.

Following the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Malawi has formulated and implemented several policy measures and strategies aimed at strengthening the agriculture sector and improving access to agricultural inputs. For example, formation of associations, cooperatives and agrodealership schemes have been put in place. I am happy to report to this Conference that as a result of successful implementation of these measures, as well as favourable climatic conditions during the 2002-2003 agricultural season, Malawi was able to produce enough food to meet all her requirements for the 2003-2004 season. The country registered a food surplus in maize equivalent to about 80 000 metric tons. This is in sharp contrast to the previous two seasons when the country was unable to produce enough food to meet its food requirements, due to unfavourable climatic conditions, a situation which led to huge imports of maize and distribution of humanitarian food assistance. The distribution of humanitarian food assistance, food aid was coordinated by the World Food Programme and other United Nations agencies and various other cooperating partners. I, therefore, wish to express the Malawian Government's profound gratitude to all these organizations for the assistance rendered to us during the time when we were in dire need of food.

Let me also express our sincere thanks and appreciation to FAO for the various Technical Assistance Programmes the Organization continues to provide to Malawi. The programmes are highly beneficial to us and are positively contributing to the household food needs of the majority of ordinary Malawians. The Special Programme for Food Security, which has irrigation, livestock, aquaculture and crop intensification components, is highly appreciated by farmers throughout the country. I, therefore, wish to thank FAO for the programme and request the Organization to expand its Programme of Work for Malawi so that many more Malawians would benefit from these interventions.

The current favourable food situation outlook for Malawi is a result of a number of measures that the Government of Malawi undertook in close collaboration with its cooperating partners. These measures include, for example, distribution of free packs of fertilizers and improved seeds through a programme known as the Targeted Inputs Programme or TIP; development of irrigation programmes; winter cropping production; diversification of agricultural production; adoption of policy reforms; intensification of research and extension activities; improvement in livestock productivity, expansion of activities of farmer associations and agrodealership schemes; improvements in marketing of agricultural products; and expansion of farmer credit schemes and of course, recently, the introduction of One Village One Product Programme.

The programmes have duly paid dividends and it is the intention of the Malawian Government to vigorously continue with these measures so that the country is self-sufficient in food and is able to add value to its products for export. I, therefore, wish to appeal to all well wishers and FAO to continue assisting us in our effort of fighting hunger and poverty in Malawi.

Malawi, which has vast water resources in the form of lakes, rivers and underground reservoirs, is committed to rapid irrigation development in order to lessen dependence on rainfed agriculture. Currently, activities such as the development of small scale farming irrigation systems through treadle pumps, motorized pumps and canalization, are underway. In addition, Malawi is pursuing diversification policies into such crops as cassava, horticultural products and high value crops, so that they complement the activities of irrigation thereby ensuring food security for all the people in the country. The Government intends to expand this programme through NEPAD.

My delegation has studied, with keen interest, the reports of the Finance Committee and Programme of Work Committee and fully supports their proposals to introduce the Split Assessment procedure and adopt the Real Growth mechanism within FAO. We believe that the adoption of these measures will assist FAO to remain instrumental in our fight against hunger and poverty in the world. We, therefore, urge all FAO Member States to approve these policies for the good of our Organization and the rural farmers in our country.

Let me briefly comment on HIV/AIDS, which some of our colleagues had earlier spoken on. About three years ago, in New York, at the General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, over 183 government representatives adopted unanimously a Declaration of Commitment to fight HIV/AIDS. The Session addressed the problem of HIV/AIDS in all its aspects because of its devastating scale and impact the pandemic is having on the world community. My delegation would like to request FAO to consider following up on these commitments contained in the declaration, which deal with threats to development and food security. Malawi is one of the countries listed to have the highest rates of infection of this disease robbing the human capacity in all sectors.

Before I conclude, allow me briefly to express my Government's deepest disappointment over the collapse of World Trade Organization negotiations in Cancun, Mexico, two months ago. Two years ago, as we successfully concluded the Doha Development Agenda, our hopes and enthusiasm were high as we looked forward to a better and more inclusive world agricultural trading system. Suddenly, following the collapse of Cancun negotiations, we regrettably find ourselves to have moved two steps backwards in our effort to make the development goals of Doha a reality. We, therefore, would like to urge all members of the World Trade Organization to be as constructive as possible during the Council's meeting slated for later this month in Geneva, so that the current stalemate in WTO negotiations is uplifted.

Finally, allow me to end my statement by saying that Malawi has high hopes for this Conference and is looking forward to its successful conclusion. It is Malawi's hope that this Conference will come up with tangible results that will continue to spearhead development of agriculture, with the objective of reducing hunger and poverty in our countries.

Michael Odevall, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair

Michael Odevall, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Michael Odevall, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Juha KORKEAOJA (Finland)

The most recent food security data presented by FAO gives evidence that the target of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goal of halving hunger in the world by 2015 will not be met unless we considerably intensify our actions.

The situation is particularly crucial in sub-Saharan Africa where the number of the undernourished is in fact estimated to increase. The responsibility for combating hunger mainly rests with the national governments. One major achievement in poverty reduction during the recent years are the national poverty reduction strategies. Finland sees the role of FAO as crucial in this process and encourages it to increase cooperation and coordination with other international actors.

World agriculture production has stagnated or even declined in the past few years. Higher agricultural production alone cannot solve the food security problem, but FAO considers that production must increase considerably over the next 20 years. Most of the readily available and fertile farming land is already being used, which means that major progress towards better food security can only be made by improving the efficiency of agriculture.

Sustainable forestry and sustainable use of its products are closely connected to agriculture. Preventing erosion and desertification, fuel supply in rural areas and preserving biological diversity all depend on efficient collaboration between the agricultural and forest sectors.

Finland is pleased with the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, established to support the UNFF and with FAO's active role as the Chairing Organization for this. In Finland, we have worked hard to carry through our national forest programme as a key to proper forest management. The experiences gained have been very positive. We are extremely happy with the work of FAO to further develop and spread the concept of national forest programmes.

Sustainable development and use of the fisheries resources should also be considered as a high priority. Sustainable fishing efforts must be ensured on the global scale. Finland highly appreciates the International Action Plan ratified by the FAO Council in June 2001. As a Member of the European Union, Finland will play its full part to implement the Action Plan. The fishing effort of many fish stocks should be considerably reduced, which means that the growth potential mainly exists in fish farming. Finland fully appreciates the active measures of FAO in the aquaculture sector, particularly the establishment of the Subcommittee on Aquaculture under the Committee on Fisheries. We will take an active part in this work in order to increase and diversify food production in the world.

Food emergencies continue to affect a large number of countries, especially in Africa. Many of these are caused by adverse climatic conditions but we are very concerned about the fact that an increased number of them are caused by human accents. The integration of cross-sectoral issues into the work of FAO needs to be stressed. Finland emphasizes adequate focus on the environment, gender equality and HIV/AIDS pandemic in FAO activities. Finland acknowledges the central role of women in rural development and rural livelihoods all over the world.

As regards access to and ownership of productive resources and participation in decision making, women are still in a weaker position than men. Specific actions are needed for creating and enabling a political and normative environment for women's economic and social empowerment.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic affects food production, utilization of natural resources and rural development in many developing countries in the short- and medium-term. The quantitative and qualitative deterioration of the labour force reduces production and increases women's workload which already is intolerable.

Last September, in Cancun, the Trade Ministers had the opportunity to reach a consensus on detailed rules for a new WTO Agreement on Agriculture. This opportunity was lost. Those who stand to lose the most are the poorest one. Finland regrets the lost opportunity and remains committed to continuing the negotiations based on the mandate given by the Ministers in Doha. A consensus based on the Doha mandate has the potential of increasing prosperity in all countries, while safeguarding the special needs of poor countries and taking into account the non-trade aspects.

As we set ourselves to the task of reducing obstacles to trade, we recognize that it is the right and obligation of all countries to make every effort to feed their people. Finland fully associates itself with the proposals made by the EC and supports the Community's efforts to make trade work for the poor.

Nyunt TIN (Myanmar)

I would like, at the outset, to convey my Delegation's sincere congratulations to the Conference Chairman on his election. My Delegation is confident that our deliberation will be fruitful under his stewardship.

In recent years, credible advances have been made in agriculture in a number of countries. They have been laudable and have contributed to food security, but, on balance, we still remain short of our pledges made at the World Food Summit. We are grateful to FAO for their frank views expressed in the documents for highlighting the persistent phenomenon of malnutrition and for the positives and negatives relating to agriculture. In addressing the issues, we deeply appreciate FAO's drive for the establishment of a International Alliance Against Hunger. In support of FAO's campaign, we have started the wheels rolling for such a mechanism.

The coming year is the International Year of Rice. Rice constitutes the staple food of more than half of the world's population. The consensus of "Rice in Life" as the International Year of Rice slogan is indeed highly appropriate. Myanmar, as a major rice producer, as well as a high consumer, remains committed to its goals. We have already put in place a National Committee for the International Year of Rice in Myanmar and have implemented a work schedule for the International Year of Rice 2004. The agricultural sector growth rate in Myanmar in 2001-2002 was 8.1 percent. The net sown area and the crops cultivation has risen to around 10 million hectares and potential for further expansion is still immense. In 2002-2003, 6.49 million hectares were put under paddy. It has been planned to raise it to 6.69 million hectares in 2003-2004 as a combination of 5.44 million hectares of monsoon and 1.25 hectares of summer paddy. We hope to have 24.1 million tons of paddy and export around 1 million tons of rice.

The area under peas and beans in 2002-2003 was 3.27 million hectares and it is envisaged to increase this to 3.38 million hectares in 2003-2004. It has become an important export item furnishing a surplus of about 1.9 million tons annually. We have spared no efforts in according attention to other cereal, oil crops and industrial crops and irrigation has been playing a significant role for the successful crop intensification programmes. Irrigation coverage, which in 1988, was only 12.5 percent of the gross sown area had increased to 18.6 percent by 2002.

In the livestock and fisheries sectors, increased productivity has contributed to a per capita consumption of 26.7 kilograms of fish and 16.5 kilograms of meat in 2002-2003, in comparison to only 18.4 and 4.6 kilograms respectively in 1993.

Myanmar is fortunately still covered with an abundance of forests and it constitutes 52 percent of Myanmar's total land area. The forest sector also contributes 0.51 percent towards Myanmar's GDP.

Sound trading policies are also essential for agricultural development. Myanmar has launched a new rice trading policy that will take effect with the present harvest. The policy ends State purchasing and ensures free purchasing, processing and trading and export of rice. The new rice trading will give a boost to agricultural production and accrue enhanced benefits to the peasant rice trading and milling infrastructure. While such adjustments come into play nationally or regionally, we trust global adjustments will gradually materialize for equitable and fair trade in agriculture. As it stands, however, WTO's failure in Doha, Seattle and Cancun, have been highly disheartening.

In conclusion, I wish to express my deep appreciation to FAO for bringing to the attention of the Conference the persistent issues of undernourishment, food security, agricultural trading policies and inadequacy of resource flows. We hope the Conference will be able to find solutions to the problems.

May I once again reiterate Myanmar's commitment to the ideals of FAO.

Magzoub AL-KHALIFA AHMED (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. May peace, God's blessing and mercy be upon you.

It is indeed my pleasure to address your august body in this Thirty-second Session of the General Conference of the Organization. I am also pleased to convey to you the warmest greetings on behalf of the Government and people of Sudan. My greetings go as well to the Heads and Members of the participating delegations honouring this Session.

I am honoured to express to you, my brother, the Chairman of the Conference, my heartfelt congratulations for your election to the Chairmanship of this Session. I am fully confident that thanks to your wisdom and your skills, you will be able, with the help of God Almighty, to carry out our tasks with success. We assure you our full support and cooperation.

The world has witnessed economic and political changes at both the international and regional level. Developing countries have taken reforms in their economies within those transformations, however, they need a further stronger role by the Organization to help them attract international regional support to reduce poverty and achieve food security. We have been following the effort made since the first World Food Summit in 1996 and the World Food Summit: *five years later*, in 2002 in agricultural development, food security projects, poverty reduction, the development of rural women, under the umbrella of the projects carried out by the Organization. We commend the efforts by the Organization in our countries, which have been tireless. We are indeed very much interested in assessing the implementation of the projects and resolving the problems those projects face and lifting the obstacles which impede their implementation. We work strenuously to achieve sustainability to the projects implemented, hoping that we will benefit from the technical support of the Organization and their initiatives and we look forward to more support especially since all the projects have been resounding success in Sudan.

We still have a long way before we can achieve the goals of the third Millennium, especially the goal to half the number of poor by 2015. It is clear for everyone to see that the rule of the great powers is still modest. They have not fulfilled their promises to finance and support poverty reduction programmes. What is worse is that wars were waged recently and it might be wise for developing countries and less developed countries to rely on themselves to finance their projects and to create regional economic blocks.

Allow me, on this occasion, to recall that Sudan has made great progress in economic and political infrastructures. First most among which the peace process which will be crowned soon, God willing, with the signing of the final agreement between the Government and the Rebel Peoples Movement. This will install political stability in the country and will promote economic and social development, especially the agricultural facet of it, whether in the plant field or the animal field. We expect that the peace agreement will be simultaneous with the successes made through the economic reform programme which has led to higher economic growth and financial

performance. The agricultural sector has been the pioneering sector and the mainstay of the Sudanese economy, whether in food production for us, or for the neighbouring countries, or in poverty reduction and installing rural stability and development. However, we need further support through technical programmes which indeed have led to the opening of markets and lifting all obstacles before agricultural production for us and developing countries. It is, indeed, unjustified to provide subsidies to the agricultural goods in the advanced countries which do not abide by the rules of WTO agreements. This has prevented us from accessing world markets and prevented us from a level playing field. In our region, we have constantly made efforts to achieve the goals of existing economic blocks such as ICAD, COMESA, NEPAD, South-South Cooperation and, at the international level, we have normalized our relations with a number of international economic blocks and funds.

We greatly appreciate and commend the active role by the Director-General of the Organization, Dr Jacques Diouf. He is indeed fulfilling his commitments and achieving all the initiatives aiming at developing and promoting agriculture, achieving food security, reducing poverty in our African continent, and he has endorsed the Maputo Declaration by the Agriculture Ministers of the African Union launched last July.

I would like to seek this opportunity to express thanks and cooperation to the countries who have cooperated with us in food security, Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the countries of the Arab Gulf, as well as those who have concluded cooperation agreements with us and we look forward to cooperating with other friendly countries. Our interests in Sudan are in step with the interests of the Organization, namely, to fight hunger, to reduce poverty, achieve food security. Our interest in rice has been growing steadily since it is a staple for food security at the regional and world levels. Rice has occupied a prominent role in the five-year plan of our country. It has become one of the priorities of our Strategic Programme. And the Organization has declared 2004 the International Year of Rice and we look forward to regional and international programmes supporting our efforts in this field.

In the context of long term planning, Sudan has put a twenty-five year agricultural strategy into effect. Its priorities focus on food security and narrowing regionally, and internationally, the food gap in response to the world call for Sudan to become a world food basket.

This strategy also aims at reducing poverty and we have made steady progress in this regard, and we have also a basic text for reducing poverty which we hope will be completed, God willing, very soon. As to food safety, Sudan is applying all the provisions of phytosanitary agreements as well as the recommendations and the guidelines of CODEX Alimentarius and, in the field of world trade, Sudan has indeed started negotiating its future admission to the WTO.

The near future in Sudan will be a future of peace and stability, God willing. It is known that our country is rich with natural resources, fertile land, water resources, animal resources, fisheries and forestry, thus this will be a stimulus for investment from all walks of life to make use of resources that will be of common interest to all.

I would like to praise the management of the Organization and all its staff for the efforts they have made in implementing its policies and its programmes, and in this brief statement I would like to renew my appeal to the Organization to increase its budget, especially those earmarked for the projects in Sudan, especially in the south of the country affected by the war.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address you. May peace be upon you.

Tuisugaletaua A. Sofara AVEAU (Samoa)

First of all, let me express Samoa's appreciation for the invitation by the Director-General, Dr Jacques Diouf, to participate at this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

We are delighted to note the admission of four new Members, and in particular, the two Small Island Developing States, Tuvalu and Federated States of Micronesia, from the Pacific as Members of FAO and we look forward to working together through our FAO Subregional Office in Samoa.

Samoa would like to make reference to the communiqué on the Fifth Meeting of the Southwest Pacific Ministers of Agriculture in April this year, in which we noted progress achieved in several areas relating to food security in the Pacific by the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands. Ministers noted the continuing assistance provided by FAO to Member countries for formulation of strategies for agricultural development and food security, as follow-up actions to the 1996 World Food Summit Plan of Action. Ministers also noted and supported the call for an increase in ODA and additional national and international investment for productive agriculture in poor rural communities in order to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Samoa commended the work of the Council, particularly the reports by the respective committees, in their reviews and assessments of the State of Food and Agriculture in the world. Special reference to a report by the Committee on World Food Security on assessment of the world food security situation in May and the recommendations therein call for immediate attention.

It is a year ago since the World Food Summit: *five years later*, and Samoa remains committed to our global objective of fighting hunger through every means possible, of alleviating poverty in every sphere available to it, both nationally, regionally and internationally. Samoa is an active participant in this fight and will continue to play its part and contribute its share of responsibilities to reduce hunger and, as reported in the statement by our Prime Minister at the World Food Summit: *five years later*, Samoa has undergone and continues to pursue an extensive reform programme in order to revitalize economic growth. It has, in collaboration with its development partners, invested significantly in institutional strengthening and capacity-building.

The strategy for the development of Samoa 2002-2005 reflects the vital role of the agricultural sector in the rural and national economies with up to 80 percent of households reliant on mixture of subsistence and cash income, as well as its links with other priority sectors such as private sector, sustainable tourism and development. The strategy also supports the revitalization of traditional food cropping as well as development and diversification of cash crops utilizing a more participatory approach, with all farming community groups.

Samoa's efforts to stand the impacts of Taro Leaf Blight, a disease which wiped out our strong Taro export, has largely been very successful through the able assistance by some donor countries, including Australia and Japan, and some organizations, in particular FAO, through its Subregional Office for the Pacific in Samoa.

Fisheries continue to play an extremely important role in the economy of Samoa, as well as contributing significantly to the health and the nutrition of our people. It is one of the major revenue earners for Samoa and it is becoming a significant employing sector of the economy.

Samoa is also engaged in some significant developments in the fisheries sector, not only to strengthen the fisheries industry even further, but to achieve sustainable management of Samoa's marine resources, both offshore and inshore. Seafood safety standards and hazard systems for the Samoan fishing industry have been developed. The growth in the livestock subsector has continued on its upward trend. Numbers of national stock of beef, piggeries and poultry have all been significantly increased, but still below the national demand levels. FAO's assistance in this successful development is gratefully acknowledged.

Our Government is committed to start building our infrastructures to facilitate marketing for the industry.

The issue on the ban of kava by some European companies has continued to impact negatively on our rural farmers livelihood. The ACP Council of Ministers, at a special session in September this year, calls on the European Union to endorse the findings of the scientific report by the phytopharm consulting firm in Berlin, Germany, which categorically stated that kava can be regarded as a safe and an effective herbal medicine or product and, thus, the measures taken by European health authorities are inappropriate and unjustified. A lot of our rural farmers depend on earnings from kava for their livelihood.

The coconut industry is developing with most of the coconut being processed locally. However, the reduction in international price of oil discourages the rural communities to collect and process coconuts. The concerns over the rapid decline of the remaining merchandizable indigenous forestry resources has prompted the review of the forestry sector assisted by AUSAID, as well as the initiation of the FAO TCP project to strengthen the institutional capacity of the forestry division to effectively plan and manage Samoa forest resources.

The World Food Day this year, which was commemorated together with Coconut Day and Farmers Agricultural Show in Samoa, in a combined theme of International Alliance Against Hunger, was a success. We continued to bring together farmers, individuals, governments and non-governmental organizations and the business communities involved in the production of agricultural and food products, to show-case their activities, products and contributions to food security. This was followed by a special week of fasting and prayers for the world events and the approach of the cyclone season. A national environment week, culminating with a tree planting on Arbor day, completed the season for agricultural environment related activities.

Samoa supports FAO's programme for World Food Security, in particular the Regional Programme on Food Security for the Pacific Island countries and the significant contribution of US\$4.5 million by the Italian Government, through FAO, towards its implementation. This programme has now started together with ongoing FAO's Telefood and TCP programmes for Samoa.

Samoa appreciates the initiative of its regional neighbours in encouraging free trade between and among themselves, but seeks from them the more concrete responses which are transparent, fair and timely, especially in the area of quarantine requirements and tariff information.

May I take this opportunity to thank the Director-General and, through you, to your staff for their untiring efforts in pursuing this most noble cause - fighting hunger and poverty - and the objectives of FAO.

Noel TREACY (Ireland)

I am very pleased to be here today to represent Ireland on the occasion of the Thirty-second FAO Conference. I am delighted to be joined by our distinguished Ambassador, His Excellency, Mr J.F. Cogan and our Senior Officials from our Department of Agriculture and Food in Ireland.

Ireland greatly values and appreciates the work of the United Nations Multilateral System. For a relatively small country we have played our part in supporting the United Nations. From financial support to the provision of peace keepers and always through our committed participation with many UN Organizations. FAO plays a vital role within the UN System and is an acknowledged centre of excellence for agriculture. FAO maintains a focus on hunger and emphasizes the importance of agriculture as an essential part of the solution toward hunger.

Ireland supports the programme for reform that FAO has been undertaking which has lead to a continuing emphasis on efficiency, effectiveness and the development of a results based approach. Here we have a forum where we can meet and debate and together take practical steps to achieve the goals of the World Food Summit.

In Ireland the agrifood sector is an important part of our economy and it counts for around 8.4 percent of GDP at factor costs, 9.5 percent of total employment and 7.1 percent of total Irish exports.

Ireland is committed to a European vision of agriculture with an emphasis on the important role of the family farm, food safety and quality, and the preservation of the rural environment as a basis for a thriving economy.

After the recent changes in the common agriculture policy, Irish agriculture is facing and entering a new phase of development and we look forward to this challenge. At one of the Ministerial Round Tables we will be considering the role of agricultural trade and the events of the recent WTO talks at Cancun.

Ireland has always been conscious of its responsibilities to developing countries and is prepared to participate in any forum to reach a balanced agreement. We believe that the recently concluded mid-term review of the common agricultural policy, has clearly demonstrated our commitment and we are ready to make further progress on these matters.

I hope that we can achieve a balanced outcome which will meet the needs of developed and developing countries alike.

I would like to say a few words Mr Chairman about our official Development Assistance Programme. Since the last FAO Conference our Aid Programme has been subject to a major review. The main overarching objective remains the reduction of poverty. To this end we are reforming our management structures, developing a new focus and governance – democracy and human rights – and setting up a new fund and action plan to combat HIV/AIDS. Priority sectors include education and health with the continuing focus on food security, water and sanitation, and rural roads.

Ireland maintains a focus on sub-Saharan Africa in its choice of programme countries where, as FAO figures show, 33 percent of the population is undernourished. As agriculture is the major productive activity in many developing countries, its development is closely related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to which we are all committed.

Developing agriculture is an essential part of the achievement of the overall goal of poverty reduction. It is a major challenge to put in place sustainable policies and structures. We all know the aid to agriculture and, indeed, the other productive sectors has declined over time. Like all other sectors that we support, Irish policy regarding agriculture is guided by the principals of aid effectiveness. We are committed to supporting local ownership of programmes and we participate fully in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

Overall spending in agriculture has increased from 5 percent of official development assistance of the 1990s to 9 percent in 2002 and we are engaging with our partners in developing countries in supporting agriculture in a selective targeted manner.

However, in order for aid to be effective, it is essential to take a multisectoral approach. It is not enough to encourage agriculture or indeed any sector in isolation. Our role is to be an active partner with developing countries and not to impose solutions.

Ireland has long been committed to achieving the UN target for official development assistance of a 0.7 percent of GNP. Our Development Cooperation Programme has increased every year since 1992. Growth has been more rapid in recent years with the Programme doubling in size since 1999.

We expect to allocate a 0.41 percent of GNP to ODA in 2004. And we will continue to pursue the objective of reaching the UN target by 2007. In terms of GNP, Ireland is the seventh largest donor in the world. We strongly support the European Union's commitment to increased allocations and achieving an average rate of 0.39 percent by 2006.

However, we are all aware that it is the quality of actions that gives real benefits and therefore, we are pleased that a recent OECD Review has noted the quality focus and effectiveness of the Irish approach to overseas aid.

In a month's time, Ireland will assume the presidency of the European Union. Development and cooperation will be the focus of our presidency. Priorities will include raising awareness and reinforcing intergovernmental commitment to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS. Conflict prevention and more rapid follow-up to the 2002 Johannesburg Summit in relation to water, energy, and various other issues in developing countries.

This Conference has an important Agenda. Success in our work this week will be another important step in meeting the target set out in the 1996 World Food Summit. Ireland looks forward to a productive and practical meeting and pledges our support and cooperation as we go forward together.

Kipruto Arap KIRWA (Kenya)

On behalf of my delegation I would like to thank you Mr Chairman for giving me the opportunity to address this conference. I join my colleagues in congratulating you on your election to Chair the Thirty-second Session of the Conference.

Since the last Conference in the year 2001, Kenya experienced favourable weather conditions. The country produces an average of 2.7 million metric tons of maize which is a staple food. In 2001 and 2002 production was 2.9 and 2.6 million tons respectively while this year production is projected at 2.8 million tons. The period has also been favourable for other cereals, pulses, cash crops milk and meat production. The country has therefore been almost self sufficient in its food requirements.

It is however, worth noting that only 20 percent of the country is suitable for rainfed agriculture, while the rest lies in Arid or Semi Arid (ASAL) areas, mainly inhabited by nomadic pastoral communities. These areas suffer from frequent drought, thus the inhabitants are vulnerable to hunger. For example, this year the government, together with the World Food Programme provided a total of 60 000 tons of famine relief food to vulnerable communities numbering about 1 million people. The food is provided under Food for Work Programme. WFP is also supporting the School Feeding Programme and 22 districts benefiting 550 000 school children, an arrangement which has boosted school enrolment in ASAL areas.

The poverty level in the country averages 56 percent with a range of 25 to 78 percent. There is a big correlation between poverty and food insecurity. In order to reverse this situation the Government has started a special programme for food security in districts with high level of food insecurity, but with a good potential for agricultural production.

The programme brings together all stakeholders who discuss and respond to food security constraints in respective districts in a prioritized manner. The programme emphasizes up-scaling of successful experiences to other areas with similar conditions, while pooling resources available with all stakeholders.

The Programme is also utilizing experiences gained from the pilot FAO funded project titled Reducing Chronic Hunger in Bondo, one of the Food Insecure Districts in Kenya. We have set a target of reducing the number of food insecure people from 15 million to 6 million in the next 5 years.

The Special Programme for Food Security is seen as a major avenue of achieving this noble objective. FAO has supported Kenya through a Technical Cooperation Programme in 18 pilot districts with a grant of US\$330 000. By the end of 5 years, we expect to have covered all the 70 districts in the country. The Programme has received Government backing and in April this year, it was relaunched under the New Partnership for African Development and the Comprehensive African Aquaculture Development Programme.

In addition, the Government has allocated 50 million Kenya Shillings, an equivalent of US\$660 000 this financial year for provision of microgrants to communities with good food security initiatives and for capacity building for the private sector. The rate at which the Programme is being implemented is quite satisfactory. In addition to the Special Programme for Food Security, FAO has supported other food security initiatives in Kenya through TCP programmes.

Introduction of Palm Oil in western parts of the country that will serve as a cash crop that will assist the food security measures.

Farmer field schools in 15 districts which have proved to be very popular among our people.

Pilot conservation tillage that aims at developing the basic tillage methods while at the same time conserving moisture.

The Kenya Dairy Board Project to restructure and commercialize Kenya Dairy Board to make it modern, cost effective and a self reliant body.

Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Project to help the Inspectorate undertake Post Risk Analysis while at the same time meeting the standards of Kenya's produce for consumers.

The Government is committed to reducing poverty levels and enhancing food security. The measures being taken to achieve this objectives, include restructuring and empowering farming institutions so that they can rid the needs of farmers including credit requirements.

The Government is also making efforts to improve communication network to facilitate agricultural production and marketing as well as promote private sector participation and value addition of agriculture produce.

Initiative for coping mechanisms that have been put in place include establishment of a disaster management unit and a strategic grain reserve fund for mitigation against unfavourable weather conditions.

Jaime CAMPOS QUIROGA (Chile)

Es un agrado para el Gobierno de Chile tener la posibilidad de participar en esta nueva Conferencia de la FAO y entrego, a nombre de mi país, un saludo al Director General y a usted así como a todos los señores delegados.

El sector agroalimentario chileno representa el 15 por ciento del producto geográfico bruto de nuestro país y ocupa un 12 por ciento de la población económicamente activa. Este sector ha mostrado un crecimiento sostenido durante la última década; de hecho, desde el año 2000 ha crecido a tasas cercanas al 5 por ciento anual, es decir, el doble del resto de nuestra economía y esperamos mantener estos índices de crecimiento por un período prolongado, gracias a una dinámica política económica que hemos estado promoviendo.

La agricultura chilena está fuertemente integrada a los mercados internacionales. Chile es un país exportador neto de alimentos. El 30 por ciento de los envíos de Chile hacia el exterior provienen del sector agropecuario y forestal, y esta actividad se ha transformado en el segundo sector exportador después de la gran minería del cobre.

Durante el mandato del Presidente Lagos hemos profundizado nuestro modelo de desarrollo agroexportador y nuestra inserción en el mundo. Recientemente hemos negociado acuerdos de libre comercio con la Unión Europea, con Corea de Sur, con los Estados Unidos, con algunos países centroamericanos y los países del Este europeo, lo que se une a los acuerdos que ya teníamos con Canadá, México y Mercosur. Creemos que este escenario le abre una amplia perspectiva de desarrollo al sector agroalimentario chileno, lo que ya se está traduciendo en una importante disminución de la pobreza rural y en una mejor calidad de vida para los pequeños productores y campesinos chilenos, así como para todos los trabajadores agrícolas y habitantes rurales en general.

Esta pequeña síntesis de lo que ha sido el desarrollo económico agrícola nacional. Estamos convencidos que la apertura económica y el crecimiento son condiciones necesarias para alcanzar las metas de la disminución de la pobreza. Este modelo ha implicado que en los últimos diez años, Chile haya sido capaz de reducir a menos de la mitad los índices de pobreza rural que exhibíamos el año 1990. Sin embargo, para que ello ocurra con la velocidad deseada se requieren políticas públicas activas y adecuadamente focalizadas y el Gobierno del Presidente Lagos y este Ministerio han tratado de mantener este compromiso. Como lo demuestran los propios documentos y estudios de la FAO, el incremento del comercio contribuye decisivamente a disminuir la pobreza y el hambre en el mundo. Aquellos países con mayor participación en el comercio internacional son los que muestran un mejor desempeño en relación a los objetivos que la comunidad internacional se ha fijado en esta Organización. A la inversa, aquellas naciones que menos participan en el comercio internacional exhiben niveles de pobreza más preocupantes.

Por ello es que pedimos un renovado esfuerzo para retomar las negociaciones en la Organización Mundial del Comercio en orden de hacer realidad el mandato de Doha, puesto que estamos convencidos que las distorsiones que existen en el mercado agrícola, fundamentalmente provenientes de los subsidios que implementan los países industrializados, están generando un

doble efecto que agrava los problemas de seguridad alimentaria que aquejan a la humanidad. Por un lado estos subsidios impiden que importantes producciones agrícolas de países no desarrollados puedan acceder a los mercados internacionales y, en segundo lugar, están también impidiendo que los productores no puedan recibir el precio justo por sus producciones. Para ello creemos que es fundamental avanzar en la eliminación o la sustancial reducción de tales subsidios aplicados por los países industrializados, lo que objetivamente distorsiona el comercio internacional. Puede ser que los países industrializados tengan derecho a aplicar esos subsidios; sin embargo, es éticamente inaceptable puesto que con ellos mantienen los focos de pobreza en el resto del mundo. Los países pobres o menos desarrollados no buscan la calidad, quieren igualdad de oportunidades para competir. Reitero que, como lo hemos hecho en otros foros internacionales, estamos dispuestos a jugar un rol constructivo que aproxime posiciones y contribuya a viabilizar una sustancial apertura de mercados y corrección de las distorsiones que están presentes en los mercados agrícolas. El término de estas distorsiones contribuirá a aumentar la seguridad alimentaria y a disminuir la pobreza rural.

Chile entiende que la paz es una condición esencial para promover el desarrollo y una mejor calidad de vida para todos los habitantes del planeta. Como lo hemos dicho y reiteramos, tradicionalmente ofrecemos conocimientos técnicos y cooperación para apoyar la consecución de estos objetivos que son los de la Organización.

Fahad Salem AL-ALI AL-SABAH (Kuwait) (Original language Arabic)

On behalf of my Country and personally speaking, I would like to express my thanks to the Italian authorities for the warm welcome which was given to us. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr Chairman and the Vice-Chairman on your election to this Thirty-second Session of the Conference of FAO.

I would also like to use this opportunity to congratulate the countries which have joined the Organization as new members. Likewise, I would like to use this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO for the praiseworthy efforts which he continues to make for this Organization and for the whole of mankind. Our Conference is being held 18 months after the World Food Summit; *five years later* whose purpose was to eradicate hunger and poverty, nonetheless, the level of poverty and undernourishment are still very high in many countries, including developing countries. This is a very worrying situation, which adds to the responsibilities of this Organization with regard to millions of people.

A quick look at the world today enables us to understand the suffering in the developing countries in their struggle to overcome hunger and instability which hold up their development, and we believe this Conference will enable us to go deeper in the study of the causes of such a situation, in particular in recent years. This is an added responsibility for FAO. Although financial resources made available to it are being cut back, and it seems increasingly difficult to find alternative sources of finance. This leads us to re-examine our priorities in this Organization and to take all the necessary measures with a view to efficient management of our resources, while assuring coordination with all the specialized agencies of the United Nations, and in particular those based in Rome.

As a member of the Regional Group of the Near East, we appeal to countries to meet their commitments and to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries, in order to encourage their development. Kuwait appeals to FAO that it strengthens its regional structures in particular in the Near East and its ancillary bodies, in order to provide the necessary assistance to the countries in our region, to help them reduce and overcome the obstacles that hold them up in their development.

The State of Kuwait understands its responsibilities with regard to development and on instructions from His Royal Highness, the Emir of Kuwait, we have contributed to financing a number of development projects in countries throughout the world. It is through the establishment of the Kuwait Development Fund, to assist developing countries that we have contributed

technical and financial assistance and have contributed to the financing of development enterprises in recent years.

The Fund has given numerous loans and preferential rates to a number of countries and 640 projects adding up to US\$12 billion dollars. This has been particularly effective in the share of agriculture on these loans, approximately 104 loans for a total value of US\$2 billion, without mentioning the contribution of Arab Development Social Fund, with headquarters in Kuwait. Kuwait is one of the founding countries. In 1972 the contribution of Kuwait to this Fund was 23 percent of the budget and it gave a number of loans for rural development and irrigation for a total value of US\$2.8 billion, that is approximately 22 percent of the loans granted by this Fund to many countries. The assistance to credits given by Kuwait represents a two percent of the GDP, that is far beyond the level required by paragraph 29 of the Rome Declaration of 2002, which urged developed countries to allocate 0.7 percent of their GDP to development aid and between 0.15 to 0.2 to the least developed countries.

Kuwait has never spared its efforts in helping Iraq in accordance with our fairly good neighbourliness. We have always been keen to deal with the problem of food security and we have an Agricultural Development Programme using technical assistance contributed by FAO, with regard to planning, techniques and training in human resources, development and good management of agricultural, water and fisheries resources, bearing in mind the most recent developments worldwide and locally.

This strategy aims to optimize the resources we have to: use irrigation increasingly; to protect the environment and to provide credit and agricultural and farming knowledge; and also, the cooperative movement. Because of the low level of rainfall in the Gulf, we very much rely on groundwater and treated water for irrigation. Since, the use of groundwater is problematic because of its salt content and the exhaustion of these resources, the prospects for using this water in the future is limited. Therefore, the only available source would be to re-use water. We will, therefore, propose to the Organization the establishment of an International Research Centre to: deal with and study the recycling of used waters, how such water could be re-used, establish quality standards, study social and economic and health environmental impact, and standardize regulations governing the use of such water. Kuwait would be happy to host such a Centre. This could be agreed with FAO, because our country has a good basis for this.

In conclusion, allow me to wish this Conference every success so that it can go ahead and take decisions, which may match the expectations of people throughout the world.

Lyle VANCLIEF (Canada)

Three-quarters of the world's absolute poor live in rural areas and their livelihoods are most often linked to agriculture. Canada remains committed to increasing its investment in development assistance and to making agriculture a major part of its development agenda.

At the G8 Summit in Alberta, Canada, last year, Prime Minister Chrétien announced that Canada's international aid would double by the end of the decade through yearly eight percent increases. At least half of these increases are earmarked for Africa. Last summer, the Canadian International Development Agency launched a new policy on the role of agriculture in rural development.

To implement this new Agenda CIDA is increasing its investments in the agricultural sector from the current level of US\$95 million to US\$500 million in 2007-2008.

In Nairobi, last month, my colleague Susan Whelan, the Minister responsible for CIDA, announced a funding commitment of US\$85 million to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). This is an addition to the US\$40 million committed to the CGIAR through the Canada Fund for Africa in response to NEPAD.

As members of the global community, we know that agricultural issues do not respect borders. What helps one of us, helps all of us. More and more the agricultural challenges facing developed and developing countries are the same. That is why Canada supports FAO. This includes funding

for the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which I was pleased to sign and ratify on behalf of Canada here in Rome last June.

As we have learned from our experiences, with BSE in Canada this year, strong food safety systems are the best way to develop and maintain consumer confidence, both domestically and internationally.

We also support enhancing the participation of developing countries in the work of the CODEX Alimentarius Convention to formulate and harmonize food standards and to ensure that these standards are implemented globally.

Canada also invested more than US\$1 million to help 300 participants from developing countries to attend the Twelfth World Forest Congress held in Quebec City in September of this year.

This event was a tremendous success, attracting 4 000 people from the world forestry community. The final statement affirms the importance of the world's forests in the fight to alleviate poverty, and I urge FAO Members to work with Canada to help realize this vision.

Today, I am pleased to announce a further commitment from CIDA of US\$1.1 million to CODEX Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection convention, to support core activities, as well as capacity-building in developing countries.

WTO Members agreed, in Doha in 2001, to develop a more fair and market-oriented international trading system that would allow developing countries to participate more effectively in international trade.

Canada remains committed to working with other WTO Members, through the current Doha Development Round, to achieve a more open and less distorted global trading environment.

The efforts of developing countries will be critical to achieving an ambitious outcome in those negotiations. And I certainly look forward to participating in the WTO discussions, during the Round Table later today. In my time, as Canada's Minister of Agriculture, it has been my pleasure and honour to work with FAO and many of my ministerial colleagues that are gathered here today. Looking ahead we know the challenges remain, let us all remain and recommit ourselves to take on those challenges together.

Bamidele DADA (Nigeria)

I would like to join my other colleagues to congratulate you and your Bureau upon your election. The Nigerian Delegation wishes you every success. I am particularly delighted to be here as the Head of the Nigerian Delegation. For me it is a pleasant home coming for obvious reasons. Having served this Organization for over 18 years and retired recently as Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Africa, I was appointed to the cabinet of His Excellency, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in July 2003.

It is indeed an unsavoury and embarrassing paradox that although the issue of poverty appears to have been succinctly and strongly brought to the centre stage of international discourse especially, in the last decade and in spite of the giant strides that have been made in the field of science and technology in an increasingly inter-dependent world, the incidence of poverty continues to escalate in most developing countries, particularly in south Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. The target to halve the proportion of the world's extreme poor by the year 2015, set by the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development, reaffirmed by the Millennium Summit in September 2000 remains largely a mirage.

Attaining food security is a task for which the primary responsibility rests on the individual national Governments. We, the developing countries are fully aware of this. Most of our countries are therefore working towards creating the requisite enabling environment. To this end, my country has endeavoured, within the limits of available resources, to translate our political commitment to FAO World Food Summit goals in budgetary allocations, which have now been reinforced by the Maputo Declaration of African heads of State and Government, to commit a

minimum of 10 percent of national budget to agriculture in the next five years. To backstop this budgetary policy, the Nigerian government has set up a National Agricultural Development Fund outside the traditional budget to be funded from petroleum pump taxes accruing to the Federal government and other sources, in order to help mobilize resources for a holistic revitalization of Nigerian agriculture.

In the year 2002, we launched in collaboration with FAO, an ambitious National Special Programme on Food Security (NSPFS), which is one of the largest programmes being managed by the FAO. We also signed a Tripartite South-South Cooperation Agreement with China and FAO within the framework of NSPFS to build and rehabilitate small-scale water control irrigation scheme in all the States of the Federation. I am also pleased to report that we are currently implementing Presidential initiatives on some strategic commodities with a view to enhancing national and household food security and diversifying the country's foreign exchange earnings from crude oil export. The commodities are: cassava, rice, vegetable oil, tree-crops, cotton and livestock.

Furthermore, as part of our effort at fostering political will and national commitment to combat hunger and poverty, we are aggressively pursuing the restoration of fundamental rights of the civil society, respect for the rule of law, transparency in governance and social justice, as well as an uncompromising crusade against corruption, in order to recreate the necessary socio-political environment that will catalyze the revitalization of the depressed economy and help the poor to walk their way out of poverty and hunger. The Federal government is also putting in place a strategy known as the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy, (NEEDS), which will ensure that resources are efficiently utilized among the three tiers of government and Private Sector, to ensure an early achievement of development objectives and poverty reduction. Agriculture has a vital role to play in the implementation of this strategy.

From the regional perspective, our effort in Africa is to evolve intervention measures that can be replicated *mutatis mutandis*, across the region, poverty reduction and food security being a multidimensional phenomenon which can be best tackled through multifaceted measures encompassing economic, social, political and institutional factors. In this regard, I would like to once again, invite our development partners in the industrialized world to explore the opportunities offered by the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and to join hands with African countries in our collective struggle for the economic emancipation of the continent. In particular, we would like to solicit financial support for the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, which has been formulated by FAO.

I would like to commend FAO for the preparation of the Conference documents on the State of Food and Agriculture, and also, to stress the importance of the fisheries sector. I would also like to ask that FAO, that the Director-General convene a high-level meeting, preferably at the Ministerial level, to address the concerns in fisheries and the forestry sector.

I believe that the budget submitted by the Director-General, respects and indeed is in accordance with the Medium Term Plan and has the full support of my Government. We would like to see that the budget achieves Real Growth.

In conclusion, I would on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, like to commend the efforts of the Director-General and the professional management team, for their untiring efforts in addressing the global problems of agricultural development and in offering sustainable solutions. In particular, my Delegation wishes to place on record its deep appreciation to the entire membership of FAO for the support the Organization has continued to give to Nigeria.

M. K. ANWAR (Bangladesh)

I would like to join the previous speakers in extending to you my warmest congratulations on your election as Chairperson of this Conference.

I also express my congratulations to the Members of the Bureau on their election.

It is of great concern to all of us that there has been a decline of food security in the world, especially in the developing countries. It is disheartening to find that when we have all committed to reduce to half the number of hungry people by the year 2015, the number of undernourished population has increased by about 18 million between 1995 and 2001. Unless effective steps are taken by the world community to achieve the Millennium Goal, it will remain a receding target and the developing countries in the world will be overcrowded with more hungry people, which by itself may be a threat to world peace.

The reasons and factors for deterioration in the food security situation are fairly well documented: drastic reduction in public investments in the field of agriculture, lack of adequate external resources, highly subsidised agriculture in developed countries, dumping of agricultural products by developed countries and a sense of complacency following the green revolution achievements, may be quoted as some of the factors.

Despite these constraints agricultural production has doubled over the last 30 years. The world produces enough today to feed its population. We need common political will to ensure entitlement and access to food and the best way to do so is to strengthen targeted poverty alleviation programmes. Nations need to develop a policy framework on a consensus basis to create a political environment for allocation and flow of resources, for implementation of programmes and projects for agricultural development and poverty alleviation. It is widely recognized that fair and free trade could generate benefits for all trading partners. The recently concluded Fifth Ministerial Meeting of WTO at Cancun has raised various questions regarding the future of world trade and the development possibilities through globalization particularly in the developing countries. A major stumbling block has been the highly subsidized agriculture in the developed world. The resolution of that question shall also determine, to a substantial degree, what we should do with our own agriculture and agricultural policy here at home.

Agriculture had always been kept outside the purview of the GATT negotiations until the Uruguay Round which had a very long drawn out process of eight years, mainly due to disagreements over agriculture. This was so because agriculture in all the developed countries had been heavily protected either behind high tariff walls or through heavy subsidy, both in the input and output markets. The outcome of the negotiations was that all signatory countries agreed to cut down, not only tariffs, but also agricultural subsidies, according to a rule-based formula.

While this has seen some progress in the implementation of this policy, subsidies gradually surfaced, bypassing the rules. In the developed world, in general, some trade-distorting support has been recategorized from the prohibited Amber Box to the Green Box under which any developed support is allowed. Also the Blue Box measures support for curtailing production, which became rampant in these countries. In some of these countries, or every dollar earned by a farmer up to 69 cents is actually a handout from the government.

What are the choices before the developing countries like Bangladesh in the face of such a situation in the rest of the world. Bangladesh has followed various multilateral trade rules on tariff and subsidy, in some cases it was more than required. Indeed, in the case of agricultural subsidy, we provide at present no more than 2 percent of the Green Box support while input subsidy and output support is practically nonexistent. This we did as we had been advised by our friends, that this would create a more efficient agriculture and a more efficient use of scarce resources. Possibly this would. But the playing fields have not been level, as the situations existing in the developed countries indicate.

I would like to emphasize that, while we strive to achieve food security, we cannot but address the impacts of the international trade environment. In international trade, many of the products from LDCs and developing countries, having comparative advantages confront tariff and non-tariff barriers in the world market. This is especially true for agricultural products. As for the developing countries, the agricultural exports in total merchandise exports is showing downward trends, dropping from around 50 percent in 1960 to about only 7 percent in 2001. Recently there have been a few laudable initiatives by some of the developed countries to allow duty and quota-free access to products from the LDCs. We thank them for the same.

Bangladesh is a small and densely populated country, having 135 million people in about 148 000 square kilometres of land only. Agriculture is the prime sector in the economy accounting for around 25 percent of the total GDP. Nearly 65 percent of our total labour force is involved in agriculture. Agriculture is the sector; however where we need to intensify our efforts in alleviating poverty. The present Government has, therefore, accorded the highest priority to this sector with a view to enabling the country to meet the challenges and to make it a viable sector. Bangladesh has declared a firm commitment for poverty reduction. Food production, particularly cereal production of nearly 25 million tonnes in 2003 has taken us to the doorsteps of self-sufficiency.

I conclude with the expectation that during our next meeting in 2005 the world will have fewer malnourished people and a better food security.

Cees VEERMAN (Netherlands)

I am very pleased to address the FAO Conference for the first time in my capacity as Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. The Netherlands has, for a long time, been firmly committed to FAO and I would like to assure you of my continuing commitment in this respect.

We have to maintain the political momentum of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Food Summit process, and the WTO Ministerial in Cancun. We have to live up to our promises to revitalize agriculture and to use our natural resources in a sustainable way. Only then will it be possible to achieve our overall goal to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015. We cannot and should not accept that the number of hungry people is still increasing.

Combating poverty and hunger means investing in sustainable agriculture and rural development, both by the public and private sector. Agriculture is the driving force for economic development in many countries. Implementing action programmes and policy reforms is a joint responsibility of all countries, developing and industrialized countries alike. We must act together and build partnerships.

The Netherlands favours further liberalization of world trade in agricultural products and the reduction of trade-distorting subsidies. We have to ensure, that first of all, the least developed countries and small farmers will gain from trade liberalization.

In the first place, we can achieve this by better access to the markets of the EU and other industrialized countries for agricultural products from developing countries, with special attention for least developed countries.

In fact, we invite all developed countries to grant open market access to the least developed countries. I would also like to encourage the more developed among the developing countries to make a move in the same direction. According to the estimates of the World Bank, also South-South trade is a very powerful instrument for development, as all of you know.

Second, we need policy reforms in industrialized countries. In June this year the European Union has made important steps forward in the process of reforming its Common Agricultural Policy. The Union will significantly lower the trade distorting component of its internal support. It is my impression that this fact has not got the attention it deserves.

At the same time we have an obligation to ensure safe products for consumers. In Europe standards for food safety are high and rightfully so. But we should not limit ourselves to setting standards. We have to enhance the participation and contribution of developing countries in the standard setting process.

Many developing countries will only benefit fully from increased market access, if developed countries assist them to strengthen their capacity to meet the standards for safety in the field of food, plants and animals.

The Netherlands has initiated public-private partnerships, which aim at improving market access for agricultural products from partner countries to the European market.

I would like to encourage FAO to continue to support capacity-building in trade-related matters by linking its operational activities to its normative role. This should be done in close cooperation with other international organizations.

Looking to the role of FAO, it is always easy to criticize United Nations agencies and to state that they should be more effective and efficient. At the same time it is up to the Membership to create the right conditions for FAO to do so. FAO has made considerable progress over the last years and we should compliment FAO with those results, but request for more. If we want to achieve our targets in combating poverty and hunger we need a strong and effective FAO, which can play its crucial role within the United Nations system.

To conclude, water is and will become an even more crucial factor for agricultural development and poverty eradication.

The Netherlands, my country, has historic ties with water and a strong commitment to integrated water management. Therefore, it is my pleasure to announce that FAO and The Netherlands have jointly taken the initiative to organize an international conference at the end of 2004 on "Water for Food and Ecosystems". The focus will be on implementation at the national and local level.

We stand ready to cooperate with other interested partners to achieve the best results possible and find strong synergies with other water initiatives.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to inform the Conference that the intervention of Sierra Leone has been rescheduled so I will soon invite the next speaker. After that, we will reschedule the intervention of Bulgaria, using the slot of Sierra Leone, due to travelling reasons. I hope that is okay with the Conference.

Rajnath SINGH (India)

I bring to FAO, and to you Mr Chairman, the warmest greetings of my Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Government and the People of India. FAO deserves to be complimented for tirelessly pursuing the mandate and agenda of the Organization.

As the task of eradicating hunger continues to be the keynote of FAO's mission, I wish, at the very outset, to make a brief reference in this august forum to the unprecedented drought that affected more than 300 million people of my country last year. It will suffice to mention that, in a massive drought relief employment drive, nearly a billion person-days were generated in a matter of eight months. A novel feature of this drive was that wages were a mix of food and cash; 9 million tonnes of food grains came to be distributed as the drought ended in June, 2003.

Similarly, there was a package of interventions entailing expenditure of more than US\$ 4 billion. That we could come out on top of an adversity of this extreme magnitude was possible largely due to our self-sufficiency in agricultural production which owes its origins to the Green Revolution of the 1960s. The fight against hunger has successfully weathered another storm primarily on account of the signal contribution of our farmers in achieving national food security.

Our long-term initiatives for elimination of poverty and chronic food insecurity have continued with a commitment of more than US\$ 10 billion annually from the budget of the Central Government for income-generation programmes. Our efforts to improve access to food for the poor in normal times have entailed provision of more than 25 million tonnes of food grains at affordable rates, which in the case of the poorest of the poor, work out to as low as 4 cents a kilogramme.

The last 55 years of independence has seen India's transformation from a food deficit to a food surplus nation despite a threefold increase in population. The various policy measures including land reforms, investment in agriculture and introduction of new technology and seeds have played their role in achieving national food security. However, in a country like India, where agriculture is highly diversified and the direct Government support to the agricultural producers is minimal, the food and nutritional security at microlevel is directly linked to the livelihood security of a 650 million strong farming community.

As we are all aware, the international prices of almost all agricultural commodities are distorted on account of the huge domestic support and export subsidies provided by the developed countries. These subsidies depress the international prices and consequently the domestic prices in developing countries like India get adversely affected, threatening their livelihood.

The only option available to these countries, to protect very small farmers from the distorted international production and support environment in agriculture, is to provide adequate border protection through the mechanism of tariff.

In this context, I would like to express my disappointment at the outcome of the WTO Ministerial Conference at Cancun. It is a matter of great concern that adequate cognizance has so far not been taken of the interests of farmers of the developing countries, particularly the small landholders.

If the present negotiations aim to establish a fair agriculture trading regime in the world, it must take into consideration, *inter alia*, the interlinkages in the three pillars of the Agreement on Agriculture: a substantial and real reduction in all trade distorting domestic support in the developed countries and a genuine special and differential treatment for the developing countries. Any agreement which does not take care of the concerns of our small and marginal farmers, will lead to endangering the livelihood and food security of hundreds of millions of them.

My Government has embarked upon an ambitious plan of putting our agricultural marketing system on a sound footing. To ensure sustainable, continued development of agriculture, we have put added emphasis on development of watersheds as units of crop diversification and development of horticulture. We are continually striving to generate new methods of augmenting farm incomes and strengthening mechanisms of risk coverage. We are also in the process of drawing up a research and application Agenda for the ensuing International Year of the Rice.

The recent drought has brought into sharp focus, the added attention required for innovative approaches to Animal Nutrition and Fodder Management. Our Agricultural Research System is attending to these and other research challenges in the field of Dairy Development and Animal Health. There is also an immediate need now to initiate a global programme for control for FMD, and I would like to call upon FAO to respond wholeheartedly by providing assistance to Member Countries.

I take this opportunity once again to wish FAO well, and to the Director-General, of India's continued support to the Organization, in achieving its laudable objectives for increasing global food and nutritional security and for raising the standards of living of the farmers of the world.

Ms Meglena PLUGTSCHIEVA (Bulgaria) (Original language German)

First of all, allow me to express my congratulations to you, Mr Chairperson, for having been elected, and I would also like to welcome the new Members of FAO. It is an honour for me to head the Bulgarian Delegation at the Thirty-second Conference of FAO.

To begin with, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the important contribution that FAO has made for developing national strategies for developing the agricultural situation in Bulgaria. I would also like to thank FAO for their support and preparation of projects at national and regional levels, for developing fisheries, animal husbandry and forestry. FAO has elaborated a very successful policy in this respect.

Bulgaria welcomes any measures and activities undertaken by FAO in order to fight hunger all over the world, as well as the creation of special funds in order to achieve these goals. In this respect, we would like to urge FAO to continue supporting Bulgaria. Bulgaria is facing important transition steps and we need more FAO programmes and projects which will help the country achieve economic and social stability.

I would also like to report to you about the measures undertaken by Bulgaria itself, in order to reduce poverty and to improve living conditions for the population. This is one of the most important priorities of my Government. These efforts are reflected in special programmes which come under the strategy for fighting poverty and social isolation. Very successful is the joint

programme between the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry for Social Affairs. This is called From Social Aid to Employment. The majority of the unemployed are employed by the communities in agriculture and in forestry. Bulgaria has a sustainable policy for establishing the framework for a successful development of the agricultural sector, under market economic conditions.

In the years 2002-2003, the Bulgarian economy has grown appropriately and has stable microeconomic parameters. Agriculture is developing according to the National Plan for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas, which is an integral part of the National Plan for Economic Development in Bulgaria. This development accompanies the CAP policies and its reforms are as approved and confirmed by the European Union in June 2003 in Luxembourg.

The agricultural sector is of strategic importance for our country: 11 percent of the population is occupied in the agricultural sector and agriculture represents 13 percent of GDP and 13 percent of all exports. The most important policies in the agricultural sector are the following: sustainable and effective management of agricultural and forest resources; ensuring that there is biodiversity; protection of the environment; and, protection of nature reserves. We also intend to improve the structure of the agricultural sector and promote market structures. We also aim to improve competitiveness and the exportable quality of our goods, as well as sustainable development in the agricultural sector with the aim of combating unemployment and demographic problems, so that we can try and combat this situation and sustainable policy or management of water resources, and we should remember that 85 percent of the water reserves in Bulgaria come from the forest areas. The Government will begin in 2004 with a large project in order to improve the water resources in agricultural areas. In 2004 and 2005, Bulgaria is going to increase its efforts in order to respect the policies of the European Union's Agricultural Policy in order to fulfill all the criteria so that all the negotiations with the European Union can be completed by 2004 and that Bulgaria will then be able to join the EU in 2007.

May I conclude by thanking the Conference and wishing it success.

Errol ENIS (Jamaica)

Jamaica supports the noble and ambitious goal of FAO to halve by 2015 the world's hungry and undernourished. In fact, Jamaica's agricultural policy framework is subsumed in a number of strategic approaches which are congruous with that of FAO.

Specifically, the policy prescribes *inter alia* interventions in the following areas: Rural development by increasing value-added production through measures to improve agroprocessing and to encourage the development of cottage industries, empowering small farmers to share in the value-added from their produce by facilitating business development including focused business training and the development of social capital among farmer groups.

The development of modern irrigation systems: the Jamaican Government acknowledges that improvement in the supply and distribution of water to farms is paramount to sustainable agricultural production. To this end, the Government has sought assistance from the multilateral agencies in devising a comprehensive island-wide irrigation scheme.

Reduction in the environmental degradation and increased reforestation. Over the years, unsuitable farming practices has been recognized as the single most important cause of degradation of watersheds in Jamaica.

A forest policy was promulgated in 2001, to manage forested watersheds, community participation, public awareness and promotion of investment in forestry are strategies for implementation. FAO is critical to this pursuit and Jamaica expects to be intimately involved in the deliberations and activities of the mountain partnerships in which FAO is the interim Secretariat.

Much has been said at this Conference regarding Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing activities. I am pleased to report that Jamaica is among a selected group of countries that can officially trade in fishery products, including conch. Presently, there is a Technical Cooperation

Programme with FAO to develop a regulatory and legal framework for the promotion and sustainable management of our fisheries resources.

Let me now turn to the FAO Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005. Jamaica and other member countries of CARICOM have been steadfast in their opposition to the budget cuts inflicted on FAO since 1994, through the imposition of successive Zero Nominal Growth budgets.

Each biennium, these cuts have been accompanied by much protestation and wringing of hands, stressing the importance of the Organization and the crucial nature of its work in alleviating poverty and hunger.

And so it is again, on the eve of this Conference, the PWB 2004-2005 is based on a Medium-Term Plan, 2004-2009 endorsed by the FAO Council and consistent with the longer-term orientation of FAO's Strategic Framework approved by the Conference. It reflects the sectoral and overall priorities identified by the Council, its Technical Committees and the Programme and Finance Committees, as well as the commitments made in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action, the International Alliance Against Hunger, the UN Millennium Development Goals and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Yet, despite all this, we are being urged, once again, to continue with the paradox of ever-growing demands from Member Countries coinciding with calls for budgetary stringency. Jamaica rejects this approach. We believe that what is needed is more, not less, resources to enable FAO to respond more effectively to the diverse needs of a greatly increased membership of 183 Member countries for both normative and operational activities. Accordingly, our support for an increased FAO budget is a matter of principle, not expediency, and it is for that reason that we have made a special effort to pay all of our arrears and to keep our contributions current. We, therefore, support the Director-General's call for a Real Growth budget of 5.5 percent and to preserve and increase FAO's capacity after so many years of budget stringency.

Similarly, we support the proposals for Split Assessment, as a means of protecting the Programme of Work from risks related to exchange rate fluctuation, and as an effective incentive for encouraging prompt payment of contributions. In short, we believe in putting our money where our mouth is.

We would like to mention some aspects of the Programme of Work and Budget that are of crucial importance to Jamaica. They include, assistance from FAO and the international partnership for sustainable development in mountain regions to protect our mountain ecosystem through reduction in environmental degradation, increased reforestation and an improvement in the wellbeing of our mountain communities; to develop a small farm irrigation and water management system, appropriate to the needs of our small farming community, to ensure sustainable coconut production through control of lethal yellowing, to strengthen the sustainable management of our conch industry, to identify and put in place the policy, legislative and institutional changes necessary to ensure the early ratification and implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and to improve our capacity and strategy in the FTAA, ACP and WTO negotiations on agriculture, in order to obtain special and differential treatment for small developing countries like Jamaica. Indeed, we believe this should be included in the Agenda of the Conference of Small Island Developing Countries being proposed by the Director-General for the 2004-2005 Biennium, which we support.

Hélder dos Santos MUTEIA (Mozambique)

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, upon your unanimous election to guide the work of this Conference. I wish to extend the support of my delegation and that of the region that I represent in the Bureau for the successful discharge of the duties entrusted to you.

Our congratulations are also extended to the Director-General of FAO, Dr Jacques Diouf, for his wise leadership and continuous commitment in helping humanity to fight hunger and poverty

worldwide. We welcome the República Democrática de Timor Leste as the new Member of this Organization together with the Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu and Ukraine.

The FAO Report on the State of Food and Agriculture indicates that Africa continues to be the continent with the highest incidence of undernourished people in the world. Conscious of this critical situation, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union have been taking measures to address the underlying causes of this problem.

Driven by this concern, the Heads of State and Government of the African Union, meeting at the Maputo Summit, in July this year, adopted the Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, with emphasis on the urgent implementation of the NEPAD Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The spirit of this initiative reinforces the commitment to the recovery of Africa's agriculture and food security. For this purpose, they agreed to allocate at least 10 percent of their national budgetary resources within 5 years as an additional effort to tackle the issue of hunger and malnutrition on the continent. Africa felt that the time has come to translate the ideals of NEPAD into concrete actions, especially focusing on agriculture.

We are encouraged by the progress that this programme is so far experiencing. The African Union member countries are actively engaged in the process of identifying bankable projects in several areas of concern, with focus on increasing food supply, improvement of rural infrastructure, land and water management and strengthening of research and extension services. Considering its technical expertise in agriculture and other related areas, the role of FAO in this endeavour has been crucial. Similarly, we call on our partners of cooperation to provide the necessary assistance for the achievement of the objectives of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme.

Similar to many African countries, agriculture in Mozambique is the main source of income for about 80 percent of the population and represents about 25 percent of the GDP. Agriculture is essentially rainfed and dominated by small-scale farmers. Current cereal production meets about 80 percent of the country's requirements. In fact, the increase of cereal production represents one of the major challenges to achieve food security.

The experience of Mozambique in fighting food insecurity is centred in the Poverty Reduction Action Plan, which integrates economic, social, cultural and political variables.

Within the agriculture sector, the country has embarked in a public investment programme, known as PROAGRI, aiming at establishing a conducive environment for increasing agricultural production and productivity, sustainable management of natural resources and institutional reform. The implementation of this programme has increased the government capacity to assist farmers through research and extension services, thus contributing to minimize cereal deficit within the country.

Mozambique has been affected by recurrent floods and droughts. To mitigate the effects of drought, the Government has established an Action Plan consisting of small-scale irrigation schemes, the distribution of seeds through promotion of local seed fairs, multiplication of drought tolerant crops such as cassava and encouraging families to adopt specific technologies appropriate for drought situations.

Another hindering issue of our agricultural production is farmers' access to market, technology and financial resources. In addition, our fight against hunger will not succeed if we do not join efforts in the prevention and control of diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, of which the impact on agriculture and food security is unquestionably negative.

We also recognize that sustainable food security involves not only increased production of food and cash crops, but also developing diversified income opportunities in both the farm and the non-farm sectors. In this regard, it is instrumental to continue paying attention to rural development in an holistic manner including credit and market access, improvement of rural infrastructure, sustainable use of natural resources, with emphasis on land and water management.

At this junction, we consider important that negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda must continue to pay attention to the main problems that developing countries are still facing in terms of market access and fair trading systems.

Recalling the commitment of our Heads of State and Government during the 1996 World Food summit of halving hunger by 2015 and reiterated in the 2002 World Food Summit: *five years later*, we consider of great importance to provide FAO with the necessary resources to take the lead in this process.

As I conclude, I wish to reiterate the commitment of my Government in fighting poverty and food insecurity.

Timmy EFTHYMIU (Cyprus)

It is well known that while establishing the Food and Agriculture Organization, fifty eight years ago, world leaders, greatly disappointed by the devastating consequences of the Second World War, decided to act in a spirit of cooperation and reconciliation, so that one of the basic human rights, the right to food, could be secured.

Since then, the world food system has responded to a more than double increase of the world population, providing more food per capita at progressively lower prices. Global nutrition has consistently improved. This performance was possible through a combination of factors including the work of organizations like FAO and others.

The 1996 World Food Summit and the subsequent summit World Food Summit: *five years later*, have set a target of reducing the number of chronically hungry people to about 400 million, but current projections indicate that this target cannot be achieved. The fact that close to 800 million persons are at present suffering from chronic undernutrition is not due to a lack of capacity of the world to produce the required food, but to global and national social, economic and political contexts that permit, and sometimes cause, unacceptable levels of poverty to perpetuate.

The economic, social and environmental cost of continued food insecurity for hundreds of millions of people is high. We must, therefore, intensify our efforts to eliminate their scar, which causes so much suffering to fellow human beings. We believe that the best way to bring about food security is to pursue a broad policy for sustainable development and poverty reduction at the national level, combined with appropriate action at international level.

Many important items are included on the agenda of this Conference. Since all items will be discussed in the Commissions, I do not intend to elaborate on them. I would like, however, to say a few words on the one item, which has to do with the existence of this Organization, the Programme of Work and Budget.

We note with satisfaction the increased emphasis to the Forestry and Fisheries activities as well as to Major Programme 2.1 Agricultural Production and Support System, as well as to important international regulatory instruments.

With reference to the level of the budget, my country is in favour of a budget level that will enable FAO to carry out its Mandate and to be functional in the most effective way. At the same time, the ability of Member countries to pay their assessed contributions must be taken into consideration when deciding the level of the budget. Let us all work in a constructive spirit to achieve the appropriate level of the budget by consensus.

Let me now briefly refer to the agricultural sector of Cyprus as well as the major challenges we are facing.

Agriculture has always been one of the most important sectors of the economy of Cyprus. This sector can best be described as depending on small-scale farming carried out by part-time farmers, producing predominantly for the market and it is heavily export oriented. Historically, raw and processed agricultural exports accounted for as much as 34 to 38 percent of total domestic exports, of which 75 percent were destined to the European Community markets.

The important role of agriculture in terms of employment and GDP contribution has declined recently, due to the rapid expansion of other sectors of the economy such as tourism and services. The contribution of the agricultural sector to the Gross Domestic Product has declined from 10 percent in 1980, to 7 percent in 1990 and to less than 4 percent at present.

Despite this downward trend in the contribution of the agriculture sector to the economy, we continue to ascribe a great deal of importance to this sector, not only for its economic contribution but also because we believe in its major role in other aspects of our life, such as the social development of our people, the conservation of our cultural identity and civilization, and the conservation and improvement of our natural environment.

On 1 May next year, Cyprus with, nine other countries, will join the European Union. The process of preparing our agricultural sector to face the new situation has not been easy. This sector is still undergoing a substantial process of restructuring, upgrading and modernization. In this process the Government of Cyprus is trying to protect and improve the standard of living of all farmers, providing the required support to them, through the implementation of certain policies.

We are certain that, as a result of the implementation of these policies, our farmers will be in a position to benefit from the new situation and properly use the new opportunities.

Abdullah KAMALUDEEN (Maldives)

I am indeed honoured to address this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate the Honourable Jim Sutton on his election, as the Chairperson of this Conference. I am confident that, under your able direction, this Conference will meet its objectives. Let me also join my previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to FAO for the excellent manner in which this Conference has been organized.

Building on the lessons learned from the recent economic slowdown that the Maldives experienced, and to achieve the vision 2020 articulated by President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, it is important to diversify and expand the country's economy. Sustainable development of the agricultural sector will be a right step taken towards achieving this goal. Even though agricultural activities have been carried out in Maldives for centuries, the sectors full potential is not realized, constrained by the limited availability of cultivatable land, and an abundance of imported cheap vegetables and fruits. In spite of these limitations, our agricultural sector is currently going through an expansion phase, led by a dynamic private sector.

At this important juncture, we need to make sure that all the necessary steps are taken to facilitate this expansion phase of the sector. We need to strengthen our extension and training programme directed towards farmers. We need to build capacity in marketing and support the development of marketing infrastructure. We need to strengthen our research capabilities and we need to encourage small farmers to move into commercial scale production. Another pressing challenge for our agricultural sector is the creation of an administrative and legal environment that is conducive for the private sector to commit large scale investment in the sector.

Maldives today stands at a critical juncture, in terms of our socio economic development. After more than two decades of non-stop economic growth, and quasi full employment, the Maldivian society is now confronted by the opposite face of the coin of economic and social development. Tourism, which has been the main engine of our economic growth, is showing its limitations. As we all know, tourism is heavily dependent on the world market, on which we have little control. The world is currently going through turbulent times and current events in the international arena are not too favourable for any tourism industry. Despite these concerns, I am happy to note that our economy has continued to perform moderately during the past few years.

The remarkable socio-economic success, which Maldives achieved during the past two decades means that soon we may be graduating from the Least Developed Country status or LDC status as we all know. Graduation will certainly have implications on our economic performance, especially by the loss of significant tariff preferences on fish exports which we currently enjoy as

an LDC. Sudden withdrawal of such preferential treatment upon our graduation could retard our whole development process.

One has to realize that Maldives is an island nation, where our population is small and is dispersed over two hundred small islands. As a result our markets are small, and our cost of production is extremely high. Therefore, if we lose the tariff concessions we currently enjoy in the EU, it will be difficult for us to export our fishery products to Europe. For our fisheries exports to perform competitively in Europe, after our graduation from LDC status, we would require assistance and preferential arrangements. May I also note that even today the fishery sector continues to be the largest employer in Maldives especially in the outer atolls where there are limited economic opportunities. Hence, any drawback in the fishery sector will have significant negative impacts to the socio-economic well-being of a large percentage of our population.

I am optimistic about the future of both our agricultural and fisheries sector. I strongly believe that these two sectors have the potential to emerge among leading economic sectors of the country in the coming years. However, in order for us to realize this goal we would require assistance from international institutions and friendly countries. We require assistance in human resource development, we require assistance in introducing new technologies for both fisheries and agricultural sector and we require assistance in building necessary physical infrastructure for both these sectors.

Maldives is a beneficiary of FAO's assistance. During the past two decades FAO has supported a number of projects in the Maldives and few more project are currently being implemented. The Government of Maldives is grateful to FAO's continued assistance to the development of fisheries and agricultural sectors of the country. It is our hope that FAO will continue to work with us in meeting our challenges.

Omar SALEM (Libya) (Original language Arabic)

I have pleasure in addressing you on behalf of the Libyan delegation and also congratulating you, Mr Chairman, and all the Vice-Chairmen and wishing us all great success in this Thirty-second Session of the General Conference of the FAO. We certainly hope that we will not disappoint the aspirations of our peoples. I congratulate also the new Members of our international family and, in particular, I would like to address Mr Jacques Diouf, the Director-General, and all the staff for the excellent preparation that has made it possible for us to carryout this Conference in the best conditions possible.

We share the concerns expressed by the speakers who preceded us as to the condition of nourishment for most of the people in the world, especially those who are subject to natural disasters, like earthquakes and floods, but also those who are suffering from situations of civil war and other types of war. We have seen a great deal of work in humanitarian aid for these countries in distress in this past year. We want to work further to uproot the hunger that afflicts more than half of humanity and we appreciate certainly the efforts made by the international community in this direction.

Particular attention will have to be paid to the least developed countries and those who are suffering under the conditions of war, which leaves behind it also landmines in many countries. This is a problem that we have suffered in Libya for years and this, of course, is a terrible obstacle to agriculture. The military activities in our land were brought into being by people who should take the responsibility for clearing the landmines. If you want to carry out any of the strategies for nourishment you have to clear the landmines and then with improved new technologies, helping farmers to maintain infrastructure should also be analysed. Data on the target population and only this, in the long term, will improve food security and protect humanity.

In our country we have particular interest in food security in Africa. We have made our contributions to those African countries suffering from drought and famine and, in particular, in Libya, we have participated in this Special Food Security Programme for the sub-Saharan countries in Africa. We pay into the necessary funds in FAO for helping the small rural farmers in Africa.

Libya is fully aware of the importance of integrated agriculture in order to guarantee food security for our citizens. Food security is a right for all human beings. Since our revolution, we have placed a very high priority on the agriculture sector, emphasizing human development, infrastructure and conservation of natural resources in the environment, and our struggle against desertification. Twenty percent of our budget is directed towards agriculture and, thanks to these investments, we have been able to re-establish almost two million hectares, that means 30 thousand farms, and we have been able to plant fruit trees and olive trees where desert was before. We have also increased our livestock population and built 25 thousand kilometres of roads and electricity and plumbing. We have major projects like, for instance, large artificial rivers which create a transport network of 6 000 cubic metres of water per day to bring water to the farms and to the plantations. We have taken advantage of the help that we have been given by FAO, the technical assistance, and also the studies that help us analyse the underground water supply that we have so that we can better use our resources.

Livestock breeding is also very important in guaranteeing food security and since our revolution we have paid particular attention to livestock breeding and we have reached a level of self-sufficiency in eggs, poultry and dairy products.

In accordance with the resolutions drawn, we have established our priorities and strategies for 2010, with a yearly programme and Action Plan as established by the World Food Summit. We also work hand-in-hand with the Organization on seed production and fight against pests and diseases. We feel that biotechnology in agriculture has made a great improvement for us in working towards food security and we are very much in favour of the International Treaty on Genetic Manipulation and we certainly intend to adhere to that Treaty.

We are one of the first countries to encourage Africa to set up an African Common Market for agricultural products. We are very interested in developing that kind of sustainable agriculture in the Sahel and Sahara regions. We will do everything we can to ensure sustainable development and peace in our region and we will be holding a food safety conference in Libya this year.

Now I would like to go into more detail on what we have learned at the Technical Committee here in FAO. For instance male gender equality and we feel that this is a tremendously important issue and we approve the action plan in this area. As to mobilization of resources to fight against famine, we are sorry to see that in spite of the solemn commitment taken at the World Food Summit to reduce world hunger by half before 2015, we see that not enough progress has been made and we urge that the necessary measure be taken to correct the situation so that agricultural resources can ensure a basis for sustainable development.

As to the fight against irresponsible fishing, we entirely endorse the efforts undertaken by the United Nations vis-à-vis responsible fishery and fighting against illegal fishing. We also agree on all of these issues on the fight against poverty and hunger and ravaging the environment and we want to work side-by-side to solve these problems that the agriculture and food sectors suffer from for a better future for all.

Edward LOWASSA (Tanzania, United Republic of)

On behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, my Delegation, and on my own behalf, I would like to thank the Secretariat of the FAO for giving me the opportunity address this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

My Delegation includes Honourable Charles Keenja, the Minister for Agriculture and Food Security of the United Republic of Tanzania and Honourable Mussa Silima, the Minister for Agriculture, Natural Resources, Environment and Cooperatives of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

We join with other speakers in congratulating you Mr Chairman on your election as the Chairman of this Conference. We are confident that you will skillfully steer the deliberations taking place in the Conference and that the Conference will achieve its objectives. We would like to assure you of our full support and cooperation.

We would also like to commend the Director-General of FAO, His Excellency Jacques Diouf and his staff for their excellent work and success in organizing this Conference.

Agriculture continues to play a central role in the economy of Tanzania. It contributes approximately 50 percent to the GDP, 66 percent to foreign exchange earnings and 95 percent of the food consumed in the country. The sector employs 80 percent of the labour force and produces most of the raw materials used in our industries.

There have been positive signs of growth in the agricultural sector from 4.1 percent in 199 to 5.5 percent in 2001. There was a drop of about 0.5 percent in 2002, due to bad weather conditions and outbreaks of pests and diseases, particularly *quelea quelea* birds, rodents, armyworms and plant and animal diseases. During 2002, the Tanzania economy as a whole grew by 6.2 percent. However, for agriculture to make a substantial impact on economic growth, poverty reduction and food security, it must grow at an average rate of 10 to 11 percent per year.

The Government is determined to maintain the upward growth of production in agriculture as a means of reducing poverty, ensuring food security and speeding up economic growth. To this end, the government has formulated three important strategies, namely, the poverty reduction strategy of 2000, the rural development strategy of 2001 and the agricultural sector development strategy of 2001. District based agricultural sector development plans to implement the agricultural strategy are currently under preparation. These strategies conform to, and provide the basis on which, the Millennium Development Goals will be implemented. I would like to take this opportunity to thank FAO, IFAD, the World Bank and the Irish Government for accepting to undertake the preparation of the services and technology transfer component of the Agricultural Sector Development Programme.

Over the past two financial years, the Government has allocated substantially increased resources to the sector from its own budget. In year 2002-2003 budget allocation to this sector was increased by 32 percent compared to the previous year. In the current financial year 2003-2004, budget allocation to agriculture was increased by 45 percent compared to 2002-2003. The Government is committed to continue giving agriculture high priority in the allocation of resources.

Despite the efforts being made by the Government and the fair rate of growth recorded in recent times, the sector continues to be adversely affected by a number of problems which include lack of resources for investment, over reliance on rainfed agriculture, low falling commodity prices in the world market, low productivity and lack of processing of commodities. These problems coupled with unpredictable weather and the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, threaten the success realized over the past few year.

Tanzania is endowed with considerable natural resources, which if exploited, can contribute towards economic growth, poverty reduction and improved food security. These include approximately 43 million hectares of arable land, of which 29.4 million hectares can be irrigated, 38.8 million hectares of forests, a cattle herd of over 17.7 million, a fishing potential of 730 000 metric tons per annum, and climatic conditions which allow the cultivation of a great variety of crops.

Exploitation of those natural resources requires resources for investment to enhance increased production of marketable products, food for the population and processing of agricultural commodities. It is our policy that our economy should be led by the private sector but this is still in its infancy. We need to attract investments from outside while the Government continues to create the required enabling environment.

Last season the rains were erratic in the whole country and below normal, particularly in the arid central regions of Tanzania. This has led to widespread food shortages in most parts of the country and the Government is taking measures to alleviate the situation by distributing food from its strategic grain reserve. We are grateful to FAO, Ireland and Norway for assisting us with seeds worth US\$906 000. The bad news is that this year the short rains which account for one third of food production failed in most parts of the country and we are keeping our fingers crossed that

seasonal rains will be normal, otherwise we will have a second year of food deficits which will exert pressure on the Government budget and lead to a slow down in economic growth and the implementation of key national goals, which include the Millennium Development Goals.

Through the implementation of various projects, such as the FAO assisted Special Programme for Food Security, which the Director-General alluded to in his statement yesterday, farmer field schools, irrigation projects assisted by IFAD and projects assisted by other development partners, it has been demonstrated that food production can be increased considerably by the adoption of improved agricultural practices and thus improving food security and reducing poverty. At the same time the Government has taken measures to put in place policies and a legal framework which favour rapid growth in agriculture while greatly enhancing financial allocations to the sector in its budgets.

In July 2003, we started the implementation of a World Bank financed project which will finance district agricultural development programmes in 28 districts while the African Development Bank has pledged to support another 28 districts, to adopt the successful lessons learnt from the Special Programme for Food Security. We must greatly increase our efforts in irrigated agriculture by using water from our rivers and lakes and by harvesting rainwater by the construction of dams of various sizes. We must also diversify the crops and markets by identifying new markets in our region and elsewhere.

I would like to draw your attention to issues of forestry and fisheries. The Global Forest Resources Assessment 2000 indicated the continued deforestation in Africa due to wild fires, among other, affecting food security and the environment. Regarding fisheries, I wish to refer to the last two sessions of the Committee on Fisheries and the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 which Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing activities had been discussed but with little progress to resolving the problems. There is an urgent need to take action towards full implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. In light of the above, I call upon the Director-General to convene a high level Ministerial meeting that will consider the effectiveness of international arrangements, the need for effective international cooperation and other appropriate actions on these issues.

Ms Ann-Christin NYKVIST (Sweden)

The international community has apparently come to an impasse with regard to reducing world hunger. This is not acceptable since we know that we have at our disposal the means to progressively reduce and eventually eradicate hunger. We have made commitments at international conferences and summits. The challenge is now to implement and comply with these commitments.

In Monterey, we committed ourselves to increasing official development assistance. Sweden encourages all donors who have not yet done so, to meet the UN goal of an ODA level equal to 0.7 percent of GNP. The Swedish Government has recently adopted a new policy for global development. This policy emphasizes coherence as one of the most central means for achieving equitable global development. Coherence within, and between, policy areas is seen as a prerequisite for the reduction of poverty and hunger.

Responsibility for global development, however, does not rest solely with developed countries. Each and every country is responsible for creating favourable conditions for development within its boundaries. In developing countries coherence must, among other things, take the form of good governance, financial and otherwise, gender equality, secure property rights and increased support for development in rural areas.

Poverty reduction cannot be achieved without sustained growth. From various parts of the world, we know that prosperity and development often is the result of an increase in agricultural production and productivity.

To reach the Millennium Development Goals it is necessary to make globalization work for the rural poor. One of the most critical aspects is to improve the linkage between the farmers and the

markets. Developing countries must be allowed to develop their markets and their export sectors. Their inclusion in world trade is a necessity if global development and the eradication of poverty and hunger are to be achieved. In this context, I would like to emphasize the utmost importance that Sweden attaches to the current round of trade negotiations in the WTO. These negotiations must be resumed and concluded with ambitious results in the interests of all countries. In this context, we welcome the work carried out by FAO in supporting developing countries to take part in the negotiations. I also welcome the opportunity to discuss WTO related issues further at this evening's Round Table.

Food safety in the context of the food chain approach and the work carried out by FAO are important to all of us. International standards set by CODEX are important means to obtain safety in food production and ensure fair practices in food trade so that national standards are not used as disguised obstacles to trade.

Women constitute a majority of the rural agricultural work force in developing countries today. Despite the fact that women perform a majority of the work in production as well as reproduction, their rights to land and other natural resources, to credit services and to agricultural extension are usually very limited. Women's de facto roles as managers of natural resources make it crucial for sustainable development to enhance their rights.

HIV/AIDS is a grave threat to world food security today. FAO must include this dimension in all its work and collaborate with UNAIDS and other partners in the fight against this global disaster.

Global sustainable use of natural resources can only be achieved through cooperation at the international level. In this context FAO plays a crucial role as a neutral forum for negotiations. At our last Conference we adopted the International Agreement on Genetic Resources. We now need to move urgently towards implementation of the Agreement.

The political will to fight poverty and hunger has been expressed by all of us through the Millennium Declaration. What is now needed is the will from us, the decision-makers, to implement our commitments at the national and the international level. I trust that FAO will remain a Centre of Excellence so as to function as a source of knowledge in the course of us making these decisions.

Ms Angela Thoko DIDIZA (South Africa)

The World Fund Summit in 1996 set the goal to reduce the number of hungry people in the world by half, by 2015. Four years later that goal was encapsulated in the Millennium Development Goals which sought to reduce by half both the number of people who suffer from hunger and the number people who live on less than US\$1 per day. However, as shown by the FAO earlier, trends and projections reveal the danger of missing our targets if measures are not urgently taken to address the problems of, especially countries of sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of poor and hungry people is actually increasing.

In South Africa, the government has deliberately set out to create a democratic society that is based on equity, non-racialism and non-sexism in order to create a conducive environment to address poverty, inequality and to restore the dignity of all our citizens. We are building to this end, a strong and lasting partnership between government, industry and civil society that is founded on a shared vision that seeks to provide our people access to safe and healthy food; guarantee them equitable access and participation in the economy; promote economic growth, employment and competitiveness in the food and agriculture sector; ensure sustainable agricultural resource management; facilitate information and knowledge management; and, promote good agricultural governance.

I have listened with interest to the discussions that the Conference grapples with around the Programme of Work of the FAO and the budget. It is normal that in every budget cycle we revisit the nature of projecting the future. Many have put forward interesting views on budget options including the Split Assessments. Obviously this will be informed by the realities of our contributions as Member States as well as the expenditure of this Organization. In considering the

recommendations put forward, let us bear in mind the important development work of this Organization against real global currency dynamics that are forcing all of us to re-examine our national budgets to maximize benefits to our respective countries.

As creators of FAO, it is necessary for us to protect its Work Programme in order to ensure that we do not weaken its focus and mandate. Therefore our decisions on budget should be reflective of our objective. In doing so, we also need to assess the international environment, note shifts and trends and make projections that lead to fiscal governance and efficiency. In our view, as a country, FAO cannot remain static in the face of these global currency changes whilst many other international organizations implement necessary adjustments in their financial planning.

While I address the Programme of Work of FAO, it is hard not to notice the high profile that trade-in-agriculture issues are receiving here. This is understandable because agriculture has been the crux issue in trade negotiations in the build up to Doha and on the road to Cancun. These are important linkages between the work of the FAO and the WTO. The need to reform the global rules based trading system and level the playing fields cannot be understated in addressing very real development challenges we face in our countries around food insecurity and restricted market access for agricultural products. Poverty levels in our countries still persist at unacceptable levels. For many countries agriculture is a major driver for economic growth.

FAO has played an important developmental role in addressing food security, including through the Special Programme for Food Security and programmes aimed at sustainable management of natural resources and increasing production. It is a reality that our natural resources are being depleted. Fishing remains an important source of food in the world, and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. Discussions in the last two sessions of the Committee on Fisheries, as well as the WSSD, called for increased global efforts in reversing adverse trends in world fisheries and their negative impact on livelihoods and food security. South Africa supports continued coordinated global action, including this important work of FAO.

Negotiations in Cancun did not result in an agreement on modalities, particularly with regard to agriculture. We believe that it is necessary to garner all efforts on all fronts at building a consensus to continue the trade negotiations. This is the view of African countries that gathered earlier in Egypt and just recently in Ghana.

Whilst we engage with the challenges that face us on the road from Cancun, let us remember the important development mandate this Organization is entrusted with, which is still needed by millions that we represent in this room. Given that we recognize the linkages between our deliberations here and within the WTO, we are presented with a challenge as Agriculture Ministers to engage more creatively, positively and substantively to get trade negotiations underway.

As I am on the subject of the road forward from Cancun, and I use the word "forward" purposefully as I hope that this will be the only direction we take. It is important to reiterate the spirit with which we engage. South Africa, as part of the African continent, as well as part of the Group of 20 - commonly known as G20 - is committed to finding a real consensus in the trade talks. We are bound, in spite of our diverse interests, by a single vision and common desire for an equitable rules based world trading system which assists us in increasing access to markets, allows us to compete fairly, and as a result address poverty and underdevelopment so prevalent in our countries. A system that creates winners on a path to sustained economic growth rather than widens the economic disparities.

African countries have put forward a pro-active Agenda aimed at socio-economic growth and the regeneration on our continent through NEPAD. The Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme known as CAADP, through its five pillars, maps out the agriculture sector plan to contribute to the vision of NEPAD. The work of FAO in supporting this African-led programme is appreciated and must continue. The agreement between FAO and NEPAD provides the institutional framework for this cooperation to take place. FAO, together with the global African development partners, is key in implementing the CAADP.

We therefore call for your support and engagement with CAADP in addressing the challenges of sustainable natural resource management, increasing our food security, strengthening our capacity to address disasters which impact on agriculture, increasing market access and strengthening agricultural research in Africa. Many of you in this room have pledged support for the vision of NEPAD, let that support be expressed on all fronts.

Hassan Omar SWUID (Yemen) (Original language Arabic)

It is a great honour for me to speak at this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference and allow me to extend my congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, for the Conference's trust put in you to preside over this Session and I wish you all success. I am sure that because of your leadership and your management capacity, this Conference will reach the positive results which will enable us to increase the activities of the Organization and foster these activities. Allow me to express our appreciation to the Director-General and the Organization for the effort exerted in order to help the hungry in the world and in order to meet the World Food Summit objectives and the Millennium Goals, and also the World Food Summit: *five years later*. We also abide by the International Alliance Against Hunger in order to make this Right to Food a reality.

Yemen, like other developing countries, considers that agriculture is one of the sectors that basically contributes to the economy and fights hunger and poverty, in order to improve the situation for the poor in the rural areas. Although Yemen has agricultural land and a marine environment which enables it to produce agriculture and fishery all the year around, because of the unstable rainfall, which is the only source for surface and groundwater, this is detrimental to animal and food production and agricultural production and although sea borders are long they do not enable us to benefit from the fisheries. Because of the difficulties we have faced over the two decades, we still have lot of work to do in order to reach sustainable development and food security.

The Government of my country appreciates the role of FAO. In order to support the sovereignty, not only the sovereignty, but in order to fight hunger and poverty, we have a strategy for the reduction of poverty which includes ways and means to organize programmes and projects that would create employment and jobs and lead to a better life. We have also conserved the natural resources and increased these natural resources and increased our production, particularly the water resources, and improved its use to ensure our food security.

We also exert efforts in order to implement a strategy to control desertification, to protect agricultural lands, and face desertification. We know the important role of women in agriculture and rural development, and the role of non-governmental organizations and civil society. We know too the important role of the union of farmers. Increased cooperation with FAO, and increasing our partnership with the donors, is one of the basic pillars to improve our agriculture.

On behalf of the Government of Yemen, I would like to thank FAO and we hope that countries will continue in providing this assistance in order to improve our situation in agricultural areas. I would like to express our appreciation to the Organization for all its efforts and my country would express our appreciation to all the financial institutions and the donor countries, who will enable this Organization to attain the Millennium objectives. We express the support of the Government of Yemen to FAO and wish this Conference all success.

Alfred GRAY (Bahamas)

Please allow me to congratulate you on your appointment and your management of these proceedings thus far. I bring greetings to all of you and to the people of Italy from the Honourable Prime Minister and the peoples of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

My delegation notes with disappointment the modest gains in the reduction of world hunger, and notes the staggering estimate of 800 million hungry people still remaining on the planet. In this International Year of Fresh Water it is fitting for all to note the finite nature of this resource which is indispensable to all life on this planet. The importance of water to food production, and the

need to carefully manage and conserve this resource, is essential to the continuation of human life as we know it.

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas is an archipelago of 700 islands, islets and quays, located in the Atlantic Ocean stretching 50 miles off the southeastern coast of the United States to 50 miles off the northeastern coast of Cuba. The population of just under 400 000 is spread over about 30 major islands. Over the years there has been increased urbanization of New Providence and Grand Bahama, the most populated islands of the Bahamas. Even though there is a vast difference between the urban and rural areas of the Bahamas, the Government of the Bahamas is committed to the systematic development of the rural communities and I assure you that agriculture and fisheries are important to their economic development. FAO has a very important role to play in providing technical assistance to small countries like the Bahamas where, despite limited physical and human resources, we are expected to participate in a global environment, alongside those countries with various levels of competence and resources.

In the Bahamas water is a limited resource. In the light of this, the agriculture sector is being required, not only to increase the efficiency of water used for agriculture, but also to ensure that the water used by the sector does not contaminate the water available for drinking.

The total land surface of the Bahamas is about 14 000 square kilometres, approximately 70 percent of which is owned by the Bahamas Government. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and local government, acting as a sole corporation has access to most of the land suitable for agriculture. In the light of this, land tenure is being considered for positive reform. It is hoped that these reforms will allow for increased investment in this sector, by providing an instrument for farmers, which will allow them to access credit from banks and other financial institutions.

Please also allow me to thank the Director-General and FAO for the technical assistance provided to improve the post-harvest handling and storage of agricultural products in the Bahamas, such as cassava and onions.

The Bahamas is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes and windstorms. These natural phenomena usually cause significant damage to infrastructure and always impact adversely on our food security and food safety. In the last decade, the Bahamas has been affected by a number of hurricanes that have contaminated some of our water, and have destroyed some of our bridges, ports, roads and other infrastructure, which are important to the proper production and marketing of agricultural products.

In light of the devastation that hurricanes cause, the Bahamas would like FAO to consider allocating a little more of its resources to the preparation of a comprehensive disaster preparedness management plan, together with a plan for farmers' insurance, for implementation in the agricultural and fisheries sectors as components of its assistance to Member Countries affected by these elements of nature. Although the Bahamas operates an open ship registry, it is not the policy of the Government to register foreign fishing vessels to fish in Bahamian waters. The Bahamas is, therefore, willing to work in the next biennium with FAO for the implementation of an International Plan of Action to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in countries similar to our own concern.

I am pleased to report, that the Bahamas is well on its way to meeting the international commitment to establish a network of marine protected areas.

The Bahamas is presently in negotiation with other countries around the world to establish international agreements for food and trading environments. Like FAO, my Government is being called upon daily to increase the quality and effectiveness of its outputs in all areas but financial and human resource limitations only will cause us not to do so.

I should like on behalf of the Government and people of the Bahamas to congratulate the Director-General on his vision for FAO and to thank them for their financial and technical

support. I do hope that each of you would soon find it possible for visit the Bahamas for as we say, "It is better in the Bahamas".

Ahmedou Ould AHMEDOU (Mauritanie)

Je voudrais tout d'abord adresser mes sincères félicitations à M. Sutton, Ministre de l'agriculture de Nouvelle-Zélande. Je le félicite d'avoir été élu Président de cette Conférence. Nous sommes confiants que, grâce à son expérience, reconnue par tous, nous pourrions mener à bien les travaux de cette Conférence et obtenir les résultats escomptés. Je voudrais aussi féliciter chaleureusement les pays qui sont devenus nouveaux Membres de l'Organisation. Je voudrais également exprimer ma profonde reconnaissance au Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf. Je le félicite d'avoir présenté un rapport exhaustif et d'avoir bien analysé la situation actuelle de notre Organisation. Je voudrais enfin le remercier pour les résultats positifs qui ont été obtenus lors du biennium précédent, malgré le manque de ressources financières et la réduction des effectifs.

La Mauritanie, sous la direction de son Président, M. Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya tient à cœur les nobles objectifs que nous oeuvrons à réaliser au sein de notre Organisation. Nous avons donc accordé une priorité stratégique au secteur du développement rural dans notre pays. Ce secteur jouit comme tous les autres secteurs de la sécurité, de la liberté et de la stabilité qui caractérisent notre pays, qui se dirige vers la démocratie, une démocratie où règne la liberté d'initiative pour tous dans un État qui jouit d'un État de droit.

Nous oeuvrons également à l'amélioration de la condition de la femme, nous avons libéré la femme et nous avons ouvert plusieurs possibilités face à son développement. Nous sommes conscients que le développement de la femme aura un impact positif sur le développement en général.

Nous voudrions également mentionner les efforts consentis par notre Gouvernement pour le développement du secteur de l'élevage. Dans le cadre de ce secteur, nous avons besoin d'une coopération internationale afin d'aboutir à la sécurité alimentaire. Comme vous le savez, notre région a souffert d'un déficit pluviométrique lors des dernières années. Ce manque de pluies a été la cause d'une augmentation de la désertification, du manque de pâturages et du rétrécissement de la surface arable. Tout ceci a été la cause également d'un déséquilibre écologique. Cette situation a fait obstacle au processus de développement et nous avons besoin de votre coopération pour atténuer les effets néfastes de ce phénomène de sécheresse.

Mais, comme vous le savez, cette année a connu des pluies abondantes et nous espérons que les conditions climatiques reviendront ainsi au statut d'avant la sécheresse pour nous permettre de restaurer l'équilibre écologique. Nous sommes confiants que Dieu le Tout Puissant pourra rétablir cette situation.

Ces pluies ont également entraîné des inondations qui ont dévasté plusieurs régions bonifiées. Il faudrait donc apporter un soutien aux sinistrés, notamment les agriculteurs qui ont souffert de ces inondations, il faudrait les aider afin de réaliser nos nobles objectifs consistant à combattre la pauvreté et à réaliser la sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Comme vous le savez, ces pluies exceptionnelles ont augmenté la surface des pâturages mais les pâturages sont sujets à d'autres problèmes comme les incendies et le phénomène du criquet migrateur. Il faudrait donc également une coopération internationale et régionale pour faire face à ce problème du criquet migrateur. Nous espérons que le soutien apporté à notre région sera renforcé pour améliorer la situation dans nos pâturages.

Comme vous le savez, le secteur de l'agriculture souffre encore de nombreux problèmes dans nos pays. Je voudrais me limiter à la citation de quelques-uns d'entre eux. Premièrement, nous souffrons de la perturbation climatique. Deuxièmement, les agriculteurs n'ont pas accès aux semences en quantité et en qualité adéquates. Il y a une prolifération de ravageurs et les marchés internationaux sont encore fermés à nos produits. De plus, nous remarquons que nous n'avons pas accès aux facilités de crédit alors que les grands exploitants des pays développés jouissent de subventions considérables.

Malgré ces problèmes, nous pensons que la FAO demeure le meilleur cadre pour nous permettre de renforcer la coopération internationale, cette coopération qui est nécessaire pour réaliser nos objectifs communs, afin d'assurer la subsistance pour tous les habitants de la planète.

Nous sommes donc en faveur d'une augmentation réelle du budget de l'Organisation pour le biennium prochain afin que cette Organisation puisse mener à bien ses activités pour améliorer les conditions de sécurité alimentaire pour tous.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENDZET (République du Congo)

De nombreuses analyses faites par les Chefs d'États et les Gouvernements africains au cours de leurs rencontres de ces dernières années ont permis de mettre en relief de manière pertinente les immenses difficultés qu'éprouve le continent à prendre l'envol au XXI^{ème} Siècle dans la mise en place d'une économie prospère capable d'assurer un développement durable à leurs populations et à la résolution des problèmes identifiés parmi lesquels on peut citer la faim. Ce fléau perdure en dépit des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation consistant à réduire de moitié, à l'horizon 2015, le nombre de personnes sous-alimentées. Le Congo, mon pays, se caractérise par une diversité climatique donnant lieu à une variété de zones agro-écologiques qui, associées à la grande disponibilité de terres arables, devraient prédisposer le pays à un développement agricole riche et varié.

Malheureusement, l'analyse de la situation de notre agriculture fait ressortir le contraste entre les immenses potentialités agro-pastorales et le faible niveau de production avec, pour conséquence, les importations massives de produits agro-alimentaires atteignant les 100 milliards de francs CFA par an. Soucieux de redonner à ce secteur sa place dans l'économie nationale, le Gouvernement exécute, avec l'assistance de la FAO, plusieurs projets qui ont pour objectif global la réalisation de la Sécurité alimentaire et la réduction de la pauvreté. Je citerai, entre autre, le programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire avec quatre composantes dont deux sont en cours d'exécution, à savoir la maîtrise de l'eau et la diversification de la production dans le cadre de la coopération Sud-Sud/Vietnam/ FAO/Congo. La production est la protection intégrée du manioc dont l'objectif est la maîtrise des maladies et des ravageurs de cette culture, base de l'alimentation de nos populations, le renforcement des capacités nationales de l'assurance de la qualité des productions de pêches par l'installation du laboratoire de contrôle de qualité.

Enfin, dans le souci de lever les contraintes qui ont miné pendant longtemps le développement de notre agriculture, le Gouvernement vient d'adopter des stratégies de développement agricole pour la période 2004/2013 qui s'articulent autour des axes suivants: le financement de l'agriculture, l'ouverture, l'entretien et la réhabilitation des pistes et voies agricoles, l'appui financier, fiscal et douanier au secteur agricole, l'appui à la recherche scientifique et au développement agricole, l'appui technique aux exploitants agricoles et la garantie d'accès à la terre par les exploitants agricoles potentiels.

Compte tenu de la présence massive des femmes dans l'agriculture, 70% des actifs agricoles, et conscient du rôle déterminant qu'elles jouent dans l'économie nationale dans le processus de réduction de la pauvreté dans la réalisation de la sécurité alimentaire, le Gouvernement a pris des mesures spécifiques pour favoriser leur accès à la formation, à la terre et au crédit.

La volonté politique de mettre en œuvre toute ces stratégies de développement agricole s'est concrétisée par la création du Fonds de soutien à l'agriculture qui sera financé par l'affectation de 10% du budget d'investissement en attendant la mise en œuvre de la décision des Chefs d'États et des Gouvernements, prise à Maputo, de mettre à la disposition de l'agriculture 6% du budget national. L'adoption du plan national de transport et de la loi fixant les principes généraux et applicables du régime domanial et foncier.

Les objectifs visés dans cette stratégie de relance du développement agricole intègrent largement la vision du nouveau partenariat qui accorde une large place au développement de l'agriculture et, conscient que tout développement en Afrique passe par la lutte contre la faim et la réduction de la pauvreté, le Directeur général de la FAO place la sécurité alimentaire et l'histoire de l'agriculture au cœur des priorités de l'Organisation.

Le 12^{ème} Congrès forestier mondial, qui s'est tenu avec succès il y a deux mois au Québec, s'est fortement inquiété du niveau encore très élevé de la déforestation et de la dégradation des ressources forestières dans le monde et plus particulièrement dans les pays tropicaux. Les causes sous-jacentes de cette situation ne sont autres que la pauvreté et l'insécurité alimentaire. De même, les discussions des deux dernières sessions du Comité des pêches (COFI) ainsi que celles d'autres réunions internationales, notamment le Sommet international pour le développement durable 2002 ont mis en lumière les tendances négatives qui persistent en matière de pêches au niveau mondial et leurs effets nuisibles sur les moyens d'existence et la sécurité alimentaire.

Je saisis la présente occasion pour suggérer au Directeur général de la FAO d'organiser une réunion au niveau ministériel afin d'aborder les questions des forêts et des pêches.

Avant de terminer mon discours, il est de mon devoir de relever du haut de cette tribune combien la coopération avec la FAO intervient de façon effective dans la mise en œuvre de la politique agricole de mon pays. C'est ici l'occasion de réitérer, au nom de son Excellence, M. le Président de la République Sassou Nguesso et en mon nom propre, notre soutien à l'action du Directeur général de la FAO. À cet effet, nous souhaitons qu'une véritable solidarité de la Communauté internationale s'établisse pour que des moyens financiers plus substantiels soient mis à disposition de la FAO pour la poursuite de ses programmes.

Je ne saurais terminer sans vous féliciter, M. le Président, d'avoir été élu pour présider cette Conférence et vous souhaitez plein succès aux travaux de la 32^{ème} session de cette Conférence.

Vidmantas KANOPA (Lithuania)

It is a great honour for me to represent Lithuania in this Conference, of the largest specialized organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Reduction of the proportion of undernourished people in developing countries from over 50 percent in 1960 to less than 20 percent in recent years has been due to the remarkable contribution of FAO.

However, despite this, over 790 million people in the world still suffer from undernourishment. Therefore, the implementation of a Resolution on Food Security adopted at the World Food Summit in Rome, and of the guidelines of the Pan European Conference on Food Safety and Quality in Budapest, are of crucial importance.

In order to ensure food security, Lithuania encourages an adequate amount of domestic agricultural production to supplement imports. Thus, domestic production of key agricultural products, such as meat and dairy products, are of vital importance to safeguard food adequacy at the national level.

One-third of Lithuania's total population lives in the rural areas, and presently there are some 279 000 holdings engaged in agricultural production. About 16.4 percent of the country's working population are employed in agriculture and its service sectors. Being employed in agriculture enables the provision of sufficient supplies of nutritious and high-quality food reaching the country's population. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania is taking measures so that the level incomes compare with the incomes earned in other national sectors.

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania is taking measures to reduce risk factors in the agricultural sector and to prevent outbreaks of animal, as well as, related human diseases. It has developed a poverty reduction strategy in its implementation programme. In order to reduce differences in living standards between rural and urban populations, the Government will: grant investment support to farms exercising alternative economic activities and seeking additional incomes; restructure and upgrade agricultural holdings; carry out continuous training of young farmers.

A long-term economic development strategy for Lithuania until 2015, and the plan for its implementation, have been developed. This will define the strengths and weaknesses of the Lithuanian economy, establish long-term objectives of the State including measures for their implementation. By 2015 this will ensure adjustment of agricultural infrastructure to western standards and diversity of economic activities in the countryside to ensure adequate living

standards to the rural population, as well as, supply of high-quality nutritious foodstuffs to the country at large.

This will, also, encourage the growth of agricultural exports to meet the requirements of the European Union. It should be mentioned that although now instances of contagious animal diseases have been encountered in Lithuania, the Government continues to provide food safety along the entire food chain, from food to table. The law on product safety and the law on food are aimed to ensure food safety at all its stages. A programme has been prepared for final alignment of Lithuanian legislation with the European Union.

In conclusion, I would like to remark that Lithuanian economy and agriculture have made remarkable progress since restoration of our independence in 1990. Much of this was accomplished through assistance extended by FAO and other international organizations for which we are very grateful. Lithuania assures FAO of its continued cooperation and is prepared to share its experiences with other countries.

CHAIRPERSON

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now almost 13.30 hours. I will in a few seconds adjourn this Session. Before doing that, I would just like to remind you, and if you could please inform colleagues and others, that we will reconvene at 14.00 this afternoon.

This is a result of the great interest for the Round Table No. 2 which will start at 16.00 hours. To be able to manage all the interventions, we have to reconvene at 14.00 hours this afternoon, that is in half an hour.

We stand adjourned and will reconvene at 14.00 hours.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
SIXTH PLENARY MEETING SIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE SEXTA SESIÓN PLENARIA
2 December 2003

The Sixth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.05 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La sixième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 05

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la sexta sesión plenaria a las 14.05 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2003/2)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2003/2)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2003/2)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Marshall Islands, Rwanda, Djibouti, Cambodia, Turkey, Romania, Greece, Algérie, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Belgique, Uruguay, Ethiopia, Switzerland.

John SILK (Marshall Islands)

It is a great honour and privilege for me to be participating at this Thirty-second Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Ministerial Conference. On behalf of my Government, I extend to you our congratulations, Mr Chairperson on your election as Chair of this Conference. On behalf of my Government, I also would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes to our Pacific Island neighbours of the Federated States of Micronesia, Tuvalu, Timor-Leste and to the Ukraine on their admission to Membership of FAO.

The Marshall Islands are located in the eastern part of the geographic region called Micronesia. The islands lie between latitude 4 and 14 degrees North and longitude 160 to 173 degrees East. The 29 coral atolls and five single islands of the Marshall Islands form two parallel groups extending northwest and southwest forming what is called the Ratak "Sunrise" and Ralik "Sunset" chain. The islands and islets have a mean elevation of 2 metres above sea level, making them particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and the destructive forces of tropical storms. Total land area combined is 70 square miles, or 0.16 ha of dry land per person for a population of 50 840. Majuro and Ebeye Islands are the two urban population centres. Over 50 percent of Marshallese live on Majuro Atoll. Of the total population, 19 percent live on the island of Ebeye. With just 0.14 square miles, Ebeye is the most densely populated area in the Marshall Islands, with an equivalent population density of 66 750 persons per square mile.

External forces have largely shaped the RMI's economy. The islands were occupied by Germany (1860-1914) and Japan (1914-1944). At the end of World War II, a special relationship between the Marshall Islands and the United States had evolved. From 1945 to 1986, the RMI was part of the United Nations Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, administered by the United States. The United States relinquished its trusteeship under the terms and agreement known as the Compact of Free Association. Under this agreement, the United States continues to lease most of Kwajalein Atoll for its military base and provides substantial financial aid to support the RMI economy until the year 2033. A new economic package was recently renegotiated between the two countries extending economic assistance for the next 20 years.

Government objectives, policies and strategies have been developed but for the most part were either not implemented or only partially implemented. A renewed effort has been underway since 2000 and has been accelerated with the successful conclusion of negotiations this year for a new economic package under the Compact.

Commitment to the pursuit of sustainable development, economic self-sufficiency, respect for traditional values and proper management of the environment is the main thrust of a recently-

defined Government Statement of Development Strategies, adopted by the Government. Arising out of this vision, the Government's development objectives comprise increased self-reliance, renewed economic growth, equitable distribution, improved public health and education, increase international competitiveness and environmental sustainability.

Increasing self-reliance calls for changed perceptions, restructure of the Compact payments, diversification of RMI's external aid sources, reform of public financial management and building of fiscal income reserves. For renewed economic growth private sector would be redefined and promoted and infrastructure developed. To promote equitable distribution, anti-poverty forces would be mobilized through community participation. Other islands' development programmes would be mounted and the taxes redistributed. To improve international competitiveness, the education standards would be raised while input costs are driven down and use of resources optimized. For environmental sustainability, the Environmental Protection Authority has been revived and a National Environmental Strategy implemented and an Environmental Policy integrated into the work of all relevant Sectors.

To conclude, the Marshall Islands has a deep and abiding respect for the land and the sea, elements that have provided them daily subsistence for thousands of years. Its frail natural environment has been well tended in customary practice, providing a basis for subsistence living and for economic and cultural well being. Like the rest of our Pacific neighbours, the RMI faces threats to its natural resource base, including global warming and rising sea levels.

With FAO's help and that of the world community, our grandchildren and their children may yet harvest their breadfruit and sail the ocean, and not be threatened with the loss of lands and become first of a new kind of refugees: the environment refugees.

Patrick HABAMENSHI (Rwanda)

It gives me great pleasure to address this august assembly on the occasion of the Thirty-second Conference of FAO. First of all, Mr Chairperson, let me congratulate you for being elected to direct the proceedings of this Conference. May your wise leadership help our deliberations to be most fruitful.

I would like to thank Dr Jacques Diouf for the invitation extended to me on behalf of my country to attend this Conference as well the warm hospitality accorded to all of the delegates. This invitation goes a long way to cement the already existing good relations between my country and FAO in the quest to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

As you may be aware, the Unity Government of Rwanda has practically devoted the last decade to repairing the ravages of the war and genocide and building a more just society. Let me tell you that we account for significant achievements on that front. On the good governance side, for instance, a new Constitution guaranteeing more rights for Rwandans was promulgated in June this year, followed by peaceful free elections in August and September.

With regards to gender equity in the legislative, Rwanda has, since September 2003, been the World leader, with 48 percent of seats in Parliament occupied by women. One more step forward was also recently made on the peace and stability side with the surrender two weeks ago of the Congo-based rebels' top leader, Paul Rwarakabiye. His men are laying down their weapons and coming back home, as we speak.

Yet, after depicting for you our comforting and fundamental successes in granting more rights for Rwandans, it is my unfortunate and unpleasant duty to acknowledge that the majority of my fellow countrymen and women are not yet granted the most basic right, the right not to be hungry. Poverty and hunger are endemic in Rwanda, with an estimated 65 percent of our people living below the poverty line, most of them farmers. The reason is that the sector which occupies 87 percent of our population and contributes for 40 percent to our GDP is unfortunately predominantly of subsistence. Exports are dominated by two crops, tea and coffee, chronically subjected to ever-deteriorating terms of exchange and capricious climatic conditions.

The Government of Rwanda is therefore conscious that in order to overturn this bleak situation, the biggest challenge still lies ahead of us: to alleviate poverty by rapidly transforming our rural economy; diversification and modernization of our agriculture are crucial in order to minimize the impact of exogenous shocks, generate incomes for our farmers and thus reduce hunger. In line with our long-term vision, and the more recent Maputo Declaration, Rwanda is making significantly increasing public investments in agriculture. Next year alone, 14 percent of our Development Budget will be allocated to agriculture. An agriculture guarantee fund will be put in place to boost private investments in the sector.

I would like to thank FAO for its efforts in helping us achieve our main objective of increasing agriculture production in such a way as to ensure food security and reduce poverty, especially among the rural population. I would like to mention that FAO has recently approved a project to assist Rwanda to prepare a national medium-term investment programme and to formulate bankable projects to be implemented under the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). Also, ever since the Declaration by Heads of States and Governments during the 1996 FAO World Food Summit, in which they committed themselves to reduce by half the number of undernourished people by the year 2015, FAO has diligently continued to assist Rwanda through technical and financial assistance in the implementation of an Action Plan that was agreed upon then.

Before ending my remarks, allow me, however, to appeal to developed Member States and other international development agencies to maintain and even increase their support to less-economically fortunate countries in achieving the noble goal of ridding the world of hunger and poverty.

With more than 800 million people undernourished worldwide, more than ever does aid need to be availed timely, but most of all, with no strings attached.

Dini Abdallah BILILIS (Djibouti)

C'est pour moi, M. le Président, un honneur et un privilège de m'adresser à vous à l'occasion de cette 32^{ème} Conférence des pays membres de la FAO. Permettez-moi tout d'abord de joindre ma voix à celle de mes prédécesseurs pour vous féliciter suite à votre élection au poste de Président de la 32^{ème} Conférence de la FAO. Permettez-moi également de remercier le Gouvernement italien pour l'accueil chaleureux réservé à notre délégation depuis notre arrivée dans cette magnifique cité de Rome.

Notre session a lieu à un moment crucial où plus de 800 millions de personnes dans le monde souffrent de la faim et de la malnutrition. Conscient de la gravité de la situation, le Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 avait adopté une résolution réitérée en 2001 pour réduire de moitié le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim et de la malnutrition à l'horizon de 2015. Sept ans après, une évaluation s'impose en ce qui concerne les résultats obtenus dans ce domaine. Je note avec satisfaction que trois tables rondes seront consacrées à la sécurité alimentaire en marge de la présente session. L'une de ces tables rondes aura pour thème le rôle de l'eau et de l'infrastructure aux fins d'une sécurité alimentaire durable.

Dans un pays aride comme le nôtre où la pluviométrie moyenne se situe aux environs de 150 millimètres par an, la mise en valeur des ressources naturelles est sérieusement compromise. C'est dans ce contexte de déficit hydrique que le Gouvernement a décidé d'accorder la priorité au développement du secteur de l'eau en procédant notamment à des réformes institutionnelles tout en s'engageant dans la mise en œuvre de programmes de développement hydraulique tant en milieu urbain qu'en milieu rural. Au niveau institutionnel, il a été mis en place une Direction de l'eau avec des compétences et des moyens élargis. Parmi ces nouveaux moyens, figure le Fonds de l'eau qui constitue désormais un mécanisme de financement et de maintenance des ouvrages hydrauliques réalisés sur l'ensemble du pays. Ceci traduit également une expression de solidarité entre les populations rurales et urbaines, grâce à l'instauration d'une taxe prélevée sur les importations d'eau minérale. Parallèlement à la mise en place de ce Fonds, nous appuyons la création et le fonctionnement de structures locales pour la gestion participative des points d'eau

afin de désengager progressivement l'État des activités de maintenance et de gestion de ces points d'eau ruraux tout en responsabilisant les bénéficiaires pour assurer la pérennité des équipements.

En ce qui concerne les investissements, notre Gouvernement s'est engagé dans la réalisation d'infrastructures pour la mobilisation des ressources en eau. C'est ainsi qu'au cours des trois prochaines années, le nombre de forages sera multiplié par deux avec le concours de nos partenaires de la Communauté internationale.

Je voudrais tout particulièrement mettre en exergue l'adduction d'eau potable dans la région de la Forêt du Day, sur un dénivelé de plus de 1 500 mètres au bénéfice des populations pastorales jusque là hantées par la soif, dans une région enclavée. Ce projet initié par Son Excellence M. Ismail Omar Guelleh, Président de la République de Djibouti, a été exécuté essentiellement grâce à des ressources humaines et financières nationales. C'est dans ce contexte qu'en marge de la Troisième Conférence internationale sur le développement en Afrique qui a eu lieu à Tokyo, du 21 septembre au 1^{er} octobre 2003 que notre Président de la République s'est vu discerner le diplôme de Docteur *Honoris Causa* en agronomie de l'Université de l'agriculture de Tokyo pour ses efforts dans le cadre du développement rural. Ceci concrétise parfaitement l'esprit du nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique, NEPAD, suite notamment au Sommet de Maputo en juillet 2003 et au deuxième Sommet des Chefs d'État et de Gouvernement des pays de l'Afrique de l'Est sur le NEPAD qui s'est tenu à Nairobi le 29 octobre dernier.

C'est précisément dans le cadre de ce nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique que nous élaborons avec le concours de la FAO un plan d'action et de programmes dans le domaine du développement rural à l'horizon 2015, comprenant l'organisation d'une Table ronde prévue l'année prochaine et à laquelle nous convierons tous les partenaires du développement rural en République de Djibouti.

Au niveau régional et continental, il y a lieu de souligner la tenue de la Conférence des ministres africains chargés de l'eau, prévue à Addis Abéba du 8 au 13 décembre 2003 au cours de laquelle devrait être adopté un plan d'action ainsi que la mise en place d'un Fonds pour la création d'infrastructures dans le secteur de l'eau en Afrique.

Outre le programme dans le secteur de l'eau, le Gouvernement, avec notamment l'appui du Fonds international pour le développement agricole, FIDA, met actuellement en place un système de micro-finance et micro-entreprises en milieu rural. Ceci permettra aux petits exploitants agricoles, éleveurs et pêcheurs, d'accéder aux crédits pour acquérir les moyens de production indispensables pour augmenter leurs revenus et assurer la sécurité alimentaire au plan national.

Je ne saurais omettre le Programme national de sécurité alimentaire dont les activités ont été relancées grâce au Directeur général de la FAO.

Dans le domaine du développement de l'élevage, j'ai le plaisir de souligner le choix qui s'est porté sur Djibouti pour servir de centre régional de quarantaine d'exportation du bétail de l'Afrique de l'Est vers les pays importateurs, notamment la Péninsule arabique, en prenant toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité sanitaire avant l'exportation des animaux.

Dans le secteur de la pêche, les capacités de capture et de commercialisation du poisson seront améliorées suite à la mise en œuvre de projets exécutés avec l'appui de la FAO. Des centaines d'emplois directs ou indirects seront créés dans le cadre de ce projet. Comme pour le secteur de l'élevage, nous renforcerons les infrastructures, les équipements nécessaires pour assurer la sécurité sanitaire avant la commercialisation et l'exportation des produits halieutiques consécutivement à la création d'un laboratoire d'hygiène alimentaire répondant aux normes internationales.

Pour terminer, les efforts des pays en voie de développement ne devraient pas être jugulés par des barrières commerciales et douanières qui entravent l'exportation de leurs produits répondant aux normes internationales. En ce sens, les négociations en cours à l'OMC, notamment sur le volet agricole, devraient aboutir à un commerce et des échanges plus équitables au niveau international.

Tao Seng HUOR (Cambodge)

Le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge s'exprime par ma voix aujourd'hui pour transmettre ses plus chaleureux remerciements à l'ensemble de la Communauté internationale ici présente pour son soutien continu et en particulier à la FAO et à son Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, dont les actions déterminantes pour le peuple cambodgien, depuis plus de dix ans, sont une base du retour de la sécurité alimentaire de notre pays.

Je me permets de vous faire un rapide bilan des principaux effets de la politique du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, suivi pendant la deuxième législature de cette nouvelle ère du Cambodge et d'ailleurs édifiant.

En tout premier lieu, l'élément responsable de la paix absolue est la sécurité totale sur l'ensemble du territoire national; deuxièmement, l'intégration toujours plus absolue du Cambodge au centre de la Communauté internationale, notamment par son entrée dans l'ASEAN et récemment son adhésion à l'OMC ; troisièmement, développement et renforcement de la structure de l'État par une politique constante de réformes économique et administrative fondamentales dans tous les domaines; réformes forestière, piscicole, agricole, etc.

Les objectifs de la politique du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge pour les prochaines années sont très clairs et restent marqués par une stratégie identique, au premier des rangs desquels la lutte contre la pauvreté et la sécurité alimentaire constituent les plus déterminants pour notre avenir.

Il ne faut pas cependant négliger le fait que les progrès dans ces domaines ne puissent avoir d'effet rapide et que le Cambodge a encore besoin de temps pour atteindre ses objectifs. Les premiers résultats indiquent une tendance positive. En 1996 et 1997 une part des 39 pour cent de la population se situait encore sous le seuil de la pauvreté et en 1999/2000 cette proportion était réduite à 36 pour cent. Loin d'être satisfaisants, ces chiffres sont encourageants d'une part mais montrent aussi l'ampleur du chemin qu'il reste à parcourir.

A cet égard, je me permets de remercier le Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour son invitation à participer à l'idée d'une alliance mondiale contre la faim et la pauvreté. Le Royaume du Cambodge adhère pleinement à cette initiative. Nous comprenons que le meilleur moyen de renforcer cette alliance au niveau international est de pouvoir institutionnaliser au niveau national une alliance regroupant les acteurs principaux du Gouvernement, de la société civile et du secteur privé.

Sur le même plan, le lancement de l'année internationale du riz en 2004 par la FAO, est une nouvelle importante et fondamentale pour un pays comme le Cambodge dont la sécurité alimentaire repose entièrement sur cette production. De plus, il est important de souligner que le riz n'est pas seulement une source d'alimentation mais revêt aussi un caractère culturel et économique indéniable qui amplifie son rôle au sein de la société comme celle du Cambodge.

Dans ces conditions il est certain que le Cambodge se doit de répondre présent et d'apporter son soutien à la campagne conduite par la FAO sur le thème "le riz c'est la vie", qui décrit au plus juste l'image et le fonctionnement du Royaume du Cambodge.

Un des moyens choisis par le Gouvernement royal du Cambodge pour traduire concrètement cette stratégie: la lutte contre la pauvreté est celui du partenariat.

La coordination entre l'ensemble des actions de la Communauté internationale et des grands bailleurs de fonds internationaux a souvent été et est toujours une préoccupation importante du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge dans la recherche de la meilleure efficacité possible de toutes les aides dont le Cambodge est destinataire.

Au nom du Gouvernement royal du Cambodge, je remercie aussi tous les pays donateurs, les organisations internationales, les organisations non-gouvernementales, et en particulier la FAO

qui a toujours su parfaitement prendre en compte le contexte cambodgien en intégrant ses particularités pour la mise en œuvre des projets qu'elle a soutenu et qu'elle soutient aujourd'hui.

La FAO trouvera toujours avec le Cambodge un partenaire convaincu dans ses initiatives de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

Sami GUGLU (Turkey) (Original language Turkish)

I would like to congratulate you and your bureau on your election and wish you much success in conducting this important Session of the FAO Conference. I would also like to extend my warmest greetings to the distinguished assembly of delegates and observers. Despite all the efforts made to reduce the number of malnourished and hungry in the world, the results achieved until now are unfortunately not satisfactory.

Poverty today is known to be, largely, a rural problem and thus taking into consideration the interrelationship between agriculture and poverty it is crucial to combat hunger and food insecurity. However, in many developing countries today, Governments lack the required resources to support agricultural and rural development adequately. In addition to this, international development aid in this area has also lessened.

As a result, in the majority of food-insecure countries, current agriculture performance is below their potential. Consequently, in many instances this leads to an ineffective use of natural resources. Thus, a great deal can still be achieved by materializing the full potential that agriculture offers in alleviating poverty and reducing food insecurity. In this respect, developed countries should play a more active role in the eradication of hunger and poverty alleviation.

Agriculture is also an activity that is deeply connected to the quality of the natural resources which substantially affects the environment. In addition to soil, water and air, plant genetic resources for food and agriculture are exceedingly important, and the need for global conservation and development efforts are unquestioned. Being located in a region with extensive plant genetic diversity, Turkey has been striving for decades to preserve this space. To this end, we have cooperated on several occasions with FAO and other international organizations and received valuable support. However, more determination effort and solidarity in this ongoing growth are certainly required.

From the consumers' point of view, food safety and quality issues are gradually becoming more important. Necessarily, the new global environment for agrifood trade places substantial obligations on every stakeholder in the food chain from the field to the table. Thus, Turkey has a large and diversified agricultural production capacity, a developed food industry and considerable export potential in agriculture and food commodities. In order to achieve food safety and quality, as well as consumer protection recently various measures have been taken towards the harmonization of national legislation with the regulations and procedures of the EU.

We have also been working on developing a new and effective national food control system. The main objective of this reorganization effort is to create a single and more powerful agency, with the essential responsibilities and all the required means of fulfilling them.

Animal Health is also very important from the point of view of food safety and security.

Transboundary and infectious diseases are the current problems of all countries. Due to its geographical composition, Turkey has been on the crossroads of several well-known land and sea routes and currently has borders with many countries. The mountainous nature and lengthiness of these borders, particularly in the east and south creates difficulties for the country in the effective prevention of transboundary animal diseases.

So from the Caucasus to the Middle East, a region wise surveillance and a control of infectious animal diseases are of utmost importance.

In cooperation with several international organizations such as FAO and OIE we are also cooperating with neighbouring countries. Turkey supports FAO's appropriate efforts to strengthen

EMPRES and would also further request it to allocate more funds to EMPRES for use in that region.

Within this context we would like to urge FAO to continue to enhance the existing disease surveillance systems in the region through promoting cooperation among all the countries and international organizations involved.

Additionally, we propose that the Animal Health Service of FAO redefines the structure of its subgroups in order to be consistent with broader objectives.

Before concluding, I would like to make some remarks on the liberalization of International Agriculture Trade and Domestic Support. For the last years, Turkey has been pursuing new policy goals and trying to change the policy instruments hitherto used within the framework of domestic support programmes.

Traditional support mechanisms such as, input and credit subsidies, have been completely phased out and a direct income support system has been initiated. However, due to specific conditions of the domestic markets, limited premium payments to a few commodities such as, cotton and olive oil still continues.

As we all know, heavy export and production subsidies that are still being continued in some countries today cause hardships for some developed countries. In cases where specific conditions of vulnerable countries having limited resources exist, they should be taken into consideration.

I would like to conclude my words by expressing my very best wishes for the success of this Conference.

Petre DAEA (Romania)

It is my pleasure and honour to express Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Romanian Government, cordial congratulations for your election to the position as Chair of the Thirty-second FAO Conference and to express my sincere wishes for its good running. At the same time I would like to assure you of the Romanian Government's interest concerning the items the FAO Conference will debate and the fact that our Delegation intends to contribute to the success of the Conference's work.

We appreciate the documents prepared by the Secretariat and we congratulate FAO's Director-General for the prominent importance given to the documents submitted to debate during the Conference. We would like to salute the admission of the new Member States in the Organization and to express our conviction that they will bring their own important contribution to the achievement of the FAO programmes.

I consider interesting to present several aspects characterizing Romanian agriculture, which is in the process of reinforcing the market economy. Romanian agriculture represents a traditional economic branch, through its contribution to the population, welfare and social balance. Presently agriculture brings 12 percent of the GDP, most of the sector being private.

The agriculture production for the last two years were affected by unfavourable climatic factors which did not allow us to obtain the production results we were hoping for. Currently Romanian agriculture is in a deep and complex structural reform process. Supported by the European experts we elaborated the agricultural and rural development strategy for the EU integration, document establishing the short and medium term direction aiming to sustainable agriculture development. Briefly the main objectives of the Romanian Government are: the adoption of the European Agriculture Model in the larger sustainable development concept; the growth of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector food industry and forestry, ensuring appropriate incomes for agricultural producers are creating export availability.

Concerning Romania's participation in FAO activities, please allow me to inform you that our experts carefully examined the documents and an example of our excellent cooperation is offered by the achievement of the technical assistance project with the support of FAO in different fields of activity; development of the forestry sector and improvement of food products quality.

On this occasion we express our interest for the continuation of our cooperation on the basis of technical assistance projects for the development of the agrifood sector. We consider it necessary to further intensify the Organization's future activities, which may lead to the growth of agriculture production efficiency, especially in the developing countries and in transition to the market economy countries.

CHAIRPERSON

We are now to have one of the important reports of the Conference, the Report of Round Table 1. It will be presented by the Minister of Agriculture from the Republic of Congo, Ms Jeanne Dambendzet.

Mme Jeanne DAMBENZET (République du Congo)

J'ai le plaisir de vous présenter le compte rendu de la Table Ronde ministérielle qui s'est tenue hier soir et qui a permis un échange de points de vue sur le rôle des investissements dans le secteur de l'eau et des infrastructures pour atteindre les objectifs de sécurité alimentaire et sur les moyens de rendre ces investissements publics comme privés, attractifs et durables.

Les délégations de 49 pays ont participé à la réunion dont 25 ont pris la parole. La Table ronde était présidée par le Ministre fédéral autrichien de l'Agriculture, des forêts, de l'environnement et de la gestion de l'eau et par moi-même. Les intervenants ont fait état des efforts déployés par leurs pays pour le développement et la gestion durable de leurs ressources en eau dans le cadre des objectifs de développement du Millénaire. Ils ont apprécié les documents préparés par le Secrétariat de la FAO et ont remercié le Secrétariat ainsi que le Directeur général pour leur avoir donné l'opportunité de débattre sur ce sujet crucial. Les participants ont confirmé le rôle fondamental que joue l'eau pour la vie humaine et notamment pour l'agriculture, la sécurité alimentaire et le développement économique et social. D'où la nécessité, ont-ils dit, d'en assurer une gestion intégrée. Il revient également d'assurer l'efficacité de l'utilisation de l'eau à travers la modernisation des infrastructures et l'adoption des technologies colonisatrices tout en permettant plusieurs cycles de production.

Le manque d'eau, comme l'on dit les intervenants hier, est un problème vraiment crucial. Et la pénurie d'eau dans de nombreuses régions est à la base d'une compétition croissante entre les secteurs qui affectent l'agriculture et par là l'emploi et le développement rural. Par des mécanismes de traitement et de réutilisation de l'eau, on peut donc augmenter la disponibilité de l'eau et contribuer à la protection de l'environnement et à la conservation de la biodiversité.

L'importance du partenariat entre les secteurs public et privé a été souligné par plusieurs orateurs. À ce sujet, il a été reconnu que le secteur public doit continuer à jouer un rôle dans la mobilisation de l'eau et les grands ouvrages mais qu'il existe aussi des opportunités concrètes au travers desquelles le secteur privé et la société civile sous toutes ses formes peuvent contribuer de manière significative à la gestion de l'eau dans l'agriculture. En ce sens, un cadre politique et incitatif adéquat et de bonnes législations sont fondamentaux.

La nécessité d'un lien plus étroit avec les marchés par l'intermédiaire d'investissements connexes a également été exprimée. Plusieurs délégations ont insisté sur le rôle fondamental de l'éducation, de la formation et du développement des capacités locales pour la bonne gestion de l'eau. La recherche joue également un rôle important, en particulier pour le développement des technologies appropriées, notamment les technologies simples mais surtout à faible coût.

Nombre d'intervenants ont souligné également la nécessité de renforcer la solidarité tant au niveau international qu'au niveau régional. Au niveau international, l'assistance financière aux pays les plus démunis est nécessaire pour leur permettre de développer les infrastructures de base et d'assurer la bonne gestion de leurs ressources en eau.

Au niveau régional, en particulier dans les pays en développement, la solidarité doit s'exprimer par des programmes de coopération et de partage des ressources en eau entre pays riverains et pourquoi pas, avec d'autres pays. Les participants ont accueilli favorablement l'annonce faite par le représentant des Pays-Bas d'une Conférence internationale sur l'eau pour l'agriculture et les

écosystèmes qui sera organisée avec la FAO et d'autres partenaires fin 2004, et qui traitera des questions de la gestion intégrée de l'utilisation efficiente et de la qualité des ressources en eau.

En conclusion, les participants de la table ronde ont reconnu l'intérêt de pouvoir échanger leurs points de vue sur un sujet aussi important que celui de l'eau et nous nous sommes tous mis d'accord, en particulier, sur la nécessité d'investir dans une bonne maîtrise de l'eau car celle-ci, par l'irrigation, joue un rôle prépondérant pour l'intensification agricole. L'irrigation et notamment les petits ouvrages hydrauliques, les barrages apportent prospérité et richesse au monde rural.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Minister. The next speaker was set down to be Chad, but Chad appears to not to be present in the room this afternoon, so I give the floor to His Excellency Adreas Korakas, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Greece.

Andreas KORAKAS (Greece)

Allow me first of all to convey the greetings and best wishes of the Greek Government. Let me also congratulate you Mr Chairman and the Bureau for your election. My thanks and congratulations also go to the Secretariat for the excellent preparations of this meeting.

I wish at this point, to underline the importance of the FAO Conference in reviewing world agricultural development and in renewing all members' commitment to support agricultural and rural development throughout the world as the principal means to combat poverty and reduce the number of hungry people in the world. To this solemn undertaking, Greece is fully committed.

The Millennium Development Goals require a vigorous effort, especially from the developed world. May I recall that the first of these goals is the eradication of poverty and hunger. Considering that over 70 percent of the poor and hungry are rural, the importance of rural development is paramount. For the developing world, this leads directly among others, to the need for restructuring and diversifying production, especially in those countries that are single commodity producers.

In achieving this goal, the role of FAO is also extremely important and we congratulate the Director-General for his untiring efforts to this end.

Greece, on its part, contributes to these efforts by implementing programmes to assist needy countries, in Africa, Middle East and Caucasus. In addition, in March 2002, the Greek Parliament adopted a five year development aid plan totalling 550 million Euros for technical assistance to third countries. The priority areas for interventions would be: productive investment, infrastructure; energy, institutional building and training. Owing to the geographical position of our country, Greece feels a particular responsibility to encourage the European orientation of its neighbouring Balkan Countries. The provision of development aid reflects the sensitivity of Greek people for human suffering and is also meant to be a contribution to strengthening democratic institutions, social cohesion and international peace.

Greece actively supports, in concert with all other Member States of the European Union, the elaboration of voluntary guidelines for the progressive achievement of the right to adequate food, a basic human right, without which no other rights can be exercised.

In this connection, the Greek authorities, responding to the initiative of the Director-General are considering the possibility of creating a National Alliance against Hunger.

As to the normative activities of the Organization, they are also important to the membership, as they seek to ensure the long-term sustainability of agricultural development and protect the environment. For example, the conclusion of the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, negotiated in FAO - I am pleased to inform you - has been ratified by the Greek Parliament in June 2003. This is an important instrument in the overall battle for preserving biodiversity.

In the area of agricultural research, my country fully supports ESCORENA, which with limited resources, enables dissemination of agricultural research results not only among European countries but also to developing countries with similar ecological conditions.

Of great importance is also the work of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and of its subsidiary bodies. The work of the Codex acquired additional relevance in the context of the World Trade Organization agreements. Greece, along with the other European Union countries actively supports the work carried out by the Codex and will continue to do so in the future.

I also wish to mention another important convention, namely the Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent on Chemicals and Pesticides which my country has also recently ratified.

Greece conducts a responsible fishing policy, implementing the European legislation about control and inspection fisheries in the Mediterranean Sea, while the Greek National legislation makes specific provisions against Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

My country is also pleased to see and fully concurs with the priority given to the forestry sector in the Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005.

All these important functions advocate for the need of a strong, efficient and versatile FAO. Greece is one of the few member countries whose assessed contribution has been substantially increased.

However, we should admit that continued absorption of cost increases could undermine the efficiency of implementation of FAO's priority programmes. In this connection, Greece urges the introduction of split assessment of Member States' contributions, as it will further shield the organization against the exchange rate fluctuations.

In concluding, I wish to point out that Greece strongly supports FAO as an irreplaceable international forum on matters concerning food and agriculture including fisheries, forestry and rural development. A role that has always been central to FAO and should continue to be so if we were to achieve the objectives of sustainable agricultural development and availability of Food-for-All.

Abdelsslam CHELGOUM (Algérie)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous dire tout le plaisir que j'ai à me retrouver parmi vous à l'occasion de cette Conférence qui me permet aujourd'hui de vous saluer en mon nom personnel et au nom de mon pays, de vous dire tous nos sentiments d'amitié et de rappeler notre engagement résolu et notre solidarité entière dans la lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté dans le monde.

Je voudrais exprimer mes félicitations à MM. les Président et Vice-Président pour leur élection au Bureau de la Conférence en étant convaincu de la réussite de nos travaux sous votre direction éclairée. Mes félicitations vont également au Secrétariat pour tous les efforts consentis pour l'organisation de cet événement important et je ne peux pas manquer l'occasion d'adresser mes sincères félicitations et ma reconnaissance au Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour sa détermination et son engagement indéfectible en faveur de l'amélioration de la situation alimentaire des pauvres et des mal nourris à travers le monde.

La situation internationale actuelle du point de vue alimentaire reste largement dominée par un état d'insécurité qui, s'il devait perdurer, rendrait vains les efforts consentis pour l'atteinte des objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, de réduire de moitié, d'ici l'année 2015, le nombre de personnes mal nourries. Bien que des progrès aient été enregistrés dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire dans beaucoup de pays où le nombre de mal nourris a légèrement baissé, la situation alimentaire reste extrêmement préoccupante, notamment en Afrique sud-saharienne et dans d'autres régions affectées par des conflits qui ont mis en situation d'exclusion et de très forte précarité des populations entières.

Dans plusieurs pays d'Afrique sud-saharienne, la situation alimentaire extrêmement difficile se conjugue aux effets dévastateurs du virus du SIDA qui est à l'origine du déclin de l'espérance de vie des populations dans ces pays. Cette situation dramatique, vécue particulièrement par les

populations africaines, a projeté sous les feux de l'actualité la problématique de la sécurité alimentaire dans notre continent et donne tout leur sens aux objectifs que recherche le NEPAD dans ce domaine. Est-il besoin de souligner la place stratégique qu'occupe l'agriculture, le développement rural et la sécurité alimentaire dans le programme du NEPAD, lequel intègre, comme chacun le sait, une vision à long terme des problèmes de l'Afrique.

L'objectif fondamental vise à éradiquer la pauvreté en Afrique et réunir ainsi les conditions d'une croissance et d'un développement durables à même de permettre à notre continent de faire face aux défis multiples de la mondialisation, des échanges et de la globalisation des économies. Ces dernières doivent être appréhendées non pas comme une fatalité mais comme un facteur de dynamisation de nos économies valorisant au mieux nos nombreux atouts. C'est donc bien opportunément que nous conjuguons nos efforts pour le renforcement des actions autour de cette problématique visant la concrétisation des objectifs du programme détaillé du développement de l'agriculture africaine.

Pour ce qui est de mon pays, l'Algérie, le défi relatif à la réduction de la faim et de la pauvreté prend un relief particulier et constitue en tous les cas une préoccupation constante et la source de nos actions.

Parallèlement à la mise en place d'un cadre politique assigné stable, l'État algérien a engagé dans une conjoncture pas toujours favorable des efforts soutenus en matière de développement économique et social. La facture de l'État en matière de transferts sociaux s'est singulièrement alourdi eu égard aux besoins multiples d'une population guettée par la précarité d'exclusion. Avec les moyens dont il dispose, l'État algérien a assumé et continue d'assumer ses fonctions sociales avec responsabilité en inscrivant son action en faveur des populations défavorisées dans une vision qui dépasse la simple assistance à des personnes démunies pour intégrer ou réhabiliter les notions de travail et d'initiatives et lier les êtres à des actions de promotion sociale.

Cette nouvelle approche en matière de transferts sociaux, mise en œuvre de manière positive dans le secteur de l'agriculture où les aides et subventions de l'État sont liées à des activités productives, constitue la réponse à notre aspiration de voir l'ensemble de la population participer pleinement à une dynamique de développement et de progrès.

Nous avons lancé un important programme de soutien à la relance économique qui intéresse l'ensemble du territoire national pour asseoir un développement durable et intégrer et atténuer les effets de la libéralisation de l'économie nationale sur la population. Par ce programme, nous pensons avoir mis en place les conditions nécessaires pour lutter efficacement contre la malnutrition et contre la pauvreté et pour améliorer les conditions de vie des populations ainsi que leur stabilisation.

Un tel programme sur lequel nous fondons de grands espoirs devrait favoriser une croissance économique durable et jeter les bases d'un développement qui assure le nécessaire équilibre entre les différentes régions du pays. Il accorde une place privilégiée au développement agricole et à la lutte contre la pauvreté et vient à point nommé consolider la dynamique suscitée par le plan national de développement agricole et rural qui vise à développer les capacités de production et à rationaliser l'utilisation des ressources nationales pour un développement durable.

À travers les programmes qui le compose, le plan national de développement agricole et rural, s'inscrit dans une dynamique de croissance agricole soutenue et de revitalisation des espaces ruraux dont il prépare les conditions favorables. Il vise notamment l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire du pays et de la balance commerciale agricole et la préparation de l'intégration de l'agriculture algérienne dans le contexte mondial. La recomposition de l'espace agricole passe par la réhabilitation des vocations des espaces naturels, l'extension de la surface agricole utile, la mobilisation accrue des ressources hydriques et leur utilisation rationnelle et la lutte contre la désertification.

Le défi que nous devons tous relever pour éradiquer la faim et lutter contre la pauvreté exige une solidarité réelle de la part de la Communauté internationale ainsi qu'un partenariat efficace avec les gouvernements et la société civile et une coopération étroite avec les organisations

internationales et agences spécialisées afin de permettre la mise en synergie de tous les efforts. De ce côté, l'Algérie réaffirme son engagement à contribuer à fournir sa pleine contribution pour cette œuvre collective qui vise à garantir la sécurité alimentaire pour tous. Telle est la bataille dans laquelle nous nous engageons et le message qu'il nous plait de partager avec la Communauté internationale.

CHOE TAEK SAN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (Original language Korean)

First of all, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this meeting and express thanks to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat and the Italian Government for their sincere efforts to make this meeting successful.

The aspiration of humankind to live in a world free from hunger and poverty is still faced with great challenges even in this new century. The world food security is exposed to continued threats such as neglect in agriculture, uneven agricultural output caused by abnormal weather and natural disasters, all kinds of war and disputes, a heavy debt burden, diseases and selfishness in the international economic and trade relations. Hunger and poverty are threatening the rights to existence of many people, particularly women and children, thus seriously undermining social stability.

In the last two years, FAO has made great efforts to further increase the international awareness on food security and ensure common actions that are deemed necessary. The World Food Summit: *five years later*, convened last year, serves an important momentum in creating the political and economic environment favourable for solving the food problem.

The Anti-Hunger Programme initiated by FAO, enjoyed support from Member States, leading to follow-up actions and active efforts being made to form an International Alliance Against Hunger. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture is to enter into force soon, aiming at preservation and sustainable use of the plant genetic resources in agriculture and fair distribution of its benefits. This is one of the remarkable successes in the work of the Organization.

The Organization has further activated its activities to steer the international negotiations on trade in agricultural commodities in the light of common interests of all Member States and world food security. The activities for regular technical cooperation and Special Programmes for Food Security are being undertaken actively in conformance with the situation of every region and country and the objectives of specific projects, thereby making it possible to store up generalized good experience gained in the fields of management of soil and crop nutrition, prevention of plant pests and diseases, and controlling water.

The DPRK delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General. The DPRK Government makes every possible effort to push ahead with the implementation of the WFS Plan of Action. Under the wise leadership of General Kim Il Jong, national efforts intensified to effect a potato farming revolution and massively developed double-cropping, putting a main emphasis on seed reform on the basis of the principle of the right crop, with the right soil, at the right time. Land rezoning is being done successfully for large-scale standardized and machine-accessible plots and the efforts to solve the water problem in farming is made at a higher level.

Efforts are also being undertaken to do farming work, such as agricultural production, animal husbandry, fruit growing and so forth, scientifically and technically, and put agriculture on an industrial and modern footing, by developing science and technology to keep abreast with trends.

In recent years, agricultural output has been increasing in our country. This proves the correctness of the DPRK Government policy. The efforts to solve the food problem in our country are undertaken in close cooperation with the FAO and other international organizations. In this regard, allow me to take this opportunity to express thanks to the international organizations such as FAO, World Food Programme, IFAD and the governments of other Member States for their assistance in the field of food and agriculture.

Despite the efforts of the international community, there has not yet been due progress made in the efforts to achieve the 1996 World Food Summit goal of reducing by half 8 million undernourished people in the world by the year 2015. The DPRK delegation thinks that priority should be afforded to the following issues, in order to attain the objectives for world food security in a short span: First, the governments of all Member States should draw up the agricultural policies and strategies suited to their own situations and maximize food production by mobilizing all potentials. Each country will have to increase government investment decisively on agricultural and rural development, and raise the scientific and technical level of production activities, such as seed improvement, use of water, management of soil, crop nutrition and prevention of plant diseases, all of which are major elements for increased agricultural production.

We consider it important to provide enough food to all, and socio-economic conditions favourable for agricultural productivity worldwide. To this end, fair international economic relations, based on equality and mutual benefit, should be established and the international negotiations on Trade in Agricultural Commodities held in favour of enabling developing countries to improve agricultural productivity and get access to markets. Efforts should also be made to strengthen the international cooperation to eliminate hunger and poverty, and in this regard there is a need for the developed countries to implement their commitment of allocating 0.7 percent of their gross national product to developing countries. The efforts to solve the food problem require further cooperation with FAO and other international organizations. We are confident that in 2004, the International Year of Rice, will be of significant importance in drawing international attention to solving the food problem.

In order to secure enough funds for FAO activities, all Member States should actually contribute to the FAO Trust Fund with a target of US\$500 million. The DPRK delegation is of the view that the 2004-2005 FAO Plan of Action based on the budget growth submitted by the Director-General fully reflects the present food situation and the demand of the Member States to express its support to it. The DPRK Government will continue to make vigorous efforts to enhance its own agricultural production to achieve world food security and develop cooperation with FAO in the future.

Christian MONNOYER (Belgique)

La FAO s'est fixé un objectif ambitieux: assurer une alimentation suffisante à la population mondiale tout en préservant l'outil de production qu'est la terre. L'année dernière, les Chefs d'États et de Gouvernement ont réitéré l'engagement du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996 de diminuer de moitié, d'ici l'an 2015, le nombre de personnes souffrant de la faim. Selon le Rapport annuel sur l'état de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde, qui vient d'être publié par la FAO, on constate que la faim regagne du terrain après avoir constamment reculé au cours de la première moitié des années 90.

Faut-il, dès lors, baisser les bras et se laisser envahir par un sentiment de pessimisme et de découragement devant cet échec et l'immensité de la tâche? Nous pensons au contraire qu'il faut considérer cette constatation comme un avertissement et qu'il faut en retirer des enseignements.

Ainsi, le Rapport nous apprend que le nombre de personnes sous alimentées a regressé en Amérique latine et en Asie. Par contre, la situation en Afrique sub-saharienne s'est aggravée. Cette région mérite toute notre attention. Je suis convaincu que seul un équilibre approprié entre les méthodes d'intervention allié à une plus grande coopération et complémentarité entre les divers acteurs nationaux et internationaux permettra d'y améliorer le sort de millions de personnes dont le droit élémentaire de disposer d'une alimentation suffisante, en quantité et en qualité, n'est à ce jour pas encore satisfait.

Les causes de ce problème sont multiples et incluent tant des aspects de capacité de production agricole que d'accès physique et financier à l'alimentation voire des facteurs trans-nationaux comme les marchés agricoles, sans même parler du SIDA dont des ravages peuvent réduire à zéro les effets positifs.

La problématique relève donc autant de l'économie, de la bonne gouvernance et de la politique de santé que de la technique agricole. En outre, le Rapport sur la situation de l'insécurité alimentaire dans le monde fait également état de succès, il convient de les analyser et de transposer ces méthodes, qui ont entraîné des réussites dans d'autres régions, tout en les adaptant aux spécificités, aux potentialités et aux besoins locaux.

Dans cette réflexion sur la lutte contre la faim, je voudrais m'attacher spécialement à la question de la libéralisation des marchés. D'aucun, voit la résolution de la plupart des problèmes de sécurité alimentaire dans une libéralisation totale du secteur agricole. Il est certain qu'une plus grande fluidité des échanges peut contribuer à améliorer l'accès à la nourriture. Toutefois, il est clair que l'agriculture, et par conséquent l'alimentation, restent sous l'effet de facteurs exogènes incontrôlables comme les conditions climatiques, les épidémies, les conflits qui fragilisent toute transposition des théories économiques fondées sur le libre échange et appliquées aux biens et services.

La libéralisation doit donc s'opérer de façon raisonnée et raisonnable. Elle doit s'appuyer sur la satisfaction en premier lieu des besoins alimentaires et nutritionnels. Ainsi, le développement de production de rente ne peut se traduire par un recul des productions vivrières à moins qu'un mécanisme d'échange se révèle plus intéressant pour alimenter les populations.

C'est pourquoi la Belgique appuie pleinement le concept de bien stratégique tel qu'il est retenu au sein de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce. De même, la reconnaissance des considérations non commerciales en matière d'accès aux marchés se doit d'intégrer le concept de sécurité alimentaire et de sécurité sanitaire des aliments. Il s'agit d'une véritable reconnaissance de la spécificité de l'agriculture et de l'alimentation dans le cadre de la libéralisation des marchés agricoles.

A cet égard, la FAO a un rôle à jouer, notamment au niveau des pays en développement pour les assister en vue de définir leurs produits stratégiques. Je considère même que les tâches de la FAO en tant qu'Organisation internationale dont une des missions essentielles est d'assurer une alimentation suffisante à la population, s'inscrivent dans ce débat mondial.

La FAO a un rôle important à jouer quant au niveau de soutien au développement, d'appui institutionnel que normatif. Il est souhaitable que la FAO poursuive ses activités dans ces domaines et les adapte pour permettre en particulier aux pays moins développés d'occuper la place qui leur revient au sein de divers forums internationaux.

Former et informer les négociateurs des pays en développement est à cet égard une tâche importante. Tant la FAO que la Belgique s'y emploient. Malgré l'échec de la Réunion de Cancun, on ne peut que se réjouir de par ailleurs ce que les pays en développement soient devenus pleinement partie prenante à ce type de négociation commerciale multilatérale.

Par ailleurs, l'accès de produits aux marchés des pays développés passent par la mise en place de nouvelles structures et par le respect de diverses règles et normes. Afin que ces dernières ne soient pas interprétées comme une forme de barrière non tarifaire, les pays développés et la FAO, au travers entre autres de ses activités normatives, se doivent de mettre en place des programmes d'assistance en faveur des pays en développement de sorte que l'accès aux marchés des pays développés, l'accès aux intrants agricoles et aux crédits ne relèvent pas uniquement de la rhétorique.

Ces diverses réflexions nous font penser que les pays en développement et les pays développés abordent une période cruciale, tant dans le domaine de la lutte contre la faim que dans celui de la libéralisation des marchés et dans celui plus global du développement durable.

La Belgique entend bien participer activement à ce processus au profit de tous et elle entend le faire notamment dans un partenariat avec la FAO qui est et demeure une organisation internationale prioritaire pour la coopération belge. Nous soustraire à cette responsabilité serait injustifiable.

Carlos Alejandro BARROS OREIRO (Uruguay)

Confieso que transmitir el mensaje del gobierno de mi país en ocasión del presente período de sesiones del órgano supremo de la Organización, de la cual mi país tiene el honor de ser miembro fundador, es simple y tiene el handicap de la reciente intervención del Presidente del Uruguay en el Día Mundial de la Alimentación.

Uruguay es, por esencia misma de su conformación geográfica, un país agropecuario. Por tal motivo, resulta inevitable que gran parte de su economía y, por consiguiente, su bienestar social, dependan del estado de salud de la agricultura, así como de todos los aspectos vinculados a ella, ya sean de carácter nacional, regional y sobre todo de orden mundial.

Viviendo en un mundo globalizado, es fácil constatar que hoy en día las crisis económicas y productivas no se registran aisladamente, sino que se contagian, se prolongan y se agudizan de manera que afectan enteras regiones. Lamentablemente durante los últimos años, todos hemos sufrido un período preocupante de disminución en las tasas de crecimiento económico y, específicamente, en la producción agrícola y ganadera.

Uruguay, tras sufrir uno de los procesos recesivos más fuertes de su historia, que degenerara en un alto desempleo, brusca caída de la actividad y pérdidas de mercado, ha comenzado a registrar indicadores que denotan una reversión del mismo.

Según los últimos informes del Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, en los primeros trimestres del año 2003, el crecimiento acumulado fue de poco más del 5 por ciento respecto al último trimestre del año pasado.

Entre los factores que se pueden señalar por la recuperación, encontramos el impulso generado por la expansión de la producción agrícola, dado que crecieron casi todos los rubros fundamentales.

A pesar de que el Producto Bruto Interno agropecuario creciera un 6,7 por ciento en 2002, en medio de la crisis generalizada antes mencionada y que esté previsto un crecimiento similar para el presente año, cabe señalar que este crecimiento no posee una importancia tal que permita recuperar los niveles de producción previos al período recesivo que comenzara en 1999. La citada recesión económica, conjuntamente con graves inconvenientes climáticos, sanitarios y algunas dificultades comerciales han generado efectos acumulativos de severa magnitud.

De todas formas, sectores como la agricultura cerealera de invierno y oleaginosa, la miel, el arroz, con una superficie de siembra de 160.000 hectáreas y otros de menor magnitud, prometen importantes avances, previéndose una mejora en su situación competitiva y comercial, lo que otorga al sector el rol principal para la recuperación económica y nacional.

El Ministro de Economía y Finanzas ha recientemente anunciado la proyección del PBI con un crecimiento cercano al 5 por ciento para el ejercicio 2004, de acuerdo con los compromisos existentes con el Fondo Monetario Internacional.

En cuanto a estrategias específicas que Uruguay ha venido adoptando con el fin de paliar la crítica situación social de los últimos años, que incluso ha provocado efectos directos en la capacidad alimenticia de ciertas franjas de la población, se destacan por un lado la aplicación del Programa Nacional de Apoyo al Pequeño Productor Agropecuario, financiado por el FIDA, que brinda asistencia a familias rurales sin tierra y de producción marginal, buscando el objetivo de combatir la pobreza rural; y, por otro, la labor del Instituto Nacional de la Alimentación (INDA) organismo estatal que focaliza sus políticas alimentarias hacia la población que presenta riesgo de inseguridad alimentaria, lo que, afortunadamente, continúa siendo muy limitada en comparación con el resto del continente.

No menos importante ha sido la instauración del Sistema Nacional de Comedores, que brinda una cobertura nutricional específica que varía entre el 25 y el 85 por ciento de los requerimientos nutricionales de la población activa.

En esta línea de apoyo al sector rural se acaban de expresar los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno durante la XIII Cumbre Iberoamericana de Santa Cruz de La Sierra.

Como dijera recientemente el Presidente del Uruguay, Dr. Jorge Batlle en esta casa, "...América Latina es un continente que está en condiciones de atender las obligaciones alimentarias de sus pueblos ...". Sin embargo, numerosos países de nuestra región presentan altos grados de desigualdad en el consumo de alimentos, situación que acrecienta la subnutrición por sobre los niveles que debería registrarse dada la real disponibilidad de los mismos.

Finalmente, quisiera destacar que países como el Uruguay realizan enormes esfuerzos para satisfacer las necesidades de su población y para cumplir con los compromisos internacionales, como por ejemplo aquellos asumidos en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, debiendo sin embargo reconocer serias limitaciones y responsabilidades propias que entorpecen muchas veces nuestro camino hacia el desarrollo.

No obstante ello, como representante del Uruguay, creo que uno de los factores de mayor incidencia negativa en la capacidad de nuestros países de resolver eficazmente sus desafíos de crecimiento y de lucha contra la pobreza son las graves restricciones que aún se verifican en el comercio agrícola mundial.

Es bien conocido el hecho que ventajas comparativas y competitivas de muchos de nuestros rubros agropecuarios y agroindustriales se ven neutralizados por distorsiones que injustamente imponen las economías desarrolladas al acceso a los mercados a través de cupos, picos arancelarios y otras barreras no arancelarias. Pero, fundamentalmente, son las generosas y excesivas ayudas de los presupuestos nacionales que ciertas naciones brindan a sus productores agropecuarios en forma de subsidios directos y/o a las exportaciones las que tanto daño provocan, imposibilitando la libre competencia internacional.

Uruguay es fiel partidario de las virtudes del libre comercio en bienes y servicios como gran generador de riquezas genuinas mediante los mecanismos de especialización. Por ello, a pesar de considerar que las negociaciones agrícolas son el núcleo central de la Ronda Doha, entiende que las mismas deben enmarcarse en el amplio espectro negociador definido oportunamente, permitiendo de esa manera extraer beneficios para todas las partes.

En ese sentido el Uruguay hace suyas y reafirma con calor las expresiones de la Delegación de Australia, hablando en nombre del Grupo de CAIRNS.

Mengistu HULLUKA (Ethiopia)

At the outset, let me join my colleagues in congratulating you on your appointment as Chairman of the Conference and also appreciate FAO and the Government of Italy in making this Conference possible.

On behalf of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and myself, it is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to present briefly to this august Conference, the current State of Food and Agriculture in Ethiopia. Ethiopia, with an area of over 112 million hectare and a current population of over 67 million, is the ninth largest and the third most populous country in Africa.

The country features a wide diversity in its physical geography, climate and culture and with great potential for agricultural development. Ethiopia's economy is largely dominated by smallholder subsistence agriculture, which comprises 96 percent of the total cropped land and about 94 percent of the total grain produced. Generally, the agriculture sector employs 85 percent of the rural population, contributes about 45 to 50 percent to the national GDP, 90 percent of the total export earnings, as well as 70 percent to the raw materials supply to agro-based industries. Thus, agriculture remains to be the main thrust of economic growth in the country.

In spite of the physical diversity and huge potential for agricultural development, progress scored during the past years is below satisfactory. Only less than 40 percent of the available arable land is cultivated and 5 percent of the irrigation potential has been realized. Crop yields and livestock productivity are much lower than the expected results.

The subsistence smallholder agriculture system suffers from structural problems and thus, unable to supply the minimum food requirements of the population. As a result, chronic food insecurity is becoming a rampant phenomenon of the rural economy, which frequently becomes aggravated and reaches an acute level resulting in public shocks following droughts. Currently, five to six million people are living in a state of chronic food insecurity and an additional ten million people are vulnerable to transitory food insecurity at times of drought. The food insecurity problem is further compounded by HIV/AIDS and the malaria pandemic. In spite of an all out campaign to curtail the spread of these fatal diseases, 6.4 percent or around 2.2 million of the productive forces are living with the AIDS virus.

The low and variable performance of the agriculture sector could be attributed to multiple constraints, which mainly include soil degradation, adverse changes in climate, low usage of farm technology, inadequate research and extension, and lack of knowledge in farm management, shortage of finance and skilled manpower, lack of proper market system and underdeveloped rural infrastructure.

Cognisant of the magnitude of the poverty challenge and the socio-economic problems prevailing in the country, the Government of Ethiopia has embarked on initiatives in policy and strategic adjustment. By utilizing agriculture document-led industrialization initiatives as a focus, various policies and strategies are launched to facilitate economic growth in order to eradicate poverty. These include, rural development policy and strategy; food security strategy; sustainable development and poverty reduction programme, the agricultural extension programme, technical and vocational education training programme, and agriculture policy and strategy.

The food security coalition, or alternatively known as the war against hunger programme in Ethiopia, is the very recent phenomenon, whereby government, donors, NGOs, civil societies and the community at large committed to join hands and build their solidarities to achieve reasonable level of food security, with the aim of reducing poverty.

In order to achieve rapid and sustainable economic growth in the country, the agriculture sector requires significant structural and functional transformation, from the current subsistence agricultural practices to commerce based agricultural systems. To this effect, a coordinated programme has been launched on the following areas to achieve the desired goal: agricultural technology generation and dissemination; ensuring food security through development and management of water resources, resettlement schemes, from marginal to more fertile areas, and provision of off-farm employment opportunities; providing extensive technical training to agricultural workers; developing agricultural input and output markets, by promoting cooperatives to facilitate input and output marketing and rural financing, and by encouraging investment by the private sector, and by expanding rural micro-financing system; ensuring proper land and soil management systems by promoting land use and security right systems, and by applying appropriate soil and conservation measures; improving rural infrastructure through expansion of rural roads, irrigation and storage systems.

Though it seems an over ambitious endeavour, to make a certain level of advancement along this line, it requires considerable financial resources, which are over and above the capacity of the government to generate. With continued support of our development partners, we could make substantial progress towards achieving our envisaged goals.

CHAIRPERSON

I have a piece of information. You might recall that Saturday we decided on a Working Group of the Conference, and I have been asked to inform you that this Working Group on Split Assessment will convene today at 17.30 in the Red Room. All members of the Working Group should hopefully attend this meeting.

Jacques CHAVAZ (Suisse)

Permettez-moi d'introduire mon allocution par cette constatation, hélas, banale: la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation est d'une lenteur consternante. Nous nous sommes engagés à diminuer de moitié d'ici à 2015 la part de la population mondiale souffrant de la faim. Si nous ne voulons pas que cet engagement demeure lettre morte nous devons prendre rapidement des mesures efficaces.

L'étude de la FAO "Agriculture mondiale, horizon 2015-2030" signale que les augmentations de production à venir non seulement exigeront des ressources supplémentaires mais porteront aussi atteinte à l'environnement. La FAO envisage-t-elle d'inaugurer une ère de non durabilité économique et sociale?

Dans la perspective du développement durable, les conflits d'objectifs sont programmés car, en premier lieu, une croissance au détriment de l'environnement s'est substituée à une politique de croissance et de redistribution durable; les surfaces agricoles s'étendant aux frais des forêts primaires en antinomie avec les objectifs de la politique environnementale internationale. Cela nous inquiète au plus haut point. La volonté politique nécessaire à la réalisation du Plan d'action sur la voie de la durabilité est fragilisée et les objectifs fixés en 1996 paraissent soudain hors de portée.

Nous sommes inquiets pour les raisons suivantes: Premièrement, la dimension sociale de la durabilité tombe peu à peu dans l'oubli. Soixante-dix pour cent des pauvres habitent les zones rurales; leur sort dépend d'un développement durable de l'agriculture mais aussi des secteurs en aval. Il est primordial de créer les conditions nécessaires à une croissance économique durable dans ces régions. A cet effet, il convient en particulier d'améliorer l'accès sans discrimination des populations rurales, notamment des femmes, à la terre, à l'eau, à la formation, à la santé et au crédit. Deuxièmement, la dimension écologique de la durabilité est en péril. La FAO doit résister à la tentation de reléguer cet aspect au second plan. Elle doit en priorité revaloriser les systèmes de production durable. La Suisse s'engage pour un renforcement ciblé d'une politique agricole et un développement du milieu rural axé sur la durabilité. Troisièmement, les conditions générales, juridiques et administratives sont encore très souvent déficientes. Les droits politiques, économiques et sociaux sont insuffisamment concrétisés, ce qui renforce la pauvreté et la faim. La sécurité alimentaire ne peut se développer que dans un contexte de paix, de stabilité, de respect des droits humains.

La Suisse regrette le retard pris dans le cycle de négociations de Doha et soutiendra les efforts engagés pour atteindre un compromis. Une libéralisation accrue des échanges agricoles est nécessaire mais ne suffira pas à elle seule pour améliorer la sécurité alimentaire dans les régions les plus défavorisées. Il est indispensable d'élaborer des solutions pratiques et applicables en collaboration avec les parties prenantes.

La FAO met à disposition un mécanisme de coordination efficace en matière d'agriculture et de développement rural durable. C'est aux pays membres de la FAO d'en faire usage.

La FAO ne pourra être à la hauteur des enjeux que si nous, pays membres, lui apportons sans délais des réponses pragmatiques. La Suisse reconnaît le rôle central de la FAO dans la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action de Rome, rôle qu'elle partage avec d'autres Organisations et Institutions engagées dans un effort commun de lutte contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Le travail de la FAO dans les domaines normatif et opérationnel est largement reconnu.

Concrètement, la Suisse entend contribuer en priorité à des progrès dans les domaines suivants: Tout d'abord le Traité international sur les ressources phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Il constitue un succès politique pour une agriculture durable. Il peut contribuer substantiellement à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale et au partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de l'utilisation des ressources génétiques. La Suisse a signé ce Traité en octobre 2002 et la procédure de ratification parlementaire est en cours. Des décisions cruciales pour l'avenir du

Traité seront prises lors de la première réunion de l'Organe directeur. Afin d'assurer le succès de cette réunion, il est essentiel que les travaux préparatoires des organes intérimaires soient achevés avant la tenue de celle-ci.

Deuxièmement, la Suisse accorde une grande importance à l'élaboration des lignes directrices volontaires visant à assurer la concrétisation progressive du droit à une alimentation adéquate dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire. Ces lignes directrices doivent apporter une plus value aux efforts de la Communauté internationale pour la réalisation progressive de ce droit fondamental. La Suisse prend acte des progrès enregistrés lors des deux premières réunions du Groupe de travail inter-gouvernemental et espère que les négociations à venir bénéficieront de cette dynamique. Néanmoins, d'importants efforts seront encore nécessaires pour créer un instrument opérationnel. La Suisse poursuivra son engagement actif.

Troisièmement, les enjeux de l'agriculture et du développement rural durable nécessitent des réponses spécifiques aux niveaux global, régional et local. Certains aspects de ces enjeux ont été discutés en détail lors de la Conférence internationale d'Adelboden, organisée en 2002, en collaboration avec la FAO. La Suisse a décidé d'apporter son soutien financier à l'élaboration d'un projet relatif à SARD, en région de montagne. Le Gouvernement suisse espère vivement que d'autres pays, ainsi que des parties prenantes intéressées au développement durable, rejoindront ce processus.

Quatrièmement, la Suisse, par sa coopération au développement bilatéral avec les pays partenaires dans le cadre du développement rural intégré, contribue à l'amélioration de la sécurité alimentaire. Elle favorise entre autres l'utilisation durable du sol, de l'eau ainsi que le développement de bassins d'alimentation. Par sa coopération au développement multilatéral, mon pays s'engage pour l'amélioration globale de la sécurité alimentaire. Elle prend en compte la complexité de la tâche dans le contexte international et soutient le travail des agences spécialisées des Etats-Unis, au premier plan la FAO et le FIDA. En cas de catastrophes naturelles, de crises ou de conflits, la Suisse met en œuvre son aide humanitaire principalement par le canal du Programme alimentaire mondial.

Cinquièmement, la Suisse a soutenu dès l'origine le Chapitre 13 de l'Agenda 21 consacré aux montagnes. Sur cette toile de fond, le partenariat international pour le développement rural durable dans les régions de montagne a été développé au Sommet mondial de Johannesburg en collaboration avec la FAO et l'UNEP. Ce partenariat vise à promouvoir les alliances pour un développement durable dans les régions de montagne et pour la lutte contre la pauvreté chronique dans ces régions.

Pour conclure, j'aimerais souligner que la Suisse a toujours soutenu les réformes entreprises par la FAO ces dernières années et continuera à contribuer par une attitude fictive mais constructive à la recherche d'efficacité et de synergie. Dans le débat budgétaire, elle est favorable à la mise en recouvrement fractionnée des contributions. Mon pays s'engage pour que la FAO dispose des moyens nécessaires à ses activités.

*Helder dos Santos Félix Muteia, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair
Helder dos Santos Félix Muteia, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Helder dos Santos Félix Muteia, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia*

RIGHT OF REPLY

DROIT DE REPOSE

DERECHO DE RÉPLICA

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

During the statements today, I heard a few delegates use all kinds of pretexts to raise a problem which concerns a sovereignty of a country. The small group of countries, encouraged by the Taiwanese authorities, put forward a proposal that is that Taiwan could become a member of FAO. This is meddling in the internal affairs of China, contrary to the Charter of United Nations and the resolutions related to the proceedings of the General Conference. The Chinese delegation

is very much against such a manoeuvre. FAO is an International Organization where only sovereign states have the right to participate. There is only one China in the world and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the only legal Government of China.

Taiwan, as a province of China, does not have the right to join FAO. For some time, the activities of the authorities in Taiwan are becoming more and more intense to use every opportunity to establish two Chinas, or China and a Taiwan. If the Taiwanese authorities want to join FAO, then the idea is only to create two Chinas or a China and a Taiwan and has nothing to do with the well-being of the people.

The Chinese Government has always been concerned about the well-being of the population of Taiwan and we are concerned for the interests of the people, and that is why we have agreed to a peaceful reunification based on the principle of one country in two systems. That position was understood and supported by a majority of countries throughout the world.

The small group of countries which have raised this problem cannot be supported and the activities of the Taiwanese authorities will fail. We want that, henceforth, in FAO such a situation should not occur again. We also want the Secretariat to do what it can to prevent the reoccurrence of this kind of thing.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to inform you that the Working Group on Split Assessment will convene at 17.30 hours today in the Red Room. All members of the Working Group should attend this meeting.

Simon DRAPER (New Zealand)

I would just like to make a brief announcement, which is on behalf of Minister Jim Sutton, he asked me to remind Heads of Delegation that they are invited to drinks this evening, straight after Round Table 2 finishes. It is at 20.00 at Terrazza Caffarelli, there are invitations in your pigeon holes. It is being hosted by Minister Sutton. It will provide an opportunity for those Ministers and Heads of Delegation who want to continue any discussion following Round Table 2. Can I say, as a resident of Rome for the last three years, for those people who have just come to Rome, it has one of the best views of Rome as well. So we highly encourage you to attend.

CHAIRPERSON

Before I adjourn this meeting, I would like to remind you that Round Table 2 will start its meeting at 16.15 in King Faisal Room, D 263.

This is all for today for the Plenary Session, I thank you for your collaboration.

The meeting rose at 15.52 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 52

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.52 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-second Session
Trente-deuxième session
32º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003
Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003
Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003**

**SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING
SEPTIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
SEPTIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

3 December 2003

The Seventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.40 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La septième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 40

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la septima sesión plenaria a las 09.40 horas

bajo la presidencia de Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2003/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2003/2) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2003/2) (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

China, Mali, Hungary, Bahrain, Cameroun, Tonga, Haiti, Republic of Korea, Uganda, Thailand, Czech Republic, Portugal, Botswana, Malaysia, France, República Dominicana, Holy See, Egypt, Costa Rica, Qatar, Poland, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Croatia, Sierra Leone, México, Albania, Zimbabwe.

CHAIRPERSON

I have two little procedural announcements. There will be no Plenary tomorrow. The Plenary on Friday will need to start at 9.00 a.m. promptly. We need to make time on Friday morning for two votes and we need to allow ourselves time to go to visit the Pope at 10.00 a.m. We have to be on the job on Friday morning.

I call the Seventh Plenary meeting to order. We continue the morning with Item 5: the Review of the State of Food and Agriculture.

ZHANG BAOWEN (China) (Original language Chinese)

Today, I am very pleased to meet fellow delegates from all over the World at the Thirty-second Session of FAO Conference. We are here to review the recent development of world agriculture and food, to discuss major issues in this area and consider the important matters related to the development of agriculture and food worldwide.

Since the World Food Summit and the Millennium Summit, governments and the international community have rigorously implemented the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and honoured their commitments. As a result, the world food security has been improved to some extent. It is estimated that the global output of grains in 2003 will pick up to 1.865 billion tonnes, which is 32 million tonnes more than that of the previous year. Nevertheless, we have made only limited progress in the world food and agriculture development, and some long-term problems concerning the world food security still await to be solved. The Chinese delegation has noted with great concern that there are still 840 million people suffering from hunger or undernourishment. Should such a situation keep going on, we would have to take several generations to have the number of the undernourished in the world. We must work together to take up the challenge faced by the international community and strive to resolve the common problem pestering human beings for a long time, that is the problem of feeding and clothing, and to realize the basic human right, that is the right to food.

China is an agricultural country with nearly a population of 1.3 billion, out of which 930 million live in rural areas. To satisfy subsistence requirements of the Chinese people, especially those in poverty-stricken areas has always been on the top of the agenda of the Chinese government. Thanks to the implementation of the policy of reform and opening up to the outside world over the past 20 years, the supply and demand pattern of major farm products such as grain has undergone historical change, shifting from long-term shortage to basic balance with some surplus

in good harvest years. Following the historical record of 512 million tonnes in 1998, the total output of grain of the country has been around 450 million tonnes in recent years.

After the settlement of the problem of farm produce shortages, the Chinese government has carried out restructuring of agricultural economy, which is of strategic importance and readjusted the distribution of agricultural regionalization. By doing so, we have scored remarkable results in many aspects in this regard. It goes without saying that the development of Chinese agriculture is still confronted with severe challenges and arduous tasks. The poverty line applied in the country is defined by the fact that whether there is just enough food and clothing. However, according to the standards of the World Bank and FAO, the number of the poor and undernourished population is between 120 to 200 million in China.

In such a context, the Chinese government will, on the basis of continuing to deepen the reform of agricultural and rural economy and expanding the opening up of agriculture sector, focus its efforts on the establishment of seven major systems in the field of agriculture, namely, the improved breed and variety system; the scientific innovation and application system; the animal and plant protection system; the agricultural produce quality and safety system; the agricultural information and market system; the agricultural resources and ecology protection system; and the agricultural social service system. Besides, China will carry out the Quality Grain Project to further sharpen the competitiveness edge of farm produce and to protect the comprehensive capacity of grain production.

We are convinced that we will meet the targets of sustainable development of food production, improved food security, enhanced food safety and further reduce the poor population through unremitting efforts.

In spite of the fact that science and technology have continued to develop and the process of economic globalization keeps speeding up, food security remains a problem faced by the whole world. It will require the international community and governments of all nations to join hands and concerted actions to solve this problem thoroughly. The development of the Chinese agriculture has indicated the following: to achieve sustainable development of agriculture, there are three factors involved, namely policy, imports and science and technology. We think that this experience can be used for reference for the development of agriculture in other countries.

The Chinese government has always attached great importance to and actively participated in international exchange and cooperation in the agricultural sector. We will continue to strengthen the international cooperation, especially the South-South cooperation in agriculture. Let us work together to compose a new chapter of pursuing common development among the developing countries.

In September this year, WTO held a Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico. China as a G-20 member wishes to reiterate, at this Session of the FAO Conference, that in the process of promoting the liberalization of world trade, we still need to take into account the circumstances of the developing countries and give special precedence to the developing countries.

The Chinese government will, as always, give support to the work of FAO. Together with all the other member countries of FAO, we are ready to make greater contribution to the promotion of the agricultural development and improve food security all over the world.

Seydou TRAORÉ (Mali)

Permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous adresser mes plus vives félicitations pour votre brillante élection en tant que Président de cette Conférence.

Aux frères et amis qui font leur entrée dans la grande famille de l'Organisation mondiale pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture, je souhaite la bienvenue et leur adresse mes plus vives félicitations.

Il y a sept ans, lors du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation en 1996, nous avons pris l'engagement de réduire de moitié, à l'An 2015, le nombre de pauvres et d'affamés sur la terre. Où en est-on aujourd'hui?

Mon pays, le Mali, situé au cœur de l'Afrique occidentale est cité parmi les pays très pauvres à faibles revenus et à déficit vivrier. Malgré les conditions géographiques défavorables et une conjoncture économique mondiale difficile, le Mali, avec l'assistance des partenaires bilatéraux et multilatéraux, a entrepris des actions importantes dans le cadre de la bonne gouvernance, la mise en place du Plan d'action du Sommet mondial pour l'alimentation de 1996 et la prise en compte des objectifs du Millénaire.

Ainsi les maliens ont su se doter d'une vision stratégique consensuelle à long terme sur le devenir du pays, bâtie autour d'une nation unie sur un socle diversifié et réhabilité; une organisation politique et institutionnelle démocratique, garante du développement et de la paix sociale; une économie forte, diversifiée et ouverte, une baisse de la pauvreté et des progrès sociaux touchant toutes les régions et toutes les catégories de la population.

L'opérationnalisation de cette vision volontariste se fera à travers un cadre stratégique de lutte contre la pauvreté adopté par le Gouvernement le 29 mai 2002 et qui en a fait le cadre unique de ses politiques et stratégies à moyen terme. Ce cadre est conforté par l'adoption d'une stratégie nationale de sécurité alimentaire assortie d'un programme à moyen terme de sécurité alimentaire durable dans une perspective de lutte contre la pauvreté au Mali. Une attention particulière est accordée au droit à une nourriture adéquate proposé pour la première fois au Sommet mondial de l'alimentation de 1996. Le Forum sur le Droit à une alimentation adéquate au Mali, organisé à Bamako en mars 2003, en a fait le point et a constaté des progrès notables.

Le concept de la sécurité alimentaire des points de vue de la production, des échanges et de l'accès aux produits agricoles est partagé par le Gouvernement du Mali et s'inscrit dans le cadre général qui organise le développement rural à savoir le Schéma directeur de développement. Ce chemin intègre divers programmes portant sur la gestion des ressources naturelles et la protection de l'environnement, la biodiversité, la pêche durable et la maîtrise de l'eau. Dans chacun de ces domaines, la FAO a été au côté du Mali à travers son programme de coopération technique.

C'est le lieu pour nous d'exprimer toute notre satisfaction pour les résultats remarquables enregistrés dans la mise en œuvre des programmes importants tels que le Système de prévention et de réponse rapide contre les ravageurs et les maladies transfrontalières des animaux et des plantes (EMPRES), notamment la composante lutte contre le criquet pèlerin, le Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire (PSSA) et différents programmes de coopération techniques.

Aujourd'hui, le Mali entend valoriser davantage l'immense potentialité en ressources en eau de surface que sont les fleuves Niger et Sénégal et également celles moins pérennes consécutives aux pluies. Avec ces ressources en eau et plus de deux millions d'hectares irrigables, il est inacceptable que moins d'un pour cent de ce potentiel soit exploité dans un pays qui est confronté à l'insécurité alimentaire.

C'est l'occasion de remercier tous les partenaires engagés avec le Mali dans les aménagements hydro-agricoles mais aussi d'inviter les investisseurs privés à s'intéresser à ce secteur qui offre les possibilités de pourvoir en riz le marché sous régional ouest africain. C'est pourquoi le Mali entend faire de l'aménagement de l'Office du Niger son Programme prioritaire pour le volet agricole du NEPAD. Ce Programme des grands aménagements sera mis en cohérence avec le développement de la petite irrigation à travers l'aménagement des petits barrages et des bas fonds selon le modèle PSSA.

S'agissant du Nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD), nous nous félicitons de l'adoption du Plan d'action du Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA) par les chefs d'État et de Gouvernement lors du Sommet de l'Union africaine tenu à Maputo.

À Maputo, l'on peut considérer qu'un pas important a été fait dans la prise en compte des préoccupations de l'agriculture africaine à travers la Déclaration des chefs d'État et de Gouvernement sur l'agriculture et la sécurité alimentaire. Parmi les importants engagements qu'ils ont pris au cours de ce Sommet, il est essentiel de souligner leur volonté de consacrer sur le budget national davantage de ressources à l'agriculture. Le succès de ce Sommet incombe tant à

l'Union africaine qu'à la FAO et notamment à l'action personnelle de son Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, qui a joué un rôle incontestable dans sa préparation.

L'action du Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, à la tête de notre Organisation mondiale a été reconnue par tous les chefs d'État et de Gouvernement de l'Union africaine qui lui ont, à juste titre adressé, lors de leur dernier sommet à Maputo, une motion spéciale de félicitations. Je voudrais ici le rassurer que cette motion est bien l'écho de tous les peuples africains qui apprécient au quotidien les actions salvatrices de la FAO qu'il a la lourde et exaltante charge de conduire.

Par rapport à l'engagement relatif à la consécration par les gouvernements de dix pour cent de leur budget pour le développement agricole, je vous informe que le Mali a accordé au secteur agricole environ dix pour cent de son budget en 2002 et 14 pour cent en 2003.

Une forte campagne de sensibilisation et d'information a été engagée en direction de la société civile et du secteur privé national pour l'approbation du NEPAD. Le Mali a mis à profit la Journée mondiale de l'alimentation pour jeter les bases d'une alliance nationale contre la faim bâtie autour du NEPAD.

Dans le Sahel et au Mali particulièrement, la campagne agricole 2003/2004 a été marquée par une pluviométrie quantitativement adéquate et bien répartie dans l'espace et dans le temps. Cette situation a créé en général des conditions hydriques favorables pour les cultures qui ont connu une évolution normale dans l'ensemble du pays.

On peut dire qu'aujourd'hui la production 2003/2004 est estimée à 3 391 965 tonnes et en hausse de 34 % par rapport à la campagne précédente et de 32 % par rapport à la moyenne des cinq dernières années. Avec une production d'un million de tonnes de riz en 2003/2004, le Mali salue la consécration de l'Année 2004 comme "Année internationale du riz" avec la FAO.

Ma délégation approuve et soutient sans réserve la proposition du Directeur général d'un Programme de travail et budget à scénario de croissance réelle. Pour le Mali, ce scénario est le seul qui permet de mieux prendre en compte les priorités et les besoins des pays en développement en particulier ceux de l'Afrique.

Au cours des trois derniers exercices, force est de constater que la FAO a enregistré des progrès considérables qui méritent d'être salués. Je voudrais terminer en saluant toute l'équipe de la FAO et la Représentante de la FAO résidant dans mon pays qui fait un travail remarquable auprès des populations. Je ne saurais terminer sans remercier également les donateurs, la FAO et féliciter vivement le Gouvernement italien pour l'appui qu'il ne cesse d'apporter à la FAO.

Imre NEMETH (Hungary) (Original language Hungarian)

It is my privilege to address the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Hungary. I would like to congratulate you Mr Chairman and also the Vice-chairman on your election. The Hungarian Delegation firmly believes that with you in the chair this important meeting will be a success. I would like to take this opportunity to greet the new admitted FAO Member Nations.

Trying to keep the short time available for the heads of delegations to make their contribution, allow me to give a brief account on the present situation of the Hungarian food economy.

The Hungarian agro-industry represents a major sector in the national economy. Its 3.8 percent contribution to the GDP by no means reflects its real importance.

Also in Hungary, the scope of farming activities goes beyond the production of crude farm products. The so called agribusiness, embracing forestry, game management, food industry and raw material production integrates the related processing and service industries, domestic and foreign trade as well as their operating background institutes, has about 20 percent share in the Hungarian national economy in proportion of the GDP.

The proportion of agricultural area is extremely high in comparison with other European countries, exceeding 60 percent of the country's total area. An important measure of the

competitive advantage inherent in our natural potentialities is that in Hungary the share of agricultural area exceeds by 23 percent, the share of arable land exceeds by 20 percent the average of the 15 European Union Member States. Although agricultural landscape equipment and infrastructure supply still have to be improved, the Hungarian agriculture is able to achieve outstanding results by international standard even under average weather conditions and at a low level of support.

The Hungarian agriculture is characterized by low level fertilizer and plant-protection chemical consumption resulting low environmental load having at the same time good soil conditions and, in the long run appropriate climatic conditions. In addition to our favourable natural potential, our expertise and advanced biological stocks also give a competitive advantage.

While we are able to improve production security and technical conditions by granting supports, we are not able to influence the weather conditions. Frost, drought, floods and excess surface waters have done much damage in Hungary just like in other areas of the world over the past four to five years. In particular, the weather conditions in the current year and in 2002 are responsible for the modest or poor yields. The severe winter and the prolonged drought have given rise to troubles not only in Hungary but throughout Europe as well.

In 2003, production funds further declined due to the extremely unfavourable weather conditions, including prolonged aridity and severe drought. Cereal production was 27 percent less than the average of years from 1996-2000 and 25 percent less than the low production record in the previous year. Wheat production has amounted to 2.9 million tons only. Although it satisfies the country's need for bread grain, there may be tensions in meeting the country's requirement for feed grain. Fodder balance is expected to be unfavourable due to poor maize production outlook. Drought may thus pose a threat to the availability of feedstocks and the commodity stocks available for export may also decrease considerable.

The worldwide pig crisis had also unfavourable effect to the domestic market. The livestock shows a downward trend in the case of cattle and pig and an upward trend in the case of sheep and poultry. Due to low world market prices, a further decrease in the pig population is expected to occur in the second part of the year.

Despite weather anomalies referred to above, the foreign trade performance of the sector can be considered quite satisfactory in this year.

Our foreign market relations are well established and most of our exports go to markets secured by free trade agreements. Our foreign trade balance is steadily active for decades. During the period elapsed to date in 2003, a balance of agricultural foreign trade surplus exceeding Euro one billion, US\$ 1.1 billion, has been generated.

Within less than one year, the Hungarian agriculture will become an integral part of the world's largest unified internal market. Our aim is to integrate into the European Union as quickly and smoothly as possible, ensure compliance with the Community's internal market requirements and perform well in the enlarged internal market, i.e. exploiting opportunities offered by the European Union to the maximum possible extent.

As a result of accession, we will not only have direct access to the European Union's internal market but the Community's extremely diverse foreign trade relations may also give a fresh impetus to our trade with developing and underdeveloped countries.

Last but not least, I would like to say some words about the cooperation between FAO and Hungary. I would like to express my sincere thanks to FAO Headquarters for that technical support FAO has given to Hungary during the past period through Technical Cooperation Programme. These projects have all concluded. On 20-21 November 2003 was organized in Budapest the Internal Seminar on Integrated Water Management in the Tisza river Basin. There is in process a regional project entitled Integrated Pest Management for western Corn Rootworm in Central and Eastern Europe. One of the beneficiaries of this project is Hungary. We consider this project a very important one because spread of this pest greatly endangers the corn production and

yield of the region. There are three national TCP projects just before final approval by FAO in the subject of innovative forest management, upgrading fishing technology to reduce silver carp population in Balaton Lake, and strategy for improved land management. We sincerely hope that the above projects will be implemented soon.

As it is known the FAO Sub regional Office for Central and Eastern Europe is working in Budapest since 1996. The Office executes its tasks with great efficiency. The well-based and active cooperation of the Office with our Ministry as well as with the Hungarian institutional system is highly appreciated. Here I would like to mention that following the reconstruction of the second floor of FAO, SEUR building, in 2004 we plan to continue the reconstruction with the top floor and partial arrangements of the basement. After the reconstruction the whole four level villa will entirely be allocated to the disposal of FAO that could host not only the Sub regional office for Central and Eastern Europe, but could host even a bigger unit like the FAO European Regional Office. We would like to offer this possibility and we are looking forward to hear about the long run FAO plans concerning the above.

I would like to confirm that Hungary's intention is to go ahead with the mutually active cooperation with FAO. Hungary supports the endeavours of the Organization and also we are going to continuously be at the disposal of FAO with our experiences, knowledge and expertise. My country is ready to participate in the realization of the objectives of the Organization, on one hand as recipient country implementing high technology projects, on the other hand like donor country offering the experiences and knowledge in the field of agriculture, forestry, fishing and food industry.

Mohammad Ali MANSOOR AL-SITRY (Bahrain) (Original language Arabic)

In the name of God, the most Merciful, the most Compassionate, may God's Blessings and greetings be upon all of you. It is indeed a pleasure for me to participate in this Thirty-second Session of the General Conference of FAO. FAO, this great and noble Organization, with noble tasks to fulfil.

At the outset, I would like to present my deepest congratulations and warmest congratulations to the Chairperson. His election as a chairperson to this Conference is a witness of the confidence that we place in him, given his knowledge, expertise and efficiency that would steer this Conference to a successful end. I would also like to congratulate those countries that have joined FAO in this Session, and we hope that their accession would further collaborate the noble efforts of this Organization.

The holding of this Session one year and a half later, follows the meeting of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, it was held in this ancient city of Rome, with the participation of the Heads of States who came to lay out an international strategy to combat hunger and poverty, to provide food for millions of people regardless of race, colour or creed, to adopt plans and programmes that would improve food production and provision throughout time, throughout the world, and to reduce the number of hungry in the world.

In spite of improvements in food production, we believe that it has not reached the rising demand for foodstuffs. There are still 38 countries that face severe shortages in foodstuffs, which means that we all have to exert even more efforts to enhance cooperation amongst countries to lay out special strategies and development plans to eradicate poverty and hunger.

Our world today witnesses substantial shifts in the term of major economic blocks, liberalization of the world trade globalization, IT revolution, break-throughs in genetic engineering, etc. The agricultural sector is considered as one of the sectors that is most affected by these changes, which means that we have to put these changes to the service of agricultural development throughout our countries to improve food production with a view to meeting those objectives that we have set for ourselves to alleviate the suffering of millions of hungry in the world, and eliminating all negative impacts on the environment, safety and human health.

Resolutions adopted by the World Food Summit called for adopting national strategies up to the year 2015 to encourage agricultural investment and to reduce the gap between the consumption and production and to eradicate poverty and hunger, to have a world free of hunger and poverty and to provide a decent livelihood for all.

Bahrain has adopted a sustainable agricultural development strategy, up to the year 2015 in cooperation with FAO, and has adopted the necessary measures to fulfil such strategies and to put our natural resources to the best use, to improve production and productivity. We look forward to more cooperation with FAO in terms of technical assistance, training of professional cadres, technical expertise and advice in the term of animal production, agricultural land development, plant protection, agricultural extension services and focusing on priority projects included in our national strategy for sustainable agricultural development.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has taken great strides towards international cooperation and accession to international organizations such WTO and we are fully committed to the resolutions and agreements under the framework of the WTO, related to the agricultural sector, particularly the SPS and the TBT. Here, we would like to affirm our commitment, the commitment of the Kingdom of Bahrain, to those agreements according to applicable regulations related to the free flow of animal and agricultural products and the safety of such products. I would like to note here that FAO needs to conduct further studies and analysis related to certain provisions of WTO agreements related to the trade in agriculture and training of technical cadres in order to build the capacity of the negotiation skills within the framework of WTO, to help developing countries to be able to deal with this organization towards further international cooperation with a view to the production of food for all, in an equitable and equal manner.

Towards the end of my statement, I would like to give our deepest gratitude to the Director-General and his assistants for their relentless efforts in the excellent preparation for this Conference, in terms of document preparation and the setting out of our Order of the Day and the schedule. We hope that our work will be crowned with success to eradicate poverty and hunger, to enhance the International Alliance Against Hunger, to improve cooperation and collaborative use of available resources, to increase the productivity and self-reliance, to meet food needs. We hope that God will help us to achieve those objectives.

Frédéric KODOCK (Cameroun)

Je voudrais tout d'abord remercier de tout cœur le Gouvernement italien pour l'accueil chaleureux et pour toutes les attentions qui nous ont été accordées, à moi et à toute l'équipe qui m'accompagne.

Je voudrais ensuite féliciter la FAO pour tous les efforts qu'elle ne cesse de déployer dans la recherche des solutions appropriées aux problèmes de la faim et de la pauvreté dans le monde afin de répondre au mandat qui lui a été confié par les États Membres de notre Organisation.

M. le Président, permettez-moi de vous féliciter pour votre brillante élection à la présidence de notre Conférence. Je félicite également les Vice-Présidents et les membres du Bureau, je n'ai aucun doute que, sous votre présidence éclairée, vous mènerez à bien cette louable et lourde tâche et que nos travaux déboucheront sur des décisions pertinentes.

Je voudrais enfin féliciter le Secrétariat pour la qualité des documents qui nous ont été présentés ainsi que la pertinence des informations et des analyses qui y sont développées.

Les tendances et les projections relevées dans le document C 2003/2 relatif à la situation de l'alimentation dans le monde, notamment au paragraphe 10 dudit document, constituent à n'en point douter un réel sujet de préoccupation; en effet, malgré une amélioration du niveau de la sous-alimentation constatée au cours de ces deux dernières décennies, notamment dans la Région Asie et Pacifique, malgré également les perspectives relativement bonnes dans ce domaine, force est de constater que l'objectif de développement défini dans la Déclaration du Millénaire, à savoir réduire de moitié le nombre des affamés dans le monde, ne sera pas atteint si rien n'est fait pour inverser la tendance actuelle. Ces vérités nous interpellent tous et nous rappellent que la faim

constitue une menace permanente dans le monde. L'Afrique subsaharienne dont mon pays, le Cameroun s'avère être la région la plus touchée et la plus concernée par cette situation.

Au Cameroun, la lutte contre la pauvreté constitue le cheval de bataille de la politique économique et sociale du Gouvernement; notre pays bénéficie depuis peu des ressources additionnelles prévues dans le cadre de l'Initiative en faveur des pays pauvres très endettés (PPTE), mise en place par la Communauté internationale afin de réduire le poids de la dette des pays les plus pauvres. Les premiers projets financés dans ce cadre sont déjà en cours d'exécution et le Cameroun est en train de tout mettre en œuvre pour atteindre le point d'achèvement afin de bénéficier davantage des facilités prévues dans ce cadre.

Un Document de stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté (DSRP) a été élaboré à cet effet avec la participation active des populations locales les plus concernées et la société civile; les principaux axes prioritaires de cette stratégie intègrent l'éducation, la santé, les infrastructures et le secteur rural.

Dans ce dernier cadre, un Document de stratégie de développement rural (DSDR), ayant en toile de fond la modernisation de l'appareil de production et la structuration des organisations paysannes à la base, a été soumis aux partenaires du développement pour solliciter leur concours en matière de financement.

Concernant le secteur de l'agriculture, l'autosuffisance et la sécurité alimentaire relative dont jouit le Cameroun est l'œuvre de petits paysans, en particulier des femmes en milieu rural. C'est pour cela qu'un accent particulier a été mis dans la mise en œuvre de notre politique agricole pour organiser les producteurs autour des filières agricoles et renforcer leurs capacités de négociation afin d'en faire de véritables partenaires.

Au Cameroun, la force de travail constitue le principal input dans le secteur agricole et rural. À cet égard, tous les efforts consentis risquent d'être vains si rien n'est fait pour lutter contre le SIDA qui décime les populations rurales dans mon pays. Vous le savez bien, cette catégorie de personnes est plus vulnérable à cause du manque d'information sur la maladie, du niveau d'instruction et des moyens financiers limités. Nous souhaitons vivement que la FAO intègre plus efficacement ce fléau dans la mise en place de tous ses programmes de terrain; en particulier, elle devrait produire des statistiques précises sur la situation réelle et l'impact de ce fléau dans les programmes des pays en développement. Cela permettrait de mieux cibler les interventions dans ce domaine en milieu rural.

Dans le cadre des programmes de terrain de la FAO, nous saluons la mise en place des programmes PSSA, notamment l'approche de coopération Sud-Sud et la mobilisation de ressources financières des autres bailleurs de fonds. Nous souhaitons que ces programmes se diversifient davantage et bénéficient à toutes les régions du pays.

Concernant le secteur des forêts, les forêts camerounaises couvrent 22 millions d'hectares et font partie des vastes et riches massifs forestiers du Bassin du Congo qui représente 220 millions d'hectares. Le bois occupe une place primordiale dans l'économie nationale avec 20 pour cent de la valeur des exportations. Le Cameroun s'est engagé dans une série de réformes qui visent à créer un environnement institutionnel et un cadre technique favorable à la gestion durable de ses forêts et à une meilleure valorisation des produits extraits de ces forêts.

Dans les écosystèmes forestiers du Cameroun, on trouve aussi bien les ressources ligneuses que non ligneuses. Ces dernières constituent de réelles opportunités pour l'amélioration du cadre de vie des populations en général et celui des plus pauvres en particulier. Outre leur utilisation locale pour la santé, l'amélioration, la construction ou pour leur fonction culturelle, les produits forestiers non ligneux contribuent de façon significative à l'augmentation des revenus des couches vulnérables du Cameroun.

Permettez-moi de me référer à la Déclaration et au Plan d'action adoptés lors de la Deuxième Conférence ministérielle sur le processus d'application de la législation forestière, que mon pays a abrité en octobre 2003, pour réaffirmer notre attachement au renforcement des

capacités d'intervention sur le terrain afin d'assurer une gestion durable des ressources forestières et éliminer l'exploitation illégale de ces ressources.

Pour assurer la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action de cette Conférence et des recommandations du 12^{ème} Congrès forestier mondial qui s'est tenu au Québec, il conviendrait que des conférences régionales au niveau des ministres en charge des forêts soient convoquées avec l'assistance technique de la FAO.

L'approche Genre est une réalité au Cameroun; en effet mon pays a ratifié la Convention sur l'élimination de toutes les formes de discrimination à l'égard des femmes. Un Département ministériel a été créé pour assurer l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de la politique de promotion de la femme.

La volonté politique en faveur de la femme pour sa promotion et son épanouissement en général est donc sans équivoque au Cameroun. Toutefois, la femme en milieu rural est confrontée à un certain nombre de difficultés relatives notamment aux méthodes de travail, à l'accès aux ressources productives et aux maladies endémiques. C'est pourquoi, tout en soutenant le Rapport de la FAO sur l'application du Plan d'action Parité hommes-femmes et le Développement 2002–2007, le Cameroun soutient les activités de la FAO prévues dans le Programme du Biennium 2004-2005 et qui ont trait à la réduction de la pénibilité du travail de la femme en milieu rural, à l'accès des femmes à l'eau et à la terre, à l'accès des femmes aux techniques et technologies appropriées, au renforcement des capacités des femmes en milieu rural, à l'accès des femmes et de leurs enfants aux soins de santé primaires et aux soins contre les grandes endémies telles que le paludisme et le SIDA, à la fourniture aux femmes des services et facilités nécessaires à la commercialisation de leurs produits et au renforcement de la sécurité alimentaire des femmes atteintes du VIH/SIDA.

Le financement constitue le principal facteur limitant pour le développement des activités. Pour y remédier, le Gouvernement camerounais a mis en place, avec le concours de la Banque africaine de développement, un programme pilote d'appui aux microprojets des femmes à travers des crédits dans la partie septentrionale du pays. Au regard du succès enregistré, nous souhaitons que la FAO s'investisse dans la mobilisation des fonds auprès des bailleurs de fonds et des Institutions sœurs spécialisées des Nations Unies afin que cette riche expérience soit étendue aux autres régions du pays.

Nous pensons que la question du Genre et également celle relative au VIH/SIDA devraient faire partie des Domaines prioritaires de l'action interdisciplinaire (DPAI).

Concernant le domaine de la pêche, il ne fait aucun doute que le code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et le plan d'action international visant à prévenir, à contrecarrer et à éliminer la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée, jouent un rôle crucial dans la promotion d'un développement durable à long terme des pêches et de l'aquaculture commerciale, surtout dans les pays en développement qui disposent d'un potentiel important non suffisamment exploité. C'est pourquoi le Cameroun approuve entièrement les mesures suggérées à la Conférence et donne plein effet à la mise en œuvre du plan d'action international.

Je saisis cette occasion pour réaffirmer l'adhésion du Cameroun aux principes énoncés dans le Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable et les plans d'action internationaux. À cet égard, le Cameroun est actuellement engagé dans la mise en place d'un système de surveillance de ses eaux territoriales. Par ailleurs, des négociations sont en cours pour l'examen et la révision de la législation nationale en matière de pêche et de l'aquaculture. Cependant, il lui faut élaborer et appliquer les plans d'action nationaux pour donner effet aux plans d'action internationaux. Ceci nécessite le renforcement des capacités des institutions sur le plan technique et financier pour appliquer de manière efficace le Plan d'action international sur la pêche illicite et les dispositions du Code de conduite pour une pêche responsable.

Dans le cadre général, tout en souscrivant entièrement aux diagnostics des maux qui limitent le développement de l'agriculture et de l'élevage dans nos pays, je voudrais réitérer mon souhait pour que la FAO s'investisse davantage dans la sensibilisation de nos partenaires au développement,

notamment ceux impliqués dans l'initiative PPTE afin que l'agriculture, l'élevage, les forêts redeviennent prioritaires dans toute politique et stratégie de développement et qu'une plus grande part des investissements soit dirigée vers ces secteurs car, comme nous venons de le voir, la volonté politique seule ne suffit pas.

Dans cet essor, une place prioritaire devrait être accordée aux activités de terrain dans le Programme de travail et budget de la FAO. La FAO devrait donc être dotée de moyens accrus pour lui permettre de mener à bien sa mission. À ce sujet, je réitère l'appel de mon pays pour un budget à croissance réelle.

TUITA (Tonga)

I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Session of the Conference, and I would also like to congratulate the four new member nations to FAO.

As a Small-Island Nation with limited natural resources, we rely on our small land areas and vast ocean for our livelihood. The status of locally grown food crops are satisfactory, though we are very vulnerable to periodic food shortages due to adverse weather conditions, plant pests and diseases. I note with great interest the Edouard Saouma Award success story in Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China on the control of rodents. I hope we can cooperate with People's Republic of China on our Technical Cooperation Programme to combat this problem as they are severe threats to food security in our country.

A change of taste and food preferences in our people, for processed foods and meats, results in substantial imports causing major trade imbalances. Dietary related diseases are our main health problem, though chronic malnutrition is a growing concern and we are combating these through public awareness campaigns and educational programmes.

On this aspect of food security, I am pleased to put on record our deep appreciation to the Director-General, His Excellency Dr Jacques Diouf, FAO experts and the Subregional Office in Samoa for their support to the Pacific Island Nations, through Regional and National Technical Cooperation Programme projects, TeleFood Programmes, Special Programme for Food Security, TCDC, Legal Assistance and CODEX Programmes. These programmes enable us to deal directly and urgently, at the grass root levels, with food security needs and problems of our rural population.

I would, therefore, like to give our Government's full support to these FAO Programmes.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to the Government of Italy for her generous contribution to the Pacific Regional Programme on Food Security, whereby priority food security needs of Member countries, including Tonga, will be dealt with at the national levels.

On the area of economic development, Tonga depends greatly on agriculture and fishery. Tonga relies on very few market niches for its exports of squash, vanilla, kava, and root crops. In addition to its disadvantages of smallness and distances to the markets, competition against more developed nations, has left its toll on low prices, unpaid bank loans and trade imbalances.

On fisheries, our coastal waters are becoming depleted and barren from over fishing for food and thus we are taking action on marine reserves and aquaculture farming as food security measures. In this respect we fully support the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishery Resource Management.

We also look at our ocean areas as our economic future. Vast investments were made on Tuna Long Line Fishery Industry. It took off very profitably and very promising indeed. However, in the past 12 months catch rates dropped greatly. Perhaps these are caused by factors including, climatic changes, technologies used, and IUU Fishing among others.

The situation may not appear promising for sustainable food security but we count on continuing efforts, the help of FAO and developed nations.

Sébastien HILAIRE (Haïti)

Je voudrais tout d'abord vous féliciter M. le Président pour la manière dont vous conduisez les travaux de la 32^{ème} session de la Conférence.

Je tiens également à remercier le Directeur général, M. Jacques Diouf, pour les efforts qu'il n'a cessé de déployer en vue d'accroître l'efficacité de la FAO. Il nous incombe maintenant de donner à notre Organisation les moyens d'atteindre les objectifs que nous avons nous-mêmes fixés.

Pour s'être battue et libérée, avec ses propres moyens, du joug de l'esclavage et de l'oppression coloniale, la République d'Haïti, petit pays insulaire des Caraïbes fut très tôt chargé d'une lourde dette en contrepartie de son indépendance. Notre pays a mis 125 ans pour se libérer de ce fardeau.

Il a pu y parvenir grâce à son agriculture et au prix d'un système d'exclusion sociale qui n'assignait qu'un rôle à l'écrasante majorité des paysans; celui de produire pour payer ladite dette et assurer la subsistance de l'ensemble de la nation.

Cela a eu pour effet de nous laisser aujourd'hui un pays à environnement physique extrêmement dégradé, avec très peu d'infrastructures, une population rurale soumise à toutes sortes de privation, notamment l'insécurité alimentaire, le manque d'accès aux soins de santé, l'analphabétisme.

Cette population, qui ne se laisse point aller au découragement, continue de développer des stratégies pour assurer 60 % des aliments consommés dans le pays.

D'exportateur net de produits agricoles, Haïti était devenu depuis plusieurs décennies un importateur net de produits alimentaires avec un déficit commercial, en 2001, de l'ordre de 300 millions de dollars E.U.

Avec une population de huit millions d'habitants à nourrir, Haïti représente, en dépit de la relative faiblesse du pouvoir d'achat de sa population, un marché appréciable pour les produits alimentaires.

Le Gouvernement a mis en œuvre un programme de développement agricole avec pour objectif principal la récupération graduelle de cet important marché alimentaire interne.

Disposant de très peu de réserves de terres pour une agriculture extensive, le Gouvernement ne peut atteindre cet objectif que par l'intensification de la production. Ainsi, le programme a prévu un accroissement de la superficie irriguée de 40 000 hectares au cours des cinq ans du mandat du Président de la République.

Malheureusement, des sanctions économiques dont les vraies raisons demeurent jusqu'à présent insaisissables ont été imposées au pays. Ce qui explique que les réalisations à ce jour ne se chiffrent qu'à 8 000 hectares additionnels.

Ce résultat a été obtenu grâce à une saine gestion des maigres ressources financières nationales d'une part et, d'autre part, au ferme soutien de la FAO, du FIDA et du PAM dont notre pays a pu bénéficier en cette période difficile. La République-sœur de Cuba, en dépit de ses difficultés économiques, a pu nous apporter une aide technique substantielle, notamment en matière de maîtrise de l'eau de surface, d'aquaculture, de pêche maritime, de santé animale et d'industrie sucrière. Dans ces domaines, des progrès significatifs ont été réalisés.

C'est le moment pour nous d'exprimer, au nom du Président de la République, toute la gratitude du Gouvernement du Peuple haïtien, envers les organismes des Nations Unies ayant siège à Rome et cette nation-sœur, avec mention spéciale au Directeur général de la FAO et au Président cubain pour leur indéfectible et efficace solidarité.

Nous sommes également reconnaissants envers tous ceux qui ont contribué au desserrement de l'étau économique autour de notre pays au cours de ces derniers mois. Un des résultats encourageants de cette détente a été la réactivation et l'approbation, le mois dernier, par la Banque Interaméricaine de Développement d'un prêt de 45 millions de dollars pour un programme d'intensification agricole dans le plus important grenier du pays: la Vallée de l'Artibonite.

Notre pays, à l'instar de tous les autres, a pris des engagements pour la réduction de moitié, d'ici 2015, du nombre de sous-alimentés, lesquels se concentrent en grande majorité dans le milieu rural. Aussi, apporte-t-il son plein appui aux initiatives en cours pour la construction de ce village planétaire sur la base d'un marché ouvert et équitable. Cette construction n'est cependant possible qu'avec l'instauration d'un climat de paix et de solidarité dans la diversité économique et culturelle des peuples. C'est cette paix qui permettra de dynamiser la production et de faciliter la circulation des biens et des services au profit de l'humanité toute entière.

C'est ce message de paix que le Président de la République d'Haïti envoie à vous tous, à l'occasion des 200 ans de l'expérience tout à fait originale de la nation haïtienne, éprise de l'idéal de liberté, de solidarité, de paix, source intarissable de cette joie de vivre qui étonne même l'observateur le plus avisé.

Sang-Man HUH (Korea, Republic of)

It is an honour for me to participate in this important Conference. I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the Director-General and FAO staff who have made such excellent arrangements for this Conference. I also would like to welcome the new Members.

Since holding its first Conference in 1945, the Food and Agriculture Organization has made an earnest effort to improve nutrition and living standards for people around the world. Thanks to such efforts, the number of people suffering from starvation is decreasing. However, there are over 800 million people still suffering from malnutrition and 60 million of them are faced with a serious food crisis. Under the circumstances, all of us are obliged to join efforts to eradicate, hunger and poverty as we confirmed our determination at the World Food Summit in 1996.

As you may be aware, Korea once suffered from food shortages and learned a painful lesson about the devastating consequences resulting from the lack of food. However, Korea has been successful in overcoming this hardship within one generation and is now willing to share their experience.

Recent efforts of FAO in setting the guidelines to realize the right to adequate food deserve to be praised. The right to food is a critical element for eradicating hunger and poverty. I believe that the right can be achieved by the appropriate combination of international trade and local food production.

Today, however, we see talks focused only on international trade. I would like to point out that this type of approach disregards the characteristics and reality of the international food market and, therefore, it might be dangerous approach to ensure the right to adequate food.

Particularly, in the case of developing and food importing countries, maintaining a certain level of local production is crucial in terms of food security as well as other functions provided by agriculture.

To win the battle against poverty and hunger, global cooperation is as important as the effort of each member. As one of the key institutions, it is necessary that FAO play a role for sustainability of agriculture.

In this context, FAO, as highlighted at the World Food Summit in 1996, and in the Organization's long-term development plan, should continue to work for people's right to adequate food through the necessary role in the process of global trade system building.

Let me turn to the International Year of Rice. Food security is highly dependent on staple food. It is also true that efforts in ending starvation should focus on maintaining and increasing production of staple food.

Since rice is the staple food for the world's large population, the United Nations declared the year 2004 as the International Year of Rice at its General Assembly in December 2002.

FAO, under the slogan Rice is Life, set out to achieve food security and to eradicate hunger by increasing awareness about the importance of rice and facilitating the efforts of the international society to resolve the issues related to rice production and consumption.

I, on behalf of the Republic of Korea, welcome the determination and efforts of FAO and believe that the intended goal should be achieved. I am also confident that rice will play a vital role in overcoming world poverty.

The Republic of Korea will do its best to help achieve this goal. As part of these efforts, the Government is preparing various international, as well as local events, related with rice in 2004. I would like to ask for your interest and participation in these events.

I believe this kind of effort will move us closer towards the target of halving the number of people in poverty by 2015.

Fabius BYARUHANGA (Uganda)

Uganda joins the other delegations in congratulating you for being elected Chairperson of this Thirty-second Session of the Conference. My delegation would like to note that the dire state of under nourishment in developing countries that has increased by 18 million people. We in sub-Saharan Africa, where 24 percent of these undernourished people live, must review critically the cause of this deplorable state of affairs if we must meet the challenges to achieve reduction in the number of the hungry by half by 2015 as committed during the World Food Summit.

Uganda recognizes the important role played by agriculture in the economy as it contributes 40 percent of the GDP. Government consequently instituted various interventions in the economy in general, and agriculture in particular, intended to reduce the number of persons living in absolute poverty. It recognizes the intricate relationship between poverty and malnourishment that lowers national productivity of our citizens.

A number of programmes have been elaborated under the national Poverty Eradication Action Plan as a framework to reduce mass poverty. Its stated objective is to reduce the proportion of our people living in absolute poverty to 10 percent or less by 2017 through: a framework for rapid economic growth and overall structural transformation; ensuring good governance and security, directly increasing the ability of the poor to raise their incomes and improving the quality of life of the poor.

As part of the above framework, we intend to achieve poverty reduction through the Plan for Modernization Agriculture. The PMA is a holistic multi-sectoral strategy that aims at transforming the subsistence farmers, who constitute 70 percent of the population, into commercial market-oriented producers. This entails improvements in primary health care, roads infrastructure, agricultural advisory services, education, rural water and sanitation, energy for rural transformation and sustainable use and management of natural resources.

As a result of the above policies, there has been a modest increase in food production. Production in food crops increased by 22 percent, meat by 23 percent and fisheries by 2.3 percent, from 1998 to 2002. However, our attempts to revolutionise production and eventually exports of commodities has been highly dependant on externalities related to global factors in production trade. These must be addressed in fora such as this one and the WTO. International commodity trade is still highly protective. Measures to restrict trade by certain importing countries creates more obstacles, in addition to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements in the international food trade.

Uganda has attracted Foreign Direct Investment and local investment to promote export-led growth. To enhance our participation in the globalize market, we have tried to be competitive by promoting value addition, reducing post-harvest losses, improving infrastructure and service and reducing transaction costs along the supply chain for food and agricultural production. Major challenges remain the HIV/AIDS scourge and food emergencies.

My delegation would like to thank FAO and other development partners for the support provided to our Government in the fight against poverty and hunger. We hope to attract further assistance as we cooperate with our bilateral and multilateral partners within the context of the African Union, NEPAD, East African Community, IGAD and COMESA. We join other delegations in support of the proposed agreement with the international office of Epizootics and the proposed cooperation agreement with the EUROFISH.

Uganda notes that the implementation of the Plan of Action on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing. My delegation, however, is of the view that the IUU is not only relevant on high seas, but also on inland waters shared by two or more member countries. Under the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, measures have been agreed by partner states to address similar concerns. However, no similar arrangements exist for regional fisheries management for the two lakes shared with Democratic Republic of Congo. We appeal to FAO to initiate consultations between the parties.

My delegation supports the recommendation of the Council to approve the proposed amendment to the financial regulations of FAO to address current concerns. Uganda also notes the need for Members to update their accounts to ensure smooth running of the Organization. Uganda will endeavour to honour her financial obligations. To enable FAO to carry out the programmes that have been approved, adequate resources must be provided. My delegation, therefore joins other delegations that support the Real Growth Budget scenario.

Finally Uganda pledges to continue supporting programmes that will contribute to the food security of her population and the world at large.

Virachai VIRAMETEEKUL (Thailand)

I am pleased to have this opportunity to address the FAO Conference on behalf of the Government of Thailand. Please allow me to begin by extending my heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr Chairman, on your election to the chair. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the Director-General for his devotion in leading the Organization.

It is extremely disappointing to hear that the goal of the World Food Summit, will not be accomplished. The political will of all leaders has fallen short in the fight against hunger. And a massive action plan is urgently needed. World's hunger and poverty are not the problem to any one country but also the world community.

Let me share with you the policy of my Prime Minister, Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, in the fight against poverty. He has declared his noble determination to eradicate poverty within six years. This is our way to participate in the international alliance against hunger.

Poverty, which is concentrated in rural areas, is the product of a wide range of deep-rooted shortcomings that limit economic opportunities for the poor. Thailand will mobilize all her efforts towards the creation of new opportunities to provide an access to greater capital through the establishment of the Asset Conversion Programme.

Under this Programme, millions of poor farmers can gain legal access to Government-owned land, and use it to generate sufficient capital required to support their agricultural activities. This Programme is intended to allow greater land use and wealth creation capacities, particularly for those poor farmers in need.

This, along with other programmes already implemented or under implementation, can maintain and upgrade the supply base, so that agriculture continues to be the major source of revenue generation as Thailand expands her market network beyond boundaries to achieve Thailand's aspiration in becoming a "Kitchen of the World".

In this respect, my Government will vigorously promote Thailand as a world centre of quality food production and export.

With this in mind, we have established the new National Bureau of Agricultural Commodities and Food Standards, and greatly strengthened our laboratory facilities and technical skills.

FAO continues to play a leading role in the international standard-setting organizations, namely, the CODEX, IPPC and OIE. Thailand is of the view that FAO must continue to provide assistance to developing countries for national capacity-building in the implementation of international food standards.

However, the issue of food standards, and other technical barriers should not be allowed to impede the international trade in agriculture. WTO Doha Round has serious implications to developing countries in reducing poverty. It is estimated that, the liberalization of global trade in agriculture could help developing countries with more than US\$100 billion in new annual income. It is now high time to seriously tackle the problems on market access, domestic support and export subsidies.

This is important to Thailand as agriculture has traditionally been the mainstay of life, work and income for the majority of the Thai people.

With the recent setback in the multilateral talks at Cancun, there is a push for regional initiatives in the form of bilateral and regional trading agreements. It is necessary to ensure that the bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives are mutually consistent with the concerns set out in the Doha Development Agenda.

Finally, permit me to kindly remind you that Thailand is scheduled to host the Second Forum of Food Safety Regulators, and that all of you are cordially invited to witness this magnificent forum in Bangkok, November next year.

Rudolf JÁNSKÝ (Czech Republic)

For the Czech Republic, the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference is significant just in several aspects. First, is the fact that we commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Membership of an Independent Czech State in FAO. In other words, a successor state that continued in the membership of the former Czechoslovakia as one of the founding members of FAO in 1945.

Another significant moment is the fact that my delegation is joining, on this respected multilateral and neutral forum, the emerging International Alliance Against Hunger, i.e. the idea of global partnership that is able to find an active solution to the problem of hunger and poverty in the world. The Czech Republic, as a new donor country in the region of Central and East Europe, considers inexcusable that more than 840 million inhabitants of this planet continue to suffer from malnutrition and that those people are forced to live in very poor conditions.

The countries in transition share that menacing number with their own million people. The Czech Republic, is well aware of this difficult situation. That is why we provide, in cooperation with FAO, within our own economic possibilities development aid to the countries affected as above, especially in the sub-region of Central and East Europe. This assistance is being realized through the common FAO Czech Trust Fund, and it has, on the one hand, a form of cooperation directed to the profession development and exchange of information within the region of Central and East Europe, and on the other, the support of including young experts into the FAO development projects. In addition, the Czech Republic contributes every year to the operations of the World food Programme in the Balkan region through which, the present critical shortage of some of the staple foodstuffs in that part of Europe is being addressed.

The Czech Republic is concerned about the slow progress made in the halving of the level of malnutrition in the world and in the progressive implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

However, at the same time we are of the opinion that the nutrition and food policy has to constitute, in addition to ensuring safe food, another step of targeted efforts of the state aimed at preparing for its population conditions making it possible to feed in an optimal way. Stating this, we proceed from the fact that the sound way of nutrition is a fundamental human right and necessity of life and an indispensable prerequisite for the health and quality of life. That is why the Czech Republic gives its support in the formulation of nutrition and food policy, to the

programmes of agricultural policy along with the programme for the recovery of and support to good health and the programme for illness prevention.

Permit me now to stress the importance of the work of the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measure, the managing body of the International Plant Protection Convention to which my delegation attaches in the context of comprehensive approach to the problems of food safety, fundamental significance. Unfortunately, at present there exists a wide gap in the number of effective standards relating to the phytosanitary, veterinary and sanitary fields. As for this point, I believe that such inequality is strongly undermining the trade in phytosanitary risky commodities. That is why the Czech Republic appeals on all Member States and the FAO Secretariat to consider the possibility of a partial increase of the means connected with the FAO normative activities in the new budget to be adopted for the period 2004-2005, especially in the relation to the promotion of the IPPC biennium.

In concluding, I would like to express our appreciation of the existence of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, that was adopted at the preceding Session of the FAO Conference in November 2001. The Czech Republic fully supports an accelerated entry of this Treaty into force. In this respect, I am very glad that I can declare here that the ratification of that Treaty has almost been finalized in my country.

Fernando António DE MIRANDA GUEDES BIANCHI DE AGUIAR (Portugal) (Original language Portuguese)

I would like to start by thanking the Director-General of FAO and the Secretariat for their commitment in preparing this Conference and I would like to congratulate them for their efforts in supporting the ideals and objectives of this Organization.

I would like to congratulate as well another country, Timor-Leste for having joined FAO.

As regards the recent developments in the State of Food and Agriculture, we are concerned to see that the fight against hunger and malnutrition, although it has shown some progress, is still far from reaching the targets that we had agreed upon.

In spite of economic growth and the increase in food availability, progress towards improving food security in many developing countries, is still insufficient. This is of course a multifaceted problem, and there are many restraints that make it harder to solve, from wars to different conflicts and natural disasters. In fact, as we all know, widespread economic growth, peace and political stability are also key elements of success. However there are other issues, such as the role of agriculture and trading practices, that deserve special attention.

Indeed, few countries were able to sustain a stable and successful process of economic growth, without having, first of all, developed their agriculture and their rural areas. FAO studies clearly reveal that agricultural growth was a key element in the development strategies of those countries who were able to substantially reduce hunger and poverty and increase food security. Cooperation in agriculture and rural areas will continue to be essential in the future.

On the other hand, although the process of world trade liberalization is an improvement in global terms, we have to admit that in many instances it has also contributed to make economies more vulnerable and even to reduce food security. Multilateral trade negotiations should, therefore, be well balanced. Fair trade should mean creating rules that take into account trading and non-trading concerns. Sustainable agriculture and the positive development of rural areas should be an objective for all the countries in the world. In particular, developing countries should be able to protect their production and their agriculture.

Portugal, although it is a member of the European Union and, therefore, having its agricultural policy integrated in the EU Common Agricultural Policy, is a net importer of food products, and it has vast rural areas still very dependent on farming. Therefore, we are in a privileged position to understand the existing delicate balance and the precautions that should be taken in developing policies at national, community and international levels. An example of this is the recent reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, which although having the clear purpose of making support

to the EU agricultural sector less distorting in terms of international trade, also had to take into account the need to avoid introducing changes that were too abrupt and that might jeopardize the smooth development of such balance.

With the Millennium Declaration, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, as well as in different other World Summits such as Monterrey and Johannesburg, the international community has been assuming a set of compromises that clearly reveal the path we should all follow, the path of multilateralism and development cooperation.

Portugal's commitment to pursue the different targets resulting from these compromises unfolds in different ways: technical assistance to research, direct support to investment and institutional cooperation. In general terms, and in spite of the effort this means, we have been able to allocate approximately 0.27 percent of our GDP to public aid to development, and we have agreed, within the framework of a joint EU compromise, that this figure will reach 0.36 percent, in 2006.

We are aware that a lot remains to be done. You may rest assured of my country's willingness to cooperate in all the programmes and projects deemed necessary. This willingness is strengthened by the experience we have had within the framework of our privileged relations with Portuguese-speaking countries all over the world.

Ms Mmapula MODISE (Botswana)

It is my sincere honour to join my colleagues who have spoken before me to make this brief statement on behalf of my country as a pledge to our solidarity in the fight against hunger and poverty.

The occasion of the FAO Conference is indeed a forum which offers us an opportunity to review progress made to us in ending hunger and to renew our commitment to move forward at an accelerated pace towards ensuring food security for all humankind, as well as to identify ways and means to accelerate that process.

May I take this opportunity to applaud the Director-General of FAO for his tireless efforts to develop agriculture, with a special focus on fighting poverty and food insecurity, especially in developing countries. As we all know, hunger is not just an economic, social and political issue, it is also an ethical and moral issue. Poverty is the root cause of food insecurity, chronic hunger and malnutrition. To this end, concerted efforts are required from all of us to wage war against this perennial human problem.

However, as we have learned from this Conference, the World Food Summit goal of reducing the number of the undernourished by 50 percent 2015 is not on course. This should be a wake up call to all of us. We, therefore, need to double our efforts and strengthen our endeavours and programmes instead of being satisfied with the 'business as usual' kind of attitude. Furthermore, we have to think in retrospect and take stock of our past actions with a view to identifying the causes of our failures, to achieve our objective, and then rectify them. Only in this way can we hope to achieve our set objective.

We also note with great concern that domestic and international assistance to agricultural development is on the decline. We, therefore, urge the political will of all concerned to view this seriously.

With our experience of fairly rapid growth in both social and economic terms, since independence in 1966, from those early years our development objectives have been to raise the standard of living of our people, to alleviate poverty and provide basic infrastructures and social services. This has resulted in a modest improvement in incomes, thus reducing income poverty levels from 59 percent of the population in 1985 to 48 percent in 1994 and 36 percent in 2002.

Although a lot has been achieved towards attaining the above objectives, poverty and food insecurity still remain the major problems, especially in the rural areas where over 50 percent of the population live. The causes for this are many and varied. They include climatic constraints, outbreaks of transboundary diseases of economic importance, such as foot and mouth disease,

unfavourable trade environment and lack of credit for producers. We have, therefore, focused our efforts on the removal of these constraints in order to address the problems of poverty and food insecurity.

My country's commitment towards the World Food Summit objectives of fighting hunger and malnutrition is reflected through a number of government intervention programmes which include the School Feeding Programme, the Destitution Programme, the Old Age Pension Scheme and the Feeding Programme for the Under-five Children. As a result, malnutrition amongst children under five years of age decreased from about 15 percent in 1995 to almost 8 percent in the year 2000. To guide implementation of these programmes, the government has adopted the revised National Food Strategy with the target to reduce the proportion of households that are currently food insecure and are below the poverty line by 2 percentage points per year until 2015 and to reduce the proportion of the underweight children from an estimated 15 percent in 1995 to 7 percent by 2015.

As a country with a largely rural population, we recognize the fact that agriculture is one of the critical sectors in our efforts to alleviate hunger and poverty. However, Botswana has climatic conditions that are not favourable for crop production and experiences frequent droughts and crop failures. As a result the country is a net food importer. The national production of cereal in most years covers only 20 percent of the country's requirements and the rest is met through commercial imports. This scenario has serious implications for food security.

Despite all this, however, we are determined to improve the performance of the sector by exploiting whatever potential exists. In this regard, the Government of Botswana has adopted a National Master Plan for Agriculture and Dairy Development which is aimed at the commercialization of the sector. As water and land are critical to the successful implementation of this programme, a number of initiatives are being taken to ensure sustainable use of these resources.

Botswana's livestock subsector has performed relatively well over the years compared to the arable subsector. Beef is the most important agricultural export commodity that generates an exchange of income and which also contributes to the livelihood of the rural population.

The country, therefore, recognizes the important role of agricultural trade in promoting food security. In this respect it is necessary for the World Trade Organization members to wholly support the organization's long-term objective of establishing fair market-oriented trading systems. Thus, it is desirable that trade barriers are removed to enable developing countries to compete on the basis of their comparative advantage.

There are still areas in which FAO support and assistance are required in the fight against hunger. These areas include: the development of coping strategies against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has resulted in the most severe socio-economic disaster for Botswana and, indeed, the world at large, has ever experienced. The disease is undoing valuable efforts as it tends to exacerbate poverty and food insecurity because families lose breadwinners.

The other area is in developing transboundary disease control strategies for effective prevention and progressive control of diseases such as foot and mouth and CBPP.

In conclusion, I am pleased to note that Botswana is making steady progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. I am also convinced that, with renewed collective international efforts and employment of necessary resources, the 1996 World Food Summit targets are achievable. This is a matter of vital importance as we fully address the challenges of eradicating hunger and poverty.

Lastly, let me reaffirm my country's commitment to do whatever we can to help this Organization to achieve its mandate. May I also appeal to the collective wisdom and commitment of all governments represented here, as we consider the Organization's budgetary resources for the next biennium. Let us be willing to go an extra mile because, by so doing, we will be saving humanity from the evils of hunger and poverty.

Abi Musa Asa'Ari MOHAMED NOR (Malaysia)

We are gathered here once again to be told that the number of hungry and undernourished people in the world today is still hovering around 840 million. We know that despite renewing our commitments at the World Food Summit last year, only about 20 million or barely 2.5 million people in the developing world each year were able to escape hunger over the last eight years. At this dismal rate, the target of halving the undernourished population by the year 2015 will never be attained.

Eliminating hunger is an essential ingredient of any strategy of economic development. Since hunger is both an effect and cause of poverty, we can say without doubt that addressing food insecurity is the top most agenda of every developing country. We all know that every country would like to see that its population, not only get enough food, but has easy access to adequate, safe and nutritious food. A country would also like to maintain and develop its own capacity to produce the staple foods for its people. We also know that more than 70 percent of the poor and hungry live in rural areas and depend directly or indirectly on agriculture for their livelihoods. Therefore, the major challenges for us would be to put in place the right policies and strong and efficient institutions to mobilize resources that promote sustainable agricultural and rural development fulfilling the objective of increasing rural incomes and opportunities.

For developing countries to derive the full benefits of increased integration into the global economy, action is required at both the international and national levels. International institutions and organizations can create a better environment for the agriculture sector of developing countries. This rule-based multilateral trading system, if implemented, can promote sustainable development.

We are aware that world agricultural markets, especially food markets, remain highly distorted. With the recent "failed" Cancun negotiations, we are now getting more sceptical that agricultural liberalization could bring prosperity to all. We know that a high level of protection and trade-distorting agricultural support, especially in developed countries, still exists and there are indications that it will be maintained for a long time to come, despite agreement, in principle, of its elimination. We, the developing countries, strongly urge the developed countries to reduce significantly this trade-distorting support and make bigger cuts in barriers to trade. At the same time, we must take advantage of benefits offered by the freer and fairer agricultural trade environment. We must take action to increase the competitiveness of our own agriculture. We need to prepare and upgrade ourselves in order to compete fairly in a liberalized agricultural trade.

Malaysia has been able to substantially reduce the incidence of poverty as well as eradicate hunger among its population. The government recognizes the contribution of the rural sector to the country's economic growth. Therefore, rural development has always been an integral part of our development programmes. In fact, rural development policies and programmes complement policies in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Entrepreneur Development, Ministry of Rural Development as well as the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Family Development. Rural development not only addresses poverty problems but also agricultural development, rural industrialization, infrastructural development and welfare programmes.

Under our Eighth Malaysia Plan, one of the main thrusts of regional development is to accelerate development in the rural areas. The main objective of rural development programmes is to create a conducive environment for investments and provide quality infrastructure and social services to improve the standard of living of the rural people. This is certainly in line with the Millennium Development Goals objective Target 1, which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

We have been able to achieve our target of eradicating poverty and hunger. Through the various poverty eradication programmes undertaken by the Malaysian Government, poverty has been reduced from 52.4 percent in 1970 to 5 percent in 2002. In addition, 92 percent of houses in rural areas have been provided with electricity, while 86 percent received a clean water supply in 2003. Schools, clinics and rural roads are also being constructed. Efforts have also been undertaken to diversify the sources of rural income so as to accelerate rural development. With agriculture being

the mainstay of the rural economy, optimization of land use is encouraged and practiced. Off-farm activities such as retail trading, craft making and small construction businesses, beside small food processing activities, provide additional income for the families.

Based on our achievements, we believe we can realize this objective of making agriculture our third engine of growth. We are also confident that the food sector can contribute to the economy in terms of food supply, income and export earning. Towards this end, efforts have been made to increase productivity by emphasizing an adoption of new technologies, greater use of machinery and automation, research and development, post-harvest handling and supported by sufficient marketing networks and systems.

We are also giving more attention to food safety and food quality because we know that we will not be able to sell our produce if they do not meet the safety and quality standards requirements.

Malaysia is very concerned that we may not be able to achieve the target of reducing the number of undernourished by 2015. We have another 12 years to work on this. I sincerely hope that we will be able to achieve what we have set out to do, if not, at least come close to it. I call on my colleagues to work together on this so that when we meet again at the next Conference, we will be greeted with a number that is more encouraging.

Charles MILLON (France)

Je voudrais vous féliciter, M. le Président, pour l'organisation de nos travaux et la qualité de nos débats. Ensuite, je voudrais vous exprimer les regrets de M. Hervé Gueymard, Ministre de l'agriculture, de l'alimentation, de la pêche et des affaires rurales, malheureusement retenu à Paris pour le débat budgétaire au Parlement français. C'est en son nom que je m'adresse à vous.

Depuis la dernière Conférence régionale, la France a participé, comme tous les autres pays de l'Union européenne, à la négociation de la réforme de la politique agricole commune afin de l'adapter à la situation économique des agriculteurs, aux attentes des citoyens et à l'environnement international. Ceci a été exposé de manière tout à fait claire par le Commissaire européen, M. Fisher.

De longs mois de négociation ont permis de définir les points d'équilibre, garantissant une régulation économique des marchés efficace, une présence équilibrée de l'agriculture sur les territoires, enfin une solidarité financière entre les pays dans le souci d'un développement agricole durable. À nos yeux, la politique agricole commune représente une référence dont les principes de base pourraient être applicables aux agricultures du sud.

Vous le savez, la France a bâti son développement rural sur plusieurs principes directeurs qui sont pour l'essentiel une agriculture familiale compétitive, un marché commun régionalisé, une agriculture aux multiples fonctions et enfin une profession agricole organisée et capable de négocier voire de co-piloter le développement de l'agriculture avec les pouvoirs publics. Ce modèle est revendiqué par beaucoup de pays en voie de développement notamment en Afrique, il doit servir de socle à une alliance objective entre la France, l'Europe et ses pays. Il représente un objectif de moyen ou long terme à prendre en considération lors des négociations à venir qui porteront inéluctablement sur des sujets sensibles tels que le sucre, l'huile et la viande bovine.

Dans cette optique, et vous l'avez bien compris, la France apporte en Afrique un soutien important et de longue date au processus d'intégration régionale tels que l'Union économique et monétaire de l'ouest africain, la CDAO, la SADC et le COMESA. Elle favorise aussi la mise en place de politiques publiques supranationales. Différents programmes d'appui à ces domaines illustrent ce soutien, il s'agit pour l'essentiel d'un soutien par exemple à l'Union économique et monétaire de l'ouest africain mais aussi de la participation de la France à la mise en place et au fonctionnement de plusieurs plates-formes multi bailleurs en charge de la coordination d'actions de développement rural en Afrique, je veux citer le Hub Afrique australe ou le Hub Afrique de l'ouest. Parallèlement, la France met en œuvre une politique de soutien à l'organisation de la profession agricole des pays en développement basée sur le modèle du développement rural français.

L'expérience européenne nous instruit de la nécessité d'un débat approfondi et serein sur la définition et la conduite des politiques de soutien au développement d'une agriculture durable au nord comme au sud. Je pense que la FAO est une enceinte privilégiée pour y pourvoir, je rappelle d'ailleurs à cet égard que la Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Europe aura lieu en 2004 à Montpellier du 5 au 7 mai à l'invitation du Gouvernement français et que les thèmes mis en débat à cette occasion porteront d'une part sur la sécurité sanitaire et la qualité des aliments et d'autre part, sur le rôle et la contribution au développement rural durable de la recherche agricole.

Dans le domaine de la recherche agricole, la France souhaite que la FAO poursuive son action en faveur de la mise en réseau des instituts de recherche agricole et agronomique et favorise la constitution de systèmes de recherche propres aux pays en développement prenant en compte les espèces et les savoir-faire locaux.

J'en viens maintenant à la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture dans le monde. Les chiffres de la FAO en ce début du XXI^{ème} Siècle parlent d'eux-mêmes et témoignent, tous les orateurs l'ont dit, de la nécessité d'une action résolue. Le Directeur général nous l'a rappelé dans son discours introductif et je ne reviendrai pas sur son analyse et sur ses constats alarmants.

Au plan international, la plupart des experts considèrent aujourd'hui que les ressources alimentaires sont globalement suffisantes et que les causes principales de la sous-alimentation structurelle sont liées à la très grande pauvreté, aux pandémies qui ravagent des pays entiers, et nous avons entendu le Président du Programme alimentaire mondial nous exposer la situation de ces pays par rapport au SIDA. De plus, les conflits et les accidents climatiques provoquent des situations d'urgence alimentaire auxquelles il nous appartient collectivement de répondre de façon à permettre un développement agricole durable et la sécurité des approvisionnements.

La France contribue activement aux travaux du Groupe intergouvernemental chargé par la FAO d'élaborer des directives volontaires pour réaliser de manière progressive le droit à une alimentation adéquate. Je voudrais à cet égard, féliciter et remercier le Président et les membres du Bureau de ce Groupe ainsi que le Secrétariat de la FAO pour la qualité du travail effectué jusqu'à ce jour.

La France soutient, bien évidemment, la politique de lutte contre la faim et de développement agricole sur tous les continents mais, constatons-le, la situation particulière du continent africain au regard des objectifs du Millénaire justifie que la Communauté internationale maintienne une priorité marquée à un soutien spécifique apporté à ce continent. C'est tout le sens de l'appui du Président de la République française au nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique, le NEPAD, ainsi que les initiatives que le Président a prises au Sommet mondial du développement durable de Johannesburg, lors du Sommet France-Afrique de Paris en février 2003 ou lors du Sommet du G8 d'Évian en juin dernier.

Permettez-moi de rappeler brièvement les propositions contenues dans l'initiative Afrique qui, à nos yeux, mériteraient d'être mises en œuvre avec la FAO. Tout d'abord, c'est la mise en place d'un traitement commercial spécifique en faveur de l'Afrique sub-saharienne s'inspirant des meilleures pratiques des pays développés. Deuxièmement, c'est une action pour lutter contre la volatilité des prix des matières premières, associant à la fois les institutions financières internationales, les bailleurs de fonds et les ONG. Enfin, c'est un moratoire des pays développés sur toutes les formes d'aide aux exportations agricoles déstabilisantes pour l'Afrique pendant la durée des négociations à l'OMC. Sur tous ces sujets, la France est prête à engager un dialogue constructif. En effet, n'est-il pas nécessaire de distinguer différents groupes de produits agricoles des pays en développement, les produits tropicaux d'exportation, les produits concurrentiels tels que le coton, le riz, les huiles végétales et les produits vivriers? Pour chacune de ces catégories, n'est-il pas envisageable de prévoir des aménagements négociés et des mesures spécifiques de protection des marchés régionaux? Bien évidemment, ces mesures doivent être identifiées, évaluées quant à leur impact et étudiées du point de vue de leur faisabilité financière.

De plus, ces mesures doivent être envisagées, négociées et appliquées dans un cadre global: traitement spécial différencié, marchés communs régionaux, protection tarifaire. Ce cadre global

évitant ainsi les effets induits et souvent contre-productifs, pour les pays en développement, d'une libéralisation non régulée des marchés agricoles.

Ces propositions restent sur la table après la Conférence de l'OMC de Cancun, comme nous l'avons précisé lors de la Table ronde d'hier après-midi. La France et l'Union européenne souhaitent que les négociations du cycle de développement se poursuivent afin qu'une réponse nouvelle et spécifique soit enfin apportée à la situation des pays les plus vulnérables. C'est ainsi que la France s'associera à toutes les réflexions qui pourraient être engagées dans les domaines suivants, sans que cette liste soit limitative: la mise en place de véritables programmes intégrés de développement agricole entre pays développés et pays en développement, s'appuyant sur la constitution de véritables filières produit par produit. La conception d'un système d'assurance récolte contre les catastrophes naturelles, les incidents climatiques, etc.

Avant de conclure, je souhaiterais brièvement aborder la question budgétaire car on peut parler du plus beau des projets, si les finances ne sont pas là, ces projets ne seront jamais réalisés. La situation financière de la FAO est caractérisée par un contexte budgétaire tendu et par des fluctuations monétaires qui ne doivent pas nuire à son efficacité. C'est pourquoi la France souhaite que les Membres puissent verser une partie de leurs contributions en euros et qu'un dispositif budgétaire efficace soit mis en place pour éviter que le budget de la FAO soit pénalisé par les fluctuations monétaires et les variations des taux de change. Il est impératif que le budget de la FAO qui sera adopté ne pénalise pas les actions essentielles de celle-ci et lui permette d'assurer un fonctionnement normal.

Je voudrais enfin saluer la volonté du Directeur général qui, avec intelligence, a compris la nécessité d'associer au-delà des pays eux-mêmes les collectivités locales des pays développés au financement d'actions spécifiques pour l'agriculture et l'alimentation. Le Directeur général sait qu'il peut compter sur la France pour participer à cette action. Le chemin restant à parcourir dans la lutte contre la pauvreté et pour le développement agricole est encore long. Dans ce contexte il est beaucoup demandé, il sera beaucoup demandé à la FAO.

Je voudrais simplement rassurer la Direction de la FAO mais aussi tous les délégués ici présents que la France est disposée à se mobiliser dans ce sens.

Pedro PADILLA TONOS (República Dominicana)

La tarea fundamental de esta Organización consiste en liberar del hambre a la humanidad.

En la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación celebrada en el 2001, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los Países Miembros renovaron los compromisos mundiales contraídos en la precedente Cumbre de 1996, en particular, el de reducir a la mitad el número de personas hambrientas en el mundo a más tardar para el año 2015.

A pesar de esos compromisos, según estimaciones actuales, como lo señalara el Director General en la celebración del Día Mundial de la Alimentación, 840 millones de seres humanos siguen padeciendo hambre en todo el mundo; 800 millones de ellos en los países en desarrollo y alrededor de 10 millones en los países en transición. Si bien esa cifra representa una disminución media de 2.5 millones anuales en los últimos ocho años, dicha reducción está ciertamente lejos de ser suficiente para alcanzar el objetivo establecido en la Cumbre. En efecto, al ritmo actual recién alcanzaremos el objetivo previsto en el 2150, es decir, 140 años más tarde.

El Presidente de mi país, ingeniero Hipólito Mejía, en su intervención en la Cumbre Mundial, puso de relieve el contraste entre los compromisos asumidos con la lamentable situación de muchas de nuestras naciones frente al flagelo de la pobreza, del hambre y de la malnutrición y reconoció que las causas principales de esa desgracia radican en la falta de productividad en nuestros países, la injusticia social y la distribución desigual de la riqueza.

Aunque jamás antes en la historia del mundo se han producido tantos alimentos, los mismos no se han dividido equitativamente entre los habitantes del planeta.

La revolución agrícola iniciada a principios del siglo pasado, con su tecnología, fertilizantes, nuevas variedades y razas de gran rendimiento, alimentos concentrados para el ganado, etc., sólo ha tenido éxito en los países industrializados y se ha difundido solamente en algunos sectores limitados de los países en desarrollo.

Los grandes logros de productividad que ello ha comportado han causado, a su vez, una disminución de los precios reales de casi todos los productos agrícolas, repercutiendo en la mayor parte de los países en desarrollo, llevando a los pequeños agricultores a su empobrecimiento y con ello al hambre y a la miseria.

La pobreza rural ha conducido inevitablemente a un éxodo hacia la ciudad, provocando mayor desocupación y miseria urbana, debido a las pocas oportunidades de trabajo que en los países en desarrollo ofrecen la industria y los servicios.

Pobreza rural y miseria urbana son dos caras diversas de esa dramática emergencia social que aflige una parte creciente de la humanidad.

En el Informe Global 2003 del Programa de las Naciones Unidas para Asentamientos Humanos (Habitat), se señala que más de mil millones de personas – un sexto de la población mundial – están obligadas a vivir y a morir en barrios marginales de los centros urbanos, sin poder satisfacer las más elementales necesidades humanas, situación que está destinada a empeorar en los próximos años.

Para aliviar o, al menos, disminuir de manera considerable el hambre y la pobreza que golpea esos centenares de millones de personas en los campos y en los barrios urbanos no basta recurrir a simples paliativos como es, por ejemplo, la ayuda alimentaria o de otro tipo, sino que es necesario, impostergable y urgente combatir las causas reales y profundas de esa situación.

Entre esas causas – insuficiencia de financiamiento para el sector agroalimentario por parte de países ricos y de los organismos multilaterales de financiamiento, falta de tecnología, aumento de la población, etc. – queremos destacar, en especial, las políticas de subsidios aplicadas por países ricos a sus producciones y exportaciones, que distorsionan e impiden a los países en desarrollo participar ampliamente en el comercio internacional de productos agrícolas como consecuencia de una competencia cada vez más agresiva y cada vez más injusta de las agriculturas avanzadas de los países industrializados.

Si bien es cierto que a cada país y a sus gobernantes corresponde la obligación primaria de luchar por su propio desarrollo, no es menos cierto que para lograrlo los países pobres necesitan de la cooperación internacional, de los gobernantes de los países más privilegiados y de los dirigentes de los organismos multilaterales de financiamiento. Es por ello que reiteramos el llamado tantas veces, hecho para que esa cooperación se haga efectiva, no clamando por una colosal obra de beneficencia, sino reclamando por una necesaria justicia social internacional.

Al hacer directamente este llamado a esos gobernantes y dirigentes, no estamos olvidando que los Estados son los actores en las relaciones internacionales, pero tampoco podemos olvidar que son los individuos los responsables de trazar las políticas, proyectar las estrategias, percibir los problemas, tomar las decisiones y ejecutar las acciones. Es, en fin, el hombre, el ser humano, el destinatario final y el que sufre las consecuencias.

Reiteramos, asimismo, el llamado para que a esta Organización, en la que mi Gobierno tiene profunda fe y manifiesta su apoyo, se le brinden todos los medios necesarios para que continúe combatiendo el hambre y la pobreza.

Antes de finalizar, se nos permita repetir una frase de una popular canción de un artista dominicano, la cual recoge el sentir del hombre pobre campesino de nuestros países, que dice: "Ojalá que un día llueva café en el campo".

Monsignor Renato VOLANTE (Holy See)

First of all, I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the floor, and allow me to greet all Heads of Delegation and Members of Delegations present in Rome on the occasion of this Session of the Conference.

Our special greetings go to the new member States whose admission shows how the universality of FAO is already a reality. We may well say that the human family as a whole is represented here, with its desire and its expectation to see every single human being free from hunger and malnutrition, as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution of our Organization.

The Delegation of the Holy See, with this intervention, wishes, first of all, to reaffirm its appreciation for the valuable action that FAO devotes in favour of the agricultural and food development. And it wants to do so in its special position as Permanent Observer to FAO, as specifically decided by the Conference fifty-five years ago. A position that allows the Holy See to follow continuously the Organization's activities and that of its bodies, and furthermore to propose some reflections in harmony with an ethical perspective, perspective reminding each of us the centrality of the human person, at whose heart good, love and generosity are always stronger than evil, egotism and greed.

By doing so, we want to encourage the stakeholders' commitment – governments, organisations of the civil society and individuals – and to support the efforts made to date for an "appropriate and sustainable" management of the natural resources of the Creation, in view of that auspicious food security, which should be up to the dignity of human beings, in every part of our planet.

The current debate on what has been realised in the past biennium in relation with the Programme of Work of the Organization, besides a general evaluation, shows the effectiveness of the task constantly performed by FAO and by its member States, donors or beneficiaries likewise.

It also shows how important are the choices that will have to be made with future programmes, not only in relation to the different sectors – agriculture, forestry and fisheries –, but particularly in view of the main objective, not to be omitted: that is world food security. Only a decision, that will permit FAO to operate with wise management, but also with the availability of the required resources, will be able to confirm what derives from the commitments approved by all Countries in 1996 on the occasion of the World Food Summit and confirmed during the recent sessions of different bodies of the Organization.

The Holy See Delegation is firmly convinced that hunger and malnutrition not only prevent people from full development, but also constitute an evident denial of their fundamental rights, those rights stated and asserted in various international instruments and declarations. The same rights also voiced, in different forms, within the Countries. And only an authentic solidarity, achieved through proportional contributions to budget resources, will make it possible to look ahead with better reliance.

We are all, more and more, aware that food and agricultural resources, are they the outcome of activities in the fields, in the forestry sector, in the sea or in inland waters, represent an important contribution, not only in relation to food to be allocated in form of aid and assistance, either for emergencies or in an extended way, but also to determine the overall producing power of a Country. As a matter of fact, agriculture, animal production and fisheries and their resources determine the conditions of employment and economic development, besides contributing on those products essential to the nutritional needs of people (cf. World Food Summit, Plan of Action, Commitment III).

In this respect, the Delegation of the Holy See heartily wishes, because of the global vision of attention that the Church pays to the poorest and the weakest, that it would be possible to provide, in adequate form, assistance to all artisanal activities and practices which are in fact the basic economic reality for most of the developing Countries that have in their monoculture production, in their forestry resources or in the exploitation of fishery resources or in their aquaculture

activities an essential and regretfully often unique reference. In this regard I wish to recall the importance of all forms of encouragement and support in the sector of small farms or artisanal fishing, that FAO propose to undertake or to keep in its programmes related to intervention.

This is a priority target towards which the Catholic Church pays all her attention and to which she wishes to add her readiness to collaborate, by using her forces and her structures, as well as her experience in the various forms of associations between farmers, fishermen, artisans engaged in soil works and stocking of the resulting production.

The agenda of the Conference offers another hint that calls at once the attention of those who want to combine the international action of assistance and aid with a reliable policy of co-operation, aiming to a complete growth of the various Countries, of the communities and finally of the people. I am referring to the first evaluations of the acceptance and subsequent enforcement of National Plans on Food Security, that precisely the last session of the Conference has designated as the essential instruments to ensure a real sense of responsibility of management of those countries that, laudably, work to secure an adequate level of food security to their populations.

Obviously the National Plans are a direct consequence of the "Final Declaration: International Alliance against Hunger", adopted in 2002 at the conclusion of the World Food Summit – Five Years Later. But, as the initial design of these Plans shows, they do not represent only the consequence of a formal political commitment, around which the consensus of the States was reached. These Plans are to be considered in their right dimension of ruling instruments, hence of practical implementation. They take into account some fundamental principles, which have developed in the present International Community and FAO is engaged to fit within its specific field of competence and aims.

In particular, for the Delegation of the Holy See, the reference to a generic sustainability does not seem to be sufficient, if it is not related to that human and universal sustainability (cf. John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Centesimus Annus*, 37; Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Populorum Progressio*, 17) from which it is possible to secure, first of all, the participation of the rural populations in the Plans formulation and in their implementation, in compliance with the categoric imperative of development requirements of the individuals and of the communities. It seems to us that this approach can contribute to a real assumption of responsibility towards future generations.

It seems to us also that in the implementation of the Declaration the first problem is the sustainable use of agro-food resources, which on a world-wide scale are in a quantity definitely higher than the actual needs required by the present world population. Furthermore the target to be achieved to half the number of peoples who need adequate nutrition level – which does now seem to be farer – should not imply any lack of attention towards the remaining fifty percent of the hungry and the undernourished people who deserve, and I would say, do have a natural right to be considered and assisted. The question then shifts into the domain of willingness and of political responsibility.

The concept of responsibility, which is the basis of the Final Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later*, is present in the different aspects of the sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, keeping particularly into account questions connected with environment and management of resources. These are areas in which there are rules that FAO puts as a basis of its action. This reference goes, first of all, to the rules on the environmental matters established by UNCED in Rio and, with regard to the obligations committing the Countries, reiterated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002. Their binding force consists today not only in formal acts, but in the action carried out by intergovernmental Institutions, like FAO, that indicate a real progress towards that «greater degree of international ordering» (John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Sollicitudo rei socialis*, 43) wished by the Catholic Church.

The sustainability, in fact, cannot be seen only on account of the safeguarding resources, but mainly in the relationship between the use of resources and their reconstitution, specifying responsibly the difference between the resources not immediately renewable (whose systematic

and bulky use damages the agricultural, forest and water ecosystems) and those which are renewable. The reference goes at once to the activities causing damages in an irreparable way, to the biodiversity, reducing the multiplicity of species, and then modifying or limiting both the diet of an entire population and the commercial activity based on agriculture and fishery. In this context, we can only wish a rapid conclusion of the formulation work of the appropriate "guidelines on sustainability indicators" for the various sectors. This can be done, perhaps, by increasing a particular consideration for the regional and sub-regional diversities and by introducing a higher level of reliable connection between the food security target, the poverty eradication with the resulting development and the protection of the different ecosystems.

It becomes necessary, even in this case – so it seems to us – to answer to that fundamental principle stated by the International Community to be at the head of each ruling and operating intervention in the field of sustainability: «Human beings are at centre of concerns for sustainable development» (Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Principle 1).

The responsibility concerns, then, the position that every single Country is invited to take to put into operation the content of the Declaration of the WFS – Fyl, especially in those provisions concerning the strategies required to face the causes of food insecurity, brought about by human activities: internal and international conflicts, forced people displacements, discrimination against religious and ethnic identities in minority status, just to say a few.

The absence of even a small form of regulation in this field may well exclude, from the production mechanisms and from the nutritional intake as well, those countries that do not have the possibility to exercise a proper supervision over their resources. The responsibility, in this case, cannot be limited to propose control systems, even if essential, as these control systems, even if they are strict and efficient, are not enough to give concrete solutions. Therefore, an ethical choice becomes imperative, to bind the Countries to accept the principle of a fair sharing of the Creation resources. Evidently through specific norms related to their own behaviour and their mutual relations. And here we can speak about the fulfilment "in good faith" of the engagement assumed by the States in exercising their responsibility towards those living in their territory and towards the entire human family.

In this level of regulated action that FAO has to carry out, we must include also the measures in the field of trade of agricultural, forestry and fishery products. They represent an essential nutritional component and therefore they remain linked to the negotiations' round in view of revising the multilateral regulations on agricultural trade. The activity of FAO and its preoccupation for agricultural development – I refer particularly to the strengthening of the production and therefore to trading – indicates to the countries how necessary is to work in the right direction in the field of trade negotiation, especially to foresee or, at least to offer, a first ruling on some essential aspects. Among these, the exploitation of resources, the management of the production, the processing and trading and the support given in this direction by the major producing Countries.

Anyway we must evaluate, more and more, the positive data of food crop increase that is put into the international market by developing Countries. For many of them these food crops are the only source of currency income, besides being, of course, source of income and economic activity of their own population.

On the relationship between production and trade we have to include an extended evaluation of the new biotechnologies, with the most recent developments used for cultivation, mostly through techniques and processes applied to the selection and to the variety of plants, as well as to the animal production and, with reference to the fishery sector, to the increasing development of aquaculture.

In this field we may also consider the debate related to food safety of the agro-food products which envisages not only a prevention in the production phase – usually called risks assessment on the nature and severity of hazards – but also a risk management, by a stronger control on specifics natural hazards and anthropogenic contaminants, to guarantee a concrete safeguard to

human health. It seems therefore noteworthy, the fact that National Plans on Food Security, in proposing among their guidelines the precautionary approach, do not lay down discriminatory prejudicial in connection with resources or with working techniques coming from the new biotechnologies, but rather request spreading of information and know-how to avoid any kind of uncontrolled risk.

These are indications, becoming even more pertinent, if we think to a not sufficient - or quite lacking - adequate co-ordination between the regulation standards of the various Countries in this subject, a condition which should be essential to determine a precautionary approach whose absence do not help to reach the essential target "safety and quality" of the agro-food crops, as an expression of a balanced relationship between the order of the Creation and human's activities (cf. John Paul II, Speech on the occasion of the Jubilee of Agricultural World, 11 November 2000, 4).

These are some considerations offered by the Holy See Delegation on the occasion of the 32nd session of the FAO Conference, driven only by its desire to contribute, in a perspective essentially ethical, to the formulation of complex decisions of political, technical, economic and financial nature that will have to be taken both in relation to the activity of FAO and to the broadest intergovernmental activities in the field of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

Our wish is that all decisions and consequent actions keep in mind the principle of international solidarity, fundamental for a peaceful coexistence between peoples and nations, that is real safeguard of the inalienable right to a full development of each one and all of us.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to announce that the Working Group on Split Assessment will now be held in the Mexico Room, D 211, at 12.00 hours.

I have been also requested to announce that the Asia Group is going to meet today at 14.00 hours in the Espace Gabon room.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Mustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

It is my great pleasure here to extend our heartfelt congratulations and greetings to the Director-General of the Organization, the Heads of Delegations and the Member Delegates and we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the effort and the role played by the Organization in combating hunger and poverty in the world.

The Organization has also played a pivotal role in providing food to the hungry in the world. It is expected that the world population will increase by two billion people by the year 2100 and it is, therefore, important for this Organization to increase its efforts to provide food to the hungry in the world which is essential for peace to prevail.

Under the auspices of President Hosni Mubarak, Egypt has embarked on economic reforms and economic deregulation activities. The agricultural sector has played here a very important and historic role in the Egyptian society. The agricultural sector has also played a major role in the reform process and in the development of the private sector in various areas. Egypt, thanks to a developed strategy, has embarked on a development process depending on three important pillars: deregulation of agricultural trade policies; development of infrastructure, and research and development activities which have become extremely important in any policy and studies carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt.

In the framework of this strategy, which has been developed, thanks to a dialogue to which all works of the Egyptian society have participated in cooperation with regional and international organizations whose competence is in the agricultural sector. Our country has achieved great successes in the agricultural development over the last twenty years. Reform has been the main interest of the Government. The number of reformed acres in the rural areas has been increased dramatically. Agricultural exports have increased dramatically and Egypt here has a comparative advantage in the exports of cotton, which have been estimated at 200 000 tonnes. Exports in citrus production have also increased.

We are now embarking on a new development plan to help the rural sector and to help achieve sustainable development in the rural areas. Our new strategy depends on the following important pillars: extend the planted areas, and we are looking forward to extending the arable area by 50 percent for the next twenty years. We are looking forward to rationalizing irrigation systems, providing water resources; we are looking forward to rationalizing fertilizers by using organic means and environment-friendly means. We also hope to increase our comparative advantage crops and that is through the signing of international agreements and through the participation in international and regional and African conferences. We are also positively contributing to the NEPAD initiative. We are also trying to increase our exports in various agricultural products.

We are currently negotiating new agreements with our African partners with a view to implementing the NEPAD initiative. Egypt is playing an important role in the agricultural negotiations along with its African partners. We would like to commend the Organization on all its efforts aimed at providing assistance to our country in this field. We are more than willing to provide the member organizations with our experience, research and studies. We have recently opened a new institute aimed at studying the phenomenon of desertification in our country. We are more than ready to put our experience at the disposal of our friendly and brotherly countries.

We are now preparing for the setting up of a Working Group of experts to better study more efficient implementation of the NEPAD initiative with strong cooperation with our partner countries. The aim of all of this is to increase and promote agricultural development in Africa.

Our country has fully participated in all the Organization's programmes. We have participated in the work of all the Conferences held by this Organization. We do agree on all the programmes and budgets that have been suggested in the current Session. These programmes are in line with our agricultural policy.

We are currently endeavouring to increase the rice production. In that context, Egypt, over the last few years, has achieved the highest productivity in this field in the world. Egypt is focusing on strengthening the role of women in rural areas and in other agricultural activities. We are trying to protect the rights of women and to provide jobs to women on equal footing with men, so that women can play their natural role in sustainable development.

Over the past few years, the world has witnessed tremendous changes, particularly in the field of scientific and technological progress, which has gone beyond all barriers. This progress represents huge challenges for many countries in the world. But this progress is also positive in the way that it has facilitated coordination and communication among the various members of the international community, both from the developed and the developing countries. It has made it imperative to preserve the environment and exchange information, knowledge and experience, with a view to protecting the interests of both developed and developing countries. The developed countries are extending assistance to developing countries with a view to safeguard not only the interests of the developing countries but also the interests of the developed countries themselves.

Our Government, in expressing its appreciation to the efforts and the role played by this Organization to achieve food security in the world and its role in extending experience and help to the developing countries, would like to stress here its full support to the Organization and all the programmes of this Organization.

Sra. Victoria Guardia ALVARADO DE HERNÁNDEZ (Costa Rica)

Nos complace ver esta sala de conferencias adornada con bellas plantas tropicales, las cuales se encuentran en la mayoría de los hogares costarricenses, éstas y muchas otras se exportan a numerosos países del mundo.

Apreciamos mucho la presentación que hizo a esta asamblea el Dr. de Haen, así como la publicación de "El Estado de la Inseguridad Alimentaria en el Mundo" (SOFI) 2003. El Dr. de Haen recogió en este documento todas las inquietudes que en otras reuniones le presentamos y nos da respuestas e informaciones concretas. En lo que se refiere al café, en la página 14 se señala

muy claramente la difícil situación que los países tuvieron que enfrentar como consecuencia de los precios bajos.

Continuando con el tema económico, nuestro país es miembro del Grupo CAIRNS y coincidimos con las declaraciones que recientemente se hicieron en las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York. Asimismo, Costa Rica está preparada para negociar en la reunión que se llevará a cabo en Ginebra el próximo 15 de diciembre. Tenemos el mayor interés en obtener un acuerdo equitativo y buscar una flexibilidad entre todos los países.

Refiriéndonos nuevamente al mencionado documento sobre Inseguridad Alimentaria en el Mndo SOFI 2003, encontramos un cuadro estadístico muy preocupante relacionado con los conflictos causados por el ser humano como una de las principales causas de la emergencia alimentaria, desde el año 1986 hasta la fecha y señala: "muchas emergencias complejas provocadas por conflictos son persistentes y se convierten en crisis a largo plazo". En relación con este tema, en la reunión de premios Nóbel de la Paz celebrada en esta ciudad hace pocos días, el expresidente de Costa Rica y premio Nóbel Dr. Oscar Arias se refirió con cifras concretas al aumento de los presupuestos para gastos militares, en muchos casos hasta un 14 por ciento, que representa una carga muy pesada para los países en desarrollo. La compra y venta de armas convencionales es un elemento que contribuye al flagelo del hambre en el mundo y eso lo tenemos que tener muy claro.

El Director General de la FAO, Dr. Jacques Diouf, en su discurso, que agradecemos y felicitamos, se refiere entre otros temas de mucha importancia al Tratado Internacional de Recursos Fitogenéticos que entrará en vigor en los próximos meses. En este sentido y por las responsabilidades que asume la FAO, creemos necesario que reciba un mayor apoyo en el presupuesto con el fin de asegurar el éxito del mismo.

Costa Rica es más grande en el mar que en la tierra, por eso apoyamos ampliamente el Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable tan necesario para la protección de nuestros recursos marinos y biodiversidad marina.

Solicitamos a la FAO, de manera especial, su apoyo para el desarrollo de la acuicultura que se ha convertido en un beneficio para algunas de nuestras poblaciones más necesitadas.

El sector forestal es muy importante para nuestro país que ha dedicado más del 28 por ciento de su territorio a parques nacionales. Merece especial atención el Proyecto Bosques y cambio Climático en América Central, el cual analizó el marco legal e institucional y con respecto a la posibilidad de que los países se beneficien de proyectos forestales bajo el mecanismo de desarrollo limpio del Protocolo de Kyoto. Igualmente se evaluó el potencial de almacenamiento de carbono en cada uno de los países centroamericanos. La experiencia adquirida en este año de trabajo nos permite compartir lecciones aprendidas sumamente útiles y que están sirviendo a otras regiones del mundo para ganar tiempo en esta carrera del proceso de la convención Marco de cambio climático y del Protocolo de Kyoto. Este proyecto está financiado en el marco de cooperación FAO y Países Bajos. Asimismo agradecemos el apoyo del Departamento de Montes de la FAO.

Actualmente, la Delegación de Costa Rica está presentando un informe sobre este proyecto en la Conferencia de las Partes sobre Cambio Climático y del Protocolo de Kyoto que se está celebrando en Milán.

Hemos escuchado con gran interés la intervención del señor Ministro de los Países Bajos y apoyamos la iniciativa de organizar una conferencia internacional para finales del año 2004 sobre Agua para Alimentos y Ecosistemas.

Por otro lado, no podemos dejar pasar esta intervención sin referirnos al tema de género e informar a esta Asamblea que la CEPAL, Organización de las Naciones Unidas para América Latina, elogió el trabajo que realizaron Argentina, México y Costa Rica durante la década de los 90 para garantizar la igualdad de género en los puestos de elección. En el caso específico, Costa Rica es una de las naciones del continente que más protege a las mujeres y lo demuestra con la participación política, de 57 diputados 20 son mujeres; ocupa el quinto puesto a nivel mundial

relacionado con los derechos de la mujer y, en términos porcentuales, es el segundo en el continente al garantizar el 35 por ciento de sus puestos elegibles a mujeres.

En Costa Rica se encuentra la Universidad Earth que es la Escuela de Agricultura de la Región Atlántica. Es una universidad privada internacional sin fines de lucro, dedicada a la educación en ciencias agrícolas y recursos naturales para contribuir al desarrollo sostenible de la región tropical húmeda, con una innovación para la preparación de los jóvenes en este sector y al respecto se refirió el Ministro de Agricultura de Noruega que, entre otros países, apoya la labor de esta institución. Actualmente también mantiene relaciones con muchas instituciones y universidades del mundo que trabajan en conjunto.

Los principales problemas del planeta, medio ambiente, escasez de alimentos, agua, fractura de la capa de ozono, son de carácter global y sus soluciones son necesariamente globales y multilaterales. El hambre en África subsahariana es también nuestra, todos somos parte de un gran sistema interconectado de un mismo organismo viviente.

Jim Sutton, Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair

Jim Sutton, Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Jim Sutton, Presidente de la Conferencia

Ali Fahad AL-HAJRI (Qatar) (Original language Arabic)

We are very proud to transmit the greetings of Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani of Qatar and to refer to you his hopes for a very successful Conference that will achieve the goals for which it is held. I would also like to congratulate the Chairperson for his election and wish him the very best of success in running this most important meeting.

I am proud to work together with you in the work of the Thirty-second General Conference of FAO for discussing the best ways we can mobilize possibilities and reinforce international cooperation for agricultural development, in such a way as to be able to do away with the hunger and misery that so many millions people under in this world. The positive mission of Qatar over the last few decades has indicated how devoted it is to these goals and its participation in the ad hoc and regular meetings organized by FAO, and show our dedication to these issues. We have agreed to having an FAO Office open in Qatar, so that we can get a closer grip on problems of environment and so on. Also, the upcoming Middle Eastern Conference will be held in our country. We place enormous importance on international cooperation in the agricultural field and we are entirely sure that this is the way to go in order to eradicate poverty throughout the world.

Qatar feels that expertise and consultation are the most important ingredients in the solution for these problems and that is why it is so important to us to cooperate with these other countries in the battle against poverty and hunger. This is the way to achieve food security and sustainable development and we would like to greet the great success that has been achieved, thanks also mainly to Dr Jacques Diouf of this Organization.

The citizens of Qatar have agreed upon an agricultural policy that uses our available resources in order to reduce the gap between people who have food and people who have not, in full respect of the environment. We intend to increase the area that is planted with food products and work harder to protect our water; to engage in further desalinization of seawater and protect our groundwater. Additionally, attend to other activities such as urban agriculture and livestock breeding, fish farming, information and training, and encourage the private sector to engage in these same projects and activities. We do need support. We need support in every way possible, expertise, information and training, education. We are eager to cooperate and accept any positive suggestions and proposals from our friends and colleagues here in FAO and in the world at large.

The figures showing us the proportion of humanity that is suffering from poverty and hunger is a tremendous challenge to us. It means that we must redouble our efforts to re-establish a balance because otherwise the world is aiming straight for an inevitable disaster. We have to attend to renewable sources of energy to help avoid such a disaster. We are fully prepared to cooperate with the international community to achieve these qualitative and quantitative improvements.

Here I would like to greet the Chairperson of this Conference, thank the Director-General and the President and the various other departments of FAO whose untiring efforts have helped in achieving these objectives.

Romuald SZUNIEWICZ (Poland)

I would like to congratulate the new Members of FAO and their admission to the Organization. Poland looks forward to cooperating with all the new Members and we welcome Ukraine, our neighbour and good friend, to the European Regional Group that now will be 45 members strong.

FAO's Web site pages carry a traditional *Fiat Panis* logo of FAO, along with a new additional motto "Helping to Build a World Without Hunger". The motto was first introduced, I believe, in a brochure for the World Food Summit: *five years later*, but it is based on FAO's mission statement, formulated in the Strategic Framework approved by the conference in 1999. I refer to this, since it is time to review how FAO is carrying out its mission.

The world food security presented in the document for this Session, on the State of Food and Agriculture is painted as a rather bleak picture with a few bright spots. The goal of halving the number of hungry by 2015 looks far away, and the challenges are enormous. As for the other goals: continued contribution of sustainable agriculture and rural development to economic and social progress; the conservation, improvement and sustainable utilization of natural resources, we can see positive developments in the world. To what extent these can be attributed to FAO's normative and operational work is a matter of opinion but, as all three goals are intertwined, we cannot be satisfied with the results achieved so far.

What we have to remember is that these are the goals of the members and the final responsibility rests with the national governments.

Having said that, let me refer now to developments in Poland, a country whose agricultural sector underwent a major restructuring in recent years. According to our census of 2002, about 2.2 million people work in agriculture. That makes almost 17 percent of all employed. I am not going to quote the statistics on arable land or food crops. Like all countries, Poland faces variable weather conditions, which influence crops from year to year. What is important is that the population does not suffer from hunger and the standards of life and conditions of work are improving. In comparison to 1965, the farmers own more agricultural machinery and equipment, more houses and farm buildings. They are also better educated. Now, more than one-fifth of them have high school or higher education, and the others have elementary or vocational school training.

The Government pursues policies to make the Polish agriculture more competitive, especially in view of the accession to the European Union. A number of measures have been taken to improve food safety and quality. We are proud of our healthy and tasty produce. With growing productivity, we foresee the number of farmers shrinking but we want to support maintaining the best of rural culture. The challenge is to create for the rural population opportunities to enjoy and contribute to the rest of us their traditional and valued culture, while favouring participation in everything that modern civilization offers. The way to achieve it may be called an integrated approach to rural development or multifunctional model of agriculture. The essence is the sustainable development of both agriculture and standards of living of the rural population to remove rural poverty and exclusion, and ensure food security. The same sustainable approach has to be applied to fisheries and forestry.

Poland has received valuable technical and financial external assistance that was crucial to the success of our transition process. On the other hand, since 1999, we have been contributing to the multilateral operations of the World Food Programme. In our experience, to efficiently absorb the external assistance, a country has to enforce good governance, based on sound legal and institutional basis with the broadest possible social consensus.

We share our experience in capacity building and in a number of technical fields, bilaterally, with a number of countries in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. We are willing to share that

experience on a regional and subregional basis as part of FAO's centre of excellence. To our concern, the ESCORENA system of research networks, created in 1974, has now only marginal support from FAO. We invite FAO Members to make more extensive use of the knowledge base accumulated in Poland and we encourage the Secretariat to support this in technical cooperation projects.

In Poland, we know what it means to face hard budgetary choices and make unpopular decisions leading to better efficiency. We appreciate the progress made by FAO Governing Bodies in setting the priorities and by the Secretariat in implementing the programme of work and budget despite financial constraints. We believe that the mission of helping to build a food secure world for present and future generations is well served by FAO.

Ms Byrganym AITIMOVA (Kazakhstan)

The Kazakhstan Delegation is very delighted to participate in such an important forum as the Thirty-second Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. This gives us a splendid opportunity to exchange information and experience, determine the directions and goals of joint efforts in the reduction of poverty, hunger and installation of global food security.

Kazakhstan was accepted as a Member of FAO in November 1996, at the Twenty-ninth Session of the Conference of FAO. During the period of productive cooperation, FAO has given to the Republic grants in the fields of development for important agricultural projects such as the creation of a regional body for locust control in Central Asia, the development of competitiveness of agricultural production, formation of an agrarian policy, ground protective agriculture for steady manufacture of grain, preservation of water and marsh resources and many others.

We have also had a good opportunity to continue in depth regional technical cooperation. Recently our Government has requested technical cooperation in the field of management of the sturgeon stocks in the Caspian Sea.

I would also like to note that Kazakhstan is one of the co-sponsors of the Year of Rice in 2004. The Government of Kazakhstan pays serious attention to the questions of reduction of the level of poverty, acceptance of necessary legal acts for providing food security measures, an effective utilization of water resources, protection of genetic resources, and also strengthening rural women in the remote agrarian areas: all the questions sounded at the World Food Summit last year.

In this connection, I would like to inform you that, the reforming of the agricultural sector is one of the priority sectors of our economy and is being carried out according to the strategy of the development of Kazakhstan until 2030 also the State Agrifood Development Programme called Aul, meaning Rural, is ongoing during 2002-2005.

The level of development of the agricultural sector is the determining factor of stability in Kazakhstan. For example, 44 percent of the population of the Republic live in the countryside. The basic proposals of this state agricultural policy are: rationalization of system of the state support; stabilization, restoration and creation of conditions for development of the manufacture of agriculture production, light industries of agriculture, and on this basis, maintenance of food safety of the country, the maximum employment of the population and the increase of its well being.

After realization of the measures directed on radically reforming of the agriculture branch, the agriculture of the country now consists of 99 percent private property. Reforms in the agricultural sector yield positive results. The share of agricultural production in volume of gross national product of the country was defined at a level of 8.5 percent. Kazakhstan as a large agricultural state, attaches great importance to the development of close cooperation with FAO the major specialized United Nations agency, focusing its activities on development and strengthening agriculture, poverty eradication, insuring food security and struggle against hunger.

Kazakhstan has a huge potential in Central Asia to implement successfully the tasks and goals set by the World Food Summit. We are very interested in ensuring food and social safety in all the

central Asian states. In this context the establishment of the FAO subregional office in Kazakhstan would be an excellent opportunity for expanding mutual cooperation. We are confident that, establishment of such an office will play a key role in the strengthening cooperation of Central Asian States. With FAO in this region, with its enormous potential, it would open new possibilities in realization of many agricultural and social projects.

As a Member of FAO Kazakhstan is aware of the need to pay its financial contribution on time and attaches great importance to being able to support the activities of the Organization. The Government has adopted all possible measures to improve the economic situation of the country and seeks to pay the arrears and current contributions to FAO as soon as possible. We have started already to cover our fees and on this occasion we presented our proposals.

We hope that in framework of cooperation Kazakhstan and FAO will find new partners from all the countries in our common duties to develop agriculture, provide food security, struggle against poverty and famine. In this connection, I wish all the best to the new Members of FAO and to all our colleagues.

Ibrahim ABU ATILEH (Jordan) (Original language Arabic)

In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate, may peace be upon you.

At the onset I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. I would also like to congratulate the Members of the Bureau. I am pleased to be talking to this gathering which brings together decision-makers. This meeting is an important one and I hope that we will combine our efforts in order to reduce food insecurity and to provide food for the hungry.

Jordan with its limited natural resources and has some short-comings in some foods has given priority to food production in our national policy. We have established a policy that will lead to self-reliance, will provide enough food for our people and will help us manage our natural resources while preserving our environment. In order to achieve the overall objectives of our agricultural policy, the Jordanian Government adopted the strategic agricultural development for 2002-2010. We have already started implementing this strategy, of course we need help of the national institutions as well as the international ones and FAO is on top of those organizations.

This strategy is focusing on a number of projects for small farmers, to enable them to be self-reliant, to provide food for their households and to improve their lot. During the last two decades we have made major steps in order to increase our production from some foods. We are still doing our best in order to reduce the food gap from which we are suffering now, by trying to implement some of the projects. I hope that it will help us combat poverty and achieve food security.

It could be said that the International Alliance Against Hunger declared at the World Food Summit: *five years later* will open the way for more cooperation at the international level and will open a new era for cooperation in order to reduce poverty. This declaration is the call of the human conscience in order to unite all of those who can contribute to do so to enable an increase of our food production, and honour the commitment our leaders made in Rome last year and to achieve the objective of reducing the number of the hungry in the world by half in 2015.

In Jordan we are going to set up a national commission to be a part of this international coalition in order to implement projects in which governments, private sectors, NGOs and policy-makers and all CSOs will take part. We will be intensifying our cooperation at FAO in order to set up a comprehensive programme for food security. The Government will provide the financing for this during the coming years and I hope this will lead to more food.

In this respect allow me to put forward some ideas which I hope will be taken into account by our meeting and that they will be dealt with in an efficient manner. We have to reaffirm the role of FAO in combating poverty and hunger and we have to stick to the UN agencies and their Charters and their goals of achieving peace and stability in the world and more food. All countries should mobilize their political will and combine their efforts in order to make an environment conducive

to implementing programmes and projects that will provide more food. This will help us combat food and hunger and we will obtain the alliances to which we can all contribute.

Food should not be used as a means for political pressure as food is a natural right to any person in the world. We have to encourage the production of local seeds and also we have to preserve the biodiversity in cooperation with the relevant international organizations. We have to encourage all members to stick by the Code of Conduct regarding pesticides and thereby reducing the negative effects on human beings and the environment.

We have also to take into account the important role played by rural women and small farmers in preserving the natural resources. They should be part and parcel of those who take the decisions in order to provide an environment conducive to achieving more food for all.

In conclusion, I trust that our decisions will go a long way towards reducing the food deficit and will help some countries to produce more food within the International Alliance Against Hunger. I would also like to thank FAO and staff for the efforts they have made in order to prepare this session. I hope that our deliberations will be successful in reducing the number of the hungry in the world as we have already established.

Miroslav BOZIC (Croatia)

I have the honour to greet you on behalf of the Republic of Croatia at this Thirty-Second FAO Conference. First of all, allow me to thank our host for the successful organization of this meeting. Despite the priority task implemented by the United Nations and its Member Nations in the war on poverty, reducing hunger and spreading policies of peace throughout the world. We are aware that we still have much to do. Within the framework of the activities in which we are engaged, the Heads of State and the Governments that met at the World Food Summit: *five years later* reconfirmed the necessity of working together in order to achieve the goal: Food for All.

Every country in the world has its endangered and vulnerable individuals, households and groups that cannot meet their own needs. The problem of hunger and unsafe food has global dimensions. It is necessary to undertake decisive and complex action. Our task here is to create an institutional mechanism through legislative, national, regional and world strategies in order to remove the barriers that prevent individuals from having access to food.

The Republic of Croatia shares concerns regarding the slow pace of the solving of the global problem of food security and shall decisively persevere in working on it at all levels. When we speak about Agricultural Policy in Croatia, I must inform you that during the past several years there have been fundamental changes. We anticipate that this dynamic process will continue in the coming period.

Agriculture, fishery and food industries occupy important places in the Croatian economy. Of particular importance is their close connection with one of our most significant activities, which is tourism. In defining our overall economic and agricultural policy, the fundamental goals are increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, the strengthening of the role of the market and marketing, food security, food safety and quality, and last but not least, sustainable development of rural areas.

Croatia, has got favourable natural prerequisites for agricultural production and sufficient resources to guarantee its future growth. However, it is known that natural prerequisites in themselves do not guarantee the competitiveness of agricultural production. In our case, this is most clearly reflected in the negative balance of agricultural trade. Thus, during the past five years, the agricultural deficit has constantly grown, as a consequence of the liberalization of trade due to membership in the WTO and the establishment of free trade zones with over 30 European countries.

In these indices, we perceive symptoms of serious structural problems in our agriculture. Therefore, we have instituted a reform of agricultural policy, in which the most significant part concerns changes in the system of domestic supports. First of all, this concerns the clear separation of market and social goals and the identification of those farms, we call them

commercial farms, that are capable of development under conditions of increased pressure from competition.

I am of the opinion that the numerous ongoing reforms will contribute to the overcoming of the greatest limitation of the Croatian agricultural sector, which is small and fragmented farms. Focusing in our reforms on commercial farms does not mean that we have in any way ignored the interests of rankly 140 000 small farms. For them we have developed a special model of income support. An additional model has also been prepared to support rural development. Both new models are trade-not-distorted and clearly indicate tendency in our policy towards greater role of green-box like measures.

From a perspective of a small country which has made extensive commitments as a result of its recent WTO accession, Croatia can only express hope that in forthcoming global negotiations trade-distortive measures, in particular all forms of export subsidies, will be radically transformed, thus allowing better allocations of resources in all countries. However, Croatia recognizes the multifunctional role of agriculture and asserts that so called non-trade concerns should be given recognition. Croatia strongly supports the European model of agriculture, which emphasizes the role of agriculture in the protection of environment, maintenance of biodiversity, as well as the promotion of sustainable use of resources and poverty alleviation in the areas with unfavourable conditions.

It was completely clear to us that the process of accelerated reforms has its costs and cannot proceed without opposition.

We are convinced that the path to reform on which we have embarked three years ago was correct. By all indications it seems that the huge trade deficit now has been arrested.

In order to face our policy with international expertise we have used among others professional assistance offered by the FAO via its projects. In the final phase is a TCP project entitled Rural Development Strategy that will open possibilities for the further development of rural areas. A second recent project that we have begun with the FAO is the project Diversified Value Added Production and Certification in Environmental Friendly Farming Systems. Also in preparation is a regional project in the area of food safety. As you see, associates of the FAO are included in the essential components of the agricultural reform in my country, the hub of the Mediterranean, Central European and the Western Balkan region.

On this occasion, I wish to express my gratitude for cooperation thus far with the Republic of Croatia. We continue to be open to new challenges.

Sama S. MONDE (Sierra Leone)

Sierra Leone is indeed very proud to be a member of FAO and fully identifies itself with FAO and its various initiatives and efforts which are primarily geared towards food security for the world's inhabitants. Sierra Leone is, therefore, very pleased as usual to participate at the Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference.

Before I proceed further, my delegation and I wish to join previous speakers in fully supporting the provision of required resources to fund the very essential and noble activities undertaken by FAO, which the Director-General indicated in his speech are being threatened by the lack of adequate funds.

Sierra Leone was among other Member States that in 1996 set themselves the goal of cutting by half a number of hungry people in the world by 2015. This commitment has been reflected in the Millennium Development Goals, against the background of increasing food insecurity in many developing countries.

During the 1960s Sierra Leone's economy fuelled by a vibrant agricultural sector, it grew by 4 percent per annum – well ahead of population growth. During this period, foreign earnings from export crops accounted for about 25 percent of GDP. In 1975, Sierra Leone was self sufficient in rice, our staple food. Unfortunately, the declining ability of Sierra Leone to feed itself came after

1975 and that was due to bad governance and inappropriate policies adopted by previous governments. The food situation in Sierra Leone further deteriorated during the civil war that lasted from 1991-2002.

The strong and reinforcing relationship between poverty and hunger is a well known fact. Also, the grave consequences of poverty and hunger on productivity and the development of our nations are clear. In Sierra Leone nearly 60 percent of the people are living on less than US\$1 a day, and FAO estimates that 47 percent of the population are undernourished.

The reasons for poverty and hunger are imbedded in the complex social, economic, political, institutional and human conditions of a society. It is important – we all know – that we can improve food security by producing more food. However, food security cannot be sustained by simply producing more food.

As a nation, we have therefore realized that to develop agriculture and achieve sustainable food security in Sierra Leone, farmers, particularly women farmers who are not only the actors of food production, but also make up the highest percentage of our population similar to most sub-Saharan countries, should take centre stage in decision – making regarding all aspects of food security. Sierra Leone is, therefore embarking on a Rights Based Approach to Development.

In his acceptance speech after winning the May 2002 general elections, the President made a remarkable pronouncement by recognizing the right to food as a fundamental human right and pledged "to work even harder, and with greater resolve, to do everything in my power, to ensure that within the next five years, no Sierra Leonean should go to bed hungry".

Towards this goal, the following main interventions are being pursued. The national poverty reduction strategy involves the continued implementation of sound economic policies to attain macroeconomic stability and relaunch the economy after the 11 years war. Within the overall framework of good governance. Every effort is being made to allocate a realistic proportion of the country's national budget to the agricultural sector which employs the bulk of the population. Therefore, the minimum 10 percent of the national budget to agriculture committed by the NEPAD Heads of State has been endorsed by cabinet.

A full scale and comprehensive review of the agricultural sector is currently under way. The Government also organized a national symposium on Operationalizing the Right to Food in Sierra Leone in May 2003, coinciding with the first anniversary of the President's pledge to work even harder to banish hunger by 2007. The goal of the Symposium was to articulate and gain understanding of the concept of the right to food and to engage various stakeholders to contribute to the incorporation of the right to food concept into the policies, programmes, projects of the countries.

The Government of Sierra Leone is very grateful to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for funding the Symposium and providing funds for the setting up of the Right to Food Secretariat and its operation for two years.

FAO continues to be a very strong partner in helping Sierra Leone uplift its farmers and achieve food security. The main vehicle the Government of Sierra Leone is using to realize this goal is the Special Programme for Food Security designed by FAO. This programme aims at involving some 150 000 rural people in Farmers' Field Schools and farmer networks to increase their capacity to undertake increased food production and marketing.

The government is also fully aware of the grave consequences of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, particularly its direct effect on the reduction of the labour force through death and suboptimal output. The government is not complacent with the apparent 0.9 percent infection rate. Every effort is being made to prevent this epidemic from getting out of hand. Therefore, government is conducting the project on HIV/AIDS prevention and that project is directly in the President's Office.

It is envisaged that eventually this committed efforts will result in the formulation of appropriate legislation linking the right to food approach to the national poverty reduction strategies and the design of complementary programmes including safety nets.

These efforts and many others, we hope, will eventually impact positively on food security in Sierra Leone and restore peace and tranquility in our country.

Sierra Leone remains sincerely grateful to FAO and other countries and agencies who are helping, in various ways, to ensure that this goal challenge that we have set ourselves will be achieved not by 2015 but 2007.

Rafael TOVAR Y DE TERESA (México)

Para México es un gran honor estar nuevamente ante esta solemne Conferencia para tratar un tema de enorme importancia para toda la humanidad: el desarrollo agrícola y la alimentación. Hoy vemos con profunda preocupación que las actuales tendencias en la lucha para combatir el hambre en el mundo llevan un ritmo extremadamente lento y, cada vez, es más difícil que de manera global pueda cumplirse el objetivo que todos nosotros establecimos en la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación en 1996. En este sentido, es necesario reforzar las políticas y los apoyos para que todos los países realicen acciones específicas y efectivas para combatir el hambre. Es importante considerar que, si bien los objetivos de la Cumbre sobre la Alimentación y la del Milenio fueron respaldados por todos los países, debe tenerse presente que la lucha contra el hambre es una tarea primordialmente nacional, pero que debe contar con el apoyo y el respaldo de la comunidad internacional y de los organismos internacionales como premisa fundamental para la paz y la estabilidad en el mundo.

La FAO, nuestra Organización, es un faro que guía nuestros esfuerzos en la lucha contra el hambre. Las iniciativas que están en marcha como el Programa Internacional Contra el Hambre, la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre y el proceso de negociación de las directrices voluntarias para el derecho a la alimentación, constituyen un marco adecuado para mantener y fortalecer las acciones de toda la comunidad de naciones. Sin embargo, es urgente emprender acciones específicas y mejor coordinadas para reducir los grandes desequilibrios que se registran en el sector agrícola y en la alimentación, con especial atención en las regiones donde el número de las personas malnutridas se ha incrementado y en donde las estimaciones para la reducción de ese fenómeno no presentan un panorama favorable.

Es necesario hacer un llamado a los países desarrollados y a los organismos internacionales de cooperación para que contribuyan al desarrollo de nuevos enfoques, estrategias y mecanismos de cooperación compatibles a las nuevas realidades de la humanidad, que permitan hacer frente de una manera eficaz a los problemas de la pobreza, el hambre y la malnutrición.

La importancia que se otorgue a la inversión y capital humano, a la infraestructura agrícola y a la investigación tecnológica, serán fundamentales para el éxito de las acciones en el futuro.

México enfrenta enormes retos de cara a este nuevo siglo y uno de los principales es la superación de la pobreza y de la marginación. Hoy el 30 por ciento de las familias rurales mexicanas se encuentra lamentablemente en esta situación. El Gobierno del Presidente Vicente Fox aplica una política social amplia e integrada con el propósito de elevar la competitividad del sector agropecuario y aumentar la disponibilidad de alimentos de calidad y a precios accesibles. Es decir, hemos establecido dos líneas estratégicas: por una parte, el fomento productivo y, por otra, el desarrollo humano y social de las familias. Para la primera, con una amplia participación de los productores, de sus asociaciones y de los gobiernos nacionales y locales, se estableció el Acuerdo Nacional para el Campo, en el que se trazaron las grandes directrices políticas financieras y de inversión para fortalecer la productividad del campo y ampliar los servicios sociales en el medio rural. Para la segunda, se aplica el Programa Oportunidades que llega a más y más familias pobres cada año, que les está permitiendo superar de manera estructural sus condiciones de pobreza. La FAO participa en ambas líneas estratégicas con el Gobierno de México, por lo que deseo dejar constancia de nuestro agradecimiento por el apoyo perseverante de la Organización.

Como parte de este apoyo, la FAO ha organizado el día de mañana a las 18.00 horas un evento colateral en el que el Ministro de Desarrollo Social de México presentará el contenido específico y los logros alcanzados con el Programa Oportunidades.

En el área internacional, México lucha afanosamente junto con otros países hermanos para que desaparezcan políticas proteccionistas en el sector agropecuario y se abra plenamente el acceso a los productos agrícolas de los países en desarrollo. Estamos trabajando a favor de un comercio justo y equitativo que beneficie a todos. Reiteramos el papel del comercio internacional como un medio idóneo para el desarrollo de las naciones. Para ello, se requieren reglas justas y equitativas. Continuaremos colaborando con todas las naciones amigas para hacer esto posible.

México es un miembro fundador de esta Organización, plenamente comprometido con sus principios y sus objetivos. En este medio siglo de existencia de la FAO, mi país ha trabajado y colaborado afanosamente para que, entre todos, alcancemos las altas metas que como comunidad internacional nos hemos trazado para impulsar la producción agrícola y combatir el hambre en el mundo. Tenemos el firme propósito de continuar colaborando con la FAO y con sus Estados Miembros y, con ese espíritu de trabajo y de solidaridad, hemos presentado nuestra propuesta de reelección al Consejo de la Organización y confiamos que contaremos con el apoyo de todos los países amigos.

Arben MOLLA (Albania)

The Agriculture and food Sector in Albania is considered as one of the basic components of the integrated rural development has gone through a long way but in the right direction, since the transition towards market economy begun in 1991.

Although the situation in Albania was not comfortable to face the drastic changes, the substantial reforms including privatization, land distribution and the liberalization of the market and prices, helped the increase the agroindustrial production.

Important investments in the rehabilitation of the infrastructure, especially that of irrigation and drainage, had an impact in the acceleration of the development. The situation changed too fast as a consequence of a rigid implementation of such reforms which brought about important macroeconomic changes.

I take the opportunity to thank FAO, the representatives of Regional Office for Europe and all other donor countries for the appreciated assistance and support given to Albania for the implementation of agricultural projects related with food security and food safety.

Independently of all positive developments and the steady increase of the agricultural production in these 12 years, the poverty is still evident especially in the remote rural areas. Almost one on three Albanians could be considered poor and four out of five poor people live in rural areas.

Our Government is very interested in improving the life condition and poverty reduction of rural population. There are four main objectives of the Agriculture and Food Sector in the National Strategy for Economic and Social Development: sustainable increase of the agricultural production including that coming from agro-processing, fishery and forestry; food security and consumer protection; improvement of the marketing for the agricultural and food products; the sustainable management of the natural resources such as land, water and biodiversity.

The fast globalization of the market for the agro food production, as well as the process of regional and European integration, obliges the adaptation of the Albanian agriculture to the new conditions. The use of new technologies, which increase the production and incomes while respecting the environment, is required. It is time that the quite natural agriculture applied in the remote areas and the conventional one applied at the lowlands let gradually place to the sustainable agriculture, as the alternative of the future for safe food and clean environment.

The Albanian agriculture is actually at a stage of growing and qualitative changes are occurring, but it needs to be oriented and supported to develop in harmony with the social and economic development process, as well as with the process of country integration in the region.

Some of the advantages that Albania has for the development of its agriculture and human resources – relatively young age and well-educated – a favourable geographic location relative to the European Union, fertile soils and favourable climate in some regions. Meanwhile, the infrastructure is one of the most important limiting factors for rural growth. It serves many purposes, such as improving living conditions, providing access to education, health services, markets, improving agricultural production, attracting investments and creating off-farm income generating opportunities.

These are the challenges that we have to face but we are not tardy in doing it.

Ms Mary MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

It is my pleasure and honour to address this Twenty-second Session of FAO Conference. My address will give an overview of the State of Food and Agriculture in Africa and indeed in Zimbabwe and my own subregion, SADC. I specifically mention SADC because of the current circumstances the region finds itself in. Agriculture being the mainstay of most African countries, increased agricultural production will not only ensure food self-sufficiency on the continent, but has a potential to foster the growth of manufacturing through increased attention to post-harvest operations, thereby creating employment and economic development.

Our region has demonstrated an alarming vulnerability to natural disasters as demonstrated by seasonal floods in Mozambique and Madagascar, consecutive droughts in 2000, 2001 and 2002 in southern Africa, intermittent droughts in the Sahel; and the perennial challenges we face in the horn of Africa. Although the severity and impact of droughts and floods on people's lives vary the extent is most of all at household level and by region whether one is female or a child. We have found that it is mostly female and child-headed households that have come out as the worst affected. The low levels of production have eroded farmers' capacity and potential to mobilize resources for production.

As a result, emergency relief programmes by government, private sector, international agencies and Nongovernmental Organizations continue to cushion the negative effects of the disaster. For this, we wish to extend our appreciation as a continuity to the international community for assisting us in our time of need. The major challenge we continue to face in southern Africa, is to assist smallholder farmers affected by the drought to restart, this is more so in the countries that were severely affected by this drought and these are Zambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The recovery of these countries would depend mostly on agriculture.

These are some of the major challenges that our economies are facing. In Zimbabwe, as agreed at the Millennium Summit in 2000, the goal of ending hunger, poverty, disease and other development goals are now enshrined in our national Millennium Development Goals. This is following a national consultative session that we held on the World Food Day.

Implementing these goals has been seen an invigorated agricultural drive. We are concerned with decongestion of communal areas and resettling smallholder farmers in high agricultural potential areas and broadening the productive base of commercial agriculture. We have realized that such a reform has to be backed by empowerment programmes to the farmers. To this extent, institutional reforms in terms of agricultural education and farmer training programmes, research and extension, and providing of credit, have had to be transformed.

We have raised farmer extension officer ratios such that in every village we are participating in increasing production, in order to stimulate growth. We realize that this is a process and that a process has to be given time to take its course. We are confident and determined to see the programme through. Our only prayer is that we do have a good agricultural season.

Smallholder farmers are being assisted to go into high value crops to improve their incomes. In addition to the resources availed by Government, the private sector, in particular the agro-industries, have gone into contract farming with farmers to ensure adequate funding of the production process and efficient marketing of the products. It is in this line with this that the government has established the Zimbabwe Agricultural Development Bank, to provide a vehicle

through which public and private resources can be mobilized and disbursed to support farmers. We therefore, view trade matters with particular interest as most of the cash crops we produce will eventually find their way into the world markets.

To promote food security, the government launched the Crops and Livestock Inputs Loan Scheme to ensure that farmers have easy access to credit and timely provision of agricultural inputs. We have realized through past experience that provision of adequate financial resources and empowerment of farmers, will certainly help to unlock agricultural export growth potential and give further stimulus to the country's agro-based industries. This programme is based on the recovery of our agricultural sector from the effects of droughts and the reform.

Irrigation remains one of the pivotal options that my government has set to alleviate hunger and reduce dependency on rainfed agriculture. We hope the deliberations of this Conference will help us to refocus our irrigation. NEPAD has put high priority on this issue and we would like FAO programmes to complement our vision.

To reinforce the drive to commercialize the indigenous farmer sector, a mechanization programme is under way. Targeting of the most vulnerable communities will include the communal farmers, farm workers, women and child headed households.

Africa, particularly, southern Africa, is battling with the effects of the HIV/AIDS. The pandemic is now a major factor in recent cases of food insecurity and since we account for 50 percent of the food decline in communal areas. The effects on communities has been threefold increasing the rate of infection in the age groups 15-49, increasing the number of orphans and deteriorating the living standards of those affected by the disease. Households are more vulnerable to food security shocks because of the eroded productive capacity.

In the alliance against hunger, Zimbabwe is committed to eradicating hunger and poverty through the empowerment of the majority of our population. In trying to ensure that everyone has a right to food, we have availed farmers wishing to work on the land with productive resources such as land, inputs and empowerment. We lost many friends in the process but we owed it to the majority of the Zimbabweans. We are appreciative to those partners in the international community who, in one way or the other, helped us to realize our dream. We will continue to improve the institutional framework, develop human capacity, skills, upgrade our research and technology, transfer skills, increase agricultural inputs and financial services. We already have programmes underway in some of these identified areas, but more resources are still required.

If I do not refer to our commitments of the World Food Summit: *five years later* it would be remiss of me. They committed us to redoubling our efforts to reduce the number of the hungry people 800 million today, of whom a third of them are in Africa. My region would be very interested in ensuring that the programmes tackling hunger are given priority in the budget during this Conference. We envisage growth, as we see NEPAD agricultural pillar as the key to Africa's success, because the agriculture sector is our engine to growth.

The programme of action for the two years of negotiations fully articulates the way in which agriculture maybe spurred into growth. The Secretariat has proposed how these programmes may be implemented. It is my conviction that budget requirements are modest and should be supported adequately to reflect our commitment to fighting hunger. We have agreed to too many new projects because of their importance in spurring trade. For example IPPC, CODEX, Plant Genetics to name a few.

It follows therefore, that we allow for additional resources required for the new initiatives to see daylight. Further we have had forestry and fisheries meetings which demonstrated the value of food security in these areas. However, I think, we have to discuss the findings at a higher level, possibly at Ministerial level, and FAO should do everything necessary to enable such consultations to take place.

CHAIRPERSON

I remind all Delegates that on Friday morning there should be present in the Plenary to start at 9.00 hours there will be a vote on budgetary appropriations 2004-2005. Conference will now adjourn and the Plenary will begin this afternoon at 14.30 hours.

The meeting rose at 13.30 hours

La séance est levée à 13 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 13.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING HUITIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE OCTAVA SESIÓN PLENARIA
3 December 2003

The Eighth Plenary Meeting was opened at 14.37 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La huitième séance plénière est ouverte à 14 h 37

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la octava sesión plenaria a las 14.37 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

INTRODUCTION AND REVIEW OF THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
(continued)

INTRODUCTION ET EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION DE L'ALIMENTATION ET DE L'AGRICULTURE (suite)

INTRODUCCIÓN Y EXAMEN DEL ESTADO MUNDIAL DE LA AGRICULTURA Y LA ALIMENTACIÓN (continuación)

5. Review of the State of Food and Agriculture (C 2003/2) (continued)

5. Examen de la situation de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture (C 2003/2) (suite)

5. Examen del estado mundial de la agricultura y la alimentación (C 2003/2) (continuación)

STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

DECLARATIONS DES CHEFS DE DÉLÉGATION (suite)

MANIFESTACIONES POR LOS JEFES DE LAS DELEGACIONES (continuación)

Micronesia, Suriname, Timor-Leste, Guinea Ecuatorial, Zambia, Nepal, Kiribati, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Vietnam, Panamá, Comores, Argentina, Afghanistan, Mauritius, Bénin, République Démocratique du Congo, Islamic Republic of Iran, Slovenia.

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Eighth Plenary Meeting to order and before we continue, I would like to announce that the Third Meeting of the Working Group on Split Assessments will be held at 16.30 hours, in the Mexico Room, that is D.211.

We will continue this afternoon with Item 5, Review of the State of Food and Agriculture. A little later we will interrupt this debate to hear the oral report of Round Table 2.

Ishmael LEBEHN (Micronesia)

Let me at the outset congratulate you on your election to Chair this Thirty-second Session of the Conference. I am sure that with your capable leadership, you will lead us successfully through the work before us on our agenda.

Let me take this opportunity also to reiterate the words of appreciation by Vice-President Redley Killion last Saturday on the occasion of our admission to this esteemed Body. My Government and people are indeed deeply honoured to be admitted as a full Member of this august Body and I thank you all for your vote of confidence to be an equal amongst you in ensuring, as a brotherhood of nations, that we all carry out our obligations and responsibilities under the FAO Constitution. Our membership in this august Body, with full faith, I hope, is one that we will contribute to, as well as benefit from the Organization.

As evidenced by our early participation in FAO activities as an observer, it has been our aspiration to become a full Member of FAO soon after we joined the United Nations in 1991. Thus, our decision to become a full Member was made neither lightly nor without full and elaborate consideration.

My Government fully subscribes to the mandate of the Organization, enshrined and succinctly summed up in the Preamble to the Constitution, that in part is "...ensuring humanity's freedom from hunger". In these few words, the Organization has the daunting, but very necessary noble challenge, of ensuring the survival of the human race and its civilization. The Director-General declared in a speech he delivered at the beginning of the year, "Food is absolutely fundamental to human existence."

We, in the Federated States of Micronesia, endorse FAO's mission and its activities, given the challenges and opportunities that my small-island country faces. The FSM is a country with limited land and, therefore, limited agricultural resources. On the other hand, we possess a vast

area of ocean with abundant resources. While these resources are abundant and renewable, they are also finite. They have to be carefully managed to ensure long-term sustainable use for food security for generations of our people and the ever growing world population. In this regard, as we continue our national building, we look to FAO as a development partner to assist in its areas of competence so we can fulfil our obligations to the world community and survive as a young developing nation.

While we are fully subscribed to the mission of this august Body and want to contribute to alleviating world poverty and ensuring 'freedom from hunger' for everyone, our very existence is threatened and our ability to contribute to this noble cause is marginalized by other factors. We have real and immediate concerns we would like to bring to FAO for further dialogue and collaboration. We would like to seek your assistance and expertise in alleviating the adverse impact of global warming on our crop production, or better yet, alleviating the causes of global warming. We, in the islands, as already mentioned by our friends from Tuvalu, are already suffering from the consequences of global warming.

Climate change has not only affected us in terms of land resources and their production to export and feed our people, it has badly impacted our fisheries as well. Reef resources are badly impacted by coral bleaching and the migratory pelagic fishes are also changing their migratory patterns. We will need technical assistance in responding to these strange patterns taking place resulting from these global warming issues. I know that these are the subjects of other conferences but global warming and sea level rises are impacting our food production.

The Federated States of Micronesia is also a country of many outer islands, which would be our equivalent of what is known in other countries as rural or remote areas. These islands pose unique challenges to our capabilities and have, in large measure, defied conventional solutions; therefore, they require special consideration in enhancing their food security. The concern, at the very basic level, is with their access to information and other assistance that they may need for an active and healthy life.

As a young nation, we want to be in a position to gauge the impact of our growing population on our food production capacity. Just as important, we would like to ensure that we have the capacity to respond effectively to the negative impact of diseases, natural disasters, and human activities on our food production, indeed to our biodiversity and ecosystem.

It goes without saying that we have great challenges and needs which we would like to engage the help of FAO in addressing. We are ready to learn from and collaborate with the Organization and its members. Our desire is to seek your help so that we can achieve an appreciable measure of self-reliance; to ensure sustainable harvests and conservation of our resources, both land- and sea-based, and to enhance our food security as a nation.

While we have little to offer, we do not intend only to seek help. Drawing on our practical experience as a small developing island nation facing the challenges that fall within the purview of FAO, we would like to be a contributing Member in that regard.

On the occasion of our joining FAO, we would like to pay tribute to the Organization for its leading role in the fight against global hunger. It has gone through major changes and enormous challenges since the Conference of forty-four governments held in Hot Springs, Virginia in 1943, which led to the eventual creation of FAO. But we can all take pride in the accomplishments of the Organization over the years.

It has been reported that, despite a near doubling of the world population in the last three decades, there has been an unprecedented increase in food producing during the same period. The spectacular output in food production is registered not only in the developed but also in the developing world. The other good news is the growing international consensus that hunger and poverty must be brought to an end and that food security is and ought to be a universal right.

While complimenting FAO for its initiative in these accomplishments, my Government at the same time urges the Organization to continue to take the leadership role in the noble struggle

against global hunger and poverty. Despite the unprecedented increase in food production, it is estimated that still nearly 800 million people, mostly in Africa and Asia, do not have enough to eat.

It is for this reason that my Government supports the Declaration made during the World Food Summit last year to reduce by 50 percent the number of hungry people by the year 2015. The challenge has also found expression in the Millennium Development Goals, which my Government embraces as well.

I wish to conclude my remarks by assuring you that my country will do its best to carry out our responsibilities as a Member. It is also my distinct pleasure to thank you and the membership for the decision that you have taken to admit my country as a full Member.

Geetapersad Gangaram PANDY (Suriname)

First of all I would like to extend to you, Mr Chairman, my congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the Thirty-second Conference of FAO. We are confident that, in view of your long and rich experience, we may look forward to fruitful discussions during this Conference.

In the context of increasing food production, we welcome the decision of the Council to hold three Round Tables with themes that are very relevant today, especially for the developing countries.

The availability of fresh water and poor infrastructure are hampering food production. Although Suriname has a part of the tropical Amazonian region, and no limitations with regard to the availability of fresh water, we do have problems to get the water at the right time in the right place. The reason for this is that we have to do a lot of investment in the infrastructure to bring the water where it is needed. Besides this the maintenance of the infrastructure is very costly. We are now in the process of introducing for the farmers a system of user's fee.

Food safety and food security is, indeed, very important to all of us and we take this opportunity to thank the Director-General for the TCP projects with respect to strengthening of the Food Control System in Suriname and the strengthening of the Plant Quarantine services. We would like to emphasize that complicated food safety measures should not be used as a trade barrier for developing countries.

The outcome of the WTO negotiations in Cancun has raised questions about the trade of agricultural products in the near future and this will have negative implications in our attempts to increase food production in developing countries.

The underlying reason for hunger and malnutrition is poverty and, when we are trying to eliminate hunger and malnutrition, we have to realize that poverty alleviation is a must. This means that the developing countries must have more access to the world trade of agricultural products.

We would like to suggest the creation of a mechanism in which FAO is more involved in the preparation of the next WTO meeting, especially for the section on agriculture.

Suriname is very pleased that the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2004 as the International Year of Rice and that FAO has convened a special Rice Conference at its Headquarters in Rome in February 2004. Rice feeds more than half of the world population.

Suriname is a small rice producing country. The sustainable increase of rice production, especially in developing countries, will not only provide more income for rice producers but will also reduce hunger and poverty. We thank FAO for this initiative.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Director-General of FAO for his leading role in the fight against hunger and malnutrition and for the technical assistance which Suriname is receiving to enhance its food production.

Estanislau ALEIXO DA SILVA (Timor-Leste)

Timor-Leste is in the eastern half island of Timor, bordering Indonesian Archipelago and Australia. It is a small mountainous territory of around 19 000 square kilometres in the Indian-Pacific Ocean, 500 kilometres to the north of Australia. Timor-Leste is classified as a low-income country in southeast Asia with Gross Domestic Production (GDP) estimated at US\$478 per capita.

Approximately, 41 percent of our people are considered below the national poverty line of US\$1.50 per day. Our life expectancy is around 57 years while only 48 percent of our population over the age of 15 is literate. The level of infrastructure and the provision of essential services are also weak with only around 46 percent of households having access to potable water and 36 percent having electricity.

As you are all aware, Timor-Leste is currently undergoing a crucial social-political and economic transition. Agriculture plays a major role in this transformation process. The sector, which also includes forestry and fisheries, dominates Timor-Leste's economy. During the pre-independence period, the sector contributed to as high as 27 percent to our GDP, 85 percent of employment and 90 percent of foreign exchange. Today, agriculture contributes 21 percent to GDP, the main source of income of 94 percent of the villages and provides 80 percent of the food and subsistence requirements of our households.

Excellencies, please allow me to expound our current situation in the agriculture-forestry-fisheries sector in Timor-Leste. We are currently in the process of evolving a national policy framework and development strategy for the sector that is consistent and congruent with the National Development Plan and Millennium Goals of the Government of Timor-Leste. This strategic exercise is central to the achievement of our: vision of sustainable, competitive and prosperous agriculture, forestry and fishery sector; mission of efficient delivery of services that supports productivity, income generation and employment opportunities. And our goals of attaining food security and improved food self-sufficiency; and generating rural employment to increase income through improvement in farming systems and agro-industrial development.

At the sectoral level, the Ministry of Agriculture is pursuing two strategic policy directions: one, on food security, a policy that ensures provisions of adequate availability of food at all times, across regions and among different groups. The other is a set of policies related to the generation of rural employment and provisions of alternative sources of incomes, most especially among the poorest of the poor to be able to access not only food but also other basic services.

MAFF is revisiting the general food security policy across three broad subsectors: crops and livestock; forestry and watershed; and fisheries. In this regard, we are focusing on at least six interlinked policy directions relative to food security policy. These include: food production and supply availability; technical support services and infrastructure development for enhanced efficiencies in input supply, production, distribution and processing; macro and institutional linkages and public investment for conducive physical, socio-cultural and policy environment; regulation, conservation and management of natural resources; income generation/rural employment opportunities, through better farming systems and value adding activities; and promotion of economic growth through diversification of niche exports and other economic activities.

Our Ministry is faced with the difficult challenge of quick service delivery to attain food security and adequate nutritional intakes in the short run, and at the same time, plan for a long term strategy to alleviate poverty in the country side. In this respect, we are establishing mechanisms to enable an adequate and effective assistance to the subsistence farming community, which constitute a significant proportion of people living in the rural areas.

We have to face this challenge despite our meagre resources, limited technical capability of staff, relatively new organizational structure, and weak institutional linkages.

After war of independence, we managed to have accomplished the following: approval of the Organic Law that becomes the basis of our organization structure.

We have promulgated a Quarantine Law that allows us to conform to international standards relative to safety, as well as, sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the movement of agricultural, forestry and fisheries products.

Fisheries Legislation and the General Regulations on Fisheries have been drafted and will soon be in place to allow us to transform our comparative advantage in the fisheries subsector into competitive advantage. In addition a marine park law has also been drafted for government consideration.

We have established at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, a Directorate of Policy, Planning and Programme Services, and a Secretariat headed by our Vice Minister, to handle multilateral and bilateral donor/NGO coordination. Given our very limited resources, the international donors and NGOs have been our steady partners in agriculture and rural development.

We have put in place a broad-based consultation mechanism among our stakeholders relative to our policies and programmes. Consultation is now taking place in the forestry-watershed subsector. The aim of this consultation process is to lay down foundations for stakeholders' effective participation in the development and implementation of a sustainable forestry and watershed policy.

Marine fisheries are one of the most important renewable resources of Timor-Leste and constitute an invaluable source of income to our economy. Apart from our newly developed legislation, we are also designing a mechanism and institutions to oversee sustainable exploration of these resources. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to stress the commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to join the international community to combat illegal and unreported fishing activities.

As a new nation, we continue to reach out to the family of nations. We are deeply honoured to accept your conferment of our membership to FAO. This same gratitude is extended to our acceptance as a member of IFAD and UNCCD.

Since our independence, we have followed with great interest the workings of this prestigious organization. We have been a recipient of your Technical Cooperation Programme on projects related to agricultural crops, post harvest, the Sector Investment Programme in agriculture and lately the feasibility on oil palm plantation.

Francisco Pascal Eyegue OBAM ASUE (Guinea Ecuatorial)

Expresamos nuestro homenaje al Director General de la FAO, el Dr. Jacques Diouf y a los funcionarios, tanto de la Sede como a los que prestan los servicios de la Organización en todo el mundo, por el trabajo que hacen día a día, de planificación y buena gestión de esta nuestra Organización, para que siga cumpliendo con los principios humanitarios que propiciaron su creación, y precisamente porque estos días podamos celebrar este 32º período de sesiones de la Conferencia en excelentes condiciones de trabajo.

También nuestro homenaje se dirige a la rica ciudad histórica y turística de Roma por su simpatía y buena acogida.

Nuestras felicitaciones al Presidente y a los miembros de la Mesa de esta Conferencia por su elección para dirigir nuestros trabajos. Les auguramos vivos deseos de éxito por la conducción y feliz conclusión de estos trabajos.

La delegación de mi país expresa su total solidaridad con los puntos del orden del día de esta sesión, aprobados por consenso y que propician un mejor progreso y mejor funcionamiento de esta Organización y sus programas. Para ello mi país, Guinea Ecuatorial, procura y procurará estar siempre a la altura de los requerimientos que nos correspondan y referidos a la vida de la Organización.

La situación alimentaria mundial es, a nuestro juicio, muy desigual entre los países del norte, ricos y equipados, y los países del sur, pobres y subequipados. Mientras que en los países del norte se constituyen existencias alimentarias estratégicas y se habla de excedentes alimentarios, en los países del hemisferio meridional se deplora la insuficiencia alimentaria y en algunas regiones se padece incluso hambre y desnutrición y, a menudo, se recurre a ayudas alimentarias de emergencia. Ello interpela la responsabilidad de todos en trabajar para que esta situación de excesivo desequilibrio vaya disminuyendo para acercarnos cada vez más a nuestro propuesto objetivo de que todos los seres humanos tengan para comer y vivir al día como producto de su propio entorno. Es ese el reto de esta Organización, es el objetivo de estas reuniones y es fundamentalmente el desafío de cada uno de nuestros Estados, dado que el dinero para los que lo necesitamos no afluirá generosamente a la demanda de nuestras necesidades.

Afortunadamente, en mi país las condiciones agroclimáticas son favorables para el desarrollo de la actividad agropecuaria, lo cual permite que el agricultor de subsistencia produzca alimentos para el autoconsumo. Todas las producciones agropecuarias y pesqueras de mi país permiten cubrir, en un porcentaje considerable, las necesidades alimentarias globales de nuestra población. Pero la situación de insatisfacción global de nuestras necesidades alimentarias se debe a varios factores, en particular a la escasa formación de nuestros campesinos y a la insuficiencia de los medios que se han estado poniendo al servicio de la agricultura, consecuencia de la debilidad de nuestra investigación científica en el sector. Ello es debido fundamentalmente a la utilización de técnicas de producción obsoletas y de poca rentabilidad, herramientas inadecuadas, semillas con bajo potencial productivo, especies animales de muy bajas aptitudes productivas, así como la nula utilización de métodos de protección de cultivos y de animales. Es decir, que tenemos aún un largo camino que recorrer para alcanzar la autosuficiencia alimentaria completa, pero este camino ya hemos empezado a recorrerlo.

Después de la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Agricultura y la Alimentación organizada por la FAO aquí en Roma, el Gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial, que tengo el insigne honor de representar en esta sesión, se adhirió al Plan de Acción propuesto en dicha Cumbre para erradicar el hambre y la pobreza de aquí al año 2015. Posteriormente se organizó en Malabo la Conferencia Nacional sobre el Desarrollo Rural y la Seguridad Alimentaria donde todos los componentes políticos y de la sociedad civil del país presentaron propuestas concretas con el fin de alcanzar este objetivo: lograr una producción alimentaria sostenible. Para la materialización de este Plan de Acción se preparó, con el apoyo de la FAO, el Programa Especial para la Seguridad Alimentaria en Guinea Ecuatorial. Este Programa se estructura en distintos componentes: agrícola, ganadero, pesca y piscicultura y el componente de limitaciones socio-económicas.

En materia de cooperación, el Gobierno de mi país ha suscrito un acuerdo tripartito con el Gobierno de Cuba y la FAO para la transferencia de tecnología. Actualmente, un total de 23 cubanos de todas las áreas del sector agropecuario están presentes en nuestro país. Desde esta posición expresamos nuestra gratitud y simpatía a la FAO y al Gobierno de Cuba por esta cooperación, y los resultados positivos que se vislumbran.

En este preciso momento el PESA está en ejecución en mi país. Las agrupaciones productivas de base están constituidas bajo el método cooperativista, apoyadas por los técnicos del Programa en lo concerniente a la asistencia técnica, equipamiento y suministro de insumos agrícolas. Igualmente, los programas de formación y sensibilización a los agricultores se están llevando a cabo para la capacitación de los mismos en las nuevas tecnologías de producción.

Debo asimismo informar a esta audiencia que la población rural, que es el principal beneficiario de este programa, está reaccionando positivamente mediante la aceptación de las propuestas del Programa; se está agrupando en asociaciones productivas y se comienza a percibir un aumento del nivel de producción de alimentos con base en la diversificación agrícola. En el mismo contexto debemos informar del decisivo apoyo que nuestro Gobierno está brindando a este sector con la disponibilidad de fondos para el funcionamiento del Programa y la reciente construcción de una planta de conservación de alimentos comprados por el Programa a los agricultores y ganaderos para su posterior distribución y venta en los mercados nacionales.

La estrategia adoptada para la materialización y éxito de esta operación ha sido la creación de una red de comercialización de los productos agropecuarios que cuenta con centros de recogida, de acopio y de comercialización. También se está organizando programas de ferias de productos agropecuarios en las diferentes provincias del país como medida de motivación, incentivación y promoción de los esfuerzos de los campesinos.

La población pesquera de zonas marginales y de difícil acceso también se va a beneficiar del Programa mediante la instalación de ahumaderos colectivos para la conservación del pescado seco.

Por la importancia que el Gobierno de Guinea Ecuatorial acuerda al Programa, su Excelencia el Presidente de la República, ha llevado a cabo recientemente una gira de sensibilización a la población rural en todo el país con el fin de que el Programa sea bien concebido por dichos actores del campo, informándoles sobre la compra inmediata de los productos agropecuarios, fruto de su producción por parte del Programa como una de las medidas para luchar contra la pobreza y el éxodo rural.

Pensamos que con una buena conducción de este Programa y con la ayuda y el apoyo de la FAO, el Gobierno de Cuba y de otros posibles cofinanciadores podremos lograr nuestro objetivo; es decir, una disponibilidad, estabilidad, accesibilidad e inocuidad de los alimentos; o sea, una seguridad alimentaria sostenible que permita que todo ciudadano de Guinea Ecuatorial tenga qué comer con satisfacción de aquí al año 2015.

Deseamos plenos éxitos a esta Conferencia y a esta Organización que lucha por el mejor asentamiento de la humanidad entera.

Mundia SIKATANA (Zambia)

Allow me to thank and your Bureau for being elected to steer the affairs of this Conference.

As you are now doubt aware, Zambia has a new political administration, following the 2001 elections. We are rising from severe droughts and flood, high inflation, high interest rates, high poverty levels, high unemployment, corruption, critical shortages of food, leading to the GMO stand-off of 2002, and the scourge of HIV/AIDS.

In the face of all these challenges, the New Deal Administration under President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, State Counsel, is establishing a democratic Government with a resolved political will, charting a determination to fight corruption head on; challenging Zambians to work hard; be self-reliant; end dependence on donor aid; utilize the abundant human and natural resources; diversify the economy from copper dependence by developing agriculture, tourism and small-scale mining; bring down inflation from triple to single digits; cut down interest rates by a productive economy and minimum Government borrowing.

The Government aims at developing agriculture as the engine of the country's economy, to sustain guaranteed food security, employment generation, poverty reduction, forge a relentless fight against HIV/AIDS and promotion of gender issues and the interest of the country's youth.

The new Government has made impressive strides one year in office. It has produced 1.2 million metric tonnes of maize, the country's main staple food, which is worth US\$140 million, adding to the country's GDP. This crop exceeds our annual food requirement with some surplus for export. This is from a critical deficit of 2001-2002. The good yields arose from favourable weather conditions, Government and NGOs support programmes by timely inputs distribution to small farmers and hard work by Zambian workers.

Our Government is determined to improve agriculture from the current single rain fed crop annually, to the development of irrigation throughout the year, utilizing abundant underground and surface water. To succeed, the country requires a lot of support.

Due to the laxity during the past, the unmanaged privatization of veterinary services and abandonment of infrastructure, livestock diseases spread all over the country, decimating animals and impoverishing farmers as a consequence. There is hence urgent need to revive all systems.

Measures being taken by Government requiring support, include increasing funding of disease control, such as the rehabilitation of cordon lines, dip tanks, quarantines and other infrastructure, to control CBPP, Anthrax, Foot and Mouth Disease, East Coast and Swine Fevers, Corridor Disease and Rabies. A Livestock Development Trust has been established to support livestock development.

Zambia is committed to strengthening our ties with the FAO Technical Division to benefit from the abundant expertise available. The Government has programmes to improve the fisheries subsector as well as income generation. For instance, 1 December marks the beginning of a three-month fish ban in areas of the country, being the main natural fish breeding season.

We seek to promote out-grower schemes and creation of agricultural produce marketing systems. The Government gives financial support to the promotion of high value crops such as cotton, tobacco, coffee, paprika and vegetables; seeks the revival of cashew nuts, pineapples and honey; and, the promotion of agro-processing industries.

We encourage and support the revival and strengthening of farmer organizations, cooperatives and small-scale farmer lending institutions such as the defunct Cooperative Bank. Commercial farmers are also exploring the establishment of an agric-bank.

Zambia is putting in place a land policy, an agricultural policy, a biotechnological policy and a cooperative policy for sustainable utilization of the abundant natural resources. Funding the rehabilitation of dilapidated farmers' training centres, college and research institutions to guarantee the training of both farmers, scholars and research programmes; and sustenance of new, but successful, interventions such as conservation farming in times of drought is desperately sought.

Government continues to establish farm blocks for resettlement and investment. A rural electrification programme and water development, rehabilitation of feeder and trunk roads are priorities for conveyance of both inputs and harvests, whose costs Government seeks support.

Cross-cutting issues such as gender, HIV/AIDS, illiteracy and environment conservation being strategic for the attainment of sustainable agricultural development and wealth creation are being addressed vigorously. We intend to achieve gender equity in resource allocation and access to agricultural services.

Faced with the aforesaid challenges, Zambia is determined to adopt irrigation to overcome the vagaries of unpredictable weather patterns, improved farming practices, diversification to promote other staple foods such as cassava, millet and sorghum, high value crops, encourage regional trade to guarantee food security, high incomes, tackle poverty and perpetual subsistence head on and prioritize the fight against HIV/AIDS. These efforts are paying dividends, increased yields have stabilized the value of the local currency, staple food prices have come down and so has inflation. Out-grower schemes and employment are expanding and rising. There are signs of recovery. We said "No" to GMO at the most critical time of food shortages in the country, and continue to say that GMO should not be forced on poor countries. Food should not be used as a weapon of mass destruction. No strings should be tied to aid.

Finally, Zambia is determined to participate fully in regional, continental and international organizations. We support the NEPAD initiative, not as Africa's latest begging device, but as a genuine programme for the promotion of the development of Africa's resources, human and natural. We are resolved to contribute to the success of NEPAD, for us to be entitled to seek maximum benefits from its progressive programmes.

We salute FAO in its pivotal role and support to its Member countries. Zambia stands ready to work with FAO in its noble quest of ensuring food security at all levels. We thank our cooperating partners, real friends in need. Long live the African unity, NEPAD, Africa's regional bodies, and long live the United Nations.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to invite the Minister of Agriculture of Italy to present an oral report of the Round Table 2.

Giovanni ALEMANNO (Italy)

The Round Table was attended by 59 Ministers or representatives of Member countries, of which 31 took the floor. Ministers appreciated this opportunity to have a frank view in the all-important area of agriculture trade negotiations, in view of the crucial WTO Senior Officials Meeting scheduled for 15 December. A wide variety of opinions and assessments of specific country positions were expressed.

While the Round Table had an informal character, it was widely felt that the constructive atmosphere created could contribute positively to the negotiations. The following are the main conclusions drawn by the co-chairs, done by myself and the Chilean Minister.

One, there was a general disappointment at the failure of the WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference to achieve a concrete outcome. All delegations stressed the need to resume the negotiations and reach an agreement as soon as possible.

Two, in this context several delegations expressed the view that the text of the Chairman of the WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference could be a basis for the resumption of the negotiations.

Three, delegations stressed the 1996 World Food Summit commitment which is to strive to ensure that food, agricultural trade, and overall trade policies are conducive to fostering food security for all through a fair and market-oriented trade system.

Four, delegations reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the Doha Development Agenda mandate in agriculture. That is, substantial improvements in market access, reduction with a view to phasing out all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reduction in trade-distorting domestic support.

Five, the crucial role of open and fair trade for food security was stressed by many. Nevertheless, it was felt that trade alone is not sufficient to ensure food security.

Six, delegations expressed the need to maintain the multilateral nature of trade agreements and some underlined the risks of resorting to bilateralism.

Seven, all delegations stressed the importance of flexibility in the negotiations. Some delegations pointed out the need to strike a balance between the interests of countries to increase access to markets and, on the other hand, the need to maintain a viable agricultural sector.

Eight, some delegations call on all developed countries to grant tariff and quota-free access to products of least developed countries, as is already done by some countries.

Nine, several delegations stressed the need to address in the negotiations, market distortions for products of particular interest to developing countries, for example, cotton.

Ten, some delegations stressed the importance of non-trade concerns and the multifunctional role of agricultural in their economies.

Finally, eleven, all delegations expressed appreciation for FAO's trade-related activities including: information; agricultural policy advice; impact analysis of various policies. They called on FAO to continue and further strengthen support for capacity building to enable developing countries to participate more effectively in the multilateral trading system. In this context, the risks of inadequate funding were highlighted. Delegates underlined FAO's role as a useful forum for facilitating the exchange of ideas and sharing of experiences on the relationship between trade and world food security.

These are the conclusions reached in the Round Table which we organized and I believe that this was an important moment to exchange ideas. This was the first one to be held before the meeting at the WTO headquarters in Geneva on 15 December.

CHAIRPERSON

I would now like to invite His Excellency Prakash Chandra Lohani, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Nepal.

Prakash Chandra LOHANI (Nepal)

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here in Rome to attend this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. I feel greatly privileged today to speak in this august forum, which is in fact the centre stage for discussing the issues of poverty and food insecurity facing us. At the very outset I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to you, personally, for your well-deserved election to the Chair of this Conference.

We gather in this forum and many other such fora to affirm and reaffirm our commitment to the inalienable right of every human being to be free from hunger and malnutrition, the continued scourge of this age-old malady haunts. We set targets, as we did lately, during the World Food Summit, to halve the number of undernourished by no later than 2015. This target has earned its place in our Millennium Development Goal. How far we have achieved and whether we have been heading towards the achievement of this target that we set for ourselves is there for all of us to evaluate. The reality is a bare testimony to the fact that we have grossly failed to stand up to our commitment.

Another area that has always remained of concern is the fact that while we have gained remarkable achievements in production, the access of different regions, countries and population groups to this increased production has remained persistently uneven. Enhancing the ability of needy groups of people to access to ever-increasing production has remained the major challenge of our times.

Similarly, the spatial and societal mismatch between gains in production on the one hand and the incidence of hunger and poverty on the other has to be brought to balance in the spirit of a just world order. There is also an emergent need to enhance the access of developing countries to evolving new agricultural technologies and to strengthen their own research capabilities of adoption and application.

At the national level, we in Nepal have planned to lay greater emphasis on social mobilization as a vehicle for bringing the fruits of development to the grassroots. The current tenth Five-year Plan has vowed to stress poverty alleviation as the sole and overriding objective. In fact, the Plan stands basically as the national document of poverty reduction strategy. Poverty alleviation through sustainable, rapid and broad-based economic growth with targeted programmes of safety nets and social mobilization will be the main development strategy for the next five years. As an effective tool for implementation of effective poverty alleviation programmes, a new mechanism has been devised by establishing a poverty alleviation fund. Agriculture-led growth through effective implementation of the Agriculture Perspective Plan will continue to be at the core of agricultural development strategy.

Endorsing Nepal's overall policies and performance, IMF has recently approved Nepal's entry into its Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility Programme. The World Bank has, likewise, approved a loan under its Poverty Reduction Support Credit to implement Nepal's poverty reduction programme. While this has enhanced our access to resources, this means a commitment to further reforms as well. The challenge facing us is to put the largely stagnant rural agro-economy into a high growth path in a sustained manner.

Efforts will be needed towards creating a more enabling environment for multiple service providers, including the NGOs, the private sector, to take part in development of service delivery in their respective areas of comparative advantage.

Recently, the Government has embarked on forging the effective and productive partnership between the State and citizen in the development process. To this effect, some indigenous concepts have been evolved wherein we intend to experiment the blend of service delivery and cost recovery plus model under a double track management system in the government-owned and operated agricultural farms.

Even as we join the developing and least developed countries to hope for a fortunate conclusion on the ongoing negotiations under the Doha Development Agenda. We as a new entrant to the World Trade Organization are committed to contribute actively to the ongoing negotiations. We would like to take this opportunity also to call on the developed trade partners to fulfil their obligation of increased technical assistance to the least developed countries to ensure their constructive engagement in the process, thereby paving way for sustainability of this world trade order.

These, in our view, are some of the areas which outline the broad framework for the cooperation between us, FAO and the cooperating Member countries.

Finally, may I conclude with the best wishes for the grand success of this Conference.

Martin PUTA TOFINGA (Kiribati)

Since this is my first time to speak I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you Mr Chairperson for your appointment as Chairperson of this important session. I want to extend my delegates appreciation to the Director-General and his competent Secretariat for the job well done. It will be remiss of me not to mention our host and the people of Rome for their excellent venue and the very warm hospitality. I bring you all warm greetings from the Government and the people and the Republic of Kiribati.

I am sure that there are a number of us here do not know much about Kiribati so if you would allow me, I would like to start this statement with a very brief description of my country to give other delegates some idea about Kiribati.

Kiribati is a natural island country consisting of 33 small islands. It lies in the center of the Pacific Ocean and it is known as one of the Pacific Island Countries. It has a total land area of approximately 810 square km with a population of about 90 000. It has a vast ocean of about 3.5 million square km and the islands are widely scattered across that vast ocean.

Agriculture, especially copra and fisheries are the two major resources that are extremely important to the economy of Kiribati. Kiribati shares with its neighbouring countries of the Pacific a lot of common problems: limited natural resources with a fragile environment; economic uncertainty and low exports; small domestic markets; limited products; high freight costs due to distant from international markets; high energy costs; poor infrastructure and transport; limited human resources and institutional capacity; large independence on the public sector; limited private sector. Together, we depend heavily on the external market for the limited products that we get from the sea and land and we are most often therefore, vulnerable to external circumstances. Regional programmes in respect to those problems that FAO have supported have helped a lot and Kiribati supports further extension and continuation along those lines.

Atoll Islands Countries are recognized within the Pacific Island Countries to share even more difficult circumstances and this is illustrated through the establishment of the Small Island States within the Forum Island Countries of the Pacific. Being an atoll Kiribati is a Small Islands State that experiences very harsh living environment and has high vulnerability. The country is just a few meters above the sea level and is vulnerable to severe drought that most often devastate the vegetation and the fresh water sources that are available. As atolls are, it is characterized by poor sandy and porous soils that can support only limited vegetation and vegetable crops.

Characteristically, also Kiribati has limited water resources which is mainly from the natural underground water lenses. While other sources such as rain water can be sourced it would mean huge financial requirements which Kiribati cannot afford. There is now experienced fresh water

sources problem and impacts on the use of food safety and food security are already visible. These problems have been exacerbated by the effect of global climate change.

The geographical fragmentation of the country and its distance location from other countries makes transport and communication costly for any meaningful trade activities or tourism development. The limited agriculture subsistence makes import an important substitute and given the long distance away from countries high costs of living at experience and associated health and diet problems are among the highest in the region.

Urbanization is very high with the urban area being over populated and people experiencing dramatic changes in their lifestyle. Because of difficult rural life styles and limited subsistence living the capacity the atolls can support, many people are moving to the capital for easier living.

The population in the capital is estimated to be 37 percent of the total population of the entire country. Many are relying on imported foods because of scarcity of land and the difficult nature of the land to cultivate. In response to these constraints and concerns there is a growing awareness by the Government that the proper strategies and investment are required to insure food security and sustainable effort to elevate them.

Among these our priorities are as follows: introduction of new crops that can survive the environment of atoll island countries; substitution of imported foods; introduction of new sustainable, affordable and appropriate agriculture methods; establishment of an agriculture research centre and institutional capacity building; improvement of agriculture extension services on the atoll islands; human resources development; education and awareness programme, that is, for health and nutrition. A number of ongoing projects exist but are limited to those supported by FAO, SPC and EU.

Furthermore, the assistance available through the regional projects supported by this agency do not always directly help Kiribati with its unique problems and its priority needs. It is therefore, critical that special consideration are given to small island states like Kiribati.

Trevor MURRAY (Trinidad and Tobago)

The Delegation of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to warmly congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this Thirty-second Session of the FAO Conference. Further, the Government and the people of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the people extend best wishes to you, Mr Chairman, and this august body for a successful Conference.

Mr Chairman, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, as a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has always supported, and will continue to support, the work of FAO in its valiant efforts to alleviate world poverty and hunger. There is no doubt that poverty and hunger are the greatest assault ever on human dignity.

In a world of plentiful supply of nutritious foods, it is totally unacceptable, that over 842 million persons are undernourished; 798 million of these being in the developing world. In my country and in the Caribbean Region as a whole, we face this tremendous challenge in reducing poverty and hunger. The issue of food insecurity is particularly important to us.

The FAO Food and Agriculture Outlook to 2030, suggests that as a group, developing countries will become net food importers. Countries in the CARICOM are already net food importers. The English speaking Caribbean as a whole imported over US\$1.4 billion of food in 2002. My country imported some US\$300 million in food supplies during 2002. These estimates are expected to further increase in 2003.

The countries of the CARICOM, as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are especially vulnerable to natural disasters, including, hurricanes, volcanoes, floods and droughts, to name a few. Our countries have generally been mono crop plantation economies. Over the last two decades, we have witnessed a steady erosion in our share of world agricultural trade. Moreover, this erosion has been accompanied by a drastic decline in world commodity prices, especially for the limited number of commodities, which we produce namely; sugar, bananas, cocoa, coffee and

citrus. This decline in commodity prices impacted negatively on our small and fragile economies exacerbating poverty and hunger in many of our rural communities.

Added to this, the many barriers to trade and domestic support schemes provided to agricultural producers in many developed countries have severely restricted our agricultural exports. The effect of these policies on world commodity prices has significantly hampered the development of agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago and indeed, other CARICOM Member States.

In addition to these difficulties, the small and vulnerable economies of the CARICOM continue to face tremendous challenges in the world trade arena, where special and differential treatment provided to our banana industries over the years was challenged by major producers which resulted in the loss of our preferences. CARICOM banana producers at that time produced some .001 percent of the world's banana production; hardly, an amount which would negatively affect world banana trade. As a result CARICOM banana producers in some cases, lost over 80 percent of their export earnings. The effects of these losses were to increase rural deprivation, poverty and hunger.

To make matters worse for CARICOM Member States the small sugar producers of the region are now facing a similar threat as the banana producers. Some of the world's largest sugar producers have now challenged the special arrangements accorded to CARICOM sugar producers, if successful, this challenge would bring further hardships and dislocation to our economies and our rural poor.

We cannot be expected to effectively alleviate poverty and hunger in our countries if we are to compete with countries who provide unfettered support to their agricultural producers thereby making our exports, what little there are, uncompetitive. We cannot be expected to effectively address the food insecurity difficulties of our people if we are denied market access when we have a comparative and competitive advantage. We cannot be expected to reduce poverty and rural deprivation and degradation when we are not allowed to compete on a level playing field in world agriculture trade.

It is for these reasons that we in the CARICOM have consistently insisted in the multilateral trade negotiations, that small vulnerable states such as ours must be accorded special and differential treatment, if we are expected to participate effectively in the world economy.

Let it be noted that CARICOM countries recognise and acknowledge the need for discipline and rules to world trade in agriculture. However, we cannot be subjected to a one-size fits all formula similar to those countries that are large, with developed, advanced agricultural production systems and are able to provide significant support to their agricultural producers.

We are especially heartened to hear last night at the Round Table 2 when several countries acknowledge our special circumstances and the need for special treatment. We look forward for these developments in the upcoming negotiations.

In conclusion please allow me to indicate that Trinidad and Tobago, and indeed the CARICOM Member States are cognisant of their responsibilities and obligations to this august body. We stand ready and willing to play our part in the efforts of FAO to alleviate world poverty and hunger. We wish to encourage the Director General to ensure that FAO remains true to its laudable goals while remaining relevant.

We in the CARICOM remain committed to the goals of FAO as we have consistently done in the past. Trinidad and Tobago has always contributed to the work of the highest organs of this Organisation. We commit ourselves once again, to serving as we have presented our candidature for one of the vacant seats on FAO Council in the Latin American and Caribbean Region.

We wish to gratefully thank the Director-General and his hard working staff for the excellent work that they have done, and have continued to do in the region and solicit their continued assistance to the countries of the CARICOM. Finally, my delegation wishes to congratulate the four new members (Micronesia, Tuvalu, Ukraine and Timor Este) on their accession to membership in the FAO family.

Carlos LA ROTTA (Colombia)

Presento, en nombre del Gobierno y del pueblo de Colombia, un saludo a la Dirección de la FAO y a las distinguidas delegaciones que se han dado cita en esta Conferencia con el propósito de considerar los problemas, moral y jurídicamente más apremiantes de la humanidad y a profundizar en la atención de los mismos: el hambre y la seguridad alimentaria.

Colombia es un país que ha forjado su historia y su porvenir con un alto sentido de civilidad, con inquebrantable propósito de superar, en el marco de la juridicidad, de los valores democráticos y en la plena vigencia de los derechos y libertades humanos, la enorme dimensión de los problemas que la afectan, el terrorismo, las profundas y graves secuelas de la pobreza y el fenómeno de la población desplazada como consecuencia del conflicto interno y también, por el efecto que en su entorno tienen los problemas internacionales claramente identificados por los distinguidos Jefes de Delegación que han intervenido en este Foro.

Es que las profundas secuelas negativas de los problemas mundiales también se han globalizado, con sus graves efectos, particularmente en los países en desarrollo.

Permítame enfatizar la vocación democrática colombiana y su fe inquebrantable para la superación de sus difíciles circunstancias internas que tan severamente han golpeado a amplios sectores de la población, principalmente en las zonas rurales, situación que tiene una de sus expresiones más graves en el desplazamiento de las familias que supera los dos millones de personas y que de suyo conlleva el agravamiento y obstaculización en la atención de los problemas del desarrollo agrícola y los programas del Gobierno Nacional en el tratamiento exitoso de la atención alimentaria, particularmente de la población infantil.

El fenómeno de la población desplazada creó una situación que requiere el tratamiento social inmediato. En general, las familias víctimas de esta situación proceden de zonas rurales, la que presenta lamentablemente un marcado esquema diferencial respecto a la población urbana, con los riesgos de estigmas discriminatorios, al generar un estado de incapacidad física de la población desplazada para obtener sus propios recursos alimentarios, y a la dificultad de acceso al trabajo, lo que, fácilmente, la hace permeable a otras manifestaciones negativas del tejido social.

Recientemente, una encuesta sobre la calidad de vida realizada por el Departamento Nacional de Estadística muestra que, si bien se han logrado avances en la lucha contra la pobreza, el hambre y la desnutrición, frente a cifras de años anteriores, el problema del desplazamiento y la crisis económica que originan este fenómeno, indica que hay 911.111 hogares colombianos con serias deficiencias en la atención alimentaria, y que un crecido número de familias se han visto obligadas a la disminución de los gastos esenciales, en alimentos y vestuario, atraso en pagos y gastos estructuralmente fundamentales del hogar, como cuotas de vivienda, gastos escolares y servicios públicos. El 8.3 por ciento del total de los hogares en Colombia redujo sensiblemente su alimentación básica, siendo más grave esta situación en la población rural.

Uno de los avances que muestra la política social y económica del Gobierno Nacional es el de la reducción de los hechos violentos, de los que son víctimas los hogares, particularmente en los sectores urbanos y rurales económicamente más productivos. Sin embargo, es claro que ante la magnitud y urgencia en la consideración de los problemas, se requiere el concurso de la cooperación internacional, por la conexión e interdependencia global de éstos.

Los anteriores planteamientos, la certeza de la comprensión de la comunidad internacional de la complejidad de la situación colombiana y la conciencia de la magnitud del grave efecto que en el desarrollo de los pueblos tienen las impresionantes cifras de los seres humanos que sufren hambre, llevan a Colombia a plantear en este Foro su aspiración a formar parte en el Consejo de la Organización, con la convicción de prestar su concurso en el tratamiento de los problemas del hambre y de la seguridad alimentaria, prioritaria responsabilidad de esta Organización.

¿Fue exceso de idealismo de las Cumbres Mundiales sobre la Alimentación de 1996 y 2002, que fijaron y reafirmaron el propósito de reducir a la mitad el número de personas que sufren el hambre en el mundo para el año 2015? Lamentablemente podríamos decir que, en efecto, lo fue;

asistimos a la evidencia de la abundancia de recursos alimenticios frente a la dramática paradoja del hambre y la desnutrición en un vasto sector de la población mundial. El Director General de la FAO señaló en este recinto que solamente hasta el año 2150 se lograría este propósito. Evidenciamos el profundo abismo entre la expresión del compromiso político y de los propósitos para combatir este flagelo, frente a la insuficiencia de los esfuerzos para la consecución de estos objetivos.

Los países desarrollados deben actuar en consecuencia con su responsabilidad en la consideración de los problemas que hoy nos convocan, implementando las correcciones a los desequilibrios y desigualdades en el comercio de los productos agrícolas y alimentarios. Esta aspiración de los países en desarrollo es también la de la FAO que formuló un llamado al logro de un comercio internacional justo suprimiendo los obstáculos y las barreras arancelarias. Es una verdad incontestable el papel clave del comercio internacional justo en la reducción de la pobreza y en el logro de la seguridad alimentaria.

En la reunión de Cancún fue determinante la contradicción entre las declaraciones, propósitos e ideales y el enorme peso de la realidad de los obstáculos y trabas al justo comercio de los productos, indispensable para el crecimiento de los países en desarrollo.

Otro aspecto negativo, es la reducción de los fondos destinados a la agricultura, en contrastante realidad con los propósitos de las Cumbres. Esta situación, es un serio obstáculo en la preparación y diseño de los proyectos, de ahí la necesidad en profundizar en la coordinación de los esfuerzos para el examen del estado de los compromisos consignados en las Declaraciones de las Cumbres Mundiales, que expresan la responsabilidad de los países desarrollados y en desarrollo.

La comunidad internacional convocada en diferentes foros, así como los mecanismos de cooperación entre la FAO y las instituciones financieras internacionales, han enfatizado en la necesidad del incremento de los recursos para la agricultura y la seguridad alimentaria. Este mismo planteamiento se ha formulado en las Conferencias Regionales, pero volvemos a la dicotomía entre el objetivo y la realidad en el tratamiento del flagelo del hambre.

Sin embargo, es alentadora la conciencia que progresivamente se va generando sobre la cooperación en el tratamiento de los problemas que nos convocan, como se vislumbra en los informes de los organismos especializados en el tratamiento de estos problemas y en los positivos resultados de los programas que se mencionaron en el contexto de las intervenciones que hemos escuchado en esta Conferencia.

Colombia, como miembro del Grupo CAIRNS acompaña su posición y reitera su compromiso en el cumplimiento de los objetivos plasmados en la aclaración de Doha.

La consideración objetiva de la magnitud de los problemas del hambre y de la deficiencia de la seguridad alimentaria, es uno de los más apremiantes y serios compromisos con la historia que los gobernantes, la sociedad civil y la organización internacional tienen con el género humano. La conciencia ética de la humanidad impone el no ser inferiores a esta responsabilidad.

Para finalizar, quiero recordar la frase pronunciada por el señor Embajador Fabio Valencia Cossio, en este mismo recinto, el Día Mundial de la Alimentación: "El hambre es el peor acto de violencia que se puede ejercer contra el hombre".

Vinh Thu LE (Vietnam)

On behalf of the Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam at the Thirty-second Session of FAO Conference, I would like to convey our warmest congratulations for your election as Chairman of this important Session. I am confident that, under your intelligent and experienced guidance, our Session will bring about a successful conclusion.

The presence of all our delegations at this Conference, demonstrates the high determination of all to combat hunger, poverty and malnutrition in order to realize the noble objective of our Organization: that is, freedom from hunger and better living conditions to rural population. In the

meantime, it also manifests the aspirations and cooperation of each country to make together international commitments on the objective, hunger can be stopped.

At the beginning of the first years of the new Millennium, we are witnessing a world with miraculous changes in socio-economic situations. Despite the achievements gained in the food production, we also realize a sad reality that is a continued growth of the number of poor and undernourished people in the world.

Poverty and natural calamities constitute a constant threat to human beings, especially, in developing countries. Scarcity of natural resources and degradation of environment is a common concern of mankind. Natural calamities such as drought, flood always exist as serious threats to the agricultural crop and the lives of human beings. The disaster caused by flooding about a month ago in the central provinces of Vietnam is an example. Loss of human lives was recorded at several dozens and material losses were estimated at some millions US\$. In such situations, besides the great efforts of the governments, international assistance is extremely important.

Over the last years, together with its Member countries, FAO have taken numerous initiatives, efforts and measures to improve global food security and recorded many achievements. However, today, food security and poverty reduction remain primordial issues that should be the concern of the international community. For this reason, assuring the necessary budget and mobilizing financial resources to implement the objectives made by the World Food Summit are extremely important. The Vietnamese Delegation expresses our full support to the Real Growth Budget and Programme of Work for the biennium 2004-2005 presented by the Director-General to the FAO Conference.

In Vietnam, food security has become an important factor contributing to the stabilization of socio-economic development. Agricultural and rural development is one of the highest priorities of our Government in the strategy of economic development of our country. As a result, Vietnam's agriculture over the last two decades recorded an annual increase of about 4.5 percent.

However, we realize that at present and in the future, Vietnam continues to face great challenges in order to maintain a high and sustainable growth of the economy in general, agricultural and rural economy in particular.

The Government of Vietnam highly appreciated FAO initiatives in the South-South Cooperation Programme. Vietnam actively participated in this programme by sending agricultural experts and technicians to work for projects in Senegal, Benin, Madagascar, Congo and Laos. In the coming years, we are willing to share our experiences with other developing countries to improve the agricultural development and better the global food security situation.

On this occasion, allow me to convey, on behalf of the Government and people of Vietnam, our sincere thanks to FAO and its Members and other international organizations for their precious assistance and support to Vietnam during the last years.

We are confident that, with the will and determination of the international community, the sacred commitments of the World Food Summit will be realized in fighting hunger and poverty in the world with the objective, hunger can be stopped.

Pedro Adán GORDÓN SARASQUETA (Panamá)

Como representantes del Gobierno de la República de Panamá, iniciamos esta intervención expresando al Sr. Presidente y, por su conducto, a la Mesa del 32º período de sesiones de la Conferencia, nuestra complacencia por tan merecida elección con la seguridad de que su experiencia y equidad son garantía de éxito en tan importante evento para mitigar el hambre y la pobreza.

El país que me honro en representar, ha estado presente en esta Organización desde su fundación y a través de los años ha participado activamente en el logro de sus objetivos y desea continuar haciéndolo en su particular experiencia profesional agrícola, motivo por el cual proponemos su

candidatura al Consejo de la FAO compartida con Costa Rica. Por tales motivos, la primera consideración de nuestra delegación es la de transmitir nuestra profunda preocupación por el cuadro alarmante y sombrío que emerge de los datos más recientes sobre seguridad alimentaria en un gran número de países en desarrollo, en los que se destaca un aumento progresivo de las personas desnutridas. En tal sentido, podemos citar el Informe de la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) correspondiente al período 1998 y 2002 donde se destaca que la pobreza en la región aumentó de 200 a 225 millones de personas; de éstas, 100 millones son indigentes y los más afectados han resultado ser niños y adolescentes. De la misma manera, se evidencia que la pobreza sólo disminuyó en cinco de los 34 países que conforman esta región, mientras que aumentó en seis de ellos, los 23 restantes se mantienen estáticos. Asimismo, el informe de CEPAL indica que en tres países se observa un empeoramiento con relación a 1990.

Respecto a la meta de la Cumbre Mundial de la Alimentación, en el citado informe se expresa además que, en general, la región no logrará reducir el número de pobres -y por consiguiente del hambre- antes de 2015, destacando que existen en ella solamente nueve países que podrían lograrlo.

En muchos de nuestros países se están realizando inmanes esfuerzos para combatir el hambre y la pobreza; no obstante, los múltiples problemas inherentes a la capacidad de producir alimentos suficientes para todos los seres humanos, las escasas posibilidades de acceso a los modernos sistemas de información, extensión agrícola, transporte, producción, transformación, conservación y comercialización de alimentos, impiden avanzar hacia el logro de la seguridad alimentaria.

Resulta, entonces, imprescindible cumplir con los compromisos adquiridos en la Cumbre Mundial sobre la Alimentación para obtener el objetivo principal de la misma.

En este orden de ideas, nuestro país se siente honrado por el otorgamiento de la medalla CERES de la FAO a la Excelentísima Señora Doña Mireya Moscoso, primera mujer que, en cien años de vida republicana, ocupa la Presidencia de la República, por los programas implementados en Panamá con el propósito de reducir el hambre y la pobreza. Igualmente, para nuestra Delegación es motivo de satisfacción observar el vigor con el cual la FAO ha emprendido programas innovadores dirigidos a reforzar la seguridad sanitaria. Entre ellos, destacamos el acuerdo con la Oficina Internacional de Epizootias (OIE). En este contexto, instamos a la Organización a incrementar el tipo de actividades sobre todo en el campo fitosanitario en el marco de la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria. En nuestra opinión, la prevención fito y zoonosanitaria es un instrumento eficaz para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

La evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales en 2002, indicó que la degradación de los bosques y la deforestación continúan en un alto nivel, especialmente en países tropicales. Resulta innegable que esto tiene una relación directa con cuestiones más amplias, tales como la inseguridad alimentaria, el hambre y la pobreza. Al mismo tiempo, los incendios forestales siguen devastando comunidades y causan daños ambientales en muchas regiones del mundo, inclusive en países desarrollados.

Asimismo, las discusiones durante las dos últimas sesiones del Comité de Pesca (COFI) así como en otros foros, en particular el de la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Sostenible (2002) han puesto en evidencia las tendencias adversas que persisten en el campo de la pesca a nivel mundial y sus efectos negativos sobre los medios de subsistencia y sobre la seguridad alimentaria. Existe la necesidad urgente de estimular más acción con miras a la plena aplicación del Código de Conducta para una Pesca Responsable.

Por lo tanto, hacemos un llamado al señor Director General para que convoque una reunión de alto rango, preferiblemente a nivel de ministros, para considerar los problemas pertinentes a estos dos importantes temas. En nuestra opinión, esta reunión debería considerar la eficacia de los acuerdos y arreglos que tratan esos asuntos, incluyendo la necesidad de una cooperación internacional mucho más amplia y efectiva, así como otras acciones apropiadas.

Para terminar, la Delegación de Panamá considera oportuno manifestar que todo organismo del sector agroalimentario, incluyendo la FAO, necesita recursos suficientes para el cumplimiento de

sus objetivos. Comprendemos las razones de muchos países que, debido a sus particulares condiciones, están impedidos a un ulterior aumento de sus contribuciones. De la misma manera, compartimos la necesidad de ahorros por eficiencia y cambios en la Organización; éstos son siempre necesarios. No obstante, estamos convencidos que todos nuestros países y la FAO haremos lo necesario para cumplir con ambas premisas en beneficio de los pobres.

Bacar Abdou DOSSAR (Comores)

Permettez-moi, M. le Président, de vous présenter les félicitations de l'Union des Comores pour votre élection à la tête de notre Conférence. Nous sommes convaincus que sous votre conduite éclairée nos travaux connaîtront un franc succès. Permettez-moi également de présenter à l'ensemble de la Conférence les vœux de réussite du Gouvernement de l'Union des Comores et de son Président Son Excellence M. Azali Assoumani.

L'agriculture est un secteur essentiel de l'économie comorienne. Ce secteur représente 40 % du PIB, emploie 75 % de la population active et rapporte à lui seul près de 90 % des recettes d'exportation. Malgré cette prépondérance, nous sommes forcés de constater que la part de l'aide internationale à ce secteur va en diminuant d'année en année. C'est pourquoi, nous lançons un appel à nos partenaires traditionnels et aux autres bailleurs de fonds pour continuer à soutenir activement l'agriculture comorienne.

L'Union des Comores a élaboré il y a déjà dix ans une stratégie nationale et un Programme en faveur de la croissance du secteur agricole. La stratégie s'est fixée quatre objectifs majeurs: promouvoir la sécurité alimentaire par une augmentation de la production alimentaire d'ici 2015; diversifier les sources des recettes d'exportation issues des produits agricoles; promouvoir une agriculture durable et respectueuse de l'environnement et enfin promouvoir l'auto emploi pour lutter contre la pauvreté en milieu rural.

La mise en œuvre de la nouvelle stratégie agricole a été assurée par divers projets et programmes dont les impacts commencent à être visibles. Nous saisissons cette occasion pour remercier nos partenaires bi et multilatéraux dont notamment la coopération française, le FIDA, la Banque mondiale et évidemment la FAO. Ainsi, malgré un taux de croissance annuel de la population de 2,7 %, le pays n'a pas augmenté ses importations de produits alimentaires depuis près de cinq ans. En outre, malgré la conjoncture internationale défavorable, le niveau des recettes d'exportation, issues des produits agricoles a été maintenu et même un peu amélioré ces dernières années.

Cependant, le pays reste encore trop dépendant des importations alimentaires notamment de riz, de viande et de produits laitiers. Des efforts importants restent à faire pour répondre aux attentes de la population.

Les Comores étant un petit archipel, les ressources en terre sont limitées et la croissance de la production agricole passe obligatoirement par l'intensification. C'est pourquoi, l'appui de la FAO nous est indispensable.

Il s'agit de promouvoir les technologies permettant d'assurer une croissance rapide de la productivité des terres agricoles tout en respectant un environnement fragile.

La pauvreté en milieu rural est également une préoccupation majeure du Gouvernement comorien. La pauvreté touche 75 % de la population agricole. Avec l'appui du PNUD et de la Banque mondiale, le Gouvernement s'est investi dans l'élaboration d'un Programme de lutte contre la pauvreté qui accorde une place prépondérante au développement du secteur agro-alimentaire.

À l'heure où l'on dresse les bilans de notre Organisation, je ne peux manquer de souligner les apports appréciables de la FAO pour aider mon pays à promouvoir la sécurité alimentaire.

La FAO vient d'achever un programme de promotion de la sécurité alimentaire des ménages, dont l'objectif était de promouvoir les bonnes pratiques en matière alimentaire et une meilleure valorisation des produits agricoles.

Il y a quelques mois, une épidémie a décimé le cheptel bovin de l'île de la Grande Comore, la FAO est immédiatement intervenue pour donner un appui à mon pays en vue d'établir un

diagnostic et un protocole de soins. Cette intervention très pertinente est en voie d'aboutir à des résultats très probants, en effet la maladie a été identifiée et un protocole est en cours d'élaboration.

La FAO intervient également dans le cadre d'un appui au recensement général de l'agriculture. Le Gouvernement attache une importance de premier plan à cette opération qui doit nous permettre de mieux vivre et évaluer les progrès de la mise en œuvre de notre nouvelle stratégie agricole et planifier convenablement les actions futures.

L'Union des Comores va très bientôt démarrer la phase-pilote du Programme spécial pour la sécurité alimentaire et s'attacher à rechercher les meilleures approches méthodologiques et engager l'actualisation des axes stratégiques de relance du secteur agricole.

Enfin, archipel de quatre îles dans le canal du Mozambique, les Comores sont un pays de mer. C'est pourquoi, le Gouvernement considère prioritaire la promotion d'une pêche responsable par élimination de la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée. Avec l'appui incontournable de la FAO, le Gouvernement est en voie d'intégrer le système régional de surveillance par satellite des navires pêchant dans les eaux territoriales.

Je ne puis terminer mon discours sans présenter toutes les félicitations de mon Gouvernement à l'ensemble du personnel de la FAO ainsi qu'à son Excellence M. le Directeur général, Jacques Diouf, pour son action dévouée en faveur de notre Organisation.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

La pobreza, la desnutrición, la exclusión social, el desempleo, el hambre, la degradación del medio ambiente, el aumento de la brecha entre ricos y pobres, el analfabetismo, la corrupción, las deudas públicas de los países en desarrollo y la constante dificultad para alcanzar un crecimiento sustentable siguen siendo las preocupaciones relevantes en la agenda de cualquier gobierno y, en particular, del Gobierno de Argentina.

Esta Organización ha realizado titánicos esfuerzos en la lucha contra estos problemas. Sin embargo, muchos de ellos continúan. Los informes de esta Organización son claros en este sentido: el hambre no sólo no se ha reducido, sino que ha aumentado. Este resultado nos obliga a replantear nuestra forma de trabajo.

Luego de la última crisis vivida por nuestro país, Argentina estableció como objetivos prioritarios reconstruir los lazos sociales y combatir en forma urgente la pobreza, el hambre y la exclusión social. Para ello se propuso generar fuentes de trabajo a través de la industria, el cultivo, la ganadería y la pesca, para dignificar así la vida de quienes carecen del mismo. La agroindustria ha sido y es el principal instrumento para el logro de estos objetivos.

En los últimos dos años, Argentina ha aumentado sus exportaciones de agroalimentos en un 30 por ciento, posicionándose como el sexto exportador mundial. Se ha elevado nuestra producción agrícola en un 11 por ciento en el último año, resultando un crecimiento de la producción total de nuestro país en más del 7 por ciento del corriente año.

La pesca también se ha desarrollado en forma sostenida en los últimos años, favoreciendo el crecimiento económico a lo largo del extenso litoral marítimo argentino. No obstante, este sector, en Argentina como en otros países muchos de ellos en desarrollo, sufre los efectos negativos de las políticas de subvenciones que implementan diversos países para sostener a sus sectores pesqueros. Estas políticas generan exceso de capacidad de las flotas y, consecuentemente, efectos comerciales negativos y sobreexplotación en los caladeros.

Esa sobrecapitalización, conjuntamente con otros factores, favorece la pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada, que es un flagelo que amenaza los objetivos nacionales de conservación así como los esfuerzos tendientes a poner en práctica medidas de cooperación regionales e internacionales para asegurar la pesca sostenible.

Argentina está firmemente comprometida no sólo con sus objetivos nacionales de conservación y ordenación, sino también con los esfuerzos internacionales de cooperación. Así, exhorta a las

partes en el "Acuerdo sobre el cumplimiento de las medidas internacionales de conservación y ordenación por los buques pesqueros que pescan en alta mar" a implementar las medidas de cooperación en él previstas, y a los Estados no parte a adherir al mismo. También exhorta a los Miembros de la FAO a poner en práctica las medidas conducentes al cumplimiento del Código de Conducta para la Pesca Responsable y los Planes de Acción Intergubernamental, así como a continuar los respectivos trabajos en la FAO y en la Organización Mundial del Comercio tendientes a adoptar las disciplinas para los subsidios a la pesca.

En materia forestal, nuestra política está orientada a fomentar el desarrollo del bosque de cultivo, asegurando la sustentabilidad de los recursos naturales.

Como ustedes saben o advierten, Argentina es un país con recursos naturales y humanos que le permite producir competitivamente productos alimenticios para el mercado interno y para exportación. En la última década, prácticamente se ha duplicado nuestra producción de granos, alcanzando las 70 millones de toneladas. Esperamos en la próxima década poder llegar a los 100 millones de toneladas por año. Sin embargo, no ha explotado aún todo su potencial; nuestro objetivo es producir más alimentos, de mejor calidad y de forma más sustentable para aportar a la seguridad alimentaria mundial.

Pero los logros conseguidos mediante el esfuerzo de nuestros productores no alcanzan para garantizar el bienestar que, razonablemente, debería ser su consecuencia. La eficiencia que el sector agropecuario argentino demuestra adaptándose a las exigencias de los consumidores de los países desarrollados debe enfrentar todavía injustificables barreras comerciales y desiguales condiciones de competencia en el mercado mundial.

El resultado de la reunión ministerial de la Organización Mundial del Comercio en Cancún, refleja hasta qué punto los países desarrollados pretenden hacer perdurar un sistema productivo y comercial que no sólo no aporta soluciones a los problemas de pobreza, seguridad alimentaria, desnutrición y falta de desarrollo que soporta la mayor parte de la población mundial, sino que los agrava.

Argentina, miembro del G-20, considera que el establecimiento de cuotas, restricciones sanitarias cada vez más complejas, etiquetados, sistemas de trazabilidad, la ayuda alimentaria distorsiva y los subsidios encubiertos se traducen en un fuerte impedimento a la posibilidad de exportar nuestros productos en igualdad de condiciones.

Pero no sólo nos afecta a los países exportadores, las consecuencias son más marcadas para los importadores, ya que afecta su capacidad de producir y de desarrollarse. Estos últimos tienden a privilegiar la asistencia, la que debería ser solamente una solución transitoria hacia un sistema de producción sustentable y que garantice la seguridad alimentaria.

La constante dependencia de donaciones genera un sistema de inseguridad alimentaria, más aún cuando vemos que los volúmenes de ayuda caen en los años de precios agrícolas altos, que es cuando son más necesarios.

Como consecuencia de todo ello, la brecha entre ricos y pobres se ha ampliado, el valor de los bienes agroalimentarios desciende año tras año respecto a los valores de otros bienes, deteriorando los términos del intercambio. Un informe de esta Organización establece que, en los últimos 30 años, la participación del comercio agrícola en el comercio mundial total descendió del 25 al 7 por ciento. Esto se traduce en menos recursos, menos inversiones, más pobreza para los países en desarrollo y más hambre.

El hambre sigue avanzando, y debemos asumir que, en cierto aspecto, hemos fracasado. No debemos emplear eufemismos, cuando existen más de 800 millones de personas que la sufren. Ya no podemos seguir con políticas gradualistas. Lo que debemos hacer es atacar las causas del hambre, debemos cambiar el actual paradigma mundial del comercio y asistencia. Para ello debemos trabajar juntos en los organismos internacionales en busca de un fin común, la eliminación total del hambre.

Para erradicar las causas del hambre, la desnutrición y el subdesarrollo, es prioritario establecer políticas para la liberación del mercado agroalimentario, y lo que es más importante, desde la equidad, es decir, eliminar las prácticas que distorsionan los mercados. La seguridad alimentaria de los países en desarrollo sólo se logrará con la eliminación de todas y cada una de las medidas distorsivas del mercado agrícola mundial.

No escapa a los presentes que esta solicitud es un viejo anhelo ampliamente compartido por la gran mayoría de los países en desarrollo. Pero los tiempos son otros y las respuestas también deben serlo, la inseguridad alimentaria se expande hacia otro tipo de inseguridades. Hoy desde esta Organización debemos desarrollar nuevas respuestas sin eufemismos ni hipocresías, debemos eliminar las políticas que generan hambre, desnutrición y subdesarrollo.

Juan Francisco Reyes López, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair

Juan Francisco Reyes López, Vice-président de la Conférence, assume la présidence

Ocupa la presidencia Juan Francisco Reyes López, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

Mir Dad PANJSHERI (Afghanistan)

On behalf of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, I extend my sincere thanks to your Excellencies and consider it an honour to address this distinguished assembly.

Since its creation, FAO has served several important functions in the promotion of sustainable agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It has been a pioneer in the spread of improved technologies. It has been at the forefront in policy work. It has served as the vanguard in promoting food security and food safety. It has been a key provider of technical assistance to the developing countries and it has served as a catalyst in promoting cooperation between developed and developing countries. To continue to perform these useful functions, FAO needs the strongest political and financial support from its membership and its development partners.

Agriculture in Afghanistan received a severe setback during the 23 years of war. Our rural infrastructure was either destroyed or put out of action. Since the fall of the Taliban, attempts have been made to rehabilitate our agriculture with the support of FAO, other United Nations agencies, bilateral donors and NGOs. Steady progress has been made. The implementation of the 2002 recovery plan led to very good results in 2003 with cereal production reaching 4.5 million metric tonnes, about 40 percent more than 2001. Our ongoing plan has five components. These include: the recovery and expansion of the crop sector; the recovery and expansion of the livestock sector; the rehabilitation of forests and rangelands; the improvement of services to farmers including credit and upgrading our research and human resources capacity in collaboration with outside institutions such as ICARDA.

The rehabilitation of our economy received strong support at the Tokyo Conference. However, implementation has remained below expectations. So far donors, NGOs and international agencies have operated in Afghanistan following their own perception of our needs and with less involvement of the Government departments and other state institutions. This mode of operation puts at risk the sustainability of the projects and programmes funded by bilateral donors, United Nations agencies and NGOs. My Government, therefore, appeals to the donor community to redirect their support and intervention with special focus on strengthening the planning and implementation capacity of national institutions. Lately, there are signs of a positive change in this direction, particularly under the bilateral assistance received from Iran, India, France and the United States of America. We appreciate this. FAO is also increasingly directing its assistance towards a special capacity-building in key subsectors of agriculture.

Apart from being the provider of technical assistance to our country, my Government wishes FAO to act as an interlocutor between our national institutions and external financing agencies, like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and IFAD, in attracting investment for the sustained development of our agriculture, animal husbandry, irrigation, forestry and agro-industry. Close coordination between FAO and these financing institutions at country level is of crucial importance to our needs.

The cultivation of narcotic plants is a threat to the international community. This social disease must end and the Government of Afghanistan is determined to eradicate poppy cultivation in all parts of the country. However, it must be recognized that the central issue in putting an end to the cultivation of illicit crops is the war on rural poverty. Farmers with a small piece of land are being induced by drug agents who, in turn, are protected by the international drug mafia, to cultivate poppies by offering them US\$ 5 000 per hectare, an amount ten times than any other crop. The eradication of poppy cultivation calls for an integrated strategy, extended over a long period and backed by adequate funding. This strategy must provide for a sound and sustained economic policy, open employment opportunities, and the creation of a viable system of land use based on incentives to producers, provision of inputs and services to the farming community and capacity-building.

We wish to emphasize one basic factor, namely that both the eradication of poppy cultivation and our reconstruction efforts depend on the maintenance of security inside Afghanistan as well as regional and international peace and security.

Now, I shall say a few words about the level of the budget 2004-2005. My Government strongly supports the Real Growth scenario because the Zero Real Growth scenario will adversely affect FAO's ability in meeting its global challenges. The impact of the Zero Nominal Growth scenario will be catastrophic to the Organization. My Government concurs with the priorities put forward by the Director-General in the Programme of Work and Budget and stress, in particular, the importance of TCP from which we have benefited and the Special Programme for Food Security which has been initiated recently in my country.

Considering the time allowed, I shall end my statement by thanking you all for your kind attention in this Conference and I wish all of you a success.

Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

It is an honour for me to address this Conference on behalf of the Mauritian Minister of Agriculture, Food Technology and Natural Resources, who is unable to attend this Thirty-second Session due to important commitments in the country. However, he sends his greetings to you, to his colleagues and to all the delegates present at the Conference. My Delegation wishes to welcome the four newly admitted Member Nations of FAO, especially the Small Island Developing States.

Mauritius is fully conscious that a more productive agriculture is vital to food security and poverty alleviations. From a monocrop economy dependent on sugarcane in the 1960s, the economic development of Mauritius now rests on four pillars, namely, manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and the service sector which includes offshore and freeport services, while information technology has been earmarked as a new pole of growth. The diversification of the economy has largely benefited from the judicious use of the export earnings secured through preferential agreements.

Nonetheless agriculture is still predominant for the economy of the country.

Food security policy in Mauritius is based on security earnings through export and promotion of local production of certain crops, fisheries and livestock, and ensuring the ability to import food from foreign earnings generated through export of sugar and others.

Mauritius is self-sufficient in fresh vegetables, sugar, tea, poultry meat and eggs. The local food crop production for last year stood around 104 000 tonnes. The main imports include cereal and cereal preparations, dairy products, fish and meat products.

I cannot but underscore the organic link between preferential earnings and the vital multifunctional role of agriculture in Mauritius which is a vulnerable Small Island Developing State depending on one single commodity for export.

The characteristics and vulnerability of SIDS are well known but unfortunately international agreements do not fully take them on board. In this regard allow me to inform the Conference that

Mauritius is hosting from, 30 August to 3 September 2004, the International Meeting for the Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The Mauritius Delegation seizes this opportunity to request FAO to organize in Rome during the year 2005 a Conference of the Small Island Developing States to further review the progress achieved in the implementation of the recommendations of this forthcoming International Meeting.

Despite its relatively fortunate food security position, the country is making concerted efforts to further develop its agriculture sector. Given the increasingly unfavourable external environment and the country's inherent constraints such as land scarcity, high cost of production, unfavourable climatic and agronomic conditions, Mauritius is aware that it needs to design and implement agriculture sector development policies and strategies that would adequately respond to the current and emerging challenges.

Mauritius has been benefiting from trade preferences under the Lomé Convention, obtaining guaranteed prices and duty free access for sugar in the EU. With the changes in economic order, due to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the EU market is expected to move towards more liberalization and Mauritius will thus have to face fierce competition from other countries.

My Government worked out a Sugar Sector Strategic Plan in 2001 to restructure the sector to face the challenges ahead. The implementation of this plan is well underway and aims at increasing the efficiency of the sector by reducing costs of production and ensuring that the nation's export commitments are fulfilled.

Similarly the Government came up with a Non-Sugar Sector Strategic Plan 2003-2007, intended to lay the foundation for restructuring the non-sugar sector to ensure that the sector plays a more important role in the agricultural economy. The aim of the plan is to achieve a reorientation of the sector by promoting a transition from traditional practices, towards a more sophisticated, technology.

My Government is laying emphasis on biotechnology as a means to impart a new technological edge to Mauritian agriculture through the setting up of a Biotechnology Institute.

Finally, the Mauritius Delegation welcomes the convening of the Special COAG Session fixed for the 9 and 10 February 2004, and in this regard requests the FAO Secretariat to make all necessary arrangements for the participation of experts from member organizations, NGOs and civil society. We also request that briefing sessions for Permanent Representatives be organized with the participation of independent experts prior to the February meeting. This is of great importance for us because we are acting on a sound scientific basis and do not want to take any decision which could not only jeopardize the livelihood of millions of people but also put in question the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

Bernard D. DEGBOE (Bénin)

Je voudrais saisir l'occasion qui m'est offerte pour féliciter le Président pour sa brillante élection et l'approche pragmatique et très efficace avec laquelle il dirige les travaux de la Conférence.

Notre Organisation se trouve aujourd'hui dans un environnement complexe essentiellement marqué par l'intégration et la mondialisation des économies nationales obligeant de fait les gouvernants à mieux définir les priorités ainsi que les objectifs de développement en tenant grand compte de la nécessité d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle de leurs populations.

Face à cette situation, l'initiative de la FAO en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans les pays comme le Bénin constitue un acte noble et pertinent d'une vision dont la portée restera gravée dans les annales de notre Organisation.

En effet, les programmes spéciaux pour la sécurité alimentaire en cours d'exécution dans la plupart des pays en développement membre de la FAO sont d'une importance capitale pour les populations confrontées aux dures réalités de la pauvreté et dont la survie reste encore fortement liée à une agriculture tributaire de la pluviométrie.

Les actions engagées par la FAO, à travers les différents programmes qui bénéficient de l'appui des comités spécialisés, illustrent parfaitement l'engagement de notre Organisation aux côtés des gouvernements des pays membres pour le renforcement des capacités des populations et des institutions nationales à relever le défi majeur de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans des conditions durables.

Au nom du Gouvernement du Bénin, je tiens à exprimer toutes les félicitations du peuple béninois et de son Président, à Monsieur Jacques Diouf, Directeur général de la FAO, pour les efforts constants et louables qu'il ne cesse de déployer à la tête de cette institution en vue de donner aux populations du monde la voie prometteuse d'espoir pour une meilleure sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle dans un monde en perpétuelle mutation.

La pertinence des principaux points inscrits à l'ordre du jour de nos travaux marque l'intérêt accordé à ces préoccupations et les différentes tables rondes prévues dans le cadre des présentes assises devront permettre à nos États de prendre les mesures concrètes devant faciliter la mise en œuvre conséquentes d'actions susceptibles de mieux répondre aux attentes des populations en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle et d'atteindre l'objectif du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation.

A ce titre, le Gouvernement du Bénin se félicite de l'attention particulière accordée aux questions relatives à la sécurité alimentaire par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale au cours de sa session de mai 2003, et s'engage à entreprendre toutes les actions nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs fondamentaux assignés au Programme de lutte contre la faim de l'ensemble des acteurs impliqués dans cette lutte qui requiert la mise en place d'un front commun de solidarité et de conjugaison des efforts contre la faim et la pauvreté.

Je reste convaincu que les thèmes retenus pour les différentes tables rondes organisées au cours de la présente session devront permettre aux délégués des pays membres de définir de façon pragmatique les actions nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs des divers projets et programmes à mettre en œuvre (Déclaration Bénin ConFAO1103).

En dépit des importants efforts déployés à ce jour, le défi à relever garde toute son importance et mérite une attention plus accrue de la part de nos États, dans un élan de solidarité et un esprit de partage afin que les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation puissent connaître un heureux aboutissement.

La lutte contre l'insécurité alimentaire et la pauvreté est à considérer comme une œuvre collective et commune dont le seul gage de réussite réside dans la conjugaison des efforts de l'ensemble de la communauté internationale.

Le Bénin exprime toute sa disponibilité à s'associer à toutes les initiatives relatives à la mobilisation de tous dans un esprit de coopération et de collaboration soutenues en vue de débarrasser le monde du phénomène de l'insécurité alimentaire et de la pauvreté.

Vive la coopération et la solidarité internationales.³

Justin KANGUNDU (Congo, République Démocratique du)

Au nom du Gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo et au nom de ma délégation, je voudrais vous présenter mes sincères félicitations, à vous-même, M. le Président, ainsi qu'aux autres membres du Bureau, pour votre élection.

Je suis certain que sous votre sage conduite, les travaux de cette Conférence aboutiront à des résultats encourageants.

Je voudrais également associer à ces félicitations, le Directeur général de la FAO, M. Jacques Diouf dont la présence à la tête de notre Organisation rassure tous les Pays Membres.

³ Texte reçu avec demande d'insertion au report verbal

Ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour saluer et remercier le Gouvernement et le peuple italien pour l'accueil très chaleureux qui nous est réservé dans cette belle ville de Rome.

Mon pays, la République démocratique du Congo, dont je voudrais brièvement vous parler, couvre une superficie égale à 2 350 000 kilomètres carrés et compte 52 millions d'habitants, avec un taux de croissance démographique de 3,3 pour cent l'an.

Soixante-dix pour cent au moins de cette population vivent en milieu rural où l'activité principale est l'agriculture et le petit élevage.

À l'exception des grandes villes où il y a des concentrations des populations, la densité démographique moyenne est parmi les plus faibles du continent africain, soit 22 habitants au kilomètre carré.

Pays semi-enclavé, la République démocratique du Congo sort d'une guerre terrible que le monde entier a suivie directement ou indirectement par le biais des médias internationaux.

C'est vous dire, M. le Président, que depuis que toutes les Congolaises et tous les Congolais ont opté pour la reconstruction nationale et ont adhéré à l'esprit de l'Accord global et inclusif, signé en Afrique du Sud, tous, nous sommes résolument engagés à restaurer la paix, à reconstruire notre pays, en tant qu'État de droit et républicain, à rétablir les équilibres macroéconomiques et à relancer la croissance économique.

Pour ce faire et eu égard à la Déclaration de Maputo relative à l'agriculture et à la sécurité alimentaire en Afrique, notre Gouvernement s'est fixé comme objectif global à atteindre à moyen et à long terme, celui d'assurer la sécurité alimentaire, de garantir l'état nutritionnel des populations et de réduire la pauvreté, en visant à affecter 10 pour cent au moins du budget national au secteur de l'alimentation et de l'agriculture.

En attendant et dans l'immédiat, le Gouvernement met tout en œuvre pour améliorer le vécu quotidien du peuple congolais, dans le cadre d'un programme appelé "Programme multisectoriel d'urgence de réhabilitation et de reconstruction", PMURR, en sigle.

Dans la composante agricole de ce Programme, on retrouve les trois secteurs d'activités dont s'occupe le Ministère de l'agriculture, de la pêche et de l'élevage, à savoir: les secteurs de l'agriculture, de la pêche et de l'élevage.

En ce qui concerne le volet production végétale de notre Programme, l'une des approches retenues par le Gouvernement est celle que la FAO appelle "Approche champs écoles paysannes", approche qui incite beaucoup de paysans agriculteurs dans notre pays à y adhérer, depuis que nous l'appliquons, avec l'assistance de la FAO.

Il est bien entendu que, pour réussir ce Programme, nous, peuple congolais, devons avant tout compter sur nous-mêmes. Cependant, notre Gouvernement apprécierait à sa juste valeur tout apport extérieur – bilatéral ou multilatéral – qui pourrait s'y intégrer. C'est ainsi que ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour remercier la Banque mondiale qui s'est déjà jointe à nous, dans le cadre de ce Programme Multisectoriel.

Nos remerciements s'adressent aussi à la FAO ainsi qu'à tous les Pays amis qui ont bien voulu nous assister durant cette guerre que notre pays a connue.

Le point de vue de ma délégation sur chacun des points importants inscrits à l'ordre du jour de cette Conférence pourra vous être communiqué au niveau de chaque commission, lorsque ces points seront examinés.

Cependant, ma délégation voudrait brièvement appuyer le fait qu'il est indispensable de maintenir tous les programmes de terrain de la FAO prévus pour l'exercice biennal 2004-2005; cela, afin d'espérer atteindre les objectifs du Sommet mondial de l'alimentation, ainsi que ceux du Sommet du Millénaire, à savoir notamment la diminution sensible du nombre de personnes affamées.

Ma délégation saisit cette occasion pour renouveler son appui au Nouveau partenariat pour le développement de l'Afrique (NEPAD) ainsi qu'au Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine (PDDAA).

Pour ce qui est du budget de la FAO pour le biennium 2004-2005, ma délégation estime que le niveau de ce budget, tel que proposé par le Secrétariat, doit être considéré comme étant le niveau minimum en dessous duquel on ne peut pas descendre, au risque d'annuler les actions de terrain de la FAO dans les pays en développement.

S'agissant du nombre et de la durée des mandats du Directeur général de la FAO, tout en appuyant l'amendement proposé à l'Article VII de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO, ma délégation estime que l'article ainsi amendé doit s'appliquer aussi au Directeur général actuellement en poste.

Je termine mon exposé en souhaitant longue vie à la FAO et à son personnel.⁴

Abdolmahdi BAKHSHANDEH (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

First and foremost, I would like to seize the moment to congratulate you on your deserved election as the Chairman of the Conference and also to convey my appreciation for the diligent effort made by Dr Jacques Diouf, Honourable Director-General of FAO, and the organizing committee of the Conference.

Being aware of agriculture sector's significance and the increasing constraints it faces at global level and the key role that FAO plays in facilitating sustainable agricultural and rural development particularly by internationally focused actions, the Islamic Republic of Iran is pleased to reiterate its readiness to fully cooperate with FAO and all its member states in the context of international or regional joint efforts especially in the following areas which we believe are challenges facing most of the developing countries:

- sustainability and protection of all natural resources, such as land, water, forest, rangeland and biodiversity.
- food production processing, distribution and trade.
- development, transfer and utilization of modern technology in agriculture, fishery and forestry.

The 32nd Conference of FAO is being held while we are facing new crises and challenges of injustice and sluggish development in some parts of the world.

Natural calamities namely drought have been conspicuous in most parts of the world, concurrently overlooking the eco-environmental considerations in process of development has resulted in the gradual destruction and depletion of bio-species (fauna and flora).

Economic and social changes especially the globalization, biased liberalization of agricultural trade, application of new agricultural technologies, genetic manipulation of crops and livestock are examples of concerns to agriculture in the world.

Among other limiting factors for agriculture and production are outbreaks of widespread conflicts and wars which definitely will lead to denial of human society of the opportunities for advancement and construction and causes destruction of genetic and productive resources which in turn impose irreparable financial and human harms.

The outbreak of two devastating wars in the Middle east in less than three years has negatively affected the favourable climate for maximum usage of existing potentialities for improvement and increase of production. Further to these resources destruction and contamination in the region, most populations especially children have been exposed to severe malnutrition and hunger.

The aforementioned issues, which stand as witnesses to global and regional crises and constraints to development of sustainable agriculture, necessitate the governments and countries to take

⁴ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

coordinated steps, policies, and strategies to attain sustainable development by fully benefiting from expertise and collaborating with FAO.

Agriculture is regarded as one of the most important economic sectors in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Domestic production accounts for 80%-85% of total food supply and industrial raw material, more than 25% in the total GDP, one fourth of the employment, and a quarter of non-oil export value.

However, there still remains a large production capacity to be utilized in this sector. However a number of impediments should be initially addressed. The call for bringing about sustainable development of agriculture and natural resources, qualitative and quantitative enhancement of products, rural development, promotion of agro-industries and supporting investment in agriculture sector, urged the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to take measures to integrate previous Ministries of Construction Jihad and Agriculture by forming the new Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture in order to establish a consolidated, efficient and effective organization. After 3 years of operation, the newly created ministry has attained outstanding achievements in terms of all indices related to agricultural development, the end result of which can be briefly cited as 10%.1 of growth in agriculture in previous year.

A study of food supply revealed that, over the years 1989-2001, the efforts made by the government to produce and supply food had been fruitful and as a result, per capita supply of food had experienced a growing trend from 555 to 672 kilograms. In the same period, per capita daily supply of energy and protein has increased from 3061 to 3535 kilocalories and from 79.8 to 89.9 grams respectively, each providing about 118 to 147% of an average individual's requirements. While per capita nutrients supply seems sufficient, it should be acknowledged that the imbalance food supply and its consumption, along with lack of well-proportioned food diversity and of households' insufficient knowledge of nutrients have attested to the truth that qualitative insufficiency exists in the country.

After several successive droughts, through appropriate planning and implementation efforts together with favourable climatic condition, the Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved excellent strides toward increased production particularly in cereals and namely wheat. Importing annually 6 million tons of wheat, Iran ranked first among the wheat importing countries between 1989 and 2001. However, in the present year wheat import has declined to 520,000 tons thanks to an increase of 500 kilogram yield per hectare. The ongoing "Wheat Production Comprehensive Plan" promises self-sufficiency in near future. In comparison with previous year figures, paddy rice production, with an average yield of 4700 kilograms per hectare, reached a total of 2.8 million tons in 2002, farming years, scoring 900,000 tons and 900 kilograms increase in total production and yield correspondingly.

To pursue natural resources safeguarding, the Cabinet has approved a plan to protect forests with the objectives of forest development, improvement of forestry management, forest audit and identification, as invaluable genetic pool resources.

Furthermore, significant measures have been taken to combat desertification, control crisis points, secure rural pathways and roads, and protect farm land.

As a token to this is the afforestation activities applied to 2,1 million hectares of desert land in Iran.

Obviously technical assistance rendered by FAO especially in the framework of TCP and TCDC has favoured realization of these achievements. In conclusion, I believe that in the light of cooperation, understanding, and peace, the international community will successfully accomplish its continuous efforts for the development of human society. The Islamic Republic of Iran fully commits itself to assist and cooperate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to materialize its objectives and in this respect we strongly support the growth scenario which is presented to this Conference for consideration.

Franc BUT (Slovenia)

I should like to express my thanks to the FAO Director-General, Mr Jacques Diouf, and his staff within FAO, for inviting me to participate at this very important Conference.

I would also like to express my appreciation for the excellently prepared materials and for selection of the topics for Round Tables.

I would like to associate myself with previous speakers in congratulating you, upon being elected for chairing this Conference. My congratulations also go to all the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

It is my great pleasure to extend my greetings to all new members of FAO who have joined us in Rome, at the Thirty-second FAO General Conference.

In Slovenia, we do not have any serious problem of Food Insecurity and my Government fully supports every effort to achieve the World Food Summit's Declaration and its Global Plan of Action in Eradication of Hunger and Poverty. Slovenia contributed in food, cash and for humanitarian project in Madagascar in the frame of World Food Programme nearly US\$ 470 000 until now.

I would like to join the previous speakers who stressed that, if we want to reach the goals of halving the hunger and poverty by 2015, we need to put political will into actions and the main role on this way lie on the national level.

The scope of agricultural production in last year shows a light trend of growth, in particular due to progressive growth in the scope of livestock breeding. Plant production fluctuates considerably from year to year. The years 2001 and 2003, were very disastrous years for plant production because of the severe drought that caused the scope of production to decrease considerably, even between 30 to 60 percent.

One could say that recently agriculture production is seriously affected by the climatic changes. As the year 2002 was not affected by the drought the overall value of agricultural production increased by about 10 percent. Plant production comprised somewhat less than 40 percent, which is at the level of the average of the last few years.

After 1999, there have been certain changes in the crop structure. The share of potatoes, sugar beet and fodder roots have decreased, whilst the share of oilseeds has increased in particular due to increased rape seed production. The area under oilseeds more than doubled in the last year.

After 1995, a decrease in the number of cows has been observed, but has stopped in the last few years, in particular on account of the expansion of sucker cow breeding. The number of pigs also fluctuates, whilst the number of sheep and goats has substantially increased in the last decade.

Slovenia is a traditional net importer of agro-food products, which contributes significantly to the total foreign trade deficit. In the last five years, the value of imported agricultural products is roughly twice as high as the value of exported agricultural goods.

The most important trade partners in agro-food products are the European Union Member States, 21 percent value of exports; 54 percent value of imports, countries which have issued from ex-Yugoslavia, 66 percent export; 11 percent import and the Cefta countries, 3 percent export; 17 percent import.

Slovenia will join the European Union on 1 May 2004. That will have a tremendous impact on our agriculture. The total effect is going to be even more accentuated by the implementation of the new CAP reform. This will bring more market logic and less trade distortion in the area of agriculture which is one of the main prerogatives of the ongoing WTO negotiation. Competition will be stronger, a lot of prices will decrease, pressure put on meeting environmental, human, plant and animal standards will become very complex and that will result in by far the greatest challenge for our farmers.

Rural development measures will be addressed in a way that will enable us to continue with the eco-social model of agriculture that was set up in the year 1993. Multifunctional role that agriculture plays in our society is very important one and we are pleased to note that it is again along the line with the requirements of the Doha Development Agenda as rural development measures qualify for the Green Box of WTO.

In short, the agriculture will get greener, more market oriented and will pay more attention to the consumers' demands for the food quality, food safety and environmental protection.

For some years now our consumers put more and more attention toward healthier and more flavoursome food of high quality, produced by more environmentally friendly methods. In this complex concept, the food safety is the prime condition for quality and also prerequisite for it. We are aware of the importance of consumer protection in the area of food safety. In this context Slovenian Food Safety Strategy was adopted in year 2001 and further the process of the harmonization of common rules has been accelerated with special attention to the strengthening of implementation capacity.

The purpose of food safety policy, encompassing the whole production chain from stable to table, is to guarantee a high level of human health and consumer protection. That policy is based on the principle of a new and global approach in that field. This implies primary responsibility on the part of all producers and processors, namely producers of feeding-stuffs, farmers, fish farmers, fishermen and the food processing industry. Under the legislation adopted by the state authorities, producers are responsible for their products. Competent state authorities, producers are responsible for their products. Competent state authorities monitor and assist the establishment of such responsibility through the operation of national supervisory and control systems.

Allow me to reiterate my appreciation to the entire FAO team for their enthusiastic preparation of this Conference.⁵

Robert GREENER (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)

Thank you for this opportunity to address your Conference today on behalf of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

HIV/AIDS is now widely recognized as an urgent development concern, the impacts of which are felt across the full spectrum of human activity. The scale of the international commitment to control, mitigate and ultimately reverse the epidemic has grown in recent years, following the Declaration of Commitment in the UN General Assembly special session in July 2001. The reversal of the epidemic is explicitly listed among the Millennium Development Goals, and many governments have pledged and committed substantial resources to be used for prevention, care and impact alleviation.

However, the most recent statistics provide us with little encouragement. UNAIDS estimates that approximately 40 million people are infected worldwide as of 2003, a continued increase on the previous year. Almost 14 000 people became infected with HIV every day, while 3 million people died of AIDS-related diseases during the year. More than 95 percent of people newly infected with HIV live in low or middle income countries, two thirds of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

HIV/AIDS is inextricably linked to agriculture, which provides a vital source of livelihood to millions of people living in countries that bear the heaviest burden of the epidemic. AIDS has already killed many millions of agricultural workers in Africa, and projections indicate that the future death toll could be much higher, as the full impacts of the epidemic begin to be felt. FAO studies have shown that AIDS has caused the loss of farming skills, agricultural extension services have declined in both capacity and outreach, and rural livelihoods in Africa are threatened by the loss of productive capacity to work the land.

⁵ Statement inserted in the verbatim records on request

While it would be simplistic to state that AIDS is a disease of the poor, it is clear that the epidemic exacerbates poverty and food insecurity. The people most vulnerable to its impacts are those marginalized from mainstream development in poor countries. Many of them are women, who traditionally sustain family farming. The epidemic has a disproportionate effect on poor and mobile populations, many of whom are engaged in the agricultural, fisheries and rural transport sectors.

Poor nutritional intake associated with poverty is also clearly linked to the progression of the disease, leading to a negative cycle of deprivation. Good nutrition is an important adjunct to effective treatment. For this reason, the improvement of food security and nutrition will provide vital support to initiatives to expand care and treatment for HIV/AIDS. These include the commitment by the World Health Organization and the broader UNAIDS partnership to place 3 million people on antiretroviral treatment by the year 2005 (the so called 3 by 5 initiative).

FAO has clearly recognized that rural development, food security and agricultural policies cannot be handled in isolation from the HIV/AIDS epidemic. It is increasingly evident that achievement of the World Food Summit goal of reducing by half the number of food insecure by 2015 cannot be attained unless the agriculture sector is able to effectively address HIV/AIDS in its planning and programmes.

A joint FAO/UNAIDS report was presented on the occasion of the UN Economic and Social Council's July 2003 Session. The report referred to the urgent need for agricultural institutions to respond to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The impact of HIV/AIDS is making it increasingly difficult for Ministries of Agriculture to deliver services. Raising awareness about HIV/AIDS among ministerial staff should, therefore, become a main priority.

Ministries of Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa should urgently address the implications of HIV/AIDS. Their budgets should reflect the costs of HIV/AIDS and the need for response measures that are part of core agricultural policies and activities. For example, they will need to take account of the needs of a growing number of elderly people, women and children in rural areas assuming tasks previously performed by young adults. Agricultural extension workers, often the most respected communicators at village level, can help affected families to benefit from less labour intensive crops, and give valuable nutritional advice.

HIV/AIDS issues must be considered in policy formulation and systematic programme design, the building of capacity in the eroded rural extension services, and support to households. In this regard, it is important that FAO should serve as a repository of policy and technical guidance on HIV/AIDS and rural livelihoods.

There will need to be close collaboration among international organizations and their partners in the agriculture sector. The deep impact of AIDS on human capacity has been most evident in the case of food insecurity, hence the importance given to this area by UNAIDS. This is not only reflected in the World Food Programme recently becoming the ninth co-sponsor of UNAIDS, but also builds on the well-established cooperation between FAO and UNAIDS.

UNAIDS will continue to work closely with FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and World Food Programme to integrate HIV/AIDS into their particular fields of technical competence.

In closing, UNAIDS would appeal that the Conference should ensure that FAO has the necessary resources to fulfil its critical role on HIV/AIDS in the agriculture sector. This will be a vital component of international efforts to counter and reverse the epidemic during the coming years.

Salem AL-LOZI (Arab Organization for Agricultural Development) (Original language Arabic)

It gives me great pleasure to address you on behalf of the Secretary General of the Arab League and the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development. I should also like to extend to your distinguished self, Sir, deep thanks and appreciation and, through you, to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations for kindly inviting the Arab League to participate

in the Thirty-second Session. I should like to express deep gratitude to FAO for its kind invitation to the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development to participate in the activities of the Thirty-second Session of FAO Conference which coincides with the continuation of international and regional developments. This year's Conference bears a special significance as it comes after over a year from the World Food Summit convened in Rome in June 2002.

This period was rich with various agricultural development programmes aiming at enhancing agricultural and food production. I am convinced that this affords a unique opportunity to reflect on the strategies and programmes, with the objective of attaining food security and facilitating international agricultural trade, enhancing fair competition and competitiveness, alleviating poverty and assisting in the development of rural women and supporting small and medium sized farms, and farming communities.

AOAD, since the conclusion of the Thirty-first Session of the FAO Conference, within its programme to update work and deliberations in the forthcoming years, has continued to exert efforts to assist its Member States to address their challenges for providing food resources and security. This last year has witnessed the continuation of the implementation of our Organization's strategy which aims at optimum utilization of natural resources, the mobilization of public and private investments, encouraging the use of modern agricultural technologies, capacity-building, poverty alleviation and rural women development, and assisting Arab countries to adjust to the impact of WTO requirements.

During the year 2003, our Organization has exerted relentless efforts to implement its strategy for Arab food security in harmony with the results of the constructive dialogue initiated at the last World Food Summit. In this aspect, our Organization has executed, during this year, 28 country projects, organized 48 training programmes to the benefit of 1300 trainees. It has also conducted 13 studies and 14 consulting operations in various agricultural subsectors. Furthermore, seven urgent assistance operations addressing food production challenges were also extended. As for meetings and conferences addressing food security in Arab countries, we have held scores of meetings in which over 100 relevant senior officials from Arab countries have participate.

On the other hand, the first half of 2003 witnessed the continuation of the execution of seven regional projects aiming at enhancing plant and animal food production in Arab countries, four of which are part of an integrated regional programme for food security targeting combating some transboundary animal diseases in Arab countries, such as foot and mouth disease, Brucellosis, Rift Valley fever and screw-worm fly Miasis. In this respect, I am pleased to note that eradication of screw-worm in the Middle East is a joint project between FAO and AOAD. In view of the success of this project, I would like to seize the opportunity to extend the appreciation and thanks and gratitude to FAO for its invaluable support. We should also like to thank FAO for its contribution regarding the success of the Arab Conference for Organic Farming held in Tunisia and the International Conference for Sustained Agricultural Development in Arab Countries held in Amman which were organized by our Organization during the second half of this year.

As for the production of food crops, AOAD executed a biotechnology project aiming at controlling red palm weevils, which endangered date trees in the Gulf States. In view of the evident success of this project, our Organization went a long way in implementing its third phase.

One of the most important activities of AOAD in the first half of 2003 was the Status of Arab Food Security Report for the Year 2002 which included, for the first time, a detailed comparison of Arab food security indicators with world level counterparts. This in addition to a comprehensive review of transboundary animal diseases and their effect on food safety and trade in Arab countries. Furthermore, it also published, in the course of last year, the Annual Yearbook on Arab Agricultural Statistics, Volume 22, which included a detailed description of resources, population, production, foreign trade, prices and cost of production in Arab countries. It is noteworthy that this constitutes an ambitious effort on the part of AOAD.

I am further pleased to inform you that our Organization has already set the strategic directives for a Six-Year Plan for the period 2005-2010 which are in harmony with those of FAO's Medium

Term Plan for the period 2004-2009, which clearly reflects AOAD's willingness to cooperate and coordinate efforts with FAO in its realization of the vital importance of food security in the Arab countries. That is why the food security programme has enjoyed the highest priority in the six major programmes of our Arab Organization as included in the forthcoming Plan. In preparing and executing this plan, the Arab Organization looked with great anticipation and expectation to the continuing collaboration with FAO.

In conclusion, I should like to reiterate my appreciation and thanks to FAO for its vital role in fostering world agricultural and food production and for their continued support over the years to AOAD's efforts to realize Arab agricultural development.

I should like to seize this opportunity to extend a special word of thanks to the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Islamic Development Bank, the Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development and the OPEC Fund for International Development for their effective support in executing and implementing AOAD's activities and programmes in the Arab countries.

Jack WILKINSON (International Federation of Agricultural Producers)

It is an honour for me to address the FAO Conference in my capacity as President of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP). IFAP is a federation of 105 national organizations of family farms from 74 countries, and represents 500 million family farmers.

As a farmer, I was disappointed to learn from the presentation of the World Food and Agricultural Situation that the number of people suffering from hunger and malnutrition has increased by 18 million over the last five years. I was also disappointed that FAO sees little chance of meeting the World Food Summit Goal and the UN Millennium Development Goal by halving the number of persons suffering from hunger by 2015.

I would encourage FAO though not to follow the WHO Guidelines in its misguided approach of determining good foods and bad foods, but rather to look for a balanced diet for all, should be FAO's principle.

For farmers in IFAP, missing this hunger target is not inevitable. They can be met if national governments and donor agencies decide to give agriculture and rural development the priority it deserves. Agriculture is still not seen as a priority for many actions on the ground, in spite of the fact that 70 percent of the poor live in rural areas and in spite of the declarations of recent international conferences.

As a farm leader, I would like to stress the key role that farm organizations can play in mobilizing the energies of family farms and the farming community worldwide to meet this challenge.

In 2000, IFAP started a millennium initiative of its own, in which farm organizations in industrialized countries helped to strengthen the capacity of farm organizations of their colleagues in developing countries. Our Federation has created its own development agency for small farmers called AgriCord. The plan is for AgriCord to have US\$30 million of funds available by 2005 for the building of farmer organizations capacity in developing countries.

One priority area is building farmers' capacity for marketing and trade. This goal strengthens the ability of farm leaders to contribute to national and international discussions at the WTO negotiations, or building capacity for setting up farmer cooperatives and structures to create rural employment for local up farmer cooperatives and structures to create rural employment for local resources using local knowledge.

Another priority is for strengthening the area of knowledge sharing by preparing policy papers that reflect farmers' views, in creating extension services and information systems. In fact, allowing farmers to speak on their own behalf, we would like to thank the Government of the Netherlands for supporting this initiative, so that we are able to start this year. I would also like to thank the Government of my own country, Canada, for having recently agreed to support the programme as well.

IFAP would like to invite FAO to be associated with the strengthening of rural producer capacity in developing countries. In particular, we encourage FAO field staff to be proactive in seeking and establishing contact with farmers' organizations.

Many governments will require assistance in this domain by involving stakeholders in their work. There is sometimes a lack of sufficient knowledge amongst government officials on the important contributions that farmers and their organizations can make to agricultural and rural development.

IFAP believes that FAO can contribute significantly in this field. We encourage FAO to include in its agricultural projects, or programmes, an in-built budget line for participation with farmers' organizations. In some cases, this could link IFAP programmes with FAO. Without such a budget line, projects can simply overlook farmers when it comes to their rural delivery system.

There is a growing recognition of the importance of farmers' organizations and the necessity to increase their involvement in agricultural policies and programmes. IFAP is convinced that this will make a difference to the poverty and hunger situation in the future.

It was therefore a shock, for me as IFAP President, to learn that FAO has decided to dismantle its Cooperatives and Rural Organizations Group by the end of 2004. For farmers, it is imperative that the budget cut be reversed, or it will seriously damage the ability of FAO to provide technical support for cooperatives and rural organizations. This is the test of sincerity of FAO to practice what it preaches. We hope that FAO Member Governments can agree to work to reverse this dismantling of FAO Cooperatives and Rural Organizations Groups.

Farmers' organizations are not a miracle solution for solving all of agricultural and rural problems, but they are, however, an essential ingredient without which solutions cannot be found.

We look forward to building an even strong partnership and cooperation among farmers' organizations and governments, local, national and international. To this end, we have included ourselves in the alliance against hunger and also an initiative with the NGOs, the Norwegian Government, FAO and IFAD to meet the objectives of sufficient resources to meet the Millennium Goals of halving hunger by 2015.

Ivano BARBERINI (International Cooperative Alliance)

The International Cooperative Alliance representing cooperatives serving over 760 million individual members in 100 countries is extremely concerned on the proposed cuts of the 2004-2005 budget in Major Programme 2.5.3.

This will have a negative impact on the work of the Rural Development Division in support of farmers' organizations and cooperatives. If implemented as proposed, the cuts will lead to the virtual closedown of its Cooperatives and Rural Organization unit by the end of 2004. ICA is not the only organization surprised by this proposal. Many other organizations, representing farmer interests, have sent letters to the FAO Director-General asking that this proposal be seriously reconsidered.

In our view, democratic, member-owned and financed self-help organizations, be they informal groups, producer unions or cooperatives, are key to making rural development happen, and rural development is a key to fighting poverty.

In September of this year, in his message to ICA General Assembly, Kofi Annan noted: "the cooperative movement has a key role to play in our effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals." At the same time, Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Minister of International Development of Norway said: "cooperatives can play an important role in our common effort to fight poverty and promote democracy."

Today, as we are challenged to find solutions to improve the lives of women and men around the world, we must find ways to help institutions that build strong frameworks for community-centred rural development. The cuts proposed will do just the opposite.

We understand there have been pressures for so-called Zero Real and Zero Nominal growth budgets, however, the ICA urges Member States to find alternate proposals to distribute FAO's limited resources that will enable it to retain a specific technical focus on farmers' organizations and cooperatives. Without an FAO focal point, much of the work currently undertaken will no longer be completed. In particular, promotion and Advancement of Cooperations (COPAC) will be seriously compromised.

It is also regrettable that at the very moment when FAO is moving away from support to people-centred development approaches such as rural cooperatives and producer associations, the number of government requests for FAO technical assistance in this field is growing stronger.

We strongly urge delegates to rethink this proposal to ensure that FAO continues to play a strong role combating poverty and promoting food security.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to reiterate the International Cooperative Alliance's continued support to FAO and ICA's commitment to ensure cooperation between FAO and ICA as stated in the Memorandum of Understanding signed with FAO in 1999.

We hope that the Cooperative Movement and FAO can work together to address poverty eradication and hunger and find effective solutions.

Riaz KHAN (World Sugar Research Organization)

I am grateful that you give me an opportunity to speak on behalf of most sugar producing countries in the world, on a subject that could have a serious negative impact on the world's agriculture and health, if the Report I can going to speak to you about is adopted by FAO as a policy document.

The Seventeenth Session of COAG, 31 March to 4 April 2003; the Twenty-ninth Session of the CFS, 12–16 May 2003 and the FAO Council Session on 23–28 June 2003, expressed their concern about some of the recommendations made in the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Consultation Report on Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Disease, known as WHO Technical Report Series 916. According to the past Director-General of WHO, this Report would be the corner stone of WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, which is going to be presented to the WHO Executive Board on 17–19 January next year.

Its particular importance cannot be emphasized enough because the Report impacts the world's agriculture. The Technical Report 916 has been widely criticized because it does not meet expected modern standards for a scientific review. There is no indication that the evidence has been reviewed systematically or objectively. The major concerns are the recommendations: (a) population nutrient goals for preventing diet-related chronic diseases; (b) on preventing excess weight gain and obesity; and (c) some other relevant observations.

Allow me to very briefly explain what these recommendations are and why we are so concerned about them. The Report 9.6 sets population dietary intake goals for 14 nutrients, such as total fat 15 to 30 percent, protein 10 to 15 percent, polyunsaturated fatty acids less than 10 percent. In the Report, sugar has been specially targeted and it recommends that the dietary energy from free sugars should be limited. Free sugars, that is, all sugar – glucose, fructose and sugar – less than 10 percent of the total energy. Population nutrient goals set the average levels of nutrients to be consumed by the population as a whole, they have no scientific basis. Furthermore, there are many nutritional profiles which are associated with optimal health outcome dependent on factors such as genes, lifestyle, occupation and level of physical activity.

The Report conveys a Good Food, Bad Food concept; it singles out elements of the diet such as sugar, meat and dairy products as being unhealthy. It is the most basic of nutrition principles that there are no good or bad foods, only good and bad diets. Every food can make a valuable contribution to the diet; it is getting the energy balance right that is the key.

In many regions of the world, under nutrition is a major public health problem and chronic deficit of energy intake is far more prevalent than overweight. In the African region, for example, sugar

makes an important contribution to the diet and the chief source of much-needed energy for people whose dietary intake is low and occupational activity high.

Most importantly, Technical Report 916 contradicts a number of important international consensus reports, including the joint US-Canada Dietary Reference Intakes, published in 2002; the FAO and WHO's own reports: *Carbohydrates in Human Nutrition, Obesity; Preventing and Managing a Global Epidemic* published in 2000; and, *Preparation and Use of Food-Based Dietary Guidelines* published by FAO in 1998. None of these reports have set quantitative nutrient intake goals for sugar. None of these reports have concluded that sugar is a major contributory factor to obesity or is involved in the aetiology of chronic diseases.

WHO Technical Report Series 916 is scientifically flawed and its recommendations to limit consumption of certain foods and increase consumption of others is not evidence based. Therefore this Report must not be used as a foundation for a Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health that will impact the lives of millions of people worldwide.

An independent study at the Department of Agriculture and Food Economics, University of Reading, United Kingdom, has examined the economic impact of the recommendations of the WHO Report 916 on sugar and other food consumption, production and trade.

Adherence to the WHO recommendation by all countries currently exceeding the population nutrient goal of 10% dietary energy from sugars would require a worldwide reduction in sugar consumption in the range of 20 million tonnes in relation to the baseline consumption projections for 2000 and 2005, made by FAO. This reduction could neutralize the growth in sugar consumption anticipated by FAO between 2000 and 2005. Furthermore, if all developing countries decide to adjust consumption, then world sugar consumption in 2005 could be as much as 14 million tonnes lower than it was in 2000.

The volume of world trade could be expected to decrease by as much as 3.5 to 6.5 million tonnes as a result of worldwide implementation of the WHO targets. The effect on sugar producers around the world is expected to be substantial, especially in Central and Latin American countries. Again, developing countries are likely to suffer the largest export losses. Developing countries facing hunger and malnutrition would face serious challenges in coming up with affordable calories. The Report 916 recommends re-engineering the whole agriculture; it will be a revolutionary step.

The Reading University researchers have also examined the effect of the WHO recommendations on other nutrients. The study has revealed that the human consumption of vegetable oil and oilseeds, animal fats at the current level will go down by 30 percent. In the case of meat, the largest impact will be on pork, mutton and lamb – 16 percent. The production of fruits and vegetables will have to go up by 30 percent to meet the level of recommended requirements. This report highlights that the economic impact will not only be limited to the developing countries, but it will also have negative impact on the agricultural economy of the developed world.

The WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health will be welcomed by all, if it is science based and it takes into consideration economic, social and cultural values of all the nations in the world. It must be flexible to recognize that: (a) every food and beverage can contribute to a health diet; (b) global Population Quantitative Nutrient Goals are inappropriate in determining national needs or priorities; and (c) locally produced Food-based Dietary Guidelines are a more appropriate means of communication and must be developed in specific socio-cultural contexts reflecting the national health issues.

Finally, I would like to express our gratitude and thanks to the FAO Director-General and the FAO Secretariat who are planning to hold a Special COAG Session to review the Report 916 on 9–10 February 2004. We do hope that this COAG Review will be independent in assessing the scientific and economic validity of this report, as it will have considerable impact on the future of FAO agriculture policy.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your very interesting comments.

I would like to inform you that the following countries do not wish to deliver a speech in the Plenary: however, they have requested that their statements be included in the Verbatim. The countries are: Burkina Faso, Islamic Republic of Iran, Paraguay and Slovenia. They will be included.

I would like to request all the distinguished delegates to ensure that they have the Report on the Second Meeting of the General Committee and have it before them. The Report is set up in the documents and I will read the titles. Election of Council Members. Statements in Plenary Meetings of the Conference by International Non-Governmental Organizations having an official status with FAO. Are there any comments on this section? The Republic of Congo has the opportunity to comment.

Émile ESSEMA (République du Congo)

J'ai effectivement lu rapidement le document intitulé "Election des Membres du Conseil" et je voulais vous faire remarquer qu'à la page 8, en ce qui concerne l'Europe, l'Ukraine qui a été placée en Europe, n'y figure pas. Il faudrait qu'on en tienne compte parce qu'il s'agit là des élections et il faut que le quorum soit bien d'accord.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. The President takes notice and we will see that your comment is included.

Before I adjourn this meeting I would like to remind you that the Round Table 3 will start its meeting at 17.30 hours in King Faisal Room. I would also like to announce that the working group of Equitable Geographic Distribution will meet on Tuesday afternoon 4 December at 14.30 hours in the Lebanon Room. May I also remind you that there will be no Plenary meeting tomorrow and that the next meeting will be held on Friday at 9.00 hour sharp and there will be a vote on the budgetary appropriations 2004-2005.

The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 17.30 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 30

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.30 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

**Thirty-second Session
Trente-deuxième session
32º período de sesiones**

**Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003
Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003
Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003**

**NINTH PLENARY MEETING
NEUVIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE
NOVENA SESIÓN PLENARIA**

5 December 2003

The Ninth Plenary Meeting was opened at 09.10 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La neuvième séance plénière est ouverte à 09 h 10

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la novena sesión plenaria a las 09.10 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

**ADOPTION OF REPORT
ADOPTION DU RAPPORT
APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME**

Second Report of the Credentials Committee (C 2003/LIM/28)

Deuxième Rapport de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs (C 2003/LIM/28)

Segundo informe del Comité de Credenciales (C 2003/LIM/28)

CHAIRPERSON

I call the Ninth Plenary Meeting to order. We have very little time at our disposal before adjourning to allow delegates to go to the Vatican for the Papal Audience. I remind delegates that the co-chairs of Round Table 3 will present their report at 15.30 hours.

We start our work today with the Second Report of the Credentials Committee as set out in Document C 2003/LIM/28. I call upon the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Andricopoulos, to present the Report.

Evangelos-Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Président de la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs)

La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs a tenu quatre séances les 27, 28, 29 novembre et le 4 décembre 2003 pour examiner les pouvoirs des délégations des Membres présents à la 32^{ème} session de la Conférence de la FAO. La Commission de vérification des pouvoirs a été informée de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation, "Délégations et pouvoirs" ainsi que des usages et des critères que respecte l'Organisation en matière d'acceptation des pouvoirs, conformément aux usages de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies dans ce domaine.

Conformément au paragraphe 2, de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation et aux critères suivis par la Commission de vérification des pouvoirs, lors de ses précédentes sessions, la Commission a examiné les pouvoirs ou les renseignements que le Directeur général a reçus au sujet de la composition des délégations figurant sur les listes jointes au Document C 2003/LIM/28. La Liste A comprend en ce moment 126 Membres qui ont soumis des pouvoirs officiels ainsi que l'exige le paragraphe 2 de l'Article III du Règlement général de l'Organisation. La Liste B comprend 38 Membres dont les pouvoirs ont été considérés comme de simples renseignements sur la composition de leur délégation. Dix-huit Membres ont informé le Directeur général de leur intention de ne pas assister à la Conférence et six Membres n'ont fourni aucune indication quant à leur participation ou à leur représentation à la séance de la Conférence.

La Commission recommande à la Conférence d'accepter les pouvoirs des délégations des deux listes, tout en reconnaissant la raison d'être des procédures et des usages établis concernant l'acceptation des pouvoirs. La Commission a regretté que plusieurs Membres n'aient pas encore pris les mesures nécessaires pour soumettre leur pouvoir en bonne et due forme. La Commission les invite à le faire dès que possible.

CHAIRPERSON

May I take it that the Report is adopted? Thank you, the Report of the Credentials Committee is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Third Report of the General Committee (C 2003/LIM/26)**Troisième Rapport du Bureau (C 2003/LIM/26)****Tercero informe del Comité General (C2003/LIM/26)****CHAIRPERSON**

I would like to request delegates to ensure they have the Third Report of the General Committee before them. The Report is set out in Document C 2003/LIM/26.

I will now proceed to read the title of each Section.

A. Amendment to the Timetable of the Conference. Are there any comments on this section? There are none, I declare the Section adopted.

B. Payment by the European Committee to cover Administrative and other Expenses arising from its Membership in the Organization. Are there any comments on this section? There are none. I declare the Section adopted.

C. Voting Rights. Are there any comments on this section? There are none. I declare the Section adopted.

D. Statement by Representative by FAO Staff Bodies. Are there any comments on this Section? There are none. I declare the Section adopted.

E. Draft Resolution on the Appointment of the Independent Chair of the Council. Are there are comments on this Section? There are none. I declare the Section adopted.

Thank you. The Report is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

PART III - LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS**TROISIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES****PARTE III – CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS**

16.5 Amendment to Regulation V of the Financial Regulation (Split Assessments) (Draft Resolution) (C 2003/LIM/27)

16.5 Amendement de l'Article V du Règlement financier (mise en recouvrement fractionnée des contributions) (C 2003/LIM/27)

16.5 Enmienda al Artículo V del Reglamento Financiero (Asignación de cuotas en dos monedas) (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2003/LIM/27)

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to the Adoption of the Draft Resolution on Split Assessments. I would ask all delegates to have the Draft Resolution before them. This is set out in Document C/2003/LIM/27.

I would like to ask Mr Pucci, Legal Counsel, to explain the modalities of the vote.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As mentioned by you, the Draft Resolution proposed by the Working Group on Split Assessments is set out in Document C 2003/LIM/27 entitled *Amendment to Regulation V of the Financial Regulations (Split Assessments)*.

The adoption of this Draft Resolution which amends the financial regulations of FAO requires a vote at a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, taken at a Plenary Meeting of the Conference.

Under the Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote – that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations – shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase "votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions. When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes for or against should be at least 94. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered rejected.

So Mr Chairman, the proposed Resolution amending Financial Regulation V on Split Assessments is before the Plenary Meeting of the Conference for adoption. I understand that the Secretary-General will provide additional practical information on the vote to be taken.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We are now going to establish the number of persons in the room. Could I ask all delegates present in the room, at this time, to press the green button on their desk. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present.

Please press the green button.

I am going to close the vote now. I am advised by the electronic voting system that there are 83 delegations present in the room.

CHAIRPERSON

Delegates, I am going to adjourn for five minutes to provide time for more delegations to arrive. I would ask delegates, if possible, to remain present in the Hall.

The meeting was suspended from 9.25 to 9.30 hours

La séance est suspendue de 9.25 à 9 h 30

Se suspende la sesión de las 9.25 a las 9.30 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Would the delegates please take their seats.

I would like to thank those delegates who got out of bed early enough this morning to get here by 9.30 hours.

We are going to try again.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

At this time, we are going to establish the number of delegates in the room and we are going to do this using the electronic voting system that is in front of you.

Could I ask all delegates in the room, at this time, to press the green button on their desk.

Would you please press the green button.

I am going to close the vote now.

I am advised, Mr Chair, that there are present in the room 104 persons. We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution set out in Document C 2003/LIM/27. Delegates are requested, when I indicate, to press one of the buttons in front of them. If you wish to vote in favour of this Resolution, you should press the green button. If you wish to vote against this Resolution, you should press the red button. If you wish to abstain, you should press the yellow button. May I repeat. Green if you wish to vote in favour. Red if you wish to vote against, and yellow if you wish to abstain.

I will indicate when you should do this.

Please press the appropriate button.



FOOD AND
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OF THE
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DES NATIONS
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ET L'AGRICULTURE

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

05/12/2003
9.38.00

Vote on: Nominal roll call vote on "Split Assessments"
Vote sur: Appel nominal sur la "Mise en recouvrement fractionnée des contributions"
Votacion para: Votación nominal sobre la "Asignación de cuotas en dos monedas"

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Present/ Présents/ Presentes	169
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	104
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	69
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	104
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	65

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, CONGO, REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, EL SALVADOR, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GHANA, GREECE, GUINEA, GUINEA - BISSAU, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, ICELAND, INDIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KOREA, REP. OF, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MICRONESIA, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SUDAN, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TANZANIA, UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, TIMOR LESTE, TONGA, TUNISIA, TUVALU, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, ZAMBIA

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

ALBANIA, ARGENTINA, BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BENIN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CAMBODIA, CHILE, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM. REP. OF, COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, D.P. REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, ECUADOR, EGYPT, ERITREA, ETHIOPIA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GUATEMALA, GUYANA, HAITI, INDONESIA, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, KAZAKHSTAN, KUWAIT, LAOS, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALDIVES, MALI, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NAURU, NORWAY, PALAU, PANAMA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, QATAR, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SLOVAKIA, SRI LANKA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SYRIA, THE F.Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA, TOGO, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU, YEMEN, ZIMBABWE

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd S. 12. 2003
Mr Stephen Dowd

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am now going to close the vote and we will wait a few minutes for the printout.

I would like to read the result of the vote. The number of votes cast: 104. Majority required 69. Number of votes for: 104. Number of votes against: 0. Number of abstentions: 0.

The Resolution is, therefore, adopted.

Resolution adopted
Résolution adoptée
Resolución aprobada

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

You have heard the result of the vote. I congratulate delegates for a very clear outcome. We have now completed the adoption of the Resolution on Split Assessments. Would those delegates who wish to go to the Vatican, please make their way to the buses waiting for them in front to Building A. This concludes our business for the morning. The meeting is closed. We resume at 14.30 hours this afternoon with the vote on budget appropriations for 2004-2005. Please ensure that you are here in good time for this very important vote.

The meeting rose at 09.40 hours

La séance est levée à 09 h 40

Se levanta la sesión a las 09.40 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
TENTH PLENARY MEETING DIXIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE DÉCIMA SESIÓN PLENARIA
5 December 2003

The Tenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.28 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La dixième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 28

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la décima sesión plenaria a las 15.28 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)**QUATRIÈME PARTIE – NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)****PARTE IV – NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)****22. Election of Council Members (C 2003/11)****22. Élection des Membres du Conseil (C 2003/11)****22. Elección de los Miembros del Consejo (C 2003/11)****CHAIRPERSON**

The Tenth Plenary Meeting is called to order. You are all aware that the Friends of the Chair of Commission II have been hard at work on the Resolution on the Budget Appropriations and I am informed by the Secretariat the results of the document are at present being finalized. I, therefore, suggest that we start this afternoon's proceedings with Item 22, the Election of Council Members. The reference document is C 2003/Lim/25. The General Committee Report, which we approved earlier this week, lists the names of all nominations received for election to the Council, as does the Conference Journal for today.

May I ask Conference if any candidates wish to withdraw their candidatures?

I have been informed by the Secretariat that Trinidad and Tobago has withdrawn its candidature for the December 2003 to December 2004 period for the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Furthermore, I am informed that Columbia has withdrawn its candidature from the December 2003 to December 2006 for the Latin America and Caribbean Region, and that it will take the place vacated by Trinidad and Tobago for the December 2003 to December 2004 period.

As you can see from paragraph 3 of C 2003/Lim/25, with these changes the number of candidates for each term and each region is equal to the number of seats to be filled, with the exception of one, the Near East region for the period 1 January 2005 to November 2007, where there are three candidates for two seats; and two, the Asia Region for December 2003 to 31 December 2006, where there are seven candidates for six seats.

Can I take it that where there are the same number of candidates as seats, the Conference considers such candidates elected.

*Applause**Applaudissements**Aplausos*

As regards the Asia Region for December 2003 to December 2006, may I ask if Bangladesh, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Nepal, Philippines or Thailand wish to withdraw? It appears that no one wishes to withdraw. We will now have a secret ballot for the six seats for Asia Region for December 2003 to December 2006.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Vous venez de procéder à l'élection des Membres du Conseil. C'est au nom du G 77 que je voudrais intervenir.

En ce qui concerne les deux situations qui existent au niveau de l'Asie et au niveau du Proche-Orient, je souhaiterais que nous n'allions pas tout de suite au vote. S'il est possible de donner encore une chance à ces groupes, de se retrouver en dehors de la salle et arriver à une position consensuelle, je crois que la Conférence y gagnerait.

Personnellement, c'est au nom du G 77 que je leur lance un dernier appel dans l'intérêt de notre groupe, dans l'intérêt de la Conférence et par respect pour la Communauté internationale ici présente, je souhaiterais qu'ils ne bloquent pas davantage une situation qui mérite d'être réglée.

Si vous le permettez, M. le Président, je souhaiterais vraiment que nous accordions encore le temps à ces deux groupes pour se concerter et nous ramener une position, je crois, qui serait consensuelle.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the Member for that suggestion. It seems to me that it would take some time to have a secret ballot, so that if this tactic were successful, it would save the time of the Conference. So, unless there is any objection, I would propose that we adopt the procedure suggested by the spokesman from G77.

It seems that that is agreeable to the Conference. Thank you delegate for your suggestion. I would propose that we allow 5 minutes, possibly maximum 10 minutes for this procedure. We will resume at 15.45 hours and this short meeting should go to the Caribbean Room.

The meeting was suspended from 15.35 to 16.03 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15.35 à 16 h 03

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.35 a las 16.03 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Would delegates please resume their seats.

The Conference is resumed. I would invite the delegate from Mali to report on their efforts.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Le compte-rendu sera très bref. Dans un premier temps, nous aimerions nous excuser auprès de la Conférence pour avoir pris plus de temps que les cinq minutes que nous avions demandé. Ce n'était pas suffisant pour arriver à la conclusion que nous appelions de nos vœux. Ceci dit, j'aimerais que nous positivions cette situation, le fait que des pays membres de cette auguste institution veuillent siéger au Conseil est légitime et dénote certainement leur intérêt pour l'Organisation.

C'est dans cet esprit que j'aimerais que nous procédions sans état d'âme aux élections pour retenir pour chaque groupe un des pays parmi les concurrents. Celui qui sera retenu n'aura pas gagné, celui qui n'aura pas été retenu n'aura pas perdu. L'esprit qui nous anime est que la FAO gagne.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you delegate. I think what you say is absolutely correct and we will proceed now to have a secret ballot for the six seats from the Asia Region for December 2003 to December 2006. I would like to ask the Secretary-General to kindly explain the procedure for these elections.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would invite the delegates to listen carefully.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 9(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the election of Council Members shall be decided by secret ballot. In order to vote, each delegation will receive a ballot paper listing the candidate countries. Each ballot paper must be filled in, in accordance with the instructions contained thereon. The majority required is specified in paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization. I would like to remind you that, in order to validate the ballot paper, a cross should be placed in the box against each of the countries you wish to elect.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 12(a) of the General Rules of the Organization, each elector, unless he or she wholly abstains, shall cast one vote for each elective place to be filled.

Any ballot paper which is not in conformity with these requirements shall be declared defective.

In accordance with Rule XII, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, any ballot paper left blank will be recorded as an abstention.

In accordance with paragraph 4(d) of this same Rule XII, ballot papers must carry no other notation or mark other than those required for the purpose of indicating the vote. Any ballot paper carrying votes for more countries than there are vacancies to be filled shall be considered defective. Similarly, any ballot paper carrying votes for fewer countries than there are vacancies shall also be considered defective. This means that for a ballot paper to be valid, it shall carry the same number of crosses as there are vacancies, that is, six.

I take the liberty of reminding you that in accordance with paragraph 10(f) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization, any delegate who makes an error in completing his or her ballot paper, may request a clean one from the elections officer.

We shall have as many ballots as are necessary.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Secretary-General. We shall now vote.

I would like to remind you that Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization lays down that the quorum for these elections is the majority of the Member Nations, that is 94. The Secretary-General will provide additional practical information on the vote to be taken.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Could I ask all delegates present in the room when I indicate, to press the green button on their desk. This will enable us to establish, using the electronic voting system, the number of delegates present. Please press the green button.

We are now going to close the vote.

I am advised that there are 133 delegations present in the hall.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we proceed to the vote, are there any questions? If not, I should like to appoint two tellers to assist the Secretariat in the election process. I am going to ask the delegations of Bulgaria and Costa Rica to serve as tellers. If there are no comments, the Secretary-General will now commence the voting procedures.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII which specifies that once voting has commenced, no delegate or representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Once the name of a delegate's country is called by the Assistant Secretary-General, the delegate is kindly requested to proceed to the voting booths where he or she will receive a ballot paper from the elections personnel. Once voting is complete, delegates are kindly requested to place their completed ballot paper in the wooden box and to return to their seats.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting is now completed and the tellers will leave to count the votes. While the votes are being counted, the meeting will be suspended temporarily. We will ring the bell when the votes have been counted.

The meeting was suspended from 16.35 to 17.18 hours

La séance est suspendue de 16 h 35 à 17 h 18

Se suspende la sesión de las 16.35 a las 17.18 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Please resume your seats. The Session is resumed, we now have the results, I will ask the Secretary-General to read them.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Election of Council Members for the Asia Region ballot papers deposited 141, defective ballots 4, abstentions 0, valid ballots 137, seats to be filled 6, votes cast 822 majority required 118. Elected: Bangladesh 121, China 135, Japan 132, Republic of Korea 133, Philippines 135, Thailand 135. Not elected Nepal 59.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No.	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:
	1	ASIA REGION
		ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 12/03 - 31/12/06
		REGION ASIE
		ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO:
		REGION ASIA

1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	141	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	137
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	6
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	822

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	118
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Elected - Élus - Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos		
BANGLADESH	121	NEPAL	59	
CHINA	135			
JAPAN	132			
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	133			
PHILIPPINES	135			
THAILAND	135			

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature P. GARKOV (BULGARIA)

Firma 

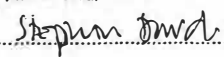
Signature K. MELONI (COSTA RICA)

Firma 

5/12/03

Date
Fecha

Stephen Dowd, GICO


 Elections Officer
 Fonctionnaire électoral
 El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

May I congratulate the countries elected to the Council. As regards the Near East Region for January 2005 to November 2007, may I ask if Oman, Sudan or United Arab Emirates wish to withdraw?

We will now have a secret ballot for the two seats for the Near East Region for January 2005 to November 2007. I should like to ask the Secretary-General to kindly explain the procedure for these elections.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The same rule applies Rule X11, paragraph 9 (a) of the General Rules of the Organization, the election of Council Members shall be decided by secret ballot, and the same procedures will apply.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Secretary-General, we shall now vote. I should like to remind you that Rule XII lays down that the quorum for these elections is the majority of the Member Nations, that is 94. The Secretary-General will provide any additional practical information on the vote to be taken.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I would proceed to establish the number of delegates present, using the same procedure as before, with delegates, when I indicate so, please press the green button, only the green button. Have all delegates indicated their presence in the room? I am going to close the vote, closed. The electronic system indicates that there are 127 persons in the room we then would proceed to the secret ballot.

CHAIRPERSON

Before we proceed are there any questions? If not, I would like to appoint two tellers to assist the Secretariat in the election process. I am going to ask the delegations of Bulgaria and Costa Rica to serve as tellers. If there are no comments, the Secretary-General will now commence the voting procedures.

Finally, may I draw your attention to paragraph 14 of Rule XII, which specifies that once voting has commenced, no Delegate or Representative may interrupt the voting except to raise a point of order in connection with the voting.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Once the name of a Delegate's country is called by the Assistant Secretary-General, the Delegate is kindly requested to proceed to the voting booths, where he or she will receive a ballot paper from the elections personnel. Once voting is completed, Delegates are kindly requested to place their completed ballot paper in the wooden ballot box and to return to their seats.

Vote

Vote

Votación

CHAIRPERSON

Voting is now completed and the tellers will leave to count the votes. While the votes are being counted, I propose that Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali Harbi, Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs of Sudan, be invited to present the Report of Round Table 3 to the Plenary.

Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I wish to greet you and present on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture of Slovenia and Democratic Sudan, a report on Food Safety in Food Security. I wish to express my thanks, first of all, to those who were responsible for organizing the Round Table, Mr De Haen and his associates, together with all those who contributed to the organization of the Round Table Session.

The Round Table noted that the worrying levels of food insecurity persist in many parts of the world and that food safety concerns are receiving every-increasing global attention.

Delegates recalled that access to safe food is a component of food security, as defined by the World Food Summit. They highlighted the fact that food-borne illnesses contribute to decreased worker productivity, disability and even early death, thus lowering incomes and access to food. Practices aimed at improving food safety reduce food losses and increase food availability. In addition, countries that are able to ensure safe food can take advantage of international trade opportunities, thereby increasing income levels.

The Round Table also recognized that the application of food safety standards involves costs which may have negative implications for other aspects of food security, at least in the short run. It noted that adherence to food safety regulations requires investments in food production and processing, as well as in human resources. This reduces the availability of resources for other purposes, including food security and may result in higher food prices, thus decreasing access to food. Food safety standards may also make market access more difficult for less efficient poor producers and act as barriers to export markets.

Delegates recognized that effective food safety and food security policies would seek to capitalize on the positive impacts and minimize the unwanted effects of these policies.

The Round Table agreed that international harmonization of science-based standards was desirable in order to reduce the cost of national regulations and equalize trading opportunities. While delegates agreed that convergence of international and national standards was therefore desirable, they noted that poor countries face difficulties when internationally agreed standards are established at levels which satisfy mainly the consumers in high-income countries with little consideration of the compliance cost for poor producers and processors. The Round Table concurred that, in the long run, dual safety standards for exported and domestically consumed products, respectively, were not desirable, although it was noted that they were likely to persist for some time.

The need for increased transparency in standard setting and communication of any changes in these standards at the national and international level was highlighted. The Round Table called on FAO and other relevant agencies to facilitate full access of all trading partners to the whole range of national and international food safety regulations. Governments were asked to cooperate in such an endeavour.

Several delegates expressed concern that some importing countries are using non-science based standards as unjustified technical barriers to trade.

Serious concern was expressed regarding the difficulties of adherence to standards established on the basis of a zero-risk approach. This approach to exercising precaution in standard setting may impose prohibitive compliance costs for suppliers. In this context, some delegates noted that, due to environmental factors, zero levels of certain contaminants – for example, aflatoxins in products grown in tropical areas – may be practically unattainable. Regulators were requested to take this into account in standard setting.

The Round Table noted that although the adoption of more rigorous food safety standards may imply short-term costs, these can assist in inducing long-term positive effects on the agricultural and food processing sector.

The Round Table also emphasized that donated food must comply with the food standards of the recipient country.

A number of delegates emphasized the difficulties faced by developing countries in effectively participating in Codex standard-setting work, as well as in WTO-related activities. Delegates called upon FAO and the international donor community to assist them in this regard, as well as in building capacity for scientific evaluations. Delegates referred to the FAO/WHO Codex Trust Fund as a potentially important initiative for providing such support and called for it to be made operational as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the Round Table noted the importance of coordinated, sustainable capacity building within developing countries in areas such as food legislation, laboratory infrastructure and staff training. The importance of involving representatives of consumer groups, farmers, producers and the private sector in food safety issues, including standard setting, was emphasized.

The Round Table concluded that the trend towards increasingly rigorous and comprehensive food safety standards, which is meant to satisfy the needs of all people, rich and poor alike, should be made compatible with the short-term needs of the food insecure.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Dr Harbi. I would like to congratulate you and indeed all participants in what was obviously a very high quality Round Table.

We do not yet have the results of that election. I would propose that in the time available before the results come to hand that I give an opportunity for any delegates who would care to comment on the Report from the Round Table that we have just heard.

Would anybody like to get the ball rolling? This is the quietest I have ever heard the Conference.

Assistant Director-General would you care to make some comment?

Hartwig de HAEN (Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department)

I would limit my comments to accruing what you just said. It was a pleasure to serve this Round Table which was really having a very interactive and high level debate. There was a serious concern that the standards must be science-based and that countries must be enabled to be able to adhere to these standards, in the interest of the food security of their own people and that the costs must be taken into account when making efforts to set standards or to implement them, and that resources must be available.

I would only conclude by confirming and reconfirming that FAO is doing all that is within its means to assist developing countries not only in participation and standard setting activities for which you the Members have agreed to establish a special trust fund that is being administered by WHO, but also in implementing the standards set by the standard setting bodies. We have a number of activities underway to help countries to establish effective food regulation systems but, of course, the lack of resources makes it impossible to meet the growing demand on us. So I can only hope that we will be able to meet this demand with sufficient resources and staff capacity. Again it was a pleasure to serve this Round Table which was certainly, as you have just heard, resulting in very important conclusions.

CHAIRPERSON

Have we any delegate who would like to comment on that Round Table? I could certainly say from the Chair that New Zealand places the highest value in the work done in CODEX and the IPPC, the constituent parts of this Organization and we believe that they certainly deserve all our support in the future. They are a vital part of the food trade and food security system of the world.

I will briefly suspend the Session until we get the results of that ballot. When we have completed this ballot we have to have a ballot for the position of the Independent Chair of the General Council and even though there is only one candidate the Rules of the Organization require that that nomination, or that election, be confirmed by a secret ballot. I know some people will ask

why we cannot just do it electronically. The reason is, that the rules require that it be done manually and the reason for that is that although nobody can tell on the numbers how anybody else voted, by pushing a button on one's bench, one's neighbours around close by in the hall can tell how a delegate votes and that is not a true secret ballot. It is not for me to question the wisdom of the founding electronic fathers but I just thought it would save trouble if I gave that explanation up front.

In the meantime until we have the results of the last ballot, the session is temporarily suspended.

The meeting was suspended from 17.58 to 18.07 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 58 à 18 h 07

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.58 a las 18.07 horas

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Election of Council Members: Near East Region, ballot papers deposited 140, defective ballots 4, abstentions 1, valid ballots 135, seats to be filled 2, votes cast 270, required majority 91, elected Oman 111 votes, United Arab Emirates 99 votes, not elected Sudan 75 votes.

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 2	ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS: NEAR EAST REGION ELECTION DES MEMBRES DU CONSEIL: 1/1/05 – 11/07 REGION PROCHE-ORIENT ELECCION DE LOS MIEMBROS DEL CONSEJO: REGION CERCANO ORIENTE
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	140	4. Valid ballots Bulletins valables Papeletas válidas	135
2. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	4	5. Seats to be filled Sièges à pourvoir Puestos que hay que cubrir	2
3. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	270

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	91
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Elected - Élus – Elegidos		Not elected - Pas élus - No elegidos		
OMAN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	111 99	SUDAN	75	

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escurtadores

Signature P. GARKOV (BULGARIA)

Firma

P. Garkov

Signature K. MELONI (COSTA RICA)

Firma

K. Meloni

5/12/03

Date
Fecha

Stephen Dowd, GICO

Stephen Dowd

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Secretary-General. I congratulate the Countries elected to the Council.

23.1 Appointment of the Independent Chairperson of the Council (C 2003/9)

23.1 Nomination du Président indépendant du Conseil (C 2003/9)

23.1 Nombramiento del Presidente Independiente del Consejo (C 2003/9)

CHAIRPERSON

Under Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, the Conference appoints the Independent Chairman of the Council. There is one candidate for the post as indicated in Document C 2003/9. The appointment will be made by secret ballot as specified in Paragraph 9(a) of Rule XII of the General Rules of the Organization.

I now ask the Secretary-General to read the relevant instructions.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Before proceeding to secret ballot, I think we would wish to establish how many persons there are in the room so we go through the procedure of establishing the quorum. Please when I indicate press the green button. Delegates who have just entered the room, it is important for you to indicate your presence by pressing the green button on your voting base.

I am going to close the vote now.

We have 99 persons in the room. We can proceed to a secret ballot. I will not read again the instructions because I am sure the membership is well aware of the provisions of the General Rules of the Organization in this regard. I shall, therefore, ask the Assistant Secretary-General.

I will ask the Chair to call out the names of the tellers and ask them to go to the booth over there.

CHAIRPERSON

Once again I would invite the delegates of Bulgaria and Costa Rica to act as tellers and proceed to the voting area. After which the Assistant Secretary-General will begin calling the countries.

Vote

Vote

Votación

The meeting was suspended from 18.32 to 18.51 hours

La séance est suspendue de 18 h 32 à 18 h 51

Se suspende la sesión de las 18.32 a las 18.51 horas

CHAIRPERSON

The voting has ended. The tellers will now leave the rooms with the ballot boxes to count the votes.

I have an important request to make of you all. It is important that delegates do not go home at this point. It remains after this vote to deal with the matter of the budget and that will require a vote and that will require to a quorum.

We are getting down pretty close to the minimum quorum we need. Therefore, I would implore delegates to remain at least, within the vicinity of the venue so that you can get back and participate in the very important vote on the budget. The future of the Organization may well depend on it.

We now have the results of the ballot and I will ask the Secretary-General to read them.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council: ballot papers deposited 121. Abstentions 1. Defective ballots 0. Votes for 118. Votes against 2. Votes cast 120. Majority required 61. Aziz Mekouar is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council.

C 2003/RS/7

REPORT OF BALLOT RÉSULTAT DU SCRUTIN RESULTADO DE LA VOTACIÓN	No. 3	Election of the Independent Chairperson of the Council Election du Président du Conseil Elección del Presidente Independiente del Consejo
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1. Ballot papers deposited Bulletins déposés Papeletas depositadas	121	4. Votes for Voix pour Votos emitidos	118
2. Abstentions Abstentions Abstenciones	1	5. Votes against Voix contre Votos en contra	2
3. Defective ballots Bulletins nuls Papeletas defectuosas	0	6. Votes cast Suffrages exprimés Votos emitidos	120

7. Majority Majorité Mayoría	61
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Aziz Mekouar

is accordingly appointed Independent Chairperson of the Council

est nommé président du Conseil

ha sido nombrado Presidente Independiente del Consejo

Tellers/Scrutateurs/Escrutadores

Signature **P. GARKOV (BULGARIA)**
Firma *P. Garkov*

Signature **K. MELONI (COSTA RICA)**
Firma *K. Meloni*

Date
Fecha **5 December 2003**

Stephen Dowd *Stephen Dowd*

Elections Officer
Fonctionnaire électoral
El oficial de elecciones

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Ambassador Mekouar, against the chance that he might win that ballot, has provided me with a message which it is my honour to read to you. These are the words of Aziz Mekouar.

For personal reasons, I have had to leave Rome for three days and, with deep regret, cannot be with you, in person, this evening.

I have therefore asked Mr Sutton, the Chairman of our Conference, to kindly inform you, before I can do so myself, how moved and honoured I am by the confidence you have shown in re-electing my Chairman of the Council of our Organization.

As in the past two years, I shall do everything I can to add my modest contribution to the achievement of FAO's noble mission and to the realization of the tasks entrusted to it by our Conference.

I shall, of course, continue to remain at the complete disposal of all members and thank their honourable delegates for the kind support and friendship shown during my first term of office.

Again, from the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mohamed Ali HARBI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank all those who have voted for me during the elections for the Council and also those who did not vote for me, as they voted for Oman and the Emirates which are sister countries. Therefore I should like to congratulate my colleagues on their election and congratulate you, Mr Chairman, for your wisdom and your transparency in conducting our deliberations. I have to commend and pay tribute to your country, which made you its representative. I would like to thank all those sitting on your left and on your right for their patience and care, and all the members of the Secretariat for the efforts they have exerted throughout the past few days.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to thank the delegate for those gracious words. I too am a politician. I know you cannot win them all and it takes some courage to offer yourself for election. I congratulate Sudan, and, indeed, other candidates who have offered themselves for election even though on this occasion they might not have been successful.

Ahmed FAOUZI (Maroc)

Au nom de la délégation du Maroc participant ici à cette 32^{ème} session de la Conférence générale, j'ai le grand plaisir de vous remercier tous d'avoir voté pour la réélection de M. Aziz Mekouar au poste de Président indépendant du Conseil, lui donnant ainsi un deuxième mandat. M. Mekouar, depuis qu'il s'est acquitté de cette tâche, a su faire preuve de son efficacité et de tout son savoir faire pour mener à bien les travaux du Conseil. Il a joué un rôle très important durant toute cette période auprès de toutes les délégations et les Membres du Conseil. La délégation marocaine tenait à saisir l'occasion qui s'offre à nous de vous remercier ainsi que tous les membres du Groupe africain et du Proche-Orient, parce que depuis le début ils ont cru à cette candidature et l'ont appuyée. Je remercie également le Groupe des 77 et la Chine ainsi que tous les membres du Groupe économique en souhaitant au Président récemment élu tout succès dans ses travaux.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Compte-tenu des relations particulières qui existent entre le Royaume du Maroc et le Sénégal, c'est avec plaisir que j'offre à l'Ambassadeur Mekouar les félicitations de la Délégation du Sénégal. Ayant été une candidature africaine, je crois que d'autres voix seraient mieux indiquées que moi pour exprimer les remerciements du Groupe à cette auguste Assemblée.

J'ai demandé à prendre la parole pour préciser que, bien qu'il n'y ait eu qu'un seul candidat, il est juste que notre auguste assemblée ait dû passer par le vote au scrutin secret. Ayant eu l'honneur de présider le Comité des questions constitutionnelles et juridiques de la FAO, au moment où l'on se penchait sur les amendements visant à introduire les nouvelles méthodes de vote dans le système de la FAO, il a été jugé opportun que, compte-tenu de l'importance particulière des fonctions du Président indépendant du Conseil et du Directeur général de la FAO, même s'il n'y avait qu'un

seul candidat pour ce poste et pour marquer l'importance particulière de ces deux fonctions, il serait bon de continuer à voter par scrutin secret. C'est donc l'historique que j'ai tenu à donner pour que force reste à l'Histoire et à la vérité.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, delegate, indeed that, I think, was useful background.

Anwarul Bar CHOWDHURY (Bangladesh)

On behalf of the Bangladesh Delegation, I take this opportunity to convey our grateful thanks to the distinguished delegates of the Member Countries for the support they have given to Bangladesh for its election to the FAO Council. I take this opportunity to especially thank the members of the Asia Group for their support from the very beginning.

As you all are aware, Bangladesh has been an active Member of FAO. I would like to assure the distinguished delegates that Bangladesh will continue to extend full cooperation and active support to the activities of this august Organization for the years ahead.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

En notre qualité de Président du G 77, je souhaite remercier la Conférence, après l'élection de l'Ambassadeur Aziz Mekouar à la Présidence du Conseil indépendant de notre Organisation.

Comme vous le savez, M. Mekouar, Représentant du Maroc, est africain et membre du G 77. Sa candidature était aussi une candidature du G 77. Son élection est donc un honneur pour l'ensemble du G 77. Par ma voix, que la Conférence en soit remerciée.

Investis de votre confiance, nous sommes certains que, tout comme il a pu de main de maître présider notre Conseil pendant les deux années écoulées, il saura continuer avec l'intelligence, la patience, le dévouement et l'abnégation que nous lui connaissons et accomplir de la meilleure manière qu'il soit, la mission qui lui est confiée. Nous pouvons donc rassurer les Membres de la Conférence. C'est l'ensemble du G 77 qui se trouve mobilisé derrière le Président Mekouar pour le plus grand bien de la Présidence de notre Organisation.

PART II - PROGRAMME AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

DEUXIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS RELATIVES AU PROGRAMME ET AU BUDGET

PARTE II – CUESTIONES PROGRAMÁTICAS Y PRESUPUESTARIAS

14. Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005 (Draft Resolution) (C 2003/3)

14. Programme de travail et budget 2004-2005 (Projet de résolution) (C 2003/3)

14. Programa de Labores y Presupuesto para 2004-2005 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2003/3; C 2003/3-Corr.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now come to the moment you have all been waiting for: the Adoption of the Commission II Report on the Resolution on Budget Appropriations for 2004-2005.

I would ask you all to ensure that you have the relevant document in front of you, that is C 2003/REP-1, Sup.1.

I would like to ask His Excellency, Doctor Noori-Naeini, Chairman of Commission II to introduce this report.

Mohammad Saeid NOORI-NAEINI (Chairperson Commission II)

I have the honour of introducing the Resolution on Budget Appropriations for 2004-2005, as set out in Document C 2003/REP-1, Sup.1, as was introduced by our Honourable Chairperson.

This draft resolution enjoyed a full consensus in Friends of the Chair Group, of Commission II. In this regard, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the friendly negotiations and a spirit of compromise shown by all parties in arriving at this position.

I would also thank Mr Wade, his staff and other members of the Secretariat, for assisting through the difficult processes. In this vein, with your permission, Mr Wade is here and ready to provide any clarification which might be required regarding this Resolution.

As well as extending my thanks to the Friends of the Chair, I would also like to sincerely thank the Vice-Chairs of the Commission, Ms Njobe of South Africa and, particularly, Ambassador Veerman of The Netherlands for their tremendous support and assistance. Without them, they would certainly never have come to the conclusion of our work.

Finally, my warm thanks also to the Secretary, Mr Adnan Quereshi and Assistant Secretary, Ms Paola Dini of the Commission and all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes, especially the interpreters who stayed with us for long hours during the night, allowing us to get through our work so efficiently.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Ambassador Noori-Naeini, for your introduction and for having chaired Commission II this week, I know the Commission had a difficult task. A lot of people worked extremely long and hard to get a result, and they deserve the gratitude and support of all delegates, in my view.

The Conference is now called upon to adopt the Resolution on Budget Appropriations for 2004-2005, as set out in document C 2003/REP/1-Sup.1. I have a call for the floor from Italy.

Ms Anna BLEFARI MELAZZI (Italy)

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union. During the Budget debate in the Group of Friends of the Chair, many delegations spoke in support of the Director-General's request for US\$4 million in additional funds to strengthen the security of FAO employees and property.

We would like to remind the Conference of how strongly we feel that US\$4 million of the funds provided in the budgetary appropriation decisions be used for this purpose. Can the Secretariat confirm that this will be the case?

I would kindly ask you, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be recorded in the Report of the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Does the Conference accept that this statement be recorded in the proceedings of the Conference? If there is no objection, I will take it that you agree.

It is agreed.

Tony WADE (Director, Programme, Budget and Evaluation)

Simply for the record, I wish to confirm that the amount of US\$4 million is included in the budget which is now before you for approval.

CHAIRPERSON

We can now proceed to adopt the Resolution on Budget Appropriations as set out in document C 2003/REP/1-Sup.1. I give the floor to the Secretary-General, Ms Gardner.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

In accordance with Article XVIII, Paragraph 5 of the Constitution, the adoption of this draft Resolution on the Budgetary Appropriations 2004-2005 requires a vote, at a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, taken at a Plenary Meeting of the Conference. Under Rule XII, Paragraph 7(a) and Paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization, a nominal vote, that is a vote which records of the names of the Member nations, shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase "votes cast" means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions. When a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the organization, the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast

must be more than one-half of the member nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes cast for or against should be at least 94. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal is considered as rejected.

We are now going to establish how many delegates there are in the room, could I ask, when I indicate, all delegates present in the room to press the green button on their desks. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present. Please press the green button to indicate your presence in the room. This is very important.

Thank you very much. I am going to close the vote and we will proceed to the next phase. I am advised that there are at least 116 delegations present in the room.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you. We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 2004-2005, as set out in the document C 2003/REP/1-Sup.1.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Delegates are required to press one of the voting buttons in front of them. If delegates wish to vote in favour of the Resolution, they should press Green. If delegates wish to vote in favour, please press the Green button. If they wish to vote against, please press the Red button. Yellow if they wish to abstain. I repeat, Green if you wish to vote in favour; Red if you wish to vote against; and, Yellow if you wish to abstain.

Please press the appropriate button now.

The vote is now closed. We will just wait a few seconds for the printout for the record.

Majority required 77, votes for 115; votes against zero; abstentions zero. The Resolution is therefore adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

Delegates, you have heard the result of the vote. I add my personal congratulations and thanks to the Chair and the Members of the Commission. It is a tribute to the great work they have done to achieve that ringing endorsement, this afternoon.

We have now completed the adoption of the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 2004-2005. Delegates may ask for the floor. Is there anyone who wishes to speak? There appears to be not.

I have a brief announcement to make. I would like to remind all African Ministers of Agriculture that their meeting of tomorrow, 6 December, which will discuss progress on NEPAD and preparation of the African Regional Conference in South Africa next March, will start at 10.30 hours in the Green Room.

If no one else wishes to take the floor, I would like to wish you all a very good weekend and look forward to seeing you here on Monday, 8 December, at 09.30 hours. The meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 19.16 hours

La séance est levée à 19 h 16

Se levanta la sesión a las 19.16 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING ONZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 11ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
8 December 2003

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours

Mr Jim Sutton

Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La onzième séance plénière est ouverte à 9 h 55

sous la présidence de M. Jim Sutton,

Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 11ª sesión plenaria a las 9.55 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Jim Sutton,

Presidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
PARTE III – CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS
(continuación)

15. The Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General (Article VII.1 of the Constitution of FAO) (C 2003/LIM/14)

15. Nombre et durée des mandats du Directeur général (Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO) (C 2003/LIM/14)

15. Número y duración de los mandatos del Director General de la FAO (Artículo VII.1 de la Constitución de la FAO) (C 2003/LIM/14)

CHAIRPERSON

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting is called to order. We now pass to Item 15, the Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General. I would like to ask Mr Giuliano Pucci, Legal Counsel, to introduce this item.

LEGAL COUNSEL

I should like to say a few words by way of introduction of document C 2003/LIM/14, which is now before the Conference. This document contains a Draft Conference Resolution, entitled, "The Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General, Article VII.1 of the Constitution of FAO".

The preamble of this Draft Resolution recalls the process leading to the proposed amendment to the Constitution. The Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-third Session, in 2002, established a Group of Friends of the Chair, which met several times and prepared its report. The Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-fourth Session, accepted the Report of the Group of the Friends of the Chair, contained in document CL 124/INF/22, and agreed to transmit the proposed amendment to Article VII.1 of the Constitution to the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters, along with document CL 124/INF/22 before being submitted to the present Session of the Conference for adoption.

The adoption of this Draft Resolution, which amends the Constitution of FAO, requires a vote at a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, taken at a plenary meeting of the Conference. Under Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization a nominal vote – that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations – shall be taken if a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase 'votes cast' means affirmative and negative votes and does not include abstentions.

In the particular case of this vote, which involves an amendment to the Constitution, I should like to recall the provisions of Article XX, paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution which reads as follows:

"The Conference may amend this Constitution by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, provided that such majority is more than one half of the Members Nations of the Organization."

Therefore, the Draft Resolution must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast and this majority must be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization. Therefore, the number of votes in favour of this Resolution must be at least 94. If the majority of votes in favour is not at least 94, the Resolution is not adopted.

So, the proposed Resolution is before the Plenary Meeting of the Conference for adoption. I understand that the Secretary-General will provide additional practical information on the vote to be taken.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Before passing to the Vote we first have to establish that there is a quorum. We might remember the instructions from last week. I would ask you, when I indicate that you press the green button. This will enable the electronic voting system to calculate the number of delegates present in the room. Would you please press the button now.

I see we have two more delegations arriving. May I ask those delegations who have not yet pressed the button to do so fairly speedily.

CHAIRPERSON

Delegates, we do not feel that we can proceed with the vote with a bare quorum. It would only take two or three abstentions for the vote to fail. This is, I am afraid, something of an embarrassment to the Organization. I would suggest that Members who know where some other delegations might be, that you get on the telephone and encourage them to come.

In the meantime, we will move to the next item on the Agenda, item 16.1.

Saleem KHAN (Pakistan)

May I suggest that we also ring the quorum bell—and see if somebody comes and in the meantime take up those items which do not require a vote.

CHAIRPERSON

Quite correct, delegate, but if we have only a bare quorum and there are a couple of abstentions, then the vote will fail and the view of the majority may be frustrated. So, I have taken a decision from the Chair that for the moment we will move to the next item on the agenda which does not, I think, require a vote.

That item is Item 16.1, Agreement with the International Office of Epizootics, the OIE. The reference document is C 2003/LIM/15. Mr Pucci, would you like to introduce this item, please?

16.1 Agreement with the the Office International des Épizooties (C 2003/LIM/15)

16.1 Accord avec l'Office international des épizooties (C 2003/LIM/15)

16.1 Acuerdo con la Oficina Internacional de Epizootias (C 2003/LIM/15)

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Council, at its last Session approved, under Rule XXIV, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, an Agreement with the Office International des Épizooties (International Office of Epizootics) and recommended its transmission to the present session of the Conference for confirmation in accordance with Article XIII, paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. The Agreement for which the Conference's confirmation is being sought is contained in document C 2003/LIM/15.

The Office International des Épizooties is an international organization established in 1924, based in Paris, with the main objective of promoting and coordinating experimental and research work concerning the pathology or prophylaxis of contagious diseases of livestock for which international collaboration is deemed desirable.

FAO has a long-standing collaboration with the Office International des Épizooties. In particular, in 1947 a Note of Understanding was concluded between FAO and the Office with a view to coordinating their respective activities. In 1953, in order to strengthen the cooperation between the two organizations, a formal Agreement between FAO and the Office was concluded and confirmed by the FAO Conference.

Over the years, the cooperation between FAO and the Office expanded and covered a wide range of areas of cooperation in the sector of animal health involving, in particular exchange of information, consultation and exchange of experience on studies and projects. In 1995, the Office was recognized by the World Trade Organization, within the framework of the Agreement on

Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, as the reference body for international zoosanitary standards insofar as trade related animal diseases are concerned.

In order to enhance and reinforce the existing close relationship between FAO and the Office within their respective mandates, FAO and the Office entered into negotiations with a view to elaborating a more structured framework agreement under the terms of Article XIII, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, which, *inter alia*, states that, "in order to provide for close cooperation between the Organization and other international organizations with related responsibilities, the Conference may enter into agreements with the competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation".

The CCLM, at its Seventy-fifth Session in October 2003 reviewed the text of the draft Agreement and considered it to be in proper legal form and consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization. The CCLM recommended that the draft be submitted to the Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, in November 2003, for approval and subsequently to the Conference, at its present Session, for confirmation.

So, Mr Chairman, the proposed Agreement as approved by the Council is before the Conference for confirmation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to point out that such confirmation may be decided by general consent; in legal terms, recourse to a formal vote is not required.

CHAIRPERSON

Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this question?

If not, does the Conference wish to adopt the Draft Agreement between FAO and OIE, as set out in document C 2003/LIM/15?

You can so decide by applause, if you so wish.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I see a few more delegates have arrived so we are going to try again to see how many delegates there are in the room. Would delegations please indicate their presence by pressing the green button, so that we can electronically count the number in the room. Please press the green button now.

I am going to close the electronic system so that we can count.

We have 104 delegations in the room.

CHAIRPERSON

We shall now proceed to vote on the Draft Resolution on the Number and Length of Terms of the Director-General of FAO.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is a nominal vote. Delegates are therefore required to press the green button if they wish to vote in favour. They should press the red button if they wish to vote against. They should press the yellow button if they wish to abstain.

May I kindly repeat: green button if you wish to vote in favour; red button if you wish to vote against and the yellow button if you wish to abstain.

May I ask delegations to vote now please.



FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE
UNITED NATIONS

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

ORGANIZACION
DE LAS NACIONES
UNIDAS PARA
LA AGRICULTURA
Y LA ALIMENTACION

08/12/2003
10.12.04

Vote on: The Number and Length of Terms of Office of the Director-General (Article VII.1 of the Constitution of FAO)
Vote sur: Nombre et durée des mandats du Directeur général (Article VII.1 de l'Acte constitutif de la FAO)
Votacion para: Número y duración de los mandatos del Director General de la FAO (Artículo VII.1 de la Constitución de la FAO)

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

	Present/ Présents/ Presentes	169
Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos		105
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	2/3 votes cast (at least 94)	
Votes for/ Votos pour/ Votos favorables		105
Votes against/ Votos contre/ Votos en contra		0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones		1
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta		64

Votes For: AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM. REP. OF, CONGO, REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P. REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EL SALVADOR, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KOREA, REP. OF, LIBYA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PAKISTAN, PANAMA, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, SAN MARINO, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAKIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TANZANIA, UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions: BOTSWANA
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply: BAHAMAS, BAHRAIN, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, CAMBODIA, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EGYPT, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA - BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, ICELAND, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, KENYA, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LAOS, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LIBERIA, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MAURITANIA, MICRONESIA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MOZAMBIQUE, MYANMAR, NAURU, NEPAL, NICARAGUA, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PARAGUAY, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SLOVENIA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SUDAN, SYRIA, THE F.Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TONGA, TUVALU, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU

ADOPTED/ ADOPTEE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd 8/12/2003
Mr Stephen Dowd

We are going to close the vote now. May I ask all delegations who have not voted to do so. Thank you very much. We close the vote.

CHAIRPERSON

I remind the delegate from Chile, who seeks the floor, that the only way in which the floor can be taken now is for a point of order relative to the vote.

Antonio Arturo PLAZA JIMÉNEZ (Chile)

Ninguno de nuestros botones funcionaba, estábamos tratando de votar y no salió marcado en el board.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We are sending a technician to check the buttons on Chile's voting base.

I am going to read the results. Somebody will come and speak with Chile. In fact your vote is not registered here. Therefore, we will record it subsequently. Somebody will come and speak with you.

CHAIRPERSON

Delegates, we have a result. I will ask the Secretary-General to read. Delegate from Chile, I can advise your vote has been counted.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We had a 106 voting, 105 for, 1 abstention. The Resolution is, therefore, adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

I congratulate all the delegates who worked hard for a robust consensus. You have heard the result of the vote. We have now completed this Item and completed the adoption on the Resolution on the number and length of terms of the Director-General of FAO.

We will move now to Item 16.2 – Cooperation Agreement with the Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe. The reference document is C 2003/LIM/16. Mr Pucci, would you like to introduce this Item please.

16.2 Cooperation Agreement with Organisation for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) (C 2003/LIM/16)

16.2 Accord de coopération avec l'Organisation internationale pour le développement des pêches en Europe orientale et centrale (EUROFISH) (C 2003/LIM/16)

16.2 Acuerdo de cooperación con la Organización Internacional para el Desarrollo de la Pesca en Europa oriental y central (EUROFISH) (C 2003/LIM/16)

LEGAL COUNSEL

The Council, at its last Session approved under Rule XXIV, paragraph 4(c) of the General Rules of the Organization, a Cooperation Agreement with the Organization for the Development of Fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe (EUROFISH) and recommended its transmission to the present session of the Conference for confirmation in accordance with Article XIII, paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. The Agreement for which the Conference's confirmation is being sought is contained in document C 2003/LIM/16.

EUROFISH, is an organization established with the assistance of FAO by an agreement adopted by a Conference of Plenipotentiaries convened by the Director-General of FAO on 23 May 2000. The Agreement came into force on 12 October 2001. EUROFISH is based in Copenhagen, Denmark. Broadly speaking its objectives are to contribute to the development of fisheries in Eastern and Central Europe and to provide information on fish marketing and contribute to the promotion of trade. At present, the members of EUROFISH are Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Latvia, Norway, Romania and Turkey.

The EUROFISH Agreement contains a clause whereby "*the Contracting Parties agree that there should be a working relationship between Eurofish and FAO*". To this end, Eurofish entered into negotiations with FAO with a view to concluding such an agreement.

At its first session, held in Copenhagen in January 2002, the Governing Council of Eurofish proposed to FAO a Cooperation Agreement, to be concluded under Article XIII, paragraph 1 of the FAO Constitution. This Article states that, "in order to provide for close cooperation between

the Organization and other international organizations with related responsibilities, the Conference may enter into agreements with competent authorities of such organizations, defining the distribution of responsibilities and methods of cooperation”.

On the substance, the Cooperation Agreement follows the pattern of similar agreements already concluded by FAO with regional organizations having a comparable mandate, and aims at establishing a close relationship between Eurofish and FAO. This was the case with the Agreements between FAO and the organizations associated with the Globefish network (which is a network of regional fish marketing information services).

The organizations with which similar cooperation agreements were concluded are: Infofish (the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Asia and Pacific Region); Infopesca (the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in Latin America and the Caribbean); Infopêche (the Intergovernmental Organization for Marketing Information and Cooperation Services for Fishery Products in Africa) and Infosamak (the Centre for Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fishery Products in the Arab Region).

The CCLM, at its Seventy-fifth Session in October 2003 reviewed the text of the draft Cooperation Agreement and considered it to be in proper legal form and consistent with the Basic Texts of the Organization. The CCLM recommended that the draft be submitted to the Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, in November 2003, for approval and subsequently to the Conference, at its present Session, for confirmation.

So, Mr Chairman, the proposed Cooperation Agreement, as approved by the Council, is before the Conference for confirmation.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I would like to point out that such confirmation may be decided by general consent without recourse to a formal vote.

CHAIRPERSON

Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this question? It seems not.

Does the Conference wish to adopt the draft Agreement between FAO and OIE as set out in document C 2003/LIM/16?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We move now onto Item 17 – Audited Accounts 2000-2001. I call on Mr Mehboob, Assistant Director-General of the Administration and Finance Department, to introduce this Item.

17. Audited Accounts 2000-2001 (Draft Resolution) (C 2003/5)

17. Comptes vérifiés 2000-2001 (Projet de résolution) (C 2003/5)

17. Cuentas comprobadas de 2000-2001 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2003/5)

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

This is document C 2003/5 – the Audited Accounts for 2000-2001. They have been considered by the Finance Committee and the Council. The External Auditor is giving an unqualified opinion on the Accounts of the Organization. So there is a draft Resolution for the Conference's consideration which has gone through the Council and it is here for adoption.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it the Conference adopts the Resolution as set out in Document C 2003/LIM/7?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

We now move to Item 18. There is a slight problem with the document. Ms Gardner will explain.

18. Scale of Contributions 2004-2005 (Draft Resolution)

(C 2003/INF/13; C 2003/LIM/8; C 2003/LIM/8-Corr.1)

18. Barème des contributions 2004-2005 (Projet de résolution)

(C 2003/INF/13; C 2003/LIM/8; C 2003/LIM/8-Corr.1)

18. Escala de cuotas para 2004-2005 (Proyecto de resolución)

(C 2003/INF/13; C 2003/LIM/8; C 2003/LIM/8-Corr.1)

SECRETARY-GENERAL

This is just to explain that a revised document on this Item will be issued later on. The document that you have does not contain the new Member Nations. Therefore, there will be a revised document that will include them and that will be available later on this morning. We apologize for that.

CHAIRPERSON

Because the new document does contain some small changes which are, nevertheless, changes of substance that recalculate the shares with the addition of the new Members, we think that we should defer this Item until the new document is available.

That being the case, we will move to Item 16, Other Constitutional and Legal Matters, Item 16.3, Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations, Funds under Partnership and Development Projects, Draft Resolution Document C 2003/LIM/18.

Mr Pucci will introduce it.

16.3 Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations (Funds under Partnership in Development Projects) (Draft Resolution) (C 2003/LIM/18)

16.3 Amendement de l'Article VI du Règlement financier (fonds au titre d'accords de partenariat pour le développement) (projet de résolution) (C 2003/LIM/18)

16.3 Enmienda al Artículo VI del Reglamento Financiero (Fondos con cargo a acuerdos de asociación para el desarrollo) (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2003/LIM/18)

LEGAL COUNSEL

The document which is now before this Plenary meeting of the Conference is document C 2003/LIM/18 entitled "Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations" (Funds under Partnership in Development Projects). The document consists of an extract from the Report of the Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session of the Council, including a draft Conference resolution for adoption.

I should like to say a few words on the rationale of this Draft Resolution. A number of changes have occurred in the course of the past few years which have sometimes modified the conditions under which FAO implements technical assistance projects in a number of countries. As these countries expand their own technical and managerial capabilities they look more than in the past to the so-called national execution as their preferred modality for the implementation of projects. In order to respond more efficiently to the demands placed upon it in that respect, FAO embarked

in a process of reconsideration of some of its procedures and developed a number of "business models" for Partnership in Development Agreements. Such models were intended to constitute reference documents for project formulation both by FAO and the Governments, and drawing on the experience of the United Nations Development Programme. In fact, provisions equivalent to those proposed in this amendment are found in the Financial Regulations of UNDP, the United Nation's programme having the most experience in national execution arrangements.

Both the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters endorsed a proposal that the Financial Regulations be amended in order, in particular, to ensure that the Director-General, when entering into negotiations with concerned governments and national institutions, in connection with Funds under Partnership in Development Agreements should satisfy himself that adequate controls are in place. The Council, at its Hundred and Twenty-fifth Session, recommended the adoption of the draft Resolution by the Conference.

The Financial Regulations may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a plenary meeting of the Conference.

Under Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization a nominal vote - that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations - shall be taken if a majority of two thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase votes cast shall mean affirmative and negative votes and shall not include abstentions. When a two-thirds majority of votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, "the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization". Therefore, the number of votes, for or against, must be at least 94. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

So Mr Chairman, the proposed Resolution amending Financial Regulation VI is before the plenary meeting of the Conference for adoption. I understand that the Secretary-General will provide additional information on the vote to be taken.

CHAIRPERSON

Does any delegate wish to take the floor on this matter. It seems there is not. Can I take it the Conference adopts the Resolution?

We have to vote.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Unfortunately, we have to vote and I have to read the instructions once more. Before passing to the vote, we will I think again establish whether there is a quorum because many Members have left the room in the process. So I would ask you, one more time, to press the green button to indicate your presence in the room so that we can record the number of delegates in the room. Please indicate so now.

We are going to close the vote and proceed quickly since it has been established that we have 110, indeed more than before. At this point, we are going to do a nominal vote and delegates are requested, when I so indicate, to press one of the voting buttons in front of you. If you support, if you wish to vote in favour of this resolution, please press the green button. If you wish to vote against it, please press the red button, and if you wish to abstain, please press the yellow button. Please vote now.

I am going to ask, please vote now, and I will close the vote.



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08/12/2003
10.32.16

Vote on: Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations (Funds under Partnership in Development Projects)
Vote sur: Amendement à l'Article VI du Règlement financier (Fonds au titre d'accords de partenariat pour le développement)
Votacion para: Emienda al Artículo VI del Reglamento Financiero (Fondos con cargo a acuerdos de asociación para el desarrollo)

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	108
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	73
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	108
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aulcune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	61

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM. REP. OF, CONGO, REP. OF, COSTA RICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P. REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GREECE, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KAZAKHSTAN, KENYA, KOREA, REP. OF, LIBERIA, LIBYA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NEPAL, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, PORTUGAL, QATAR, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TANZANIA, UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, URUGUAY, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aulcune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

BAHAMAS, BARBADOS, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, CAMBODIA, CHILE, COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GHANA, GUATEMALA, GUINEA, GUINEA - BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, ICELAND, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LAOS, LEBANON, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MICRONESIA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NAURU, NICARAGUA, PAKISTAN, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, SLOVAKIA, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SUDAN, SYRIA, THE F.Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TONGA, TUVALU, UNITED KINGDOM, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Mr Stephen Dowd *Stephen Dowd* 08/12/2003

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have an adequate majority here. We can proceed and then take the print out afterwards because I think it is clear. I will read it when it arrives. The Resolution is, therefore, adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

We move now to Agenda Item 16.4, Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations, Capital Budgeting, Draft Resolution. The reference document is C 2003/LIM/19.

Again, we have to vote.

Mr Pucci, will you introduce the Item.

16.4 Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations (Capital Budgeting) (Draft Resolution) (C 2003/LIM/19)

16.4 Amendement de l'Article VI du Règlement financier (budgétisation des investissements) (projet de résolution) (C 2003/LIM/19)

16.4 Enmienda al Artículo VI del Reglamento Financiero (Presupuestación de capital) (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2003/LIM/19)

LEGAL COUNSEL

Here we have another Resolution for which a vote is required. It seems that our Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters worked very hard during this biennium.

With reference to this item, the Finance Committee has considered for a while the approach to be taken with respect to planning and funding of capital expenditures on tangible or intangible assets with a useful life in excess of FAO's financial period of two years and which generally required a level of resources which could not be funded within the appropriation for a single biennium. The Committee endorsed the establishment of a Capital Expenditure Facility which would consist of two separate but inter-related elements – Chapter 8 of the Budget which might also consist of several major programmes and a Capital Expenditure Account, established under the provisions of a new Financial Regulation. The Finance Committee also endorsed the proposed amendment of the Financial Regulation for submission to the Council through the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. The CCLM reviewed the proposed Draft Conference Resolution, providing for an amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations in order to establish a capital expenditure account, and referred it to the Council.

The Financial Regulations may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a plenary meeting of the Conference.

Under Rule XII, paragraph 7 (a) and paragraph 8 of the General Rules of the Organization a nominal vote - that is a vote which records the names of the Member Nations - shall be taken if a majority of two thirds of the votes cast is required. The phrase votes cast shall mean affirmative and negative votes and shall not include abstentions. When a two-thirds majority of votes cast is required by the Constitution or the General Rules of the Organization, "the total number of affirmative and negative votes cast shall be more than one half of the Member Nations of the Organization". Therefore, the number of votes for or against must be at least 94. If these conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal shall be considered as rejected.

So Mr Chairman, the proposed Resolution amending Financial Regulation VI is before the plenary meeting of the Conference for adoption. I understand that the Secretary-General will provide additional information on practical modalities of the vote to be taken.

CHAIRPERSON

The Conference is now called upon to adopt the Resolution on Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations, Capital Budgeting, as set out in C 2003/LIM/19.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will just remind members, first of all, in accordance with Article XVIII, Paragraph 5 of the Constitution, the adoption of this draft resolution on Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations, Capital Budgeting, this requires a vote at a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, taken at a Plenary Meeting of the Conference.

I will now ask all delegations present in the room to indicate if they support the Resolution, to press the Green button. If they do not support the Resolution, please press the Red button; and if they intend to abstain, please press the Yellow button.

All delegations who have not yet voted, please do so now. I am going to close the vote. The vote is now closed.



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08/12/2003
10.37.33

Vote on: Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations (Capital Budgeting)
Vote sur: Amendement à l'Article VI du Règlement financier (Budgétisation des investissements)
Votacion para: Emienda al Artículo VI del Reglamento Financiero (Presupuestación de capital)

RESULT SHEET / RESULTATS / RESULTADOS

Roll call vote/ Vote per appel nominal/ Votacion Nominal

Number of votes cast/ Nombre de suffrages exprimés/ Numero de votos emitidos	110
Majority required/ Majorité requise/ Mayoria requerida	73
Votes for/ Votes pour/ Votos favorables	110
Votes against/ Votes contre/ Votos en contra	0
Abstentions/ Abstentions/ Abstenciones	0
No reply/ Aucune réponse/ Ninguna respuesta	59

Votes For:
Votes Pour:
Votos Favorables:

AFGHANISTAN, ALBANIA, ALGERIA, ANGOLA, ARGENTINA, ARMENIA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BAHRAIN, BANGLADESH, BARBADOS, BELGIUM, BENIN, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, BURKINA FASO, BURUNDI, CAMEROON, CANADA, CAPE VERDE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, COMOROS, CONGO, DEM. REP. OF, CONGO, REP. OF, COSTARICA, COTE D'IVOIRE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, D.P. REPUBLIC OF KOREA, DENMARK, ECUADOR, EGYPT, EL SALVADOR, ESTONIA, ETHIOPIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GABON, GERMANY, GREECE, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, ISLAMIC REP. OF, IRELAND, ITALY, JAPAN, JORDAN, KENYA, KOREA, REP. OF, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYA, LUXEMBOURG, MADAGASCAR, MALAWI, MALAYSIA, MALI, MALTA, MARSHALL ISLANDS, MAURITANIA, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, NICARAGUA, NIGER, NIGERIA, NORWAY, OMAN, PANAMA, PARAGUAY, PERU, PHILIPPINES, POLAND, QATAR, SAN MARINO, SAUDI ARABIA, KINGDOM OF, SENEGAL, SIERRA LEONE, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SRI LANKA, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, TANZANIA, UNITED REP. OF, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, TURKEY, UGANDA, UKRAINE, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM, YEMEN, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE

Votes Against:
Votes Contre:
Votos en Contra:

Abstentions:
Abstentions:
Abstenciones:

No Reply:
Aucune Response:
Ninguna Respuesta:

BAHAMAS, BELIZE, BHUTAN, BOLIVIA, CAMBODIA, CHILE, COOK ISLANDS, CROATIA, DJIBOUTI, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, ERITREA, FIJI, GEORGIA, GHANA, GUINEA, GUINEA - BISSAU, GUYANA, HAITI, ICELAND, ISRAEL, JAMAICA, KAZAKHSTAN, KIRIBATI, KUWAIT, LAOS, LESOTHO, LITHUANIA, MALDIVES, MICRONESIA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NAURU, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, PALAU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, RWANDA, SAMOA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, ST. LUCIA, ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SUDAN, SYRIA, THE F.Y. REP. OF MACEDONIA, TIMOR LESTE, TOGO, TONGA, TUNISIA, TUVALU, UNITED KINGDOM, URUGUAY, UZBEKISTAN, VANUATU

ADOPTED/ ADOPTÉE/ ACEPTADA

Elections Officer / Fonctionnaire électoral/ El oficial de elecciones

Stephen Dowd 8/12/2003
Mr Stephen Dowd

We have 110 voting for, no votes against. Therefore, pending the receipt of the printout, I could say that the Resolution on Capital Budgeting is hereby adopted.

Adopted
Adopté
Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

You have heard the result of the vote. We have now completed the adoption of the resolution on the Amendment to Regulation VI of the Financial Regulations, Capital Budgeting. Is there any delegate who seeks the floor?

We are now getting deep into this afternoon's agenda. You have before you the papers for the next two items. We shall proceed with those. It is unfortunate that the earlier amended paper is not yet ready, but we can give ourselves space for it this afternoon.

We can move to item 20.1, Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution. There are two papers, C 2003/LIM/17 and C 2003/LIM/23.

20.1 Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Add.1)

20.1 Méthodologie pour une répartition géographique équitable

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Add.1)

20.1 Metodología para determinar una distribución geográfica equitativa

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Add.1)

LEGAL COUNSEL

I understand from the Secretariat that the document is not yet ready. They tell me that it would be ready in half an hour. Therefore, if you agree, the Conference may wish to tackle this issue when the document is ready.

CHAIRPERSON

We will suspend the Plenary. We will call you together again when we have some more documents.

*The meeting was suspended from 10.40 to 11.20 hours**La séance est suspendue de 10.40 à 11 h 20**Se suspende la sesión de las 10.40 a las 11.20 horas***CHAIRPERSON**

The Plenary is resumed. We will return to item 18, Scale of Contributions 2004-2005. The reference document now is C 2003/LIM/8/Corr.1. I call on Mr Mehboob once again to introduce this item.

18. Scale of Contributions 2004-2005 (Draft Resolution) (C 2003/INF/13; C 2003/LIM/8; C 2003/LIM/8-Corr.1) (continued)

18. Barème des contributions 2004-2005 (Projet de résolution) (C 2003/INF/13; C 2003/LIM/8; C 2003/LIM/8-Corr.1) (suite)

18. Escala de cuotas para 2004-2005 (Proyecto de resolución) (C 2003/INF/13; C 2003/LIM/8; C 2003/LIM/8-Corr.1) (continuación)

Khalid MEHBOOB (Assistant Director-General, Administration and Finance Department)

Document C 2003/LIM/8/Corr.1 is taking into account the admission of new Members to recalculate the scale, which as the Conference knows, is based on the United Nations Scale of Assessments. The document is before the Conference for its adoption.

CHAIRPERSON

May I take it that Conference adopts the Resolution.

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

I wish to place on record that the Brazilian Delegation considers that the FAO Scale of Contributions, for the period of 2004-2005, which we are presently approving, does not correspond to the decision taken by the United Nations Committee on Contribution and adopted at its last Session in June 2003.

The new Scale of Assessment modifies the Brazilian contribution to the United Nations. In accordance with the United Nations decision, we will be paying from now on, 1.534 percent. The scale we are adopting here, corresponds to the old Brazilian contribution, that is, 2.39 percent. This reduction was due to the devaluation of the Brazilian currency during the period 1999 to 2001, as well as a lower growth rate of the national economy during 1996 to 2001. The Brazilian Delegation registers that Member States should work in order to, in the future, harmonize the FAO Scale of Contributions with United Nations' decisions.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you delegate. I have a call from Argentina.

Ariel FERNÁNDEZ (Argentina)

Con relación a este tema, nuestra delegación ya había anticipado algo en las discusiones de la Comisión II. Lo que señala la Delegación de Brasil es absolutamente cierto y seguramente ha sido objeto de discusión en tantas otras Conferencias precedentes. El punto crucial es que las decisiones que adopta esta Conferencia están temporalmente desfasadas.

Todos sabemos que las decisiones de Naciones Unidas se toman considerando una serie de factores, factores cuya ponderación en el tiempo están fuera de tiempo. Como bien lo demuestra aquí la escala que se nos propone, en base a la escala de cuota de Naciones Unidas para 2001-2003, adoptada en diciembre del año 2000. Estamos hablando de tres años atrás. Pero los factores de ponderación que se usaron en la Asamblea General en el año 2000 corresponden a varios años antes, es decir, realidades económicas que en muchos casos, como el que afecta nuestro país, están absolutamente desfasadas de la realidad actual. Y esta escala de cuotas va a tener un impacto en los dos años sucesivos de trabajo de la Organización.

Mi delegación quisiera recordar que Argentina ha solicitado en varias oportunidades una reducción de su cuota en base a la rebaja *ad hoc* aprobada en la Resolución 57/4B de Naciones Unidas, que llevó su contribución en Naciones Unidas de 1.149 a 0.69, con lo cual hubo un reconocimiento preciso de las dificultades financieras en nuestro país, que han hecho, entre otras cosas, que tengamos 54 por ciento de nuestra población con tasa de pobreza y 26 por ciento de indigentes.

Creemos que, así como lo ha acogido parte de Naciones Unidas y otras organizaciones del sistema como la OIT, la OIM, la ONUDI, UNESCO, Organización Mundial de la Salud, el Tribunal Internacional de Derecho del Mar y RAMSAR, solicitamos que se abra un diálogo para hacer efectiva esta reducción de la cuota. Pero, como dijo también nuestro distinguido colega de Brasil, es necesario que la Organización armonice efectivamente las realidades económicas en su consideración de las cuotas, porque hay un punto central, tanto en Naciones Unidas como aquí, que es la capacidad de pago efectiva de los países. Si trabajamos con indicadores de seis u ocho años atrás, las capacidades efectivas de los países pueden haber variado substancialmente, como es el caso de Argentina. De modo tal que solicitamos que, a través de esta Asamblea, en el futuro los órganos competentes de la Organización vuelvan a trabajar, y digo vuelvan porque ya ha sido estudiado muchas veces y no se ha llegado a ninguna conclusión positiva. Pero insistimos en esta dinámica global, no podemos seguir trabajando con factores de ponderación que, aunque vengan de Naciones Unidas, están desfasados entre seis u ocho años en el tiempo.

CHAIRPERSON

I feel that the matters that have been raised by delegates are appropriately put on the record by them, but they need not prevent us from dealing with the Resolution.

Can I take it that the Conference adopts the Resolution as set out in the document, C 2003/LIM/8/Corr.1. If so, would you show that by applause.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

CHAIRPERSON

We turn now to item 20.1, Methodology for Equitable geographic Distribution. The relevant documents are C 2003/LIM/17 and C 2003/LIM/23. I ask Mr Willem H. Brakel of the United States of America to present the report of the Working Group to Conference.

20.1 Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Add.1) (continued)

20.1 Méthodologie pour une répartition géographique équitable

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Add.1) (suite)

20.1 Metodología para determinar una distribución geográfica equitativa

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Add.1) (continuación)

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to raise a question of the procedure. I have not received document C 2003/LIM/17 in Chinese. I hope I will get it soon.

CHAIRPERSON

I hope so too, delegate. The document is available at the desk, I am advised.

Willem H. BRAKEL (United States of America)

The Working Group on Equitable Geographic Distribution met three times during the Council and Conference in November and December of this year. Zimbabwe and the United States co-chaired.

Since you all have the document, I will not go into the entire text here, but present some of the highlights of the Working Group's conclusions.

In carrying out its review of the options, the Working Group focused on three issues: the number of posts that would be used as base figure for the calculation of geographical distribution; secondly, the weight that might be attributed to each of the factors included in the calculation methodology; and, thirdly, the time frame and manner in which a revised methodology could be implemented.

With regard to the number of posts to be used as the base figure for calculations of geographical distribution, the Working Group agreed that all fixed term and continuing posts established in the Programme of Work and Budget should be included, with the exception of language posts and the post of Director-General.

With regard to the factors to be used in the calculation, the Working Group concurred that the approach used in the United Nations should be followed. That is, three factors reflecting membership, population and contribution. Concerning the percentage weights to be applied to each factor, most members of the Working Group were prepared to accept the current United Nations percentages of 40 percent for membership, 5 percent for population and 55 percent for contribution, as these had been agreed through a consensus process by the United Nations General Assembly. Other members, however, felt that this aspect required further study.

With regard to the possible use of an additional grade weighting factor, based on salary levels in the calculation, the views of the Working Group were mixed.

On the question of the time frame and the authority to adopt the revised methodology, the Working Group sought the advice of Legal Counsel. The Working Group was informed that the Council had authority to take a decision on the matter.

Some members of the Working Group felt that, in view of the fact that the methodology prevailing in the United Nations had been demonstrated over a long period, consideration should be given to changing the methodology in FAO to a similar system without further delay. Other members felt strongly that further study was required before any change could be made.

The Working Group also noted the concern of some members regarding the need to concurrently take further concrete measures in redressing the under representation of Member nations, irrespective of the methodology to be adopted.

That, Mr Chairperson, concludes my summary of the Working Group's Report.

*Michael Odevall, Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, took the Chair
Michael Odevall, Vice-Président de la Conférence, assume la présidence
Ocupa la presidencia Michael Odevall, Vicepresidente de la Conferencia*

CHAIRPERSON

I thank you for this report. May I also take this opportunity, on behalf of the Conference, to thank both the Co-chairs from the US and Zimbabwe for its work.

In the document before us, there is no suggestion to decision so in some parts the issue has been moved forward by the Working Group, but in some parts there is still a need, as I understand, for the confrontations. The Chair would like to propose that the Working Group still be established and continue to work and report later. I will come back to that.

While you reflect on that suggestion may I open the floor for any comments on the report we have just heard and the document in front of us?

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

The Chinese delegation has taken note of the content of paragraph 6, that is the new method adopted by the World Health Organization. The Chinese delegation hopes that the Secretariat of FAO will provide information on this methodology so that we can have a full understanding of the process in order to promote our work in this respect.

Ramash C.A. JAIN (India)

The matter relating to Equitable Geographical Distribution in FAO, has been under discussion for several months. The Council has deliberated on the matter twice and so has the Finance Committee. The Secretariat has prepared varying scenarios and has furnished the information sought by Members. After this extensive exercise, I sincerely believe that further study, as suggested by some Members of the Working Group, is not very essential at this stage and can only be seen as an attempt to defer introduction of an equitable methodology.

As you have said many times before the existing methodology in FAO is not only outdated but is also iniquitous. It does not recognize the fact that valuable expertise in agriculture and rural development exists in poor countries. In order to be more inclusive and global in its character, but also to garner the best human resources, the outdated methodology based solely on the level of contribution must be modified. We have before us the UN model which has been tried and tested with the concurrence of all our governments. I strongly suggest that we should adopt the methodology immediately and not continue with the present outdated system any longer.

The Conference is competent to decide on this matter today and my delegation submits that we should adopt Scenario 2 as outlined in document CL 124/15-Add.1.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

We are not very clear about your suggestion which is that the Working Group should continue. Should the Working Group continue during the currency of the Conference? Perhaps then we would resolve our views and comments at that stage but if your suggestion is that the Working Group follows the Conference, I believe we agree with India this issue has been lingering for a very long time and it is time that this Conference comes to a conclusion. The UN System has adopted the formula which has been in use and which has been generally accepted and there are no major reservations on that formula. We should go ahead and follow that formula. However, we would like to clearly understand and may wish to intervene again on your own suggestion on having the Working Group continuing.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Pakistan. I had a proposal which I would like to outline, but before I did that I was eager to hear views on the document in front of us. My suggestion was that as the consultations in the Working Group have not come to a conclusion, it should continue its work. My suggestion

would be that it meets intercessional and can give reports to the Finance Committee in its meetings in May and September next year and then report to the 2004 Council.

I just want to underline, we can discuss any proposal, but I would like to underline that the consultations have not come to a conclusion and I think it is more useful for this Organization to continue consultations rather than put things forward at this stage. But I am of course in your hands for anything you suggest. I hope my suggestion was made more clear to Pakistan, hopefully, otherwise I would be happy to outline it.

Pakistan a quick reply on this.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

In that context our views are similar to those of India, which is basically, I think it is time that this issue, which has been lingering around for such a long time, should be brought to its conclusion. We have been handling, during this Conference, much more divisive issues than building up consensus. I am sure we can within this Conference, develop a consensus on this subject. If you want to maintain an arrangement to have the Working Group working over this afternoon and then coming with a consensus position we will go ahead, otherwise we would say that the Conference closes on Option 2 which represents the majority opinion in the Conference.

Hideo INOMATA (Japan)

My apologies. I intended to support the remarks made by India and Pakistan but at the moment I cannot see Korea on the proceedings, so after hearing your explanation I would come back later on this.

CHAIRPERSON

My proposal was that this Conference re-establish or gives a new mandate to the Working Group. The Working Group, as established, will continue its work. The Working Group will later, when it feels so fit, report to the Finance Committee, either in its early meeting or its late meeting next year. Then the decision will be taken by the Finance Committee to defer the issue back to the Working Group or to report to the Council.

The decision will ultimately be taken by the Conference in 2005 in that perspective. I am happy to further develop this issue but I hope that has clarified it at least to some extent.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Je crois que ce n'est pas la première fois que ce problème est à l'ordre du jour des discussions des instances de la FAO. Nous savons par définition que le Groupe de travail qui dure et qui perdure ne donnera jamais un résultat consensuel.

De deux choses l'une, soit nous décidons ici, dans une instance souveraine de notre Organisation, de prendre le temps qu'il faut pour débattre et échanger ou alors il y a une volonté de reporter aux calanques grecques une décision qui nous semble toutefois inéluctable.

Très souvent ici il nous a été recommandé, je dirai même pratiquement intimé, l'ordre de nous aligner sur ce qui est fait dans le Système des Nations Unies. Et très souvent, nous avons eu une réaction prompte et diligente. Je n'en veux pour preuve que le document que nous avons applaudi ce matin concernant la durée et les termes du mandat du Directeur général.

Ce problème qui fait l'objet de cette discussion a déjà été soumis au Comité financier, qui, si je ne m'abuse, avait fait des recommandations. Vous voulez que nous nous tournions à nouveau vers le Comité financier et je ne sais pas si c'est parce que les Membres vont peut-être changer et donc on s'attend à ce qu'il y ait une autre réaction. Mais tout cela n'est pas de nature à me convaincre.

Autant je suis pour le fait que tout ce que nous approuvons ici soit fait de façon consensuelle, c'est le meilleur moyen de prouver une dynamique d'unité au sein de notre Organisation. Soit, nous décidons aujourd'hui que ce sujet n'est pas de nature à avoir un avis définitif, ce que nous ne souhaitons pas.

Je pense que nous pouvons donner du temps durant cette Conférence car nous avons encore quelques jours. Si le Groupe de travail estime qu'il peut arriver à une position consensuelle alors mieux vaut lui donner le temps qu'il faut avant la fin de ces travaux mais il me semble préjudiciable d'aller aux termes des travaux de cette session sans prendre une décision définitive. Il s'agit d'un problème d'équité et nous croyons que les problèmes d'équité doivent être résolus dans les meilleures conditions et de la façon la plus intelligente.

Voilà, M. le Président notre position sur ce dossier. Pour nous, reporter *ad eternam* le travail du Groupe de travail nous semble contre-productif.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Mali and thank you for your views for which the Chair has great respect. I would just like to underline that we are not pulling the time backwards to the Finance Committee. I am referring it to the Working Group established by the Council of this Organization with full support, so it is just urging that work should continue. If there is a decision of this Conference in a direction I am absolutely prepared to suggest that but I just want to underline that it is not going backwards. It is continuing the work we have started which, of course, according to some Member States, could have a quicker process than it has but that is for you to decide.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I sympathize with those delegations, India and Pakistan, that have expressed frustration with the length of time it is taking to resolve this matter and I do agree with them that the matter needs to be resolved expeditiously. However we do not have in front of us a document that is right for decision. I do not see how we can take a decision on the basis of C 2003/LIM/17. There is no operative clause in it; there is nothing presented to decide and the Plenary would find difficulty in taking a decision without a document in front of us.

I would support your proposal that the Working Group continue its work but rather than simply mandating them to report back to the Finance Committee or to report back to Council, I think we should mandate them to present a new scheme for adoption by Council in November. It does not need to go back to Conference. It does not need to wait two years.

We have had legal advice from the Legal Adviser that Council has the authority to put in place a new scheme of Equitable Geographical Distribution. So that would be my proposal, that we accept this report. The report evidently sets out some areas of agreement together with some areas of disagreement where there is more work to be done to reach a consensus and that we mandate the Working Group to bring the matter back to Council with a recommendation for decision by Council in November.

CHAIRPERSON

I agree with you, we do not have any proposal for decision at this stage. If we have to take another decision the one letting the Working Group continue, we have to have a formal procedure. I take note of your support of the Chair's proposal.

GUO HANDI (China) (Original language Chinese)

Thank you for allowing me to take the floor. Just now the Chinese Delegation has already expressed its opinion on paragraph 6, but we would like to reassure that we support what has been said by India, Mali and Pakistan and we want this issue to be resolved expeditiously.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you China and thank you for your clear point of view. The request in your former intervention referring to information on WHO has been taken note of by the Chair but thank you for your opinion.

Evangelos-Sarantis ANDRICOPOULOS (Greece)

As a member of the Working Group I would have preferred not to take the floor in the Plenary because I think that the report by the Chairperson adequately represents the views expressed by

the various bodies which participated in the Working Group. I think it is regrettable that Members of the Group took the floor to contradict in some way the report of the co-Chair. I believe that, as the distinguished Delegate from Canada said, there is no proposal from the Group and I do not think we can take a decision at this forum at this point in time.

CHAIRPERSON

I just want to underline that I have to consult with the legal adviser but I am sure the Conference can take a decision if it so feels. The Working Group was just consultations and, of course, this Body can take, within the time limits stated in the Constitution, any decision it feels free to do so but we have to have a concrete suggestion before addressing that. I thank you for your views.

I now give the floor to the Co-chair of the working group, Zimbabwe.

Ms Mary Margaret MUCHADA (Zimbabwe)

I would like to speak on behalf of Africa. We participated in this committee because of the interest we have in the smooth functioning of this Organization and we went in on the understanding that FAO is working to align itself to changes that are happening in other UN bodies. So, we are of the opinion that FAO should not shy away from taking decisions that bring about equity. And geographical representation is one such issue. I would like to align with the statements that have been made by other Members of who have spoken before me in that respect. I was surprised you made your resolution, you summed up the decision, before any debate was undertaken in the house on the topic. I thought the reason why the topic was being tabled was to allow Members to give you their views on how the Organization should proceed but, as I say, I found it very surprising that you should conclude the debate before it even started, be that as it may. I wish to remind you that this topic was not introduced by this Conference. The last Conference handled this topic and, now this Conference is handling this topic. It is not such a difficult topic that would require three Conferences to resolve it. If people are genuinely concerned with their forms in this Organization, we really feel a way can be found to push the debate forward.

First and foremost, paragraph 5, according to our Co-Chair, he has clearly indicated that the Group concurred on the three factors that are being implemented in the UN. Even the percentages that are being implemented, the group concurred. There is no division on that. The Group was somewhat divided on whether we should apply the weighting now or not, the other weighting for the posts or not, and in that vein that element could be left aside because even the Group accepted that a study could be undertaken once we consider the three current factors.

Paragraph 9, contradicts itself. Paragraph 5 and paragraph 9 are in such contradiction of each other. I served in the Group and I had the occasion to ask my colleagues, those who were calling for more study, what do we want to study? The factors are there and we have already admitted the factors. I was not satisfied there was any item that was included, otherwise you would have seen it in this report. So if we just say there should be a study just for the sake of it, we are really just going in circles. If there is going to be a study then we need to hear it clearly, what aspects need to be studied. Do we want to reinvent the wheel in the UN or are we simply implementing what is already on the ground. So my immediate concern is whether we would want to come up with a totally different option.

As far as I recall what India has indicated, was the view that was discussed in this house at length, was that option 2 has already been functioning. Let us adopt Option 2 to avoid many problems. Then once we are working with Option 2, let us try to improve the operations of Option 2 to the satisfaction of other Members. I would welcome that because I know my colleagues had concerns. They could not voice them in the meeting but I really think they should be engaged to voice their concerns so that they are incorporated, as we are implementing the format that is already agreed in all other UN bodies. It does not call for a new establishment. It does not call for a new structure. It is merely taking the decision that we now want to be like other UN bodies. Just like we did earlier in the morning we took the decision to be like other UN bodies in setting time frames for the Chief Executive of our body. I think we can do the same if we want to make progress.

Thank you very much for affording me this opportunity but I do hope we can work and conclude this matter.

One way which Canada proposed from a legal point of view was also profiled for the Group by the Legal Counsel, that a decision could be taken even in between the Conferences. So I would really be praying with you that we should not confine ourselves to Conferences and let three Conferences deal with one little item, which working party has already been committed to.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank Zimbabwe very much and I can assure the Ambassador of Zimbabwe that I have not in any way attempted to conclude a discussions that has not taken place. I apologize if that sounded so.

As Co-Chair of the Working Group, the delegate of Zimbabwe is quite well aware that the report does not have any conclusion either, no conclusion from the Working Group, there is no suggestion to a decision which would have been helpful in this context. I just suggested the work to continue something that the Chair can do without a formal procedure. That was my contribution to the discussion. As I said, I am open to any proposal and we have a clear proposal from the delegate of Zimbabwe speaking on behalf of the Group of Africa.

Moussa BOCAR LY (Sénégal)

Permettez-moi d'abord d'appuyer ce que vient de dire l'Ambassadeur du Zimbabwe en sa qualité de Président du Groupe africain et il nous semble qu'il y a ici deux poids deux mesures parce que, lorsque nous avons longuement étudié la question du nombre et de la durée des mandats du Directeur général de la FAO, nous avons entendu l'argument de poids selon lequel on devrait suivre le Système des Nations Unies. Encore qu'il n'y ait pas d'harmonisation complète du Système des Nations Unies dans ce domaine là, car il y a encore des exceptions qui subsistent. Nous avons dans un esprit de compromis accepté de suivre les autres dans cette voie d'harmonisation avec le Système des Nations Unies.

Aujourd'hui, nous avons l'occasion d'appliquer le Système des Nations Unies et l'on nous dit que le Groupe de travail n'a pas terminé sa tâche, que le Groupe de travail doit continuer alors que depuis longtemps nous nous intéressons à cette question.

Vous avez dit et vous venez de le répéter maintenant, avec beaucoup d'impartialité, je dois le reconnaître, que vous n'aviez pas de base pour une décision. Je crois que c'est le contraire. Vous avez une base pour une décision au niveau du document qui nous est soumis aux paragraphes 5 et 9. En effet, au niveau de ces paragraphes les facteurs que nous devons appliquer sont indiqués. On nous donne le calendrier en disant que nous pouvons l'appliquer sans plus attendre; je souligne le paragraphe 9, deuxième ligne et il me semble que nous avons assez de base pour décider. Je suis d'accord avec le Zimbabwe pour dire que notre Conférence a une base pour décider *hic et nunc* sur cette question.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much Senegal, thank you for your kind words to the Chair. You are absolutely correct, there is a document for the Conference for decision, and I was referring to the Report of the Working Group that hopefully would find a solution or general support, consensus on based on the suggestion in the document. You are correct we have the proposal in our document, but we do not have a proposal for the Working Group that was supposed to try to find a common position.

Ms Maryam Ahmed Mustafa MOUSSA (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

First of all I must add my voice to that of the Ambassador of Zimbabwe, who has raised the question of the agreement or non-agreement. First of all, I am surprised when he says that there is an agreement. There are three factors that were adopted that already are functioning, it is the UN System as a method, so why are we saying here now that there is conflict and why are we submitting this to a further study before we can reach an agreement. Our Government does not

support at all continuing the study because it is a simple waste of time. We want to improve the performance of our Organization, and that is why I firmly support the declaration made by the Zimbabwe Delegation and also what was said by Pakistan, India and China. We would like to appeal to the Conference and ask the Conference to give its opinion on this question, so that we do not need to waste any more time on this.

Ms Anna BLEFARI MELAZZI (Italy)

I have just read the report that the Working Group has submitted to us, the document C2003/LIM/17 and to tell you the truth, I have not read it carefully, because we would need suspension of the Conference, and I need to consult my constituency, the Member States of the European Union, because we did not have time to read and to discuss this Item.

From a general point of view, I would like to confirm what I said during the Council on this Item on behalf of the European Union and its 15 Member states and of the 10 acceding countries. We certainly agree with the need to change the methodology for a more equitable representation of staff distribution in line with other agencies of the United Nations. This being said, I would like to recall the attention of all the distinguished Members of this Conference to the fact that, even in the Finance Committee, which gave advice on this Item, there was no agreement on which of the three options under consideration was best suited to represent the interests of all the membership and the one which was the best to adopt in the interest of the Organization.

Each agency of the United Nations has its own problems, its own configuration and I think that we have to adopt the best of the options possible in the interest of the Organization itself, because changing a methodology can have implications on the functioning of the Organization.

I would like to recall also, that even in the United Nations System the weighing of different factors are under consideration. After having waited for a long time for the introduction of the new methodology, we should introduce the right one, we should give attention to this problem, which unfortunately we have not been able to give so far because we have had other, and perhaps more important problems to tackle, and I want to refer here to the work spent on the budget.

I would favour the proposal that Canada has just introduced today. Let us try to come to an agreement in the Working Group on a common methodology after weighing the pros and cons of this new methodology, which of the three options under study is the best for the Organization, and let us not wait for the next Conference but let us give the Council the power to take the final decision.

CHAIRPERSON

I totally agree that we have to take the best decision, however, there seems to be different views on what is the best decision. I also apologize again for mentioning the Conference as the ultimate Body, it is the Council that can take a decision. I also want to thank Italy for underlining that when this issue was up in the Finance Committee, there was no agreement either on this point.

Michael TABONG KIMA (Cameroon)

We seem to be going round and round on this very important issue, which as been discussed by the Working Group. Let me say right away, that my Delegation supports the views expressed by Zimbabwe, India, Pakistan, Senegal and Egypt, and I will add that the proposal presented in paragraph 9, second sentence, be implemented with effect from 2004. We do not need a third Conference to look into this issue. Any further findings, or further studies, as suggested in paragraph 9, third sentence, shall be considered only in the next biennium. I feel that we have all the facts and let us use them now.

CHAIRPERSON

This is true, we have been discussing this at least since the last Conference.

Richard W. BEHREND (United States of America)

It is customary in FAO for the Membership to adopt difficult decisions on difficult issues by consensus, even though that is often time consuming. It is clear from the Report of the Working Group, that there is no consensus on all of the questions before it, even though they have made some progress. In view of these circumstances, we feel it would be a regrettable breach of customary practice to move an issue to decision over the objection of several Members. Therefore, we support the proposal from the Chair to give the Working Group another opportunity to find a consensus.

Amadou Gon COULIBALY (Côte d'Ivoire)

En nous référant à la logique qui a prévalu pour fixer le nombre et la durée des mandats du Directeur général de la FAO, laquelle logique a été inspirée par ce qui se passe à l'ONU et tenant compte effectivement des paragraphes 5 et 9 du Rapport du Groupe de travail concernant la répartition géographique équitable, nous estimons qu'il existe suffisamment d'éléments de décision pour pouvoir faire avancer nos travaux.

Pour cette raison, notre intervention sera très brève en ce sens qu'elle soutient celle du Zimbabwe qui a parlé au nom de l'Afrique, avant celle du Mali qui allait dans le même sens. Dans la logique de nos méthodes de travail évidemment nous soutenons également l'intervention du Sénégal, de l'Inde, du Pakistan et du Cameroun.

Blair HANKEY (Canada)

I repeat again what I have said about feeling solidarity with those delegations which have indicated frustration for the long period that it has taken to resolve this matter and certainly Canada acknowledges the need to change the system. We want it to be done as quickly as possible. However, when those delegations that are asking for a decision at this Conference do so, they refer us to paragraphs 5 and 9 of the Report. I still have difficulty understanding how those paragraphs constitute the basis for decision.

Paragraph 9 uses the term, most Members, when it indicates what is being proposed and then immediately the following sentence in paragraph 6 says, other members, and again in paragraph 9, we see it opens with, some Members, and then further down it says, other Members felt strongly. Well that is very clear evidence that we are certainly not right for adoption on this matter by consensus. Of course, it is open to us legally to adopt this matter by vote. In that case the proponents of a certain view would have to put forward a resolution and then we would have to vote on it, and I do not doubt that the Members proposing the resolution will have the votes to adopt, if that is likely the case. However, it would be wise to contemplate what the effect of such a vote would be on the health of the Organization where solidarity between all Members and groups is a necessary condition of its effect of functioning.

I do recall in my time here on issues where votes were taken, the results were not generally very satisfactory, so I think that that matter needs to be considered carefully by those who would propose a vote. I propose that the Council endorse the Report of the Working Group and urge the Working Group to continue its work and to present the November Council with recommendations for their adoption. Not another report, we do not need to say anything about studying, I do not think we need further study, what we need is further negotiations so that we have a consensus report for adoption by the November Council. We should put finality to the matter in November, but I do not think we are ready to put finality to the matter now, unless we do it by vote, and a vote would have unquestionably certain political consequences for the way we run this Organization and I do not think they would be good ones.

Ivone Alves DIAS DA GRAÇA (Gabon)

Nous appuyons ce qui a été dit par la délégation du Zimbabwe, celle du Mali, du Cameroun, de l'Inde, du Pakistan et des autres délégations qui ont exprimé le souhait de prendre une décision au

cours de notre session et pour toutes les raisons invoquées et notamment la question de l'équité et celle de l'harmonisation du Système des Nations Unies.

En ce qui nous concerne, il nous semble que le paragraphe cinq pourrait constituer une base de départ pour une conclusion et comme vous l'avez dit vous-même, la Conférence est souveraine pour prendre une décision dès à présent.

Antonio Arturo PLAZA JIMÉNEZ (Chile)

Hablaré en representación del GRULAC. Como grupo regional quisiéramos apoyar las delegaciones de Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Pakistán y tantos otros quienes manifestaron que no necesitamos una nueva Conferencia para avanzar en este tema, ya que toda la información dada en el documento, fundamentalmente lo manifestado en el punto 5, nos permitiría tener una base para poder llegar a un resultado final.

Mme Cathérine OUEDRAOGO (Burkina Faso)

Le Burkina voudrait se joindre à tous les pays qui se sont prononcés pour que nous ne repoussions pas les échéances dans la mesure où les différentes données qui figurent dans le document peuvent permettre de commencer un certain travail de façon efficace.

Le Burkina ne comprend pas pourquoi il faut toujours repousser les échéances. Ce que le Burkina voudrait surtout déplorer ici c'est que des membres compétents qui ont participé à ce Groupe puissent aujourd'hui revenir en arrière et donner des avis complètement contraires. C'est ce que le Burkina regrette sincèrement.

Faustin MAPELA NGA-MA (République démocratique du Congo)

Je vais être bref. Je voudrais appuyer toutes les délégations qui ont demandé que la question soit examinée lors de cette session. Comme ils l'ont bien expliqué, le paragraphe 5 constitue une bonne base et il n'y a pas de raison pour que l'on renvoie la question.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

First, I would just like to say that we do have some sympathy for this proposal and, indeed, it may actually benefit Members of the southwest Pacific region. However, I would firstly like to note that, given other commitments, the southwest Pacific region was not actually represented within the Working Group during the course of this Conference. So, therefore, this is the first we have seen of this report and, indeed, it does not reflect the views of the southwest Pacific region, given our inability to be represented in that meeting.

Having said that, we also think that the time is not ripe for a decision on this. We, therefore, would concur with the Chair's proposal that the Working Group continue to meet, as the report does indicate there are clearly areas where the Working Group said that further study is needed. Therefore, there is no basis for conclusions at this stage, based on the paper that was prepared by the Working Group. We would, therefore, say let the Working Group continue to meet and, only after this, should conclusions be drawn from those meetings.

CHAIRPERSON

This seems to be a topic which is difficult and many delegations have views. It is now 12.20 hours and I have the following list of speakers left: Republic of Congo, Ireland, Algeria, Mauritius, Nigeria, Malaysia and South Africa.

I have now an even longer list: it is still adding up, so just give the Secretariat a chance. I must underline, *inter alia*, with all due respect but I think the arguments and the ideas have been put forward. Therefore, if there is any delegation that thinks it has heard the arguments, I would be happy if it could withdraw, because we must finish by 13.00 hours.

I now have Republic of Congo, Ireland, Algeria, Mauritius, Nigeria, Malaysia, South Africa, El Salvador, Mauritania, Angola, Slovenia, Niger, Cape Verde, Iran, Guatemala and Guinea. If all these delegations believe they have new arguments, I am very prepared to listen to them. Do you really all have new arguments? In school we always received a golden star when we did

something wrong, so I will give a golden star to a renewed argument. But of course I cannot prevent anyone from speaking to the Conference, however we also have a time limit. I would like to draw some conclusions and a suggestion on how we can continue the work.

With this I now have: Republic of Congo, Ireland, Algeria, Mauritius, Nigeria, Malaysia, South Africa, El Salvador, Mauritania, Angola, Slovenia, Niger, Cape Verde, Iran and Guatemala. May I close the speakers' list? I thank you. No, I am sorry, the list is closed.

A special thanks to Niger for withdrawing from the list.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I really want to encourage people to make interventions so do not think that the Chair is trying to prevent them. However, we do have a time schedule to keep so that is why I urge you to reflect on your arguments.

Émile ESSEMA (République du Congo)

J'aimerais souligner que je prends la parole dans la mesure où vous déclarez ne pas avoir freiné les interventions des Représentants de chaque État. La Plénière doit prendre tout son temps pour analyser les situations qui sont soumises à l'ordre du jour.

Ceux qui s'abstiennent de prendre la décision maintenant nous donnent l'impression de n'avoir pas lu le rapport du groupe de travail et des éléments nouveaux seront fournis dès lors qu'ils le feront.

Nous insistons toujours sur le paragraphe 5 qui se trouve à la page 2 du document français, indiquant les facteurs à prendre en compte dans le calcul. Le Groupe de travail a convenu qu'il conviendrait de suivre la méthode utilisée à l'ONU, à savoir: Points facteurs reflétant le statut de Membre, la population et les contributions. Paragraphe 9: Certains membres du Groupe de travail ont estimé que la méthodologie de l'ONU était appliquée avec succès depuis longtemps et qu'il faudrait envisager de changer sans plus attendre la méthode de la FAO en un système similaire.

Quels sont les arguments que l'on cherche davantage. Si l'on pense que l'on n'a pas été présent au Groupe de travail de qui est-ce la faute? L'information a été donnée ici, devant tous les délégués. Que la répartition soit équitable dans ce Groupe de travail et si certains n'ont pas été présents, ce n'est pas de la faute de la Présidence ni de la Plénière.

Voilà pourquoi la décision doit être prise à l'instant, comme déjà mentionné par Mme la Présidente du Groupe Africain, par l'Ambassadeur du Mali et tous ceux qui sont intervenus effectivement pour que cette décision soit prise.

CHAIRPERSON

I thank the representative of the Republic of Congo and I would like to assure him that I am prepared to sit here as long as it takes. Unfortunately, we are dependent on others, as interpreters, for one example. But I am prepared to listen to all interventions and stay all night if needed. I think the representative of the Republic of Congo has a point when saying that, of course, for the work of the Organization, it would be useful to have a decision as early as possible. I also thank other Member States who have withdrawn from the speakers' list. We are gaining some time.

John Francis COGAN (Ireland)

I merely wish to support the views put forward by Italy and Greece and to add that you, as Chairperson, have nothing to apologize to this Conference for. You acted quite correctly in identifying the situation as it is presented to the Conference in the documentation before us, from the Working Group.

Nasreddine RIMOUCHE (Algérie)

À notre tour, nous voudrions appuyer ce qui a été dit par le Groupe africain ainsi que par les Groupes Asie, Amérique latine et Caraïbes. Nous ne voyons aucunement l'intérêt de surseoir à une décision qui en fait n'équivaut qu'à appliquer ce qui existe déjà dans d'autres organisations, notamment à l'ONU.

Par conséquent, comme cela a été demandé par Son Excellence le Représentant du Mali, beaucoup de personnes ont décidé lors d'autres réunions, d'adopter cette méthode conformément à ce qui est utilisé à l'ONU. C'est une méthode déjà utilisée pour l'élection du Secrétaire général de l'Organisation et d'autres Chefs de secrétariat. Si l'on refuse donc d'étudier cette question, cela ne va certainement pas avantager l'Organisation et cela risque même d'être préjudiciable à son avenir.

Nous ne devons pas reporter plus avant cette décision qui doit être prise pendant cette session de la Conférence. Je pense que les délégations devraient faire preuve de compréhension.

S'il est impossible de nous décider lors de cette session, le Groupe de travail devra certes poursuivre ses travaux mais pendant la présente session et, à ce moment-là, je pense que nous pourrions arriver à une décision avant la conclusion de cette session de la Conférence. Très probablement, cette décision sera acceptée par toutes les parties.

Bamidele DADA (Nigeria)

I will try to be brief. First, I would like to commend the members of the Working Group for producing this balanced report which we are now considering. I believe they have reflected the various views expressed by members of the various groups of the Organization.

Naturally, Nigeria supports the position of the Africa Group, which is in line with the Asia Group and in accordance with what is currently in practise by the United Nations system. We have also taken note of the fact that a plea has been made for consensus. This is why we would like to come in at this present point in time.

We would like, in fact – as my colleague from Algeria has just suggested – to encourage the Working Group, which has done such marvellous work, to continue to work and submit a report before the end of this Conference; adding some kind of recommendations which this Conference can decide upon; making sure that we can already start implementing areas of the recommendations that are not controversial, but are already being practised by other United Nations systems.

I think we are going to actually consider the proposal of the Chairperson, that it should be done at the next Council but I have just been informed that there is no Council Session in June. I would believe that that there is no need to hold on to this issue, for such a long time, until November next year. Certainly, there are areas of agreement which we can start to implement in the interim. I would plead that, if it were possible the Working Group resume its work and add some recommendations on the basic areas of agreement, so that this Conference can take a decision.

Muhamad Nahar HAJU MOHD.SIDEK (Malaysia)

I just wish to express support for this issue on Equitable Geographical Distribution to be discussed and possibly be concluded in this Conference, as expressed by many of the previous speakers.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Je tiens tout d'abord à féliciter le Président du Groupe de travail pour le travail accompli et je suis solidaire avec toutes les déclarations qui ont été faites en faveur du paragraphe 5 du document, c'est-à-dire avec celle du Zimbabwe qui a parlé au nom de l'Afrique, de l'Inde, du Pakistan et du Mali, qui d'ailleurs avait déjà fait part de ses préoccupations lors de la 125^{ème} session du Conseil, de l'Algérie et de tous ceux qui sont en faveur du fait que la Conférence, qui est souveraine, prenne une décision.

Ms Bojana HOCEVAR (Slovenia)

I speak on behalf of the European Regional Group. We do support all that is proposed by Italy, Greece, Canada, South Pacific Regional Group and Ireland.

Arnaldo DELGADO (Cap-Vert)

La Délégation du Cap-Vert souhaiterait seulement appuyer les déclarations qui ont été faites par le Groupe africain, le GRULAC, ainsi que l'Asie.

Abdolreza Raeis SHAGHAGHI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I believe that the methodology that the United Nations has decided on could be a good base for FAO.

FAO is a Member of the United Nations family, therefore why are we not following the same policies as they are? On the other hand, I believe that we have spent enough time studying or negotiating this methodology. This Conference is the right place, and the right time to take a decision and not to hand it to the Council.

Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

My delegation supports all the Members of the Africa Group and the Asia Group, who have been speaking on the issue.

My delegation feels that we have had enough time to study all the issues which we are continuing to discuss at length. I believe that the content of paragraph 5 is enough to reflect option 2 of document CL 124/15-Add.1. I think that this was proposed, in fact, by the delegation of India. Therefore, I would like to support all those Members who have spoken and suggest that this option 2 be adopted.

Point of Order***Point d'ordre******Punto de Orden*****Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)**

Je ne voudrais pas prolonger le débat mais il me semble que lorsque ma collègue, la déléguée de l'Algérie à ma gauche, est intervenue, elle avait demandé que l'on puisse accorder la parole à la délégation du Mali qui représente le Groupe des 77. Si vous le permettez, pourriez-vous donner la parole au Président du G 77?

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you Angola. I thank you very much for reminding me of this. I will be happy to do this. Unfortunately, this has turned out to be more complicated than foreseen. I have had consultations with the Secretariat to find a smooth proposal to this decision. So I apologize if I did not see that.

May I just ask Guatemala to wait a few minutes, while I give the floor to Mali.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Après avoir écouté l'ensemble des Présidents des groupes régionaux et en notre qualité de Président du G 77, nous pouvons ici dire que la position de l'ensemble des pays membres du G 77 est qu'une décision soit prise au cours de cette session.

Me référant à la déclaration de notre ami du Canada que tout le monde connaît pour sa franchise, il n'est rien à attendre de quoi que ce soit. Nous le savons bien. Il faudrait simplement effectivement se donner le temps de changer pour se convaincre les uns et les autres.

Dans cette enceinte, le G 77 a toujours fait preuve d'unité, de recherche de consensus. Quand bien même le nombre plaiderait en sa faveur, jamais ici le G77 n'a voulu faire de *forcing* pour adopter une position. Nous sommes en face de deux solutions: soit nous nous donnons le temps et nous reportons à l'infini une décision, soit nous prenons sur nous cette responsabilité majeure de décider quand il le faut.

Aujourd'hui, nous le savons très bien, nous ne pouvons pas continuer à fuir. La FAO est une organisation dynamique et amenée à évoluer. Elle ne peut pas rester dans une situation de léthargie chaque fois qu'il y a un problème ou un autre. Ceci dit il n'y a pas urgence ou il n'y a pas intérêt à prendre une décision.

Nous le savons tous que seule la pratique est le critère de vérité. Nous faisons tous confiance au Secrétariat de la FAO et nous pensons qu'il est temps de donner des instructions à celui-ci pour que cette décision soit mise en application. Nous sommes ici souverains et responsables et à tout moment nous pouvons interpellier la FAO si dans la pratique nous constatons effectivement que nous nous sommes trompés. Quelle que soit la décision à venir, rien ne nous empêche de revenir sur la question de dire à la FAO que nous pensons qu'il faut encore changer quelque chose pour trouver la position ou la solution la meilleure pour la FAO.

Pour une fois, au nom du G 77, j'interpelle les autres groupes régionaux. Avançons, soyons positifs, adoptons une position, c'est le sens du courage, ne pas le faire c'est dire simplement que nous avons peur de prendre nos responsabilités. Le Groupe de travail ne nous amènera à rien de plus. S'il peut nous amener quelque chose c'est effectivement des négociations, peut-être, encore des négociations, entre groupes et entre pays et nous ne sommes pas encore au terme de nos travaux. Nous avons encore, si je ne m'abuse trois ou quatre jours, cela peut nous permettre encore de changer.

Je souhaiterais que ce problème, au niveau où nous sommes, où il y a deux positions qui ne s'entendent pas, soit différé d'un jour, de deux jours en tout état de cause, avant la fin de ces travaux afin que nous puissions, comme nous l'avons toujours fait ici, prendre une décision au terme de cette présente session. C'est cela simplement qui consisterait pour nous un acte de foi et un acte de courage et de responsabilité.

Sra. Yleana RIVERA DE ANGOTTI (Guatemala)

Únicamente para apoyar la declaración de Chile y de los otros países y, naturalmente Guatemala como miembro del G 77 apoya lo que acaba de decir el Presidente del grupo.

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to make the following conclusion of the discussion. My first point is that we have now been discussing this for two years. I think all the situation is known, we have the document, we have the information, we know where we stand, we know our views on it.

The second conclusion I draw – and I would like to remind delegations – is that this Organization tries to work under consensus. I think it is a strength for this Organization that we can find decisions under consensus. They are not the best decisions, as we all know. A compromise is a compromise. But I would like to urge you and I believe it is the important point, that we try to find a consensus.

The third issue I had heard this morning, is the strong desire by a big majority of countries to take a decision now. Fourth is that there has been no formal proposal put forward. There have been references made to the document we have at the bottom of this discussion. However, no formal proposal has been put forward in the formal way it should be done to be taken by the Conference. The only proposal is basically the Chair's proposal which does not need a formal document handling. Listening to delegates, some of the European group, the North American group and the long and experienced Chair of the G77 Representative from Mali, I would like to make the following proposal.

In view of the fundamental try to find consensus, I have consulted with the legal adviser and one of the co-chairs of the Working Group, and the legal point is the Chair needs a formal proposal. Therefore, my suggestion is that the Working Group – one of the co-chairs has volunteered – will meet again this afternoon and, if needed, tomorrow morning. The Chair would like to see a proposal by 12.00 hours tomorrow, hopefully worked out in consensus in the Working Group.

If that does not work, I do not see another way that any Member State and region may make its own proposal and put it forward to the Conference for decision. However, I really urge you to sit down in the Working Group and I am sure that Member States that do not feel represented in the Working Group can participate and make proposals. I urge you to try, with help from the Legal Counsel and the Secretariat, to work out a formal proposal, because I have great sympathy for taking a decision during the Conference, in view of the long time we have discussed this issue.

For the time being, is this proposal acceptable to the Conference?

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

When can the Working Group meet and in what place? Would we have any information on that at this point?

The Working Group will meet shortly after 14.30 hours. The Secretariat will give information on where it will take place. At 14.30 hours we will have the information where the Working Group can meet, and hopefully by 12.00 hours tomorrow have a suggested Resolution for the Conference's approval.

I thank you very much for your support. This morning's Session is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 12.51 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 51

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.51 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING DOUZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 12ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
8 December 2003

The Twelfth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.05 hours

Juan Francisco Reyes López

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La douzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 05
sous la présidence de M. Juan Francisco Reyes López,
Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 12ª sesión plenaria a las 15.05 horas
bajo la presidencia del Sr. Juan Francisco Reyes López,
Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART IV - APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS (continued)
QUATRIÈME PARTIE – NOMINATIONS ET ÉLECTIONS (suite)
PARTE IV – NOMBRAMIENTOS Y ELECCIONES (continuación)

23.2 Appointment of Representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee
(C 2003/14)

23.2 Nomination des représentants de la Conférence de la FAO au Comité de la Caisse des pensions du personnel (C 2003/14)

23.2 Nombramiento de los Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO en el Comité de Pensiones del Personal (C 2003/14)

EL PRESIDENTE

Damos inicio a la 12ª Sesión Plenaria. Antes de empezar quiero recordarles que existe un grupo de trabajo reunido sobre el tema de distribución geográfica sesionando en la Sala Líbano (D 209) y ha empezado a las 14.30. Es un recordatorio para todos aquellos que participen de este grupo de trabajo. Comenzaremos con el asunto 23.2: "Designación de Representantes de la FAO al Comité de Pensiones". Los documentos relevantes al efecto están identificados como C 2003/14: Designación de Representantes de la Conferencia de la FAO al Comité de Pensiones.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Appointment of representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee, document C 2003/14 gives the background and paragraph 7 specifies the action required of the Conference.

We must appoint one Member and one Alternate to serve from 1 January 2004 until 31 December 2006. The outgoing Member and Alternate being Ms Doña Dolores Cedeña Perez of the Dominican Republic and Mr H. E. Souhaib Deen Bangoura of Republic of Guinea. One Member and one Alternate for a term of three years from 1 January 2005. The outgoing Member and Alternate being Mr Bruce Berton, United States of America and Mr Milan Paksi, Slovak Republic.

There is an error, just to bring your attention to it, in the Arabic version, but the name is Bruce Berton.

LEGAL COUNSEL

As already indicated, the Conference has before it document C 2003/14 regarding the appointment of representatives of the FAO Conference to the Staff Pension Committee.

I would like to recall that the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund provides retirement, death, disability and related benefits for the staff of the United Nations Organizations, such as FAO. The Fund is administered by the UN Joint Staff Pension Board and staff pension committees in each of the member organizations. The Board's membership is drawn from these Committees, whose members and alternate members are chosen by the governing bodies, the Executive Head of the organization and the participating staff of each organization.

In the case of FAO, the Conference appoints three of the nine Members and three of the nine Alternate Members to the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

Paragraph 7 of document C 2003/14 states that appointment is needed for one Member and one Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006; and one Member and one Alternate Member to serve from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007.

The Secretariat has been informed that the following candidates have been proposed to serve as Members and Alternate Members representing the FAO Conference on the FAO Staff Pension Committee. For the period of 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2006, it is proposed as Member, His Excellency Mengistu Hulluka, Permanent Representative of the Federal Democratic Republic

of Ethiopia to FAO. As Alternate Member, Her Excellency Doña Victoria Guardia Alvarado De Hernández, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Costa Rica to FAO.

For the period 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007, it is proposed as Member, Mr Zoltan Kálmán, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Hungary to FAO, and as Alternate Member for the same period, Mr Bruce Berton, Alternate Permanent Representative of the United States of America to FAO.

Mr Chairman you may wish to ask the Conference to consider these candidates and, if it finds them acceptable, to proceed with the appointment of the persons just named to become Members and Alternate Members of the FAO Staff Pension Committee.

EL PRESIDENTE

Han escuchado ustedes las propuestas; tenemos los cuatro nombres de las personas propuestas para las cuatro posiciones vacantes. La Conferencia acuerda la asignación de estas personas; no habiendo objeción y habiendo sido aclamados, los declaro debidamente designados.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

PART V - OTHER MATTERS

CINQUIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS DIVERSES

PARTE V – OTROS ASUNTOS

24. Date and Place of the Thirty-third Conference Session

24. Date et lieu de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence

24. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 33° período de sesiones de la Conferencia

Pasamos al punto 24, fecha y lugar de celebración del 33° período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Le ruego a la Secretaria General, Sra. Gardner, nos haga saber si existen propuestas al respecto.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The dates proposed for the next Conference are from 18 to 29 November 2005 and the place would be FAO Headquarters in Rome.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

This is actually an issue which has been raised at several Conferences prior to this Conference. This year, those who come from the Muslim countries had a specific problem because the Council Session preceding the Conference overlapped with the vacation that we had for annual *Eid Al-Fitr* holidays, and obviously we had to miss that, we have been here for three weeks in perpetuity. We do respect all religions and we respect that the Conference is scheduled in such a way that the winter break over here is planned so that Christmas and New Year is not disturbed, albeit, we have been urging the FAO Secretariat so many times that they should keep the same consideration on Muslim holidays. I do not have the exact calendar before me, but going by the normal principle of *Eid Al-Fitr* moving up by ten days every year, that means we move up by 20 days. *Eid Al-Fitr* this year was on 25 November, so the holiday 2005 should be from 2-10 November, that means the Council Session preceding the next Conference will also overlap with this. We would propose that this whole Conference Session should be delayed by one week to accommodate those countries. We hope that in future, due consideration in fixing meetings is given to this issue which has been raised on so many occasions.

It is not really a matter directly relating to the Conference time, date and place, but an issue which we would like to flag over here, regarding the duration of the Conference. There is another issue which has also been discussed for a long time: that a two week Conference is too long. With the new tradition that seems to have developed here, with a lot of negotiations and discussions taking place outside the Plenary and the Commissions, this time we see that the main Plenary and Commissions have much less work to do. With some adjustments, some of these negotiations

taking place prior to the Conference Session, we could easily complete the Conference in a matter of one week. We would suggest that the Conference be convened on a Saturday and that it should conclude within the following Friday.

Peter BENNETT (New Zealand)

New Zealand has had the honour of chairing this Conference and we, too, have been reflecting on how we might possibly improve the holding of the Conference. We have reached pretty much the same conclusion as my friend from Pakistan, that it should be possible to reduce the length of the Conference. After all, it costs a great deal of money to run a Conference like this, and every day that delegates have to stay here, every day that we have to pay interpreters, it is an increased cost to FAO.

We also feel that a lot of the key work is done in the first days, those key statements by delegations, which are very important for everybody. That is over and done with. After that, things tend to wind down.

It is also worthwhile reflecting that the FAO Conferences go on from what used to be somewhere about three weeks to a month, down to the current nine to ten days. In this day of new technology, it should be possible to reduce it further. What we would like to suggest is that the upcoming Council have a look at this, and just see what prospects there might be for reducing it further.

Marco ROMITI (Italy)

I am speaking on behalf of the 15 Member States of the European Union. The ten acceding countries to the EU associate themselves to this statement.

In the light of our experience with appropriate planning and prior consultations with the membership on specific issues, the European Union recommends that future sessions of the Conference be shortened, thus increasing efficiency savings in the Organization.

We hope that the Secretariat will consider this proposal in view of the Thirty-third Session of the Conference.

Richard BEHREND (United States of America)

We would just like to associate ourselves with the observations and recommendations just made by Pakistan, New Zealand and the European Union.

Bander B. A. Moshin AL (Saudi Arabia) (Original language Arabic)

I, in turn, should like to support wholeheartedly what was said by the distinguished representative of Pakistan.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Nous appuyons nous aussi la déclaration du Pakistan sur le premier point de la nécessité de tenir compte de la fête d'Eid Al-Fitr. Ceci dit, nous sommes pour l'efficacité et je crois que c'est normal que nous demandions que cela soit raccourci dans la mesure du possible. Surtout pour les délégations venant de très loin.

Mais le problème qui se pose, à mon avis, est que c'est à cette Conférence-même de décider des dates. Il s'agit d'un problème juridique. Je sais que c'est à la Conférence de décider les dates de sa prochaine réunion. Une délégation a proposé que le Secrétariat ou le Conseil examine la question mais je crois qu'on doit tenir compte également du fait que la prochaine Conférence sera aussi une Conférence d'élections. Il faut donc tenir compte également de cet aspect dans l'organisation du travail.

Rasmi MAHMOUD (Oman) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to associate myself with what was said by the distinguished representative of Pakistan with regard to the timing, taking into consideration the *Eid* and also the other point concerning the brevity of the period.

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

I would like to associate myself with both ideas, both the one expressed by Pakistan about the dates and he mentioned particular situations, but also about the extension of the Conference. We could not agree more with the suggestion of simplifying and reducing the time we have for this important deliberation.

Nuri Ibrahim HASAN (Lybia) (Original language Arabic)

I should like to associate myself with Pakistan regarding its proposal concerning the dates that should take into account, not to be in conflict with religious feasts and occasions, and I also approve of the proposal to cut short the period of the Conference.

Mehdi HAJIKAZEMI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

I would like to support the statement raised by the distinguished delegate of Pakistan.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have taken note of the suggestions on two counts. One, to recognize the religious holidays that fall around that time, and also to achieve economies and savings by reducing the number of days of the Conference. We welcome these proposals and we will take them into consideration in establishing the final date of the Conference for 2005.

25. Any Other Matters**25. Autres questions****25. Otros asuntos****EL PRESIDENTE**

Oídas las opiniones dadas por los distintos delegados, tomadas éstas ya en cuenta por la Secretaría, si fuese necesario la Secretaría podría pactar con los presidentes de los grupos regionales a efectos de establecer un consenso en cuanto a la duración y las fechas. No habiendo, de momento, una decisión de la Conferencia sobre el tema, quedará éste pospuesto y pasaremos al Tema 25 de nuestra Agenda. Otro asuntos.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan)

I am very grateful for the understanding shown by all Members both on the timing of the next Conference and the duration. It should not cause very much difficulty as long as we have the week in which to fit the *Eid Al-Fitr* week with no meeting. This will be somewhere between 2 November and 10 November. So any meeting fixed after that should not be a problem and the duration can be easily worked out. The general consensus seems to be on a seven to nine days Conference at the maximum. So with that in view we could leave this discretion to the Secretariat. We do not need further consultation.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Puisque nous sommes au point "divers", je voudrais me prononcer sur le document C 2003/INF/10. Si vous m'en donnez l'autorisation, je peux continuer. Merci.

EL PRESIDENTE

Estaba previsto que abordásemos lo referente a estos documentos, que son tres, al final del Tema otros asuntos. Si le parece bien al Delegado de Angola, dejaríamos para el final el conocimiento de los documentos informativos.

Noel D. DE LUNA (Philippines)

Last Friday, December 5, the Delegates to the Thirty-second FAO Conference had a Papal Audience, during the Audience, His Holiness the Pope, delivered a statement, I would like to propose that this statement be made an attachment to the Verbatim Report, during that day.

Flávio MIRAGAIA PERRI (Brazil)

The Brazilian Minister for Food Security and the International Fight Against Hunger, spoke before the Plenary on the desirability of a reform of the Committee on Food Security, to put it institutionally in line with the ongoing international effort to eradicate hunger in all countries.

As a matter of fact, the relevant provisions of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, were summarized in Commitments 7, Objective 7.3. It is relevant now to recollect that among eight different provisions set out in the Objectives of monitoring actively the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, (g) reads as follows: "To this end governments in partnership with all actors of civil society, in coordination with relevant international institutions and, in conformity with ECOSOC Resolution, 1996/36 on the follow-up to major international United Nations Conferences and Summits as appropriate, will (h) By 2006, undertake, in the Committee on Food Security and within available resources, a major broad-based progress assessment of the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action and a mid term review ... This progress assessment and review should be in the context of a special forum of a regular session of the Committee on Food Security and involve active participation from governments, relevant international organizations and actors of civil society".

At the Declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later* States recognized the urgent need to reinforce the efforts of all concerned parties as an International Alliance Against Hunger. They defined twelve central points as their political will and resolved : "to accelerate the World Food Summit Plan of Action calling on all parties, governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector to reinforce their efforts so as to act as an international alliance...".

Bearing in mind the contribution of all parties, the Committee on World Food Security was mentioned within its mandate as the focal point for the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. In other words, the World Food Summit entrusted the Committee on Food Security to monitor progress on the implementation of its Plan of Action. On the other hand, declaration of the World Food Summit: *five years later* dealt with the delicate and crucial issue of resources and its paragraph 27 called upon all Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and all other partners in the development, to consider voluntary contributions to the FAO Trust Fund for Food Security and Food Safety and other voluntary instruments.

The Declarations also stressed the inherent linkage between rapid progress towards the targets of the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as reaffirmed by the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the size, direction and efficient use of investment in food security, agriculture, rural development etc.

In order to make efficient use of resources destined to fight hunger, in accordance with Rule XXXIII of FAO's General Rules, the Committee on Food Security: "shall serve as a forum on the United Nations system to review and follow up of policies concerning world food security," including "the monitoring of the implementation of Plan of Action adopted by the World Food Summit".

At this point allow me to recall the relevant part of my Minister's proposal made before the same Plenary on Monday, 1 December, and I quote His Excellency's words in Spanish.

All the suggestions made by Minister Graziano da Silva in the intervention I have just read, are based on actual dispositions we may easily find in the instruments I have brought back to the fore. My delegation counts now on the understanding and support of delegations present to my intention to act on proper time, in accordance with Rule VI.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on World Food Security, so as to insert an item in the Committee's provisional agenda for its September Session. It is proposed that Member States report to the Committee on progress in establishing and implementing the National Alliance Against Hunger and that: "intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and all other parties" could interact non only

on the discussion of those Reports by Member States, but in some new creative ways during the work of the Committee of World Food Security. At that time, in accordance with the abovementioned Rule VI.2, "the Director-General shall thereupon circulate the proposed item to all Members of the Committee, together with any necessary papers".

I hope delegations could give their support to this proposal by presenting before the Thirtieth Session of the Committee on Food Security, to be held in September 2004, their views and suggestions and ways and means to enhance the work of the Committee on World Food Security. I would be pleased to see this statement included in the Records.

Continúa en Español

El Gobierno de Brasil hace un llamado para que todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Agricultura y la Alimentación hagamos un esfuerzo especial para fortalecerla y renovarla.

Un primer movimiento en esta dirección sería el fortalecimiento del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria para que cuente con una bien definida participación de la sociedad civil organizada. Consecuentemente fortalecido, ampliado en su mandato y en su capacidad de sumar apoyos, este foro podría efectivamente articular la iniciativa de la Alianza Internacional contra el Hambre y de negociar el apoyo político y los recursos necesarios para acelerar los programas nacionales e internacionales de reducción del hambre y de la desnutrición crónica y de la lucha contra la pobreza.

Un segundo paso indispensable sería fortalecer el Fondo Internacional de Combate al Hambre. En su presentación en Davos así como en su reciente intervención ante la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, el Presidente Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva habló de combatir el hambre no sólo como la principal prioridad de su Gobierno sino que propuso la creación de un fondo internacional para combatirlo financiado por el sector privado.

Un tercer paso sería correlacionar de alguna forma creativa las dos iniciativas y proponer un estudio.

Mohammad Saleem KHAN (Pakistan)

We support the proposal by the Philippines, we should include the statement of the Pope, because it was a very thought provoking statement and it should be made part of the Record.

Regarding the proposal of Brazil, we do support the proposal that it should be included in the agenda of the next Committee on Food Security, and should be continuously reviewed, as the position has come up in the World Food and Agriculture Report before us, on which most Heads of Delegations have spoken. The position reported does not give confidence on the progress that we have made in this area. We do not have any difference on the statement which Brazil has made, obviously we would respond to it at an appropriate stage. However since they want it as part of the Record, we have no objection of it being made part of the Record.

Ramesh C.A. JAIN (India)

I have asked for the floor to flag the Conference Document C 2003/INF/10 concerning the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

India actively participated in the negotiations in the Commission and its contact group, on the genetic resources for food and agriculture, that finally led to the adoption by the FAO Conference of the International Treaty, which will come into force in the near future.

EL PRESIDENTE

Inmediatamente después de que tomó la palabra el delegado de Angola, habíamos establecido que los tres documentos informativos se iban a abordar al final del Tema otros asuntos. Si a usted le parece bien, le suplicaría que dejásemos el conocimiento de los documentos informativos para el final de otros asuntos. Si no lo considera adecuado, puede continuar analizándolos desde ya, pero en el caso de Angola así lo habíamos, básicamente, convenido.

Ramesh C. A. JAIN (India)

I will agree with your proposal if you are coming to the end of other business very quickly.

Mehdi HAJIKAZEMI (Iran, Islamic Republic of)

My country was a very active participant in the negotiation in the Commission on Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture that led to the adoption of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We look forward to its coming into force in the very near future. There is an important body of work that still needs to be completed by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, which is acting as the Interim Committee for the Treaty. We note from Document C 2003/INF/10 that the success of this work in the forthcoming biennium, will be dependent on adequate extrabudgetary resources being made available to support the Commission on Strengthening its Strategy Secretariat, so as to complete the Interim Committee work and to provide the Secretariat for the Governing Bodies when it first meets.

We request that this Conference therefore reiterates the call to donors that it made in its Resolution 3/2003.

EL PRESIDENTE

Tenemos dos propuestas concretas, la hecha por la Delegación de Filipinas y la realizada por la Delegación de Brasil. Puedo pensar que hay consenso en cuanto a incluir en las actas las dos propuestas, siendo así, así queda decidido.

Siempre dentro de otros asuntos realizaremos lo que tradicionalmente hemos llamado *in memoriam*, momento en el cual la Conferencia rinde tributo a aquellos miembros del *staff* que han muerto en el servicio desde la Conferencia anterior. Rogaríamos así a la Secretaria General Sra. Carleen Gardner que lea para nosotros los nombres de aquellos miembros de la FAO cuya memoria habremos de honrar en este momento tradicional de nuestra Conferencia.

It was so decided

Il en est ainsi décidé

Así se acuerda

25.6 In Memoriam

25.6 In Memoriam

25.6 In memoriam

SECRETARY-GENERAL

I will now read the names of staff members who died in service and also the name of the staff member who died after having retired from the Organization. Almami Kane, Mauritania; G. Benzakein, Spain; Guma'a Sayed Guma'a, Sudan; N.N. Mayoke, Democratic Republic of Congo; Pratap Man Shrestha, Nepal; Raoul Mitouri, Central African Republic; Yusaf Samuel, India, and finally Mr Paul Savary, France retired Assistant Director-General who died during the course of this year.

EL PRESIDENTE

Un minuto de silencio.

Muchas gracias señores Delegados.

De acuerdo con la recomendación hecha por el Comité General en el tercer informe presentado a esta Conferencia, quisiera ahora invitar a la Sra. Margareth Eldon, representante del personal de la FAO para que tome el podio y se dirija a esta Conferencia en los cuatro próximos minutos.

Margaret ELDON (FAO Staff)

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is both an honour and a privilege to speak to you on behalf of the three Staff Representative Bodies of FAO and World Food Programme, the Association of Professional Staff, the Field Staff Association and the Union of General Service Staff.

We are grateful to the Director-General and the Chairperson for permitting us to address this Conference. A copy of our statement will also be made available for your information. This year we have decided to use this opportunity to express the views of the staff on three main topics: security, medical health insurance and human resources management reform.

As mentioned in our address to you last year, security remains a principal area for improvement. We live in a very unsettled world where the role and the efficacy of the United Nations itself is questioned. This year has seen military intervention, without the consensus of the United Nations, a situation that was reported in the media as evidence of the inefficacy of the UN in the current world. We are also witnessing an explosion of international terrorism that indiscriminately hits civilians and providers of humanitarian assistance.

United Nations' personnel are no longer seen as neutral but as targets. FAO and World Food Programme have had to put in place stricter security measures to safeguard staff, both at Headquarters and in the field. At the same time, several UN Organizations, as well as other humanitarian organizations, such as the Red Cross have had to remove their personnel to a safer distance, away from the people they are trying to help. Obviously, in such circumstances the service that the staff is called upon to provide is undermined.

The UN's position is that the prime responsibility for staff security lies with the host governments that should take all measure necessary to ensure the safety of UN staff. In the majority of cases we can count on the collaboration of host governments. However, short coming reported in the past have not been wholly resolved. Moreover, the changed nature of conflict means that the risk of further tragedies, like that of the 19 August in Iraq, has not been obliterated. We there fore take the opportunity of this forum to appeal to Member Nations to take the necessary measures to ensure that the risks to UN Staff, indeed to all those whose purpose is to bring peace and humanitarian assistance, are removed and that adequate security is put in place.

Of course, this does not come without cost, but in these times it is of paramount importance if we are to work for Member nations effectively. In this connection we express appreciation for resources that have been allocated to upgrade security measures.

With regard to medical health insurance. Adequate health insurance coverage is an essential requirement for both serving and retired staff members that have restricted or in most cases, no access to national health services. All would probably agree that FAO must endeavour to maintain such coverage at an affordable and acceptable level. Differences of opinion, however, are likely to surface around the concepts of adequate, affordable and acceptable.

The FAO Medical Insurance Coverage has two principal components. The compulsory, Basic Medical Insurance Plan (BMIP), the cost of which is shared between the Organization and the staff. And the Optional Major Medical Benefits Plan (MMBP) which is funded entirely by the staff. Several years ago in a comparison of the FAO Medical Health Plan, with the medical coverage provided by a number of other UN Agencies, the FAO plan fell close to the bottom of the list. The coverage was only raised to among the top 25 percent, when the optional staff funded MMBP component was included in the comparison.

Medical inflation is affecting all countries and FAO as a leading international organization has to meet its commitments to both serving and retired staff in this matter. Staff trusts that this will not be achieved by reducing the benefits of the Basic Medical Insurance Plan and moving the costs of adequate and acceptable medical insurance coverage more onto the staff. We appreciate the

support expressed by Member Countries for adequate funding of the after service liability that the Organization has.

Moving on to human resources management reform. We have listened with interest to the discussions on the budget of the Organization. And particularly, the comments regarding the percentage of the Organization's budget that goes towards staff costs. We hear also requests for more reductions and greater efficiency gains.

We wonder, when the conditions of employment set at the international and at the duty station level are the same for all three Rome-based Organizations, why only FAO staff should appear as a burden. The nature of FAO's work, particularly the increasing emphasis on its normative programmes, requires high-level technical specialization. According to the UN Charter, the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service should be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.

In today's world, the cost of the highest standards of technical competence required by FAO is greater than that of other kinds of work such as logistics. FAO puts the fruits of its specialized technical expertise on the Web available to all. This may not make headline news, with the media bent on sensationalism, but its value to Member Governments, indeed to the world in general and to the long-term fight against hunger, should not escape attention and be undervalued.

The FAO field programme and the expertise required for reconstruction, rehabilitation and long-term sustainable development, is equally important. Particularly, in view of the Organizations aim to increase the synergy between normative and operational activities and to enhance the field programmes dual function of; on the one hand, translating into operation and action, the concepts and findings developed through normative activities; and on the other hand, enriching normative work through the feedback from field experience. We the staff remain committed to serving you, the Member Nations, to the best of our ability and look forward to working together with management to further improve our competence.

For the professional staff, one of the means to do this will be the implementation of the new Master Standard, which is a new system of evaluating the requirements of jobs in a way that provides closer links to other human resources processes, such as the evaluation of performance, competence development, training to keep abreast of technological advancement and career planning, in order to better meet the obligations of the Organization and the aspirations of the staff.

The perception of staff is that all aspects of career development need to be improved but in particular, the recruitment and promotion processes with greater consideration being given to qualified internal candidates. Also, there is the delicate matter of candidates seeking the intervention of their government representatives, to secure their selection for a given post. The Organization needs to be free to select the best candidate overall, if it is to better serve its Member Countries.

The Association of Professional Staff would welcome an enhanced and more flexible programme of staff training, including distance electronic training and refresher courses on many topics of global significance relative to their work. Training to keep staff abreast of technological advances in these areas is necessary to avoid the Organization losing its competitive technical edge. There is an interrelation between the functions of the Professional and General Service staff and this interrelationship has been strengthened by the changed nature of work, due to information technology.

Office automation has not turned the support staff into mere keyboard operators, but has actually enabled them to take on a broader range of higher level functions. Information technology blurs the distinction between old style occupational groups and levels of hierarchy. It increases interdependence and teamwork at all levels. At the support staff level, the changes proposed under the review of the General Service category are now being taken up at the international level by the International Civil Service Commission. The review looks likely to focus on the need for an

integrated approach to human resources management of the General Service, although the way this is achieved may differ from the systems adopted for the Professional category.

Staff looks forward to participating fully and constructively in the consultative process on all the issues to be tackled under the Human Resources Management Reform process.

With a view to embracing positive changes, that encompass the need for enhanced competence and motivation and, consequently, the quality of the service that we provide.

One of the principal pillars of Human Resources Management Reform that of decentralization of authority and accountability to line managers can, if not supported, with adequate information and monitoring methods, result in inconsistency in the interpretation of rules, regulations, and policies, as well as inequality of treatment of staff members.

Hand in hand with delegation of authority and accountability, must go greater transparency and decision-making and appropriate measures to ensure equitable and fair treatment. Also, new mechanisms to support the administration of justice in a more flexible and decentralized environment needs to be introduced, to ensure timely resolution of conflicts that are more conducive to mediation or the intervention of ombudsperson, than the legal appeals process.

Once again, let me express the gratitude of the staff for having been accorded the opportunity to make this address today and to reiterate our firm commitment to serve FAO and the needs of the Member Countries to the best of our ability.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

EL PRESIDENTE

Muchas gracias Sra. Eldon por la ilustrativa disertación. Creo que bien valió la pena oír la por más de los cuatro minutos convenidos; creo sea muy importante, no poner límites en este tipo de disertaciones. Muchas gracias nuevamente.

Pasamos al último de los puntos.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

Some of these items may not be substantive but like you have yourself noted they are very important items. And the speaker's statement, I believe, was a very important statement particularly coming from the staff.

We have one proposal and some comments on the second part. The first proposal is with regard to those who have under very difficult circumstance from the UN system laid down their lives to serve humanity. We recognize them in memoriam as we just did. I suggest we should also have, within FAO, some sort of memorial to them. We all do it at national level for those who pass away in line of service. I think it would be only right to have either a room or something similar dedicated to them. Therefore, this is our proposal and we hope it will receive the support of the other members. It need not be something ostentatious but it should be befitting.

Secondly, we have heard some very excellent suggestions from the staff representative. We are a bit apprehensive as to the budget level that we have approved. We are not exactly aware as to how far the axe will fall. Whether there will be retrenchments, some sacrifices in terms of staff benefits, in terms of staff career development. I think this should be looked into very carefully. If there are some difficulties we feel that rather than actions being taken, they should be brought to the membership, before strong actions are taken in terms of retrenchment or drastically cutting down staff benefits, career promotion, facilities such as training, establishing monitoring and evaluation as was suggested here. Therefore, such an important issue should be brought to the next session of the Finance Committee and to the Council later.

PART III - LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
PARTE III – CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS
(continuación)

20. Other Administrative and Financial Matters
20. Autres questions administratives et financières
20. Otros asuntos administrativos y financieros

EL PRESIDENTE

Pasamos, entonces, a la última parte de los puntos varios con la recomendación del Comité General en su primer informe, en el párrafo segundo, sugería y recomendaba que en los puntos varios de esta Conferencia fuesen conocidos distintos documentos informativos. Ha pedido la palabra el Delegado de India.

Ramesh C. A. JAIN (India)

I would like to make a statement on document C 2003/INF/10 pertaining to the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. India had also actively participated in the negotiations in the Commission.

EL PRESIDENTE

Sigamos el orden establecido para darle al tema de Recursos Fitogenéticos el tiempo necesario, puesto que son varias las delegaciones que querían hacer uso de la palabra, empezando por la delegación de Angola, siguiendo con la India y luego las otras delegaciones. Quisiera mencionar los tres documentos informativos y sugerirles atenernos al siguiente orden: el primero es el de Tratados Multilaterales depositados en poder del Director General, que es el C 2003/Inf./17, el segundo es el Estado de las Contribuciones, que es el C 2003/Inf./13 y finalmente el último es el Tratado Internacional sobre Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura, C 2003/Inf./10.

¿Quiere alguien hacer uso de la palabra con respecto a este documento informativo? Si no es así, pasamos al segundo documento informativo C 2003/Inf./13, Estado de Contribuciones. Si nadie toma la palabra con respecto a este documento informativo pasaríamos al documento final C 2003/Inf./10 y damos la palabra a Angola, que fue quien primero quiso referirse a este tema.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

M. le Président, j'aimerais vous demander que ma déclaration soit consignée dans le rapport de la Conférence.

Ma délégation considère que le thème des ressources phylogénétiques est un des thèmes prioritaires au niveau de la FAO pour les prochaines années et surtout pour les immenses possibilités qu'elle offre pour l'augmentation de la production et la sécurité alimentaire.

Un des récents succès de la FAO a été l'approbation du Traité sur les ressources phylogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture après plusieurs années de négociation. L'Angola a pris une part active à ces négociations. Tout le monde sait que, pour l'approbation de ce traité, il avait été convenu, si ma mémoire est bonne, que quelques-uns des points les plus difficiles de la négociation, comme ceux relatifs aux mécanismes de financement et à la distribution des résultats de la commercialisation soient transférés à la première session après ratification et entrée en vigueur du traité.

Vingt-huit pays, parmi lesquels l'Angola ont signé le traité et huit y ont adhéré. Il s'agit de huit pays africains. Pour cette raison, ma délégation encourage les pays qui ne l'ont pas encore fait à ratifier le traité afin que la première réunion du traité soit suffisamment représentative.

Le succès des travaux sur les ressources phytogénétiques dépend d'un budget approprié et du renforcement du groupe d'experts du Secrétariat de la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques qui fonctionne comme Comité intermédiaire du traité.

Ma délégation voudrait d'abord remercier l'Allemagne, le Canada et le Royaume-Uni qui ont fourni ou annoncé des contributions monétaires et en nature. La délégation de l'Angola lance un appel aux autres donateurs pour apporter d'autres ressources financières afin de permettre à la Commission des ressources phytogénétiques de s'acquitter de ses fonctions de Comité provisoire.

Considérant l'importance et la délicatesse du thème, ma délégation est d'avis que le recrutement du personnel qui doit travailler au Comité provisoire devrait obéir non seulement à des critères de qualité mais également aux approches géographiques. Car nous ne devons pas oublier qu'une part considérable des ressources phytogénétiques se trouve dans les pays en développement. C'est une des raisons qui nous permet d'affirmer que ces pays en développement doivent être représentés au sein de ces Comités intérimaires du Traité international.

Ramesh C. A. JAIN (India)

India had also actively participated in the negotiations in the Commission and its Contact Group on the Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture that finally led to that option by the FAO Conference of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in line with 2001.

We have already ratified the treaty and are awaiting its entry into force in the near future. We would urge fellow Member States to expedite their ratification of the treaty to facilitate its early entry into force. The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture requires substantial extra-budgetary resources in the initial phase of the implementation of the treaty. We also understand that the standard material transfer agreement is also yet to be drawn up by the Expert Group. Resources need also to be provided for the open-ended Working Group to meet these requirements as soon as possible. This would enable the Working Group to finalize the rules of procedure as to the financial rules of the Governing Body.

We therefore agree with the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Iran and suggest that adequate resources are made available to strengthen the Secretariat of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to complete its work, as well as to support the interim committee work.

We also request the Conference to reiterate the call to donors that it made in its Resolution III/2001.

CHAIRPERSON

The Islamic Republic of Iran had asked for the floor on this point but I think you spoke earlier, so I will now give the floor to Libya.

Nuri Ibrahim HASAN (Libya)

I wanted to say that my country has taken part in the negotiations for Plant Genetic Resources for Agriculture. This was a very difficult negotiation. It was very complex but the negotiation took place and led to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources. Libya took part in the Working Group for the Near East on this question.

We would like to request that our Conference give all the importance it deserves to this treaty. We would like the Conference to dedicate the time that is necessary, that appears on our agenda. We should make efforts in order to disseminate all this knowledge, all this information, for the distribution of the information. Basically, many countries are not aware of the information on plant genetic resources. My country has taken part in the treaty and agree, we will certainly take on board all our commitments on this question.

Sra. María Eulalia JIMÉNEZ DE MOCHI (El Salvador)

El Salvador ya ha depositado su instrumento de ratificación del Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura. Fuimos el país número 25 en hacerlo. Por ello no podemos menos que unimos al llamado que aquí han hecho las delegaciones de Angola y la India, entre otros, tanto con relación a la importancia de una pronta ratificación y entrada en vigor del Tratado, como en la necesidad de que se proporcionen los recursos necesarios, como lo señalamos en la Comisión II cuando examinamos el presupuesto.

EL PRESIDENTE

El delegado de El Salvador ha sido el último que ha pedido la palabra, no habiendo nadie más que quiera hacer uso de ella. Hemos llegado al final de la Agenda de este día. Tomamos en cuenta lo manifestado por el delegado de Pakistán y su propuesta, que ha gozado de respaldo, habrá de acogerse.

Si no hay comentarios adicionales, damos por cerrada esta sesión y les informo que continuaremos mañana a las 9:30 horas para adoptar y aprobar los informes de las Comisiones, así como para conocer aquellos asuntos que hubiesen quedado postergados como el caso de lugar, fecha y duración de la próxima Conferencia.

The meeting rose at 16.08 hours

La séance est levée à 16 h 08

Se levanta la sesión a las 16.08 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 10 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 10 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 10 de diciembre de 2003
THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING TREIZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 13ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
9 December 2003

The Thirteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 10.00 hours

Mr Michael Odevall

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La treizième séance plénière est ouverte à 10.00

sous la présidence de M. Michael Odevall,

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 13ª sesión plenaria a las 10.00 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Michael Odevall,

Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

CHAIRPERSON

Unfortunately, we do not have a quorum yet, so we will have to wait a few more minutes. We have some delegates in a room which we are now asking to come down. I ask for your indulgence and we will start as soon as we have the quorum.

The meeting was suspended from 10.00 to 10.10 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 00 à 10 h 10

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.00 a las 10.10 horas

CHAIRPERSON

We still do not have a quorum. Could I please ask you if you know any colleagues or delegates not present that you know is in the House or close to the House that you could encourage to be present. I see many empty seats and unfortunately we cannot continue our work this morning without a quorum. We are supposed to take some decisions, reports from the two Commissions that have done extensive and immensely important work. Please see if you can find colleagues to take their seats.

The meeting was suspended from 10.10 to 10.15 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 10 à 10 h 15

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.10 a las 10.15 horas

CHAIRPERSON

I think that now we now have the quorum needed for this morning's deliberations. So I call the Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of this Conference to order.

Let me first remind delegates that, as we all know, there is a Working Group looking into the issue of geographical distribution in the Organization and they will resume their work at 10.30 hours in the Lebanon Room. As was decided by the Conference yesterday, the Working Group will give us a report at 12.00 hours and hopefully they have come to some conclusions and we will be informed about that at 12.00 hours. At that point in time we will see what the situation is and how to handle it.

On our agenda this morning, we have first the adoption of the Report of Commission II. It is presented in Document C 2003/REP/1 and in C 2003/REP/6. We adopted the Document C 2003/REP/1-Sup.1 when we adopted the Resolution on Budgetary Appropriations for 2004-2005 Friday last. We will now hear the Report of Commission II and may I ask Ambassador Wermuth of the Netherlands who has been the Chairperson of Commission II to introduce the Report.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION II (C 2003/REP/1; C 2003/REP/6)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION II (C 2003/REP/1; C 2003/REP/6)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN II (C 2003/REP/1; C 2003/REP/6)

Ewald WERMUTH (Vice-Chairperson, Commission II)

Thank you for giving me the floor in the absence of Ambassador Nouri who is at Commission II. I will take over this morning as Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

I have the honour of introducing the Report of Commission which comprises Item 12 – the Programme of Work and Budget 2004-2005, excluding the Resolution on Budget Appropriations, which was adopted by the Conference during its Tenth Meeting on Friday afternoon; Item 13 – the Programme Implementation Report 2000-2001 and Item 14 – the Programme Evaluation Report 2003.

Overall, the reports contained in Document C 2003/REP/1 and C 2003/REP/6 reflect a well-balanced and accurate summary of the debates which were had in the Commission. This is evident by the fact that the Commission was able to adopt the Reports with minimal amendments. In this

regard, I would like to thank Mr Remiti, Chairperson of the Commission II Drafting Committee and the members of the Drafting Committee for their excellent work.

I do not believe that any comment is required from me on the substance of these reports as the matters have been well debated and, therefore, I hand the floor back to you, but I am, of course, happy to provide any clarifications that might be required regarding the work of the Commission.

CHAIRPERSON

I really want to thank you on behalf of the Conference for your, and the work of the Chairman, Ambassador Nouri of Iran, which has been efficient and to the point. Given this excellent work done in Commission II, I suggest that the Resolution be adopted *en bloc*.

As there seem to be no objections to the Report, the Conference decides that the Report for the Commission is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

We will now proceed to the adoption of the Report of Commission I which is presented in C 2003/REP/4 and C 2003/REP/5 and C 2003/REP/5-Sup. 1. May I ask Ms Wögerbauer to introduce the report.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF COMMISSION I (C 2003/REP/4; C 2003/REP/5, C 2003/REP/5-Sup.1)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION I (C 2003/REP/4; C 2003/REP/5, C 2003/REP/5-Sup.1)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA COMISIÓN I (C 2003/REP/4; C 2003/REP/5, C 2003/REP/5-Sup.1)

Ms Hedwig WÖGERBAUER (Chairperson, Commission I)

May I present to you the Draft Report of Commission I which is also a very balanced Report and accurate Summary done by Commission I. It includes the first Progress Report on Implementation of the FAO Gender and Development Plan of Action 2002-2007, the Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the PanAfrican Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis Eradication Campaign, the FAO/WFP Item – the International Year of Rice 2004, the Strengthening Coherence in FAO's Initiative to Fight Hunger and the Progress Report on the Implementation of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

For this Item, we have also had Friends of the Chair Working Group dealing with the Resolution which you can find in C 2003/REP/5-Sup. 1 and which has also gone through the Drafting Committee. I would like to thank my colleague from Lesotho who had done a very good job in dealing and drafting of the Commission I Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much for the excellent work that you and your colleagues in the Commission have pursued. Before we begin with the adoption of the Report, I would like to decide on the Draft Resolution in Document C 2003/REP/5-Sup. 1 – Progress Report on the Implementation of International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (IUU) which has been forwarded to us by Commission I. I have understood that there are a few countries that have some reflections on it, but I also understand that consultations have

resulted in the fact that this Resolution can be adopted and that there are no concerns as it is outlined and introduced to the Conference.

May I take it that the Conference can accept the Draft Resolution on IUU.

Kiala Kia MATEVA (Angola)

Mon pays était représenté dans le Groupe des amis du Président qui ont pris cette résolution sur la pêche illicite non déclarée et non réglementée.

Notre délégation aimerait féliciter le Président du Groupe pour la façon dont il a coordonné les travaux du Secrétariat et l'appui fourni au Groupe pour lui permettre de s'acquitter de sa tâche.

Ma délégation est en général d'accord avec le contenu de la résolution étant donné son importance pour la lutte contre la pêche illicite, non déclarée et non réglementée mais elle aimerait présenter deux observations.

Pendant les travaux du Groupe, ma délégation avait proposé l'inclusion d'un point pour souligner le rapport qui existe entre la conception du souci de la part de certains pays pour l'augmentation et la modernisation des flottes respectives et la pêche illicite. Cette proposition avait été approuvée par le Groupe qui a confié la tâche au Secrétariat pour élaborer un test à insérer dans la résolution finale. Or, ma délégation constate que le test final de la résolution ne reflète pas la décision du Groupe. Pour cette raison, nous aimerions que cette question soit reprise pour refléter les conclusions du débat.

Ma deuxième observation concerne la rédaction du premier paragraphe de la résolution où il est mentionné, je cite: "le manque de volonté politique et de capacité de la part de quelques gouvernements". Ma délégation suggère de changer un peu cette phrase en la remplaçant "le manque de moyens ou de volonté politique de la part de quelques pays ou gouvernements".

Cela permet de mieux traduire la vérité sur la pêche et les sites et rester en accord avec le paragraphe 5 de la résolution en examen, qui se réfère aux navires de pêche battant pavillon de complaisance le fait que certains pays, faute de moyens, faute de volonté politique n'exercent aucun contrôle sur les navires battant pavillon.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for your generosity to be able to accept the Report in general. May I come back and comment on your suggestions because now I also have a request from Mexico.

Víctor Hugo MORALES MELÉNDEZ (México)

Quisiera agradecer y hacer público el reconocimiento a la Delegación de Nueva Zelanda, quien promovió este proyecto de resolución y, desde luego, estamos complacidos con la labor del Grupo de Trabajo.

En la sesión donde se aprobó el Informe de la Comisión II, mi delegación señaló que aún esperaba la reacción de las autoridades centrales de mi país sobre este proyecto de resolución y me llegaron algunas observaciones que deseo poner a consideración. En la misma línea que señalaba Angola, pero en el considerando dos que tiene un tono negativo ya que dice "tomando nota de la falta de compromisos de algunos estados", sería conveniente que también se agregue un considerando con un tono positivo, reconociendo el trabajo que han hecho algunos estados y algunas organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera.

En ese sentido, y para balancear tanto la falta de compromiso de algunos estados como el compromiso mostrado por otros, mi delegación propone agregar un considerando que diga lo siguiente: "Tomando nota del trabajo realizado por algunos países y organizaciones regionales de ordenación pesquera, tales como la Comisión Interamericana de Atún Tropical y la Comisión Internacional para la Administración del Atún Atlántico para prevenir y combatir la pesca ilegal no documentada y no reglamentada". Sería este el considerando que quisiéramos añadir; repito, sería para balancear y reconocer que, si bien hay algunos estados que no han mostrado

compromiso, hay otros que sí lo han hecho, y que también hay organizaciones regionales que han mostrado un trabajo.

En relación a la parte final, ya dispositiva, en el apartado 4, donde se "insta a los estados a que en la mayor medida de lo posible adopten medidas o cooperen para asegurarse de que los ciudadanos que están bajo su jurisdicción no apoyen actividades de pesca INDNR ni participen en ellas", mis autoridades consideran que sería conveniente y más realista quitar la expresión "asegurarse de". En este sentido el párrafo 4 quedaría "insta a los estados a que en la mayor medida de lo posible adopten medidas o cooperen para que los ciudadanos que están bajo su jurisdicción no apoyen actividades de pesca INDNR ni participen en ellas".

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for sharing your concerns.

Simon DRAPER (New Zealand)

As you are aware, New Zealand was a sponsor of this Resolution. Our preference really is not to have a redrafting on the Plenary Floor. It always seems to end up being slightly more complicated than it needs to be. The original draft for this was distributed on 14 November and in the Working Group we have all requested to go back to capitals. I certainly appreciate the concerns that Angola and Mexico have raised. But given that we are in the last days of Conference, I do wonder about whether we will be able to bring in the changes requested.

From where New Zealand sits as the sponsor of this Resolution, we are certainly happy for the comments that have made to go on to the record, but to my ear, they do not strike as critically substantive changes. They seem to us to be helpful but do not change the fundamental directional course of the Resolution. Therefore, with the Plenary's indulgence, we would ask you to either have the concerns raised by Angola and Mexico on the record so that these can be pointed to at a later time, or if these delegations feel that the changes they want are critically, and I emphasize critically, substantive to the intent and meaning of the Resolution, then perhaps we could informally meet for half an hour or an hour to try to knock those through. I am, however, just very concerned that any changes coming this late in the day will require us to go back to capitals and it is 10.30 hours at night in New Zealand at the moment, so that would be rather difficult for me to do for example, and I am sure for a lot of other Members around here. So I leave it in your guidance, but I would certainly implore and request those delegations that have got concerns to consider their message delivered by having gone on the verbatim, and if that is not acceptable to them and that they feel their comments do substantively change the Resolution, then I ask for Plenary's indulgence to break for half an hour to sort this out.

Brett HUGHES (Australia)

I would just like to echo the comments that were made by New Zealand. I think from Australia's perspective, we are somewhat reluctant to reopen the debate in Plenary on this Resolution.

As was indicated, we have had a fairly extensive discussion and debate on the Resolution, including through the Working Group and through the Adoption of the Report in Commission as well. There were a number of opportunities for Members to put their views on the record there. So, certainly, while we respect the concerns that are being raised by our colleagues in relation to changes they would like to see, we would be reluctant to see the Resolution opened up in Plenary. We would hope that perhaps their concerns can be addressed by the mode that was suggested by our colleague from New Zealand in terms of, to put it formally, putting their concerns on the record.

Hideo INOMATA (Japan)

If possible, Japan would like to fully associate ourselves with the comments made by the distinguished delegates of New Zealand and Australia.

At this time, I would like to emphasize that the text presented to us here is carefully elaborated by Fisheries experts and, in particular, its operative paragraph constitutes quite a positive but delicate

package in full, so I am quite reluctant to reopen the discussion on the text of the Resolution. In particular, on the operative paragraph.

If I may respond to the comment made by our Mexican colleagues, the first suggestion sounds to me very constructive, therefore I am prepared to accept it. However, the second point is to change the delicate balance of the operative paragraph once more, so I am rather reluctant to discuss the text here.

I would also like to underscore that the most important issue here is for FAO to display a strong commitment to continue to work on IUU fishing. I would like to reiterate the importance of this item. This was the primary reason for the Conference of FAO, as a supreme body of FAO, to pick up this important issue.

Having said that, I submit my strong wish for the Conference to adopt this Resolution.

CHAIRPERSON

Let me give you a few views on how the Chair sees this. You must remember that this is the Conference of FAO, this is not a Drafting Group. Therefore, my view is that this is not the place for drafting any resolutions.

We have introduced a Resolution, but there seems to be some concerns on that. According to the information I had, Member States could live with the Resolution, it could be taken and through statements, delegations could inform and add to the record their views.

My proposal is still, and I ask Angola, Mexico and others to be generous, see if we can take the Resolution as a whole. Your statements will go to the record and be your views. I think that will, at this stage of the Conference, be the smoothest way out. However, I am in your hands, that is the Chair's suggestion at this point.

Could that be acceptable?

I see no flags. I thank very much the countries with concerns for their support of the work of the Conference.

Sra. Hilda Graciela GABARDINI (Argentina)

Con respecto a esta resolución que se acaba de adoptar, tal como informamos en la Comisión I y en el Grupo de Amigos del Presidente que integramos, debíamos dar conocimiento de la misma y sobretodo del resultado obtenido en el Grupo de Amigos, a nuestra capital, la cual nos respondió proponiendo unas pocas enmiendas cuya intención era hacerla más congruente con la Resolución de Naciones Unidas A/58/L/18.

Luego de algunas consultas con el fin de no obstruir el consenso y firmemente comprometidos con la aplicación del Plan de Acción para prevenir la pesca ilegal no declarada y no reglamentada, mi delegación decidió no presentar dichos comentarios. Sin embargo, permítame decir que no podemos menos que lamentar la metodología que se utilizara en el tratamiento de esta resolución, porque estamos entre aquellos países que no recibieron este proyecto el 13 de noviembre y sólo nos encontramos con ella la semana pasada, lo cual por supuesto alargó muchísimo nuestro proceso de consultas. Pasaremos estos comentarios a la Secretaría porque deseamos que los nuestros, tanto como los de Angola y de México, sean debidamente tenidos en cuenta en la organización de la próxima Consulta.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Argentina, and thank you for being helpful to the work of the Conference. Your points of view have been duly taken note of, and I am sure that the Secretariat is happy to have your views further developed and received.

Simon DRAPER (New Zealand)

I do just want to say as a sponsor of this Resolution, New Zealand is delighted with the unanimous support it has received from the whole FAO membership and the commitment those Members have given to eliminating IUU fishing. I must say I am particularly grateful to the delegations of Angola, Mexico and Argentina for helping us get this through.

I apologize for the late arrival of any papers, but it was not through lack of trying to communicate to all Members.

Many of the world's fisheries are in poor shape, especially those in international waters and FAO Members have shown today that they agree on the need to take action to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

We sincerely expect that the renewed commitment to United Nations and FAO agreements and the capacity-building activities needed to implement them fully will contribute to long-term sustainability in the management of this very precious and important resource.

Sra. Victoria Guardia ALVARADO (Costa Rica)

En primer lugar queremos agradecer a Nueva Zelanda por este trabajo de resolución tan importante y las negociaciones que se han llevado a cabo. Compartimos con México el tema de apoyo y quisiera que quedara constancia en las Actas el trabajo realizado por algunos países en la Comisión Internacional del Atún Tropical y la Comisión Interamericana de Atún del Atlántico.

Paul MURPHY (Canada)

First, I would like to thank and congratulate New Zealand for taking the initiative to propose this important Resolution on an issue of concern to coastal, port fishing and flag States alike, in the work towards meeting the 2015 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) goal of ensuring sustainable global fisheries. Canada regards the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement as the first essential part of the international tool kit to tackle the IUU problem.

In this note, Canada is encouraged by the growing acceptance of UNFA through ratification by a number of States since coming into force. However, ratification is not enough; implementation must be the ultimate objective. Therefore, as per the Resolution, we encourage States that have not already done so, to ratify and implement this key treaty.

We are also looking for the implementation of UNFA provisions in regional fisheries management organizations. Canada regards the IPOA on IUU fishing as the second important part of the tool kit and as a complement to UNFA to ensure that all Members are focused on their roles in ensuring against this problem. Relating to implementing these instruments, a third element in such a tool kit is, ensuring effective control by flag States of vessels engaging in IUU activities. When discussing this issue, we should wary of getting sidetracked by legalistic arguments on interpretation and definition and ensure that we address effective control.

We have been struck by how the issues of fishing vessel safety, social and labour concerns are linked to the issue of flag of convenience vessels. This congruence of issues leads us to believe that real progress can be made.

On that note, we laud the efforts and progress being made by some flag States who exercise more effective control over their vessels. At the same time, more work needs to be done, we cannot be complacent.

A fourth element is the complementary work being done on IUU fishing in other multilateral fora, such as the foundational analysis at the OECD, and the cross-fertilization of discussions on this issue in fora such as the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea and APEC. All these complementary activities add to the momentum and synergy needed to find viable solutions to solvable problems. While creating and maintaining international momentum for action on IUU fishing, this work will assist the international community in establishing

realistic goals and identifying the concrete problems that international action can address in time for 2015.

Finally, in striving to meet this ambitious WSSD goal, the international community should be aiming for a level playing field for domestic and high-seas fishing fleets. By ensuring all States, coastal, port fishing and flag, meet their obligations and act on their responsibilities, the artificial divide between domestic and high-seas fishing fleets can be broken down, thus ensuring that generations to come will benefit from this precious global common resource.

Acting on the Resolution passed today brings us all one small step closer to that goal.

CHAIRPERSON

That concludes a part of our deliberations on the Report of Commission I.

Let us continue with the rest of the Report. Given the good work done by Ms Wögerbauer and our colleagues in Commission I, I suggest that the Report will be adopted *en bloc*.

I see no flags. There are no objections. The Report for Commission I is adopted.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

CHAIRPERSON

That brings us almost to the end of this morning's deliberations. We have one point left, and that is the Report of the Working Group on Geographic Distribution. As you might recall, the Conference decided yesterday that we would have a report at noon today and, depending on the result of the work of the Working Group, we will see then how our deliberations will continue.

At 12.00 hours we will reconvene this morning's meeting, to see what the Working Group will report, and how we will handle the result of that work. Then, of course, we have some agenda items for this afternoon, but the Chair will come back to that after our deliberations later this morning.

So, please, come back at 12.00 hours. We might need to take a decision, therefore we might need a quorum at that point in time. We do not know, but we will see at 12.00 hours.

The meeting was suspended from 10.50 to 12.00 hours

La séance est suspendue de 10 h 50 à 12 h 00

Se suspende la sesión de las 10.50 a las 12.00 horas

CHAIRPERSON

Representatives we resume our meeting for this morning. Just for the record, the Thirteenth Plenary meeting of the Conference.

I just have one point of information for you. As you may recall the Conference decided to ask the Working Group to continue its work. They have made good progress according to the reports I have received. We, the Conference, also decided to ask them to come back and report as of 12.00 hours today, and I have found it important to keep that point in time for a report, so that is why I asked you to come back at 12.00 hours even though it had been some inconvenience to us all. However, I have now read the report and a strong request from the Working Group that they be allowed to continue their deliberations because they make the judgement that they can have a resolution and introduce it to the Conference at 1500 hrs this afternoon.

If things work out according to the information I have, they will have a proposal in all languages, a draft Resolution to be introduced to us at 15.00 hours. Considering the circumstances, and the strong wish of the Conference to try to find a decision during this Conference, I advise you to accept their request and we will, therefore, adjourn and resume the Conference this afternoon at 15.00 hours.

Is that in accordance with the wishes of the Conference? I see no flags so we decide to reconvene at 15.00 hours and hopefully we will have a Resolution that can be adopted.

I thank the Conference.

The meeting rose at 12.07 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 07

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.07 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-second Session Trente-deuxième session 32º período de sesiones
Rome, 29 November – 9 December 2003 Rome, 29 novembre – 9 décembre 2003 Roma, 29 de noviembre – 9 de diciembre de 2003
FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING QUATORZIÈME SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE 14ª SESIÓN PLENARIA
9 December 2003

The Fourteenth Plenary Meeting was opened at 15.32 hours

Mr Acisclo Valladares Molina

Vice-Chairperson of the Conference, presiding

La quatorzième séance plénière est ouverte à 15 h 32

sous la présidence de M. Acisclo Valladares Molina,

Vice-Président de la Conférence

Se abre la 14ª sesión plenaria a las 15.32 horas

bajo la presidencia del Sr. Acisclo Valladares Molina,

Vicepresidente de la Conferencia

PART III - LEGAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS (continued)
TROISIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS JURIDIQUES, ADMINISTRATIVES ET FINANCIÈRES (suite)
PARTE III – CUESTIONES JURÍDICAS, ADMINISTRATIVAS Y FINANCIERAS
(continuación)

20.1 Methodology for Equitable Geographic Distribution

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Sup.1) (continued)

20.1 Méthodologie pour une répartition géographique équitable

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Sup.1) (suite)

20.1 Metodología para determinar una distribución geográfica equitativa

(C 2003/LIM/17; C 2003/LIM/17-Sup.1) (continuación)

EL PRESIDENTE

Declaro abierta la 14ª reunión del 32º período de sesiones de esta Conferencia.

Antes de dar inicio al Orden del Día y quisiera decirles que mi nombre es Acisclo Valladares Molina, soy el Representante Permanente de Guatemala ante los organismos de las Naciones Unidas con sede en Roma.

Como recordarán, el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Metodología para determinar una distribución geográfica equitativa se ha reunido para ver si se llega a un acuerdo hoy. Debo manifestarles, así lo ha informado la Secretaría, que el grupo aún sigue reunido.

Si les parece bien, para que podamos avanzar y si no existe inconveniente, quisiera seguir adelante con el Orden del Día, pidiendo a la Secretaría que nos mantenga informados sobre la posibilidad de que el Grupo de Trabajo concluya su función y podamos conocer este tema posteriormente.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

Thank you for the Progress Report. We would like to submit a procedural recommendation. Instead of meeting every two or three hours waiting for the progress of the Group, it might be wise if we could discuss the rest of the Agenda and keep this item for tomorrow morning's Agenda, so that the Group can have all the time they need. After the Group has finalized its consultations and finalized the final resolution which will be coming to Plenary, it will have to be translated into different languages and some of us might want to have further consultations. So I would suggest that, instead of hanging around in limbo over here, we should decide that we should come for this item tomorrow and complete the rest of the Agenda. That is my suggestion, but if Members feel otherwise I will not insist.

Denis CANGY (Mauritius)

I think that this is a very wise proposition from the Pakistan Delegation. So my delegation will support this and as a consequence this will help the Working Group and give them more time, it seems that they need more time, because the subject is of great importance, then they can have all the evening and there will be time for translating into the languages of the Organization, and then tomorrow morning at 09.30 hours we can study the resolution.

EL PRESIDENTE

Si no existen más comentarios sobre este tema, quisiera compartir con ustedes una posición ecléctica, por esto planteábamos que la Secretaría nos debía mantener informados sobre el desarrollo del trabajo del grupo que está tratando de llegar a un acuerdo que podamos conocer. La propuesta ecléctica sería que, informados por la Secretaría en su momento, tomemos la decisión propuesta por Pakistán de dejar una última sesión para mañana, pero si se llegase a una finalización por parte del Grupo de Trabajo, y fuera dentro de un horario razonable, podríamos

terminar nuestra labor hoy mismo. No sé si esto puede ser compatible con la propuesta hecha por Pakistán.

Carlo Mauricio CHANOVE (Bolivia)

El Grupo de Trabajo sobre la distribución geográfica equitativa ha reiniciado a las 15:10 sus reuniones, entonces la Presidencia considera que el tiempo prudencial podrá ser de 1 a 2 horas. Por esta situación Bolivia, coincide plenamente con lo expresado por la Delegación de Pakistán en el sentido de que es mejor dar el tiempo suficiente al Grupo de Trabajo para que hagan todo lo concerniente a la elaboración del documento en los idiomas de trabajo, de tal manera que podamos ser convocados mañana pues será improbable que el Grupo de Trabajo concluya hoy su labor. Por lo que se nos ha informado, existen algunos asuntos que todavía requieren consenso.

LI ZHENG DONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

I would like to ask a question of you for the Working Group. We decided that this Working Group will give us a final resolution. If they have already set their target of providing our final resolutions, we can wait. However, how long will it be? If we wait until tomorrow and do not have a final resolution, what shall we do? I think that first of all we have to set a target for this Working Group during our Conference. If they cannot fulfill the target set by us, I think it would be pointless and useless for us to wait here continuously.

EL PRESIDENTE

Quisiera dar la palabra a la Secretaría para que nos informe sobre el Grupo de Trabajo para tomar una decisión final antes de continuar con el resto de los temas.

Sra. Ana María BAIARDI QUESNEL (Paraguay)

Lamento decirles que hay problema de traducción porque la declaración del Representante de China pudimos escucharla solamente en los últimos minutos y por lo tanto no sé, a ciencia cierta, cuál fue su propuesta. En este momento no logramos obtener su interpretación en el canal en español.

EL PRESIDENTE

Paraguay nos plantea que ha habido problemas de interpretación y los sigue teniendo en el canal español; cuando el Representante de China hizo uso de la palabra hubo vacíos y los sigue habiendo. Rogaríamos comprobar que todos estén recibiendo bien la interpretación en los diferentes canales para continuar. Si es así, continuamos.

Habíamos dado la palabra a la Secretaría para que nos informe exactamente cómo va el Grupo de Trabajo para tomar una decisión final y poder proseguir con la Agenda.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The most recent report that I have received, which was a few minutes ago, indicates that they are making progress and will hopefully be ready to present this afternoon. It really depends on the Working Group.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

Referring to what Paraguay has said regarding translation, perhaps we could repeat what China said. China said essentially that if there is confirmation that there is likely to be progress, they would like to continue, but if we do not see progress, it is useless to sit here and continue and so perhaps we should wait for tomorrow.

The Reports which are out from those of our colleagues who are participating in the Working Group, and from what we could understand they started at 15.00, there is still some differences, but they do have a draft resolution which is forming the basis of discussion and they may complete sometime today without knowing at exactly what time. It is already 16.00 hours, so probably they might complete at 17.00 hours, then it be translated into the different languages. As far as our delegation is concerned, we do not have any commitment we could simply just waste

time like everyone and come here after every two hours, so perhaps, like you have said, we go ahead with the Agenda and then if at that time there is still no progress, then we postpone this meeting rather than recalling the Plenary again.

PART V - OTHER MATTERS (continued)

CINQUIÈME PARTIE – QUESTIONS DIVERSES (suite)

PARTE V – OTROS ASUNTOS (continuación)

24. Date and Place of the Thirty-third Conference Session

24. Date et lieu de la trente-troisième session de la Conférence

24. Fecha y lugar de celebración del 33º período de sesiones de la Conferencia

EL PRESIDENTE

Creo que Pakistán ha dado una buena solución y es que no hagamos suspensión alguna y decidamos si nos reunimos o no mañana a las 9.30. Creo que esta es una solución que recoge lo hablado aquí. No vamos a suspender la sesión y esperar, si la Secretaría no nos garantiza que el trabajo está terminado a una hora razonable para poder conocer las versiones en los distintos idiomas.

Siendo así, pasamos al siguiente punto de la Agenda, el Tema 24, Fecha y lugar de celebración del 33º período de sesiones de la Conferencia. Para esto doy la palabra a la Secretaria General de la Conferencia Sra. Gardner.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

The distinguished Delegates will recall that this Item was presented yesterday afternoon and several Delegates made comments concerning appropriate timing to take cognizance of holidays and also that consideration should be given to reducing the length of the Thirty-third Session of the FAO Conference. I am pleased to inform you that we thought about it and we consulted on this matter. We also looked at the calendar very carefully and there is no conflict as far as we can tell with any of the holy days that were mentioned during that discussion. We also thought about ways in which we could gain efficiencies in time, by improving our own work fluent systems, and we feel that we are in a position to propose to this Conference that they consider that the Thirty-third Conference be held from Saturday, 19 November to Saturday, 26 November, that is, over seven working days and not nine as was originally suggested.

We think that we are in a position to do this and, of course, it is up to the Members here present to decide what the actual days are. I will repeat the days that we are proposing for the benefit of the Members here present, the Thirty-third Conference is proposed to be held from Saturday, 19 November to Saturday, 26 November, that is over seven working days and not nine as was originally suggested.

EL PRESIDENTE

Si algún delegado quiere hacer uso de la palabra para realizar algún comentario, es el momento para hacerlo. Al parecer la propuesta de la Secretaría ha debido satisfacer las diferentes observaciones hechas ayer. ¿Puedo, entonces, preguntar a la Conferencia si está de acuerdo en tener su 33º período de sesiones desde el 19 de noviembre hasta el 26 de noviembre de 2005 en esta Sede? Si es así, queda decidido.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF PLENARY (C 2003/REP/2; C 2003/REP/3; C 2003/REP/7; C 2003/REP/8; C 2003/REP/9; C 2003/REP/10; C 2003/REP/11)

ADOPTION DU RAPPORT DE LA SÉANCE PLÉNIÈRE (C 2003/REP/2; C 2003/REP/3; C 2003/REP/7; C 2003/REP/8; C 2003/REP/9; C 2003/REP/10; C 2003/REP/11)

APROBACIÓN DEL INFORME DE LA PLENARIA (C 2003/REP/2; C 2003/REP/3; C 2003/REP/7; C 2003/REP/8; C 2003/REP/9; C 2003/REP/10; C 2003/REP/11)

EL PRESIDENTE

Pasamos al siguiente Tema del Orden del Día. Veremos el Informe de la Plenaria que pueden encontrar en siete documentos distintos: el C 2003/REP/2; el C 2003/REP/3; el C 2003/REP/7; el C 2003/REP/8; el C 2003/REP/9; el C 2003/REP/10 y el C 2003/REP/11. En estos siete documentos que todos tienen en su poder se encuentra contenido el Informe de la Plenaria. ¿Puedo interpretar que estamos de acuerdo con el Informe y que podemos aprobarlo en bloque en sus siete documentos? Si es así, queda aprobado.

La Secretaría tiene ya información con respecto al Grupo de Trabajo y dependiendo de lo que nos diga y proponga tomaremos una decisión en cuanto a suspender o no la sesión y reunirnos hoy mismo o postergarla hasta mañana en una 15ª reunión del período de sesiones de esta Conferencia.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Patience is a good virtue and it has proven effective in this case. Apparently we can see that the Working Group has completed its work. They have a compromise and there is need for some time to finalize the document. The Secretariat feels that we can have something ready for 17.00 hours this evening, should the meeting decide that it wishes to take the document this evening. We are in a position to do so. It will take some time to complete the translation of the resolution in the five languages and also to print the resolution, and we need at least another hour to do that. We are at your disposal should you wish to convene again this evening, we are at your disposal also should you wish to differ and convene tomorrow.

EL PRESIDENTE

Señora Gardner, quisiera una confirmación. A partir de este momento la Secretaría necesitaría una hora para finalizar la preparación de los documentos en los distintos idiomas, o sea que a las 16.50 el resultado del trabajo realizado por el grupo estaría a disposición de los delegados. ¿Es así Señora Gardner?

SECRETARY-GENERAL

We can have the document, I am told, by 17.30 hours this afternoon, it is not possible to have it before 17.30 hours.

EL PRESIDENTE

Creo que tenemos suficientes elementos de juicio. El documento no estaría pronto hasta las 17.30: los delegados necesitarán tiempo para leer el documento y así reunirnos no antes de las 18.00 horas. Las opciones entonces serían: suspender la sesión y reunirnos a las 18.00 o bien terminar con esta sesión y reunirnos mañana a las 09.30.

Mohammad SALEEM KHAN (Pakistan)

I have no problem if you want to convene at 18.00 hours, I can come here. I am actually here, I have come from the capital so I have no problem, but the other delegates could consider this. If you want to have it tomorrow morning, I am available, so that is not a problem, but if are we sure that the Working Group has completed its work and the document is available, then I think we could look at both options at the convenience of the number of other delegates, maybe we could seek the opinion of other delegates also.

LI ZHENDONG (China) (Original Language Chinese)

Indeed I am very pleased to hear that the Working Group has completed its work in reaching a consensus, so I would suggest that we be a bit more patient and reconvene at 18.00 hours this evening.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Je n'ai pas de problèmes comme le Pakistan, je peux revenir ce soir comme je peux revenir demain.

Je voudrais juste demander, si le texte est prêt, est-ce qu'il y aura aussi un additif au Rapport de la Plénière pour dire, en deux lignes, que la Conférence a également adopté cette résolution? Il faudrait aussi que l'on règle ce problème technique.

Peter BENNETT (New Zealand)

Just very briefly, and on behalf of my Minister, Chair of the Conference, has indicated that he would like very much to try wrap things up today and free people then to get back to their capitals as necessary.

EL PRESIDENTE

Creo que teníamos una propuesta concreta de China en cuanto a reunirnos hoy a las 18.00 horas, es una propuesta que tiene el consenso y por ende nos vamos a reunir hoy a las 18.00 horas. Les suplico por favor puntualidad, las 17.30 horas a más tardar la Secretaría tendrá el documento a la disposición de todos, de tal forma que aprovechemos entre las 17.30 y las 18.00 horas para estar debidamente informados en cuanto al documento y podamos iniciar la sesión a las 18.00 horas en punto.

Con respecto a la pregunta técnica realizada por Senegal, obviamente lo resuelto tendrá que ser incorporado en la última parte del Informe que se unirá a los otros siete documentos en que el Informe quedó contenido. Siendo así, volveremos a reunirnos hoy a las 18.00 horas y se levanta esta sesión que queda suspendida.

The meeting was suspended from 15.58 to 18.08 hours

La séance est suspendue de 15.58 à 18 h 08

Se suspende la sesión de las 15.58 a las 18.08 horas

EL PRESIDENTE

Quisiéramos dar inicio a la reanudación de esta sesión pero hacen falta todavía algunos delegados, somos muy pocos para formar el quorum. Agradeceremos a aquellos que puedan tener contacto con otros delegados por favor hacerles saber que estamos prácticamente en el límite. Si alguno más entrase a este salón, podríamos dar inicio a la plenaria.

Damos inicio a la reanudación de la 14ª reunión del 32º período de sesiones de la Conferencia, que suspendimos hace escasas dos horas. Antes de entrar en materia, quiero simplemente informarles que esta Presidencia recibió una solicitud de Costa Rica que, por ser un tema que puede ser conocido en cualquier período de sesiones del Consejo, no será traído a esta Conferencia, sino remitido al Consejo.

Damos así inicio a lo que habíamos dejado pendiente, que es lo relacionado con el trabajo desarrollado por el Grupo de Trabajo en cuanto a la distribución geográfica. Ustedes tienen en sus manos el documento C 2003/REP/10-Sup.1. Si bien es cierto que el Grupo de Trabajo por propia decisión no tuvo un Presidente, sí tuvo presidencia compartida entre Zimbabwe y los Estados Unidos de América. Invitaría al Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo para que nos acompañe e hiciera la presentación respectiva.

Willem H. BRAKEL (United States of America)

Some thirty hours ago, I presented to the Conference the Report of the Working Group on Equitable Geographic Distribution. I noted then that the Group had made some progress but had

not come to full agreement on several key issues related to the adoption of a new methodology for equitable geographic distribution.

The Conference asked that the Working Group meet again to see if consensus could be achieved. Accordingly, the Working Group did meet again yesterday afternoon and again this morning and, yet a third time, earlier this afternoon. I must say that there were times when the outcome seemed in doubt. But now I am now very pleased to report to the Conference that the Working Group, indeed, succeeded in achieving a consensus on a new, updated, more equitable methodology for the Organization.

The Draft Resolution you have before you outlines the elements of that consensus and I will let the document speak for itself and not enter into the details here. But let me just say, that all Members of the Working Group clearly felt that the proposed Resolution now before this Body, constitutes a highly significant achievement.

To get to this point today it took long hours of hard work by the Working Group and, indeed, many others in the Membership of the Organization, who approached this work in a true spirit of compromise, consensus and a genuine desire to make FAO a stronger, more effective and, above all, a more representative Organization than it already is.

I wish to thank the many delegates who contributed either directly or indirectly to this success and I would like to make special note of the indispensable assistance and support provided by the Secretariat.

EL PRESIDENTE

Tienen a la vista el documento citado y ha hecho su presentación quien fungiera como Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo y que tal como lo explicara presidiera el inmenso esfuerzo de todos los que participaron al grupo. Comento con ustedes que Guatemala se vio liberada de participar al Grupo de Trabajo, llamada a presidir la Conferencia, pero los pocos instantes que estuvo en el Grupo, pudo apreciar el gran esfuerzo realizado, verdaderamente digno del mejor encomio.

Tal y como fue explicado anteriormente, la resolución quedaría incorporada al Informe de la Conferencia y con ello esto quedaría prácticamente agotado en cuanto a la Agenda a conocer.

Mme Anna BLEFARI MELAZZI (Italie)

Je parle au nom des quinze États Membres de l'Union européenne.

L'Union européenne regrette qu'un temps insuffisant ait été laissé aux délégations afin de pouvoir apprécier en détail tous les éléments de la Réforme qui fait l'objet de cette Résolution ainsi que leurs applications. Cette Résolution n'a en effet été soumise que ce matin à l'examen des délégations. L'Union européenne accepte néanmoins de se joindre au consensus afin de maintenir l'esprit constructif qui a prévalu tout au long de cette Conférence.

L'Union européenne demande que cette déclaration soit incluse au procès-verbal de cette Conférence.

Francisco MARTÍNEZ ARROYO (España)

Una única matización sobre la versión en español del documento que contiene un error bastante importante. La página 3 de la versión en español, el último párrafo de dicha página es el primer punto del apartado "Decidió". El párrafo dice lo siguiente: "La cifra básica para los cálculos se basaría en todos los puestos de plazo fijo y permanentes financiados con cargo al programa ordinario establecidos en el Programa de Labores y Presupuestos", aparece aquí la expresión "salvo que" que sobraría en el texto, "con la excepción de los puestos de lingüistas y el puesto de Director General", y aquí aparecería "sin aplicar ninguna ponderación según el grado". Creo que esta redacción es mucho mejor en Español porque la actual es bastante difícil de entender.

EL PRESIDENTE

Quiero hacerles saber que hemos recibido alguna puntualización idiomática con respecto al idioma árabe. Este tipo de observaciones serán tomadas en consideración por la Secretaría en las distintas versiones.

Bachar AKBIK (Syria) (Original language Arabic)

In fact, some of the Representatives here agree with me in saying that it is difficult to understand the contents of this Draft Resolution and we might need an explanation because from my reading, I find it a little bit complicated.

EL PRESIDENTE

Vuelvo a insistir que el tema de los aspectos de idioma pueden ser presentados a la Secretaría, la cual los tomará en consideración.

Gabriel G. LOMBIN (Nigeria)

First I want to express my congratulations to this distinguished gathering for arriving where we are now on this issue.

You will recall, Nigeria was the Delegation that raised the question as to whether this Working Group could continue work until today, when there appeared to have been a situation where we were heading for a long jump. Thank God, the Chair was kind enough to consider our suggestions.

My Honourable Minister has been in continuous telephone contact with me to follow the outcome, because the pressure placed on this Conference was a little high. However, at the end of the day, we have been gratified we are getting a document that appears to have met, fundamentally, the requirements of the majority of Members.

The issues that were raised just a few minutes ago by some people over the technicality of the document, one can appreciate. But the fact is that if I had not been following the debate on this issue for some time, I probably would not have understood some of the terms too. However, I think I have been spared from that for now because I am a little more familiar with the document, based on the antecedents, than some of the other colleagues.

Having expressed our happiness that there has been such a positive result – despite a suggestion that this was going to tax this Conference a little too much – all I can wish at this stage, conveying the feelings of my Honourable Minister, is that the Resolution as it stands, should please be endorsed and passed *en bloc*.

Mme Claire GAUDOT (France)

Je voulais simplement vous signaler que j'ai une version française où il manque une partie de la Résolution et donc je ne suis pas sûre que l'ensemble des délégués francophones disposent de la Résolution en version française telle qu'elle est reproduite en version anglaise. Il est difficile d'adopter une résolution alors que nous n'avons pas le texte complet de celle-ci.

Ibrahim Bocar DAGA (Mali)

Pour reprendre ce que vient de dire la représentante de la France, effectivement dans un des derniers amendements qui a été acceptés par le Groupe de travail, c'était le numéro 3, il fallait préciser que le Rapport que devrait soumettre le Secrétariat le serait pour examen. Je crois que c'est dans la version anglaise, on a simplement oublié d'ajouter dans la version française "pour examen".

Je voudrais simplement ajouter que ce qui a motivé les membres du Groupe, c'est qu'il ne fallait pas reporter une fois de plus un sujet aussi important aux calanques grecques. Les uns et les autres ont fait un effort et j'en profite pour remercier la représentante de l'Union européenne pour s'être jointe à l'examen de ce document tel qu'il est dans un esprit de consensus. Je crois qu'il est normal

de permettre au Secrétariat de la FAO de se mettre au diapason des autres organisations du Système des Nations Unies.

On nous a trop souvent dit que nous étions peut-être en décalage sur certains points pour qu'aujourd'hui, ayant l'occasion une fois de plus de nous aligner sur le Système, nous puissions trouver encore des prétextes pour ne pas le faire. Ceci a animé les membres du Groupe de travail et il faut dire que même si on n'a pas eu tout le temps; je dirai même qu'il est juste que nous ayons été limités dans le temps, car cela a permis aux uns et aux autres de faire l'effort nécessaire pour venir devant vous avec une position consensuelle.

Je crois que c'est une réussite pour la Conférence et je voudrais féliciter les uns et les autres et souhaiter donc à la FAO d'entreprendre cette œuvre importante et, bien sûr, pour rassurer les uns et les autres, nous sommes convaincus que cela sera fait dans la plus grande transparence.

Moussa Bocar LY (Sénégal)

Je crois que vous avez déjà donné une première réponse à la délégation française et notre délégation elle-même, qui avait la bonne copie, n'a pas manqué de la lui passer.

Je crois que nous devons remercier le Groupe de travail pour le travail inlassable qu'il a dû abattre en notre nom à tous pour produire ce projet.

Nous devons également remercier, en particulier les membres africains de ce Groupe qui ont répondu à l'appel de votre Vice-Président qui avait demandé qu'on lui présente un texte. Je crois que aussitôt dit aussitôt fait, le groupe africain, par l'intermédiaire de ses experts, et en particulier du Niger a pu produire un texte qui a pu être négocié et dont le résultat est sous nos yeux.

À l'image du consensus qui s'est développé sur le nombre et la durée des mandats du Directeur général de la FAO, nous avons parcouru le même chemin et nous sommes en droit de nous attendre à la même compréhension de la part de nos partenaires pour qu'ensemble nous puissions compléter le travail que nous avons entamé pour les populations que nous représentons ici, dans le cadre de l'objectif qui est de lutter contre la faim dans le monde et d'atteindre les buts que nos leaders au plus haut niveau se sont fixés ici en 1996 et ont réaffirmés en 2002, cinq ans après.

Adam Maiga ZAKARIAOU (Niger)

Je voudrais tout d'abord féliciter le Groupe de travail pour l'excellent travail accompli et cette excellente proposition de résolution.

J'ai deux petites observations, notamment à la page 2, au deuxième paragraphe du préambule de la version française, à la quatrième ligne, on parle de la diversité des pays membres alors que dans les traductions dans d'autres langues on parle d'États Membres. On pourrait harmoniser au lieu de pays membres, États Membres ou en tout cas harmoniser les différentes traductions dans les différentes langues.

Ma deuxième observation se situe au niveau du quatrième paragraphe du dispositif, le dernier. On a parlé de la nécessité de remédier à la sous-représentation des États Membres et plus loin on parle d'États Membres non représentés ou sous-représentés. Par souci de logique et pour être cohérent, à la deuxième ou troisième ligne, il faudrait parler également de non-représentation et sous-représentation.

EL PRESIDENTE

Creemos que con las observaciones hechas podemos convivir con esta resolución que se nos propone, hemos agotado el tema y procederemos a aprobarla. Con ello el mejor homenaje al Grupo de Trabajo y a nosotros mismos por la labor realizada en esta Conferencia. Creo que al final es un gran éxito haber llegado a este momento.

Siendo así, queda aprobada.

Adopted

Adopté

Aprobado

LE DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL

Je voudrais, à la fin de vos travaux vous exprimer toute la gratitude du Secrétariat de l'Organisation pour tout ce que vous avez fait en vue de permettre que cette Organisation reçoive des orientations claires et précises pour les deux années à venir.

Je voudrais surtout dire à quel point nous avons apprécié l'esprit de consensus, le souci des dialogues francs mais fraternels et amicaux pour régler les grands problèmes auxquels nous avons à faire face. Cette institution, comme toutes les institutions des Nations Unies, repose sur l'universalisme et la conviction que nous appartenons tous à une même humanité, quelques soient les niveaux de développement, quelques soient les difficultés des uns et des autres. Ce qui nous unit est plus important que ce qui nous divise.

Je voudrais naturellement dire à quel point nous apprécions que de nouveaux Membres nous aient rejoints portant le nombre des Membres de l'Organisation à 188 alors que nous en avions 169 en novembre 1993.

Nous sommes naturellement aussi très heureux de voir que la Conférence a élu les nouveaux Membres lors du Conseil. Je voudrais remercier les États Membres pour avoir trouvé des solutions qui ont facilité une représentation adéquate de toutes les régions du monde au sein des Comités du Conseil.

Je voudrais naturellement féliciter les nouveaux Membres et les Présidents et les assurer de notre engagement à collaborer et à travailler avec eux, pour trouver les solutions appropriées.

Naturellement, nous sommes très sensibles aux efforts que les uns et les autres ont fait pour approuver à l'unanimité un budget de consensus. Nous mesurons les efforts qui ont été faits par ceux qui considéraient que l'Organisation aujourd'hui méritait d'avoir les ressources nécessaires pour assumer les tâches qui lui sont assignées. ■ n'en reste pas moins que après avoir déjà réduit de 28 pour cent le nombre des postes cette Organisation va devoir de nouveau supprimer plus de 200 postes.

Je mesure aussi les efforts accomplis par les délégués des pays qui ont des difficultés et qui avaient des instructions très fermes de s'en tenir à un budget à croissance nominale. Je remercie les pays qui ont fait l'effort d'aller au-delà des chiffres qui étaient initialement envisagés, sachant très bien que cela va poser quelques problèmes. Ils ont fait eux aussi l'effort d'aller dans le sens d'une position médiane qui permette à l'Organisation de pouvoir continuer son travail.

Je ne serais pas tout à fait honnête si je ne faisais pas voir de ma préoccupation, lorsque je réalise que le budget de la FAO représente 45 cents de dollars E.-U. par personne qui a faim dans le monde et par an.

Naturellement, la FAO n'est pas la seule institution à avoir la responsabilité de lutter contre la faim dans le monde. Et le canal de la FAO n'est pas le seul à parvenir à obtenir des appuis pour les personnes qui ont faim dans le monde.

Je voudrais donc lancer un appel à tous les États Membres pour que, surtout ceux qui en ont les moyens puissent, à travers l'aide bilatérale, accroître les ressources destinées à l'agriculture et en particulier aux secteurs permettant aux agriculteurs de pouvoir s'assumer et se nourrir au lieu de recevoir une aumône, nécessaire certes, mais une aumône à chaque fois qu'il y a des crises dans le monde.

J'ose espérer aussi que les États Membres voudront bien faire l'effort nécessaire pour que les institutions financières internationales, au niveau mondial ou au niveau régional, puissent réorienter leurs ressources en faveur de l'agriculture, comme cela a été décidé au Sommet en juin 2002.

Cela sera possible seulement en combinant les ressources dont nous disposons ici mais aussi les contributions des pays du tiers-monde puisque, au-delà du budget ordinaire, le budget du Programme spécial pour la sécurité, alimentaire a atteint 548 millions de dollars dont 60 pour cent payés par les pays en développement. Mais c'est aussi possible en faisant appel aux ressources

d'expertises qui existent dans les pays en développement, notamment à travers la coopération Sud-Sud qui nous permettra d'ici la fin de cette année d'avoir 1 000 experts travaillant dans les pays du tiers-monde à un coût réduit. C'est grâce à l'expertise des pays en développement et aux ressources des pays développés, que nous pourrions infléchir le cours des choses et éviter que les projections actuelles pessimistes ne se réalisent, puisque si l'on continue ainsi le train-train des choses nous ne réussirons à faire diminuer de moitié le nombre de personnes qui ont faim dans le monde qu'en 2150.

Nous avons donc besoin du soutien de tous, de la contribution de tous, au niveau bilatéral, au niveau multilatéral, au niveau régional, au niveau des pays développés comme des pays en développement, au niveau du secteur privé comme du secteur public, au niveau aussi des ONG et de la société civile, au niveau des intellectuels, des hommes et des femmes de science, au niveau de tous nos partenaires, y compris dans le domaine des arts, qui contribuent aux programmes des ambassadeurs et au programme TeleFood de l'Organisation. C'est en mobilisant toutes ces énergies et toutes ces bonnes volontés au profit d'une Alliance internationale contre la faim, lancée par Son Excellence Monsieur Johannes Rau, Président de la République fédérale d'Allemagne, que nous parviendrons à vaincre la faim dans le monde.

Encore une fois, je voudrais vous remercier très sincèrement pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour que cette Organisation puisse continuer à travailler dans le sens d'un monde plus juste, d'un monde plus paisible qui assurera à chacun le droit le plus fondamental qui est le droit à la nourriture.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

EL PRESIDENTE

Hemos llegado al final de este período de sesiones. Antes de darlo por concluido, quiero desearle el mejor de los éxitos al señor Presidente Independiente del Consejo en su nuevo mandato, y el mejor de los éxitos a aquel en el que hemos depositado nuestra confianza para dirigir esta Organización, el señor Director General.

A todos ustedes deseo que el regreso a sus hogares sea un regreso fructífero, van con las alforjas llenas de un trabajo realizado con grandes experiencias y un gran esfuerzo para llegar a estos consensos.

Para mí ha sido un honor, en verdad, presidir esta última sesión, y estar con ustedes al finalizar el período de sesiones.

Queda clausurado el 32º período de sesiones de la Conferencia.

The meeting rose at 18.39 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 39

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.39 horas