

June 2013

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Food and
Agriculture
Organization
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Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session - Trente-huitième session - 38.º período de sesiones

**Rome, 15-22 June 2013
VERBATIM RECORDS OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION I
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Table of Contents – Table des matières – Índice

FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I (17 June 2013)

	Page
10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:	
10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:	
10. Cuestiones regionales y mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la reglamentación planteadas en el:	1
<i>10.1 Report of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (C 2013/15)</i>	
<i>10.1 Rapport de la trente et unième Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique</i>	
<i>10.1 Informe de la 31.ª Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico</i>	1
<i>10.2 Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (C 2013/17)</i>	
<i>10.2 Rapport de la trente-deuxième Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes</i>	
<i>10.2 Informe de la 32.ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe</i>	3
<i>10.3 Report of the 28th Regional Conference for Europe (C 2013/16)</i>	
<i>10.3 Rapport de la vingt-huitième Conférence régionale pour l'Europe</i>	
<i>10.3 Informe de la 28.ª Conferencia Regional para Europa</i>	6
<i>10.4 Report of the 27th Regional Conference for Africa (C 2013/14 Rev.1)</i>	
<i>10.4 Rapport de la vingt-septième Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique</i>	
<i>10.4 Informe de la 27.ª Conferencia Regional para África</i>	10
<i>10.5 Report of the 31st Regional Conference for the Near East (C 2013/18)</i>	
<i>10.5 Rapport de la trente et unième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient</i>	
<i>10.5 Informe de la 31.ª Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente</i>	12
<i>10.6 Input from the Informal Regional Conference for North America (C 2013/LIM/1)</i>	
<i>10.6 Éléments d'information issus de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord</i>	
<i>10.6 Aportación de la Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte</i>	15
13. FAO Gender Policy and the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (SWAP) (C 2013/27)	
13. Politique de la FAO en faveur de la parité hommes-femmes et Plan d'action du système des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes	
13. Política de género de la FAO y Plan de acción para todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer	16

**SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I
DEUXIEME REUNION DE LA COMMISSION I
SEGUNDA REUNION DE LA COMISION I
(18 June 2013)**

	Page
11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:	
11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:	
11. Cuestiones mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la reglamentación planteadas en el:	27
11.1 <i>Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (C 2013/22; C 2013/INF/6)</i>	
11.1 <i>Rapport de la vingt-troisième session du Comité de l'agriculture</i>	
11.1 <i>Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura</i>	27
11.2 <i>Report of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (C 2013/23; C 2013/INF/6)</i>	
11.2 <i>Rapport de la soixante-neuvième session du Comité des produits</i>	
11.2 <i>Informe del 69.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos</i>	31
11.3 <i>Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (C 2013/24; C 2013/INF/6)</i>	
11.3 <i>Rapport de la trentième session du Comité des pêches</i>	
11.3 <i>Informe del 30.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca</i>	37

**THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I
TROISIÈME RÉUNION DE LA COMMISSION I
TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
(18 June 2013)**

	Page
11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:	
11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:	
11. Cuestiones mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la reglamentación planteadas en el:	49
11.4 <i>Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (C 2013/25; C 2013/INF/6)</i>	
11.4 <i>Rapport de la vingt et unième session du Comité des forêts</i>	
11.4 <i>Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal</i>	49
12. Reports of the 37 th , 38 th (Special) and 39 th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security (C 2013/19; C 2013/20; C 2013/21; C 2013/INF/6)	
12. Rapports des 37 ^{ème} , 38 ^{ème} (session extraordinaire) et 39 ^{ème} sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale	
12. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 37.º, 38.º (extraordinario) y 39.º del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial	56
19. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme (C 2013/INF/2; C 2013/INF/3)	
19. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO	
19. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO	65
14. Interim Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System (C 2013/28)	
14. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement	
14. Informe provisional sobre la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo	70

15. Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (C 2013/29)	
15. Rapport de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture	
15. Informe de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura	75
16. International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (C 2013/30; C 2013/LIM/3)	
16. Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides	
16. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas	80

**FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
QUATRIEME REUNION DE LA COMMISSION I
CUARTA TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
(19 June 2013)**

	Page
17. Preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition ICN-2 (C 2013/31)	
17. Préparatifs de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN-2)	
17. Preparativos para la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN-2)	87
18. International Years and Days: (C 2013/LIM/15)	
18. Années et journées internationales:	
18. Años y días internacionales:	93
18.1 <i>Evaluation of the International Year of Forests 2011 (C 2013/32)</i>	
18.1 <i>Évaluation de l'Année internationale des forêts – 2011</i>	
18.1 <i>Evaluación del Año Internacional de los Bosques (2011)</i>	93
18.2 <i>International Year of Cooperatives 2012 (C 2013/33)</i>	
18.2 <i>Année internationale des coopératives – 2012</i>	
18.2 <i>Año Internacional de las Cooperativas (2012)</i>	97
18.3 <i>International Year of Quinoa 2013 (C 2013/34)</i>	
18.3 <i>Année internationale du quinoa – 2013</i>	
18.3 <i>Año Internacional de la Quinoa (2013)</i>	98
18.4 <i>International Year of Family Farming 2014 (C 2013/35)</i>	
18.4 <i>Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale – 2014</i>	
18.4 <i>Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (2014)</i>	100
18.5 <i>World Soil Day (C 2013/36)</i>	
18.5 <i>Journée mondiale des sols</i>	
18.5 <i>Día Mundial del Suelo</i>	102
18.6 <i>International Year of Soils (C 2013/LIM/16)</i>	
18.6 <i>Année internationale des sols</i>	
18.6 <i>Año Internacional de los Suelos</i>	102
18.7 <i>International Year of Pulses (C 2013/LIM/17)</i>	
18.7 <i>Année internationale des légumineuses</i>	
18.7 <i>Año Internacional de las Legumbres</i>	104

**FIFTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
CINQUIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
QUINTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
(19 June 2013)**

	Page
18. International Years and Days: (continued) (C 2013/LIM/15)	
18. Années et journées internationales: (suite)	
18. Años y días internacionales: (continuación)	117
18.1 <i>Evaluation of the International Year of Forests 2011 (C 2013/32)</i>	
18.1 <i>Évaluation de l'Année internationale des forêts – 2011</i>	
18.1 <i>Evaluación del Año Internacional de los Bosques (2011)</i>	117
18.2 <i>International Year of Cooperatives 2012 (C 2013/33)</i>	
18.2 <i>Année internationale des coopératives – 2012</i>	
18.2 <i>Año Internacional de las Cooperativas (2012)</i>	117
18.3 <i>International Year of Quinoa 2013 (C 2013/34)</i>	
18.3 <i>Année internationale du quinoa – 2013</i>	
18.3 <i>Año Internacional de la Quinoa (2013)</i>	117
18.4 <i>International Year of Family Farming 2014 (C 2013/35)</i>	
18.4 <i>Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale – 2014</i>	
18.4 <i>Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (2014)</i>	117
18.5 <i>World Soil Day (C 2013/36)</i>	
18.5 <i>Journée mondiale des sols</i>	
18.5 <i>Día Mundial del Suelo</i>	117
18.6 <i>International Year of Soils (C 2013/LIM/16)</i>	
18.6 <i>Année internationale des sols</i>	
18.6 <i>Año Internacional de los Suelos</i>	117
18.7 <i>International Year of Pulses (C 2013/LIM/17)</i>	
18.7 <i>Année internationale des légumineuses</i>	
18.7 <i>Año Internacional de las Legumbres</i>	117

**SIXTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I
SIXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I
SEXTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
(19 June 2013)**

	Page
Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe	125
(C 2013/I/REP/10; C 2013/I/REP/11.1; C 2013/I/REP/11.2; C 2013/I/REP/11.3; C 2013/I/REP/11.4; C 2013/I/REP/12; C 2013/I/REP/13; C 2013/I/REP/14; C 2013/I/REP/15; C 2013/I/REP/16; C 2013/I/REP/17; C 2013/I/REP/18; C 2013/I/REP/18.1; C 2013/I/REP/18.2; C 2013/I/REP/18.3; C 2013/I/REP/18.4; C 2013/I/REP/18.5; C 2013/I/REP/18.6; C 2013/I/REP/18.7; C 2013/I/REP/19)	

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session Trente-huitième session 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
FIRST MEETING OF COMMISSION I PREMIÈRE SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I PRIMERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
17 June 2013

The First Meeting was opened at 15.08 hours
Ms Nomatemba Tambo,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La première séance est ouverte à 15 h 08
sous la présidence de Mme Nomatemba Tambo,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la primera reunion a las 15.08
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Nomatemba Tambo,
Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you for electing me the Chairperson of Commission I and I appreciate the trust you have given me to Chair this discussion. This Commission deals with core matters of the Organization. I would like to go through the agenda for this afternoon and hope to finish by 17:30 hours. If necessary, we can continue working this afternoon until we have reached and finished the agenda for today.

Concerning the bureau of Commission I as reported in the document C 2013/LIM/11, the first Report of the General Committee issued yesterday, the Chairperson of Commission I is from the Republic of South Africa, which is myself, and the two Vice-Chairpersons are Mr François Pyhoud from Switzerland and Ms Gladys Francisca Urbaneja Durán from Venezuela, whom I warmly welcome.

I would also like to inform you that after the meeting of Commission I, there will be a Drafting Committee with the following Members; Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Indonesia, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Sudan and Turkey.

The Drafting Committee for Commission I needs to select a Chairperson and I would appreciate it if they could let me know the name of the person by the end of the meeting today. The meetings of the Drafting Committee will be announced later.

10. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:

10. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales et régionales découlant des rapports suivants:

10. Cuestiones regionales y mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la reglamentación planteadas en el:

CHAIRPERSON

We will now start with the first item on our agenda for this afternoon, which is item 10 *Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters arising from Regional Conferences*. These reports are submitted to the Conference on matters relating to global governance, policy issues, international frameworks and have already been submitted to the Council for matters related to executive oversight of programme and budgetary matters.

10.1 Report of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (12-16 March 2012)

10.1 Rapport de la trente et unième Conférence régionale pour l'Asie et le Pacifique (12-16 mars 2012)

10.1 Informe de la 31.ª Conferencia Regional para Asia y el Pacífico (12-16 de marzo de 2012)

(C 2013/15)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us start with item 10.1, *Report of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific* held in Hanoi, Viet Nam, from 12 to 16 March 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/15.

I invite her Excellency Madame Thi Xuan Thu Nguyen, Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, on behalf of the APRC Chair, to introduce this item.

Ms Thi Xuan Thu NGUYEN (Viet Nam)

On behalf of the Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific, this is an honor and a pleasure for me to be here today and to have an opportunity to address the Conference regarding the outcome of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and Pacific and which was held in Hanoi, the Republic of Viet Nam, from 12 to 16 March 2012.

The Regional Conference was attended by 300 delegates and included 19 Ministers and Vice-Ministers representing 39 Member Nations, plus 34 observer delegations.

The final Report includes a summary of the main recommendations for the attention of the FAO Council and another for the attention of the Conference, and is presented in document C 2013/15.

In reference to the agenda item on the outcome of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and follow-up action at regional and country levels, the Regional Conference endorsed the recommendation to develop a Global Strategic Framework of food security and nutrition (GSF) and recommended that regional perspectives be fully reflected in the further draft of the GSF.

The Regional Conference requested FAO to firstly test the development of the system for mapping food security and nutrition to enhance coordination and alignment of the policies and programme of government agencies and development partners.

Regarding the agenda item on *The State of Food and Agriculture in the Asia and the Pacific Region*, including future prospects and emerging views. The Regional Conference stressed the need for FAO and Member Nations to address the key challenges of increasing agriculture productivity, including the rice and the maize staple of this region. Managing natural resources sustainably and promoting effective responses to food volatility. Requested FAO to assist Member Nations in developing strategies and enhancing programmes and activities related to agriculture research and extension, gender disaggregated statistics, market information service, governance and regulation of the live stock sector, animal health, and food safety standards, sustainable management of forest, fisheries and water resources, transparent, open, effective trade of food, effective safety nets for the most vulnerable, and climate change mitigation and adaption.

Considered under the item on *Diversification of Crop and Agriculture to World Food and Nutrition Security*, the Regional Conference recognizes the need for increased attention by Member Nations for support to sustainable agricultural intensification and diversification of crops, including the special needs of small island developing states, and requested FAO to assist Member Countries through participatory development of strategic analysis, facilitation of knowledge generation, capacity development, transfer of technology and genetic material and facilitation of global and regional collaboration.

Regarding the agenda item on *Value Chain Development and Post-Harvest Loss Reduction for Small-holder Farmers*, the Regional Conference acknowledged the importance of post-harvest loss reduction and value chain development in Member Nations for implementing policy reform that facilitates the way of doing business and requested FAO to provide assistance in value chain development and post-harvest loss reduction, including documentation of successful models.

For the first time, civil society organizations attended the Regional Conference and were given the opportunity to speak. Their interventions were focused and well received by delegations. The delegations felt that the participation of civil society added value to the deliberation. With respect to the next Regional Conference, I am pleased to inform you that the government of Mongolia has kindly offered to host the 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific in 2014 to be held in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, from 10 to 13 March 2014. Thank you for your attention.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Elizabeth BIE (Australia)

Australia supports the outcomes of the Report of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and its recommendations.

As Co-Chair with New Zealand of FAO's Southwest Pacific Region, Australia welcomes FAO's work in the Southwest Pacific and in particular its work on the issues of importance to our region.

A number of Pacific Island States have been actively involved in setting the agenda for the next Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific and we welcome and support their active involvement. We look forward to seeing issues specific to the Pacific Island States featuring on the agenda for the next Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference in Mongolia.

Mr Ross BATCHELOR (New Zealand)

New Zealand welcomes the increased focus on regional-specific needs and the move to increase resources available to the offices. In particular in the Southwest Pacific region we note the commitment made to additional support for fisheries work as well as the expansion of the Country Office network.

We would stress that while decentralization is valuable and will help with organizational prioritization, it remains essential for FAO to maintain the core technical capacity at Headquarters, particularly in the areas of normative and standard setting work, data gathering and analytical work and policy advice on fisheries, forestry and agriculture.

Combining a strong core competence alongside a wide regional network, as reflected in the Report of the Asia Pacific Regional Conference, will enable FAO to be the knowledge organization with its feet on the ground that Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva described in his statement this morning.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the Report of the 31st Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific? It is so decided. This concludes item 10.1.

10.2 Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (26-30 March 2012)

10.2 Rapport de la trente-deuxième Conférence régionale pour l'Amérique latine et les Caraïbes (26-30 mars 2012)

10.2 Informe de la 32.ª Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe (26-30 de marzo de 2012)

(C 2013/17)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 10.2 Report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 26 to 30 March 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/17.

I invite Mr Miguel Donatelli, National Director of International Agro-food relations in the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, to introduce the item.

Sr. Miguel DONATELLI (Argentina)

Señora presidenta, permítame efectuar esta intervención en nombre del señor Lorenzo Basso, Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe, quien por razones de fuerza mayor no pudo asistir a esta Conferencia.

Es un placer para mí tener la oportunidad de encontrarnos nuevamente en esta Conferencia, y compartir este evento con el señor Director General, José Graziano Da Silva, originario de nuestra región, profundo estudioso de la problemática de America Latina y el Caribe, la agricultura familiar, el desarrollo rural y la seguridad alimentaria. Asimismo, me congratulo de la presencia de varios jefes de estado y ministros de las carteras agrícolas, lo que deja a las claras la importancia de esta organización y, específicamente, de este encuentro.

En marzo del año 2012, Argentina tuvo el honor de presidir la trigésimo segunda sesión de la Conferencia Regional para America Latina y el Caribe, que tuvo lugar en Buenos Aires. Permítanme resumirles a continuación los principales retos identificados en la Conferencia, en relación a la agenda alimentaria y agrícola a nivel regional e internacional, así como las prioridades que la región considera deberían guiar a la FAO durante los próximos años.

La Conferencia ratificó la vigencia de las cuatro prioridades regionales, esto es: la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, el cambio climático y la sostenibilidad ambiental, la agricultura familiar y la sanidad agropecuaria e inocuidad de los alimentos, incorporando las cuestiones más relevantes de los subsectores forestal, ganadero, pesquero y acuícola. Asimismo, la Conferencia Regional decidió mantener el Programa de apoyo especial a Haití, reafirmó el interés por la iniciativa de “América

Latina y el Caribe sin hambre 2025” y respaldó la necesidad de finalizar la reforma de la FAO en la región, en cuanto a descentralización y Programas de emergencia. Por otra parte, de la Conferencia surgió un fuerte respaldo a los mecanismos de integración regional, como la CELAC, UNASUR, CARICOM, CAN y SICA.

La Conferencia manifestó su beneplácito por el amplio e inclusivo proceso de reflexión estratégica que ha iniciado desde el comienzo de su gestión el señor Director General, para determinar las prioridades y las estrategias futuras de la organización, a los efectos de alcanzar los objetivos de la FAO. El proceso de reflexión estratégica que derivó en el Marco estratégico revisado, que se presenta en esta Conferencia, nos hace sentir parte de una organización cada vez más abierta y democrática, en la que todos somos responsables de la definición de su rumbo y del abordaje de los problemas que enfrentamos en la actualidad.

Señora presidenta, permítame detallar ahora los conceptos más importantes abordados durante la trigésimo segunda Conferencia Regional, en relación a los dos ejes principales sobre los cuales se nos solicitó definiciones políticas para su posterior inclusión en el Programa de trabajo de la FAO: la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, y el cambio climático. Respecto al primero de ellos, la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, quisiera destacar que desde la región estamos convencidos de que la principal causa del hambre es la pobreza, y que sin agricultura familiar no hay seguridad alimentaria posible.

A su vez, coincidimos en diferenciar lo que es “volatilidad de precios” de la “recuperación de precios”. Con respecto a las fuertes oscilaciones de precios de estos últimos años, conocida como la “volatilidad”, consideramos que su principal causa es la especulación financiera, y que la misma es sumamente perjudicial, ya que afecta seriamente la planificación y la producción agrícola. Sin embargo, creemos que una recuperación razonable de los precios de los productos agropecuarios puede crear condiciones adecuadas para aumentar la inversión y la producción de alimentos en nuestra región, mediante la promoción de acceso a los conocimientos, la innovación, la transferencia de tecnologías y el fomento de la asociatividad. Por otra parte, creemos que es necesario profundizar los trabajos en asociativismo y gerenciamiento rural, pues son herramientas indispensables que deben estar al alcance de la agricultura familiar y adecuarse a sus realidades.

La cooperación de la FAO es vital para lograr impulsar el desarrollo humano, promoviendo la investigación en temas socioproductivos y ambientales, mecanismos de asociatividad horizontal y de integración dentro de las cadenas productivas, para fortalecer los mercados locales, reducir los costos de transacción de los pequeños productores, y mejorar sus ingresos y condiciones de vida y producción.

Respecto al segundo punto, el cambio climático, la región reconoció la relevancia de los mecanismos de adaptación en los sectores agrícola, ganadero, forestal y pesquero, recordando los tres pilares del desarrollo sostenible: económico, social y ambiental. En este sentido, se puntualizaron dos cuestiones que entendemos son relevantes: en primer lugar, no deben duplicarse esfuerzos ni prejuzgar las negociaciones del foro multilateral competente en la materia; esto es, la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el cambio climático. En segundo lugar, la FAO puede contribuir en el ámbito de la agricultura, a través de la cooperación y la asistencia técnica, de acuerdo a las prioridades identificadas por cada país, contribuyendo al fortalecimiento de las capacidades regionales, nacionales y locales, relativas al desarrollo de acciones de adaptación, transferencia de tecnologías, teniendo en cuenta las características y contextos específicos existentes en la región.

Para finalizar, me gustaría destacar que la Argentina mantendrá su rol activo en el resto de su ejercicio como Presidente de la Conferencia Regional para América Latina y el Caribe. Como ya compartimos con ustedes en el 144º periodo de sesiones del Consejo, hemos elaborado un Plan de acción con actividades concretas, dentro de las que se destaca el relevamiento de necesidades y ofertas de cooperación de la región. En los próximos meses, estaremos organizando dos seminarios regionales, uno sobre genética bovina y otro sobre suelos, en los cuales esperamos tener una amplia participación de funcionarios técnicos de América Latina y el Caribe.

Señora presidenta, hoy como nunca estamos convencidos de que existe una decisión profunda para terminar con el hambre y la desnutrición que siguen afectando a millones de seres humanos, tema central que ocupa la agenda de múltiples foros internacionales. No desaprovechemos la oportunidad de sentar bases duraderas para este cambio.

Mr Claudio POLES (Brazil)

The Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Buenos Aires discussed important issues concerning matters of programme, budget and management such as the FAO Reform and Decentralization. Two topics, nevertheless, were highlighted by the Regional Conference as we have just heard from the report: food security and nutrition most of all, but also climate change and its effects on agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forests.

Regarding food security and nutrition, the Regional Conference has confirmed that in order to promote food security, it is necessary, among other measures, to strengthen family farming, fight poverty, and grant adequate access to food resources and markets.

At Rio+20, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon launched what he called the “Zero Hunger Challenge” with five fundamental goals: universal access to food, reduction of child malnutrition, the doubling of productivity of micro producers, the promotion of sustainable food chains and finally the reduction of waste.

For Brazil, it is gratifying to see the Zero Hunger principles transformed into a global endeavour and to see these principles also confirmed by FAO at the regional level. In relation to climate change and its effects, Brazil agrees with the understanding that FAO should focus its efforts on the increase of technical cooperation for strengthening regional, national and local capacities, aiming at the development of adaptation actions, as well as the sharing of technologies for different contexts.

Finally, Brazil wishes to commend the high quality of the Report and to thank Argentina for the leadership that has ensured the good results and the success of the Regional Conference.

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNANDEZ ESPERON (Cuba)

La volatilidad y el alza del precio de los alimentos en el mercado mundial ha caracterizado, entre otros elementos, a la crisis económica financiera internacional iniciada en el 2008, y que aún persiste. En nuestra región, integrada tanto por países productores y exportadores agrícolas, como por importadores netos de alimentos, el alza en los precios mundiales de estos productos impacta de forma diversa en el comercio agrícola de los países de la región. Representa tanto una oportunidad para los primeros, como una amenaza para los segundos, que requieren de más inversiones y cooperación internacional para reducir la dependencia de la importación de alimentos y asegurar la seguridad alimentaria.

América Latina y el Caribe disminuyeron en 16 millones el número de personas desnutridas en las últimas dos décadas. Sin embargo, lo realizado es aún insuficiente. El 8,3 por ciento de latinoamericanos y caribeños no ingiere las calorías diarias necesarias para llevar una vida sana. Aunque el comercio agroalimentario de América Latina y el Caribe en el 2011 fue, en general, positivo, la subregión del Caribe y varios países en el resto de la región tuvieron un saldo negativo entre sus exportaciones e importaciones agrícolas.

El caso más preocupante es el Caribe, cuyas importaciones agroalimentarias de 8497 millones de dólares casi duplicaron sus exportaciones, y tuvieron un déficit de más de 4000 millones de dólares en el comercio agroalimentario. Por otro lado, aunque toda la región ha sido víctima y es vulnerable a devastadores desastres naturales, organismos internacionales han reconocido que en el contexto regional, el Caribe es la subregión que se ha visto más afectada por los desastres naturales. Reafirmamos que el Caribe requiere más inversiones y una mayor cooperación internacional para garantizar su seguridad alimentaria.

Señora presidenta, para lograr seguridad alimentaria se quiere un mayor compromiso y articulación de todos los actores, políticas que aborden las causas de la pobreza, el hambre y la desnutrición, más recursos de inversiones y mayor cooperación económica, y científica y técnica norte-sur y sur-sur.

Cuba ratifica el apoyo a la aprobación del Informe y con esto la incorporación al Programa de trabajo de la FAO de las 4 prioridades regionales aprobadas por la Conferencia de América Latina y el Caribe, a saber: seguridad alimentaria y nutricional, cambio climático y sostenibilidad ambiental, agricultura familiar y sanidad agropecuaria e inocuidad de los alimentos, así como la consideración de las especificidades de cada subregión. Asimismo, respalda plenamente la decisión adoptada por la Conferencia de la FAO para nuestra región de mantener el Programa prioritario de apoyo vital para el hermano pueblo de Haití, y reafirma su apoyo a la iniciativa “América Latina y el Caribe sin hambre”.

En este empeño en erradicar el hambre de la región, Cuba está trabajando, en conjunto con la FAO, la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños, CELAC, en cuatro líneas aprobadas que incluye: una propuesta de acuerdo regional para facilitar el comercio interregional de los alimentos fundamentales para la dieta de los latinoamericanos y caribeños, y la cooperación en la recuperación agrícola post-desastres ambientales.

Cuba, en su condición de Presidente pro tempore de la CELAC, tiene la intención de promover, con el apoyo de los mecanismos regionales y subregionales de integración, un proyecto de Plan para la erradicación del hambre y para la seguridad alimentaria y nutricional de nuestra región, así como la realización de un estudio de factibilidad sobre la posibilidad de un Acuerdo Marco sobre seguridad alimentaria.

En este sentido, ya estamos contando con el apoyo de la Oficina Regional de la FAO. Antes de concluir, Presidenta, quisiera sumarme a lo expresado por la delegación de Brasil, felicitando a la excelente organización que hizo de la Conferencia la República Argentina.

Sra. Lorena PATIÑO (Paraguay)

Al igual que los demás colegas, quiero agradecer a la delegación de la Argentina por este informe impecable que han presentado, y simplemente ratificar la importancia de la participación de las mujeres en la agricultura familiar, en especial aquellas mujeres cabeza de familia.

Nuevamente, apoyamos y felicitamos a la Argentina por el informe.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the report of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean? It is so decided and this concludes item 10.2

10.3 Report of the 28th Regional Conference for Europe (17-20 April 2012)

10.3 Rapport de la vingt-huitième Conférence régionale pour l'Europe (17-20 avril 2012)

10.3 Informe de la 28.ª Conferencia Regional para Europa (17-20 de abril de 2012)

(C 2013/16)

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with item 10.3, the report of the 28th Regional Conference for Europe held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 17 to 20 April 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/16. I invite His Excellency Ismat Abasov, Minister for Agriculture of Azerbaijan and Chairperson of the 28th Regional Conference for Europe, to introduce the item.

Mr Ismat ABASOV (Azerbaijan)

It is a great honour for me to be here and to have the opportunity to address the FAO Conference on the outcome of the 28th Regional Conference for Europe, the ERC.

At this 28th ERC, 46 Delegations participated from the Member Nations of the Region and a further 19 observers. Ten Member States were represented at the Ministerial level. The report of the Conference is accessible as Conference document C 2013/16, and here there is a summary of the main recommendations for regional and global policy that require some attention from the Conference.

Thus, I will keep to a short introduction and presentation of the conclusions made at the ERC as a result of the intensive negotiations in as much as they relate to the FAO Conference. On the outcome of the 37th Session of the Committee on World Food Security, and the main information on the Reform of the CFS, we looked at recent events and discussed them as part of the CFS.

The ERC supported the Reform and made a request on the inclusion of questions about CFS in future Regional Conferences and also called for the adoption of corresponding mechanisms which will be introduced to enable better exchange of opinions among the CFS, Member Nations and other multi-stakeholders.

The ERC also welcomed the successful conclusions of the CFS negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance on the Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. We also noted the development of a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, the GSF. In conclusion, the ERC turned to the FAO with a request for close cooperation with corresponding interested parties to facilitate the development of a mapping system for food security and nutrition and also to better coordinate underlying policies and programmes of governments and partners on the basis of existing mechanisms and institutions including the FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

Regarding the item on providing for global food security in the Region, challenges and perspectives, the food outlook for 2015, here the ERC approved a proposal to have an FAO-World Health Organization (WHO) action together with other partners, namely special research on malnutrition and dietary transition in Europe and Central Asia. The ERC also proposed that the FAO continue its work on an Agricultural Market Information System, the AMIS, in support of the G20 action plan, and called on FAO to prepare research on food waste in Europe and Central Asia, including recommendations on policies to improve post-harvest waste.

The ERC also supported an integrated approach to the development of agriculture, including farming, forestry and fisheries, as well as the broadening of cooperation with multilateral and bilateral donors and with international financial institutions, all of this in order to have a more synergetic form of support for farmers and rural regions.

Civil Society Organizations, CSOs, called on Member Nations to base future food security policy on smallholder farms at a local level and also on local food networks, on land reform and the performance of farms in Europe. On the twenty year perspective, the ERC called on FAO to take part in the drawing up of policies and to provide technical assistance to ministries.

The ERC recommended continuing efforts to promote voluntary guiding principles for responsible land tenure, to help Member States in the development of legislative frameworks for farm associations and farmer groups, to facilitate the development of other farm services and services for smallholders, and to work with Ministries of Agriculture to develop that potential in order to realize measures that would encourage a level playing field for smallholders.

Civil Society Organizations also drew the attention of the European Commission on Agriculture to specific examples of land grabbing and the unequal conditions for smallholders when it came to defending their ownership rights. Civil Society Organizations also stressed the need for access to land for the rural population.

On women and agriculture and closing the gender gap in the interest of development in Europe, the ERC supported the proposed FAO core set of indicators in agriculture. It also recommended increasing the visibility of the working group on women and family in Europe in rural areas and rural development, and called on governments to increase self-financing with joint measures.

Civil Society also stressed that women across the world produce more than half of our food products and also make up the majority of the malnourished. It was noted that this is a direct result of the lack of institutional support for smallholder farms.

The ERC also noted that the general lack of sex disaggregated data for agriculture prevented a full understanding of the situation in agriculture. In this context, it called on countries to work together with the Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia of the FAO to raise awareness and to develop the potential of ministries of agriculture and national offices of statistics in collecting and maintaining sex disaggregated data. The ERC, however expressed its concern about the future of the Working Party on Women and the Family in Rural Development (WPW) and called on Member States to review and discuss the proposals relating to a) the creation of a national focal point on gender issues in ministries,

b) reviewing the role and responsibility of Boards and the Secretariat in the WPW, and then on defining a new name for the WPW.

As was noted by the Director-General in his closing remarks at the ERC, it is to be welcomed that the Conference once again has confirmed the commitment of all countries in Europe and Central Asia to the fight against hunger. An important step in efforts to strengthen partnerships with the Organization was the intensive participation of representatives of Civil Society at the Regional Conference. This is seen as part of the FAO's efforts to bring in new participants to discussions about the development of rural areas, and this is because Civil Society plays an important role in this context.

I thank you for your kind attention and stand ready to provide the FAO Conference with any additional information on the discussions and recommendations stemming from the 28th Regional Conference in Europe.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Mr Kosim KOSIMOV (Tajikistan)

We support the Report from my colleague, the Minister for Agriculture of Azerbaijan, Mr Abasov, in particular in the beginning of the realization of the Decentralization Process of FAO. The basis for this was laid at the 28th European Regional Conference of FAO, which took place in Baku.

For Tajikistan, this Conference was particularly important because it supported our initiative to organize Representatives of FAO and to increase the work done on food security. In the last year in Tajikistan we have begun to implement a number of projects to put in place an IT system for food security and to strengthen the services to fight against animal diseases and also to develop fisheries and other forms of agriculture. We have also prepared a Country Programme with priority policies for Tajikistan for the next three years and we hope that this will soon be approved by the FAO leadership and will be put into implementation.

The new level of our cooperation with the FAO allows us to be confident and optimistic about the effective resolution of the problems of quality and quantity in providing for food, not only for the population of our country, but also for the region as a whole.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the European Union, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the European Union: Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We can endorse the comprehensive and detailed Report of the 28th Session of the Regional Conference for Europe. The Regional Conference, kindly hosted by the Government of Azerbaijan, in Baku, from 17 to 20 April 2012, was very useful and enjoyed wide participation of Ministers and high representatives from most of the Member Nations in the region.

We support the following proposed activities regarding the policies for food security in the Region:

- a) To conduct an FAO/World Health Organization special study on dietary transition and malnutrition in the European and Central Asia Region, in partnership with other organizations.
- b) To continue working on the Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS), in support of the G20 Action Plan and to prepare a study on food waste in the European and Central Asia Region, including policy recommendations for reducing post-harvest waste.
- c) FAO's work to continue its support for improving food security, raising productivity of small holder agriculture and ensuring sustainable use of resources and to emphasize that gender equality could substantially increase agricultural growth and productivity.

d) An integrated approach needed for agriculture development including forestry and fisheries and cooperation with multilateral and bilateral donors and international finance institutions to achieve synergy of support to farmers in rural areas.

e) FAO's engagement in shaping policies and providing technical assistance to support the re-establishment of extension and advisory services including legislative frameworks for agriculture associations and farmer groups, also for smallholders.

Regarding the Working Party on Women and the family in rural development, the WPW, since the Conference in 2012, the Office of Evaluation prepared its evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices for Europe and Central Asia. In its recommendations, it dealt also with the WPW. This issue was then discussed in the Programme Committee.

We agree with the management's response regarding this issue where it states that the management will submit a proposal to the 2014 ERC on the most efficient and cost effective way to replace the Working Party on Women with another more effective mechanism to ensure gender perspectives are fully mainstreamed into FAO's work within the region.

We think FAO should further focus its work based on its comparative advantage particularly in providing global public goods and policy advice based on its normative and analytical work in line with the essential functions of advocacy, communication, capacity development and knowledge sharing on policy advice to countries.

We also encourage the ongoing implementation of the voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security, as well as the implementation of the voluntary guidelines for the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests.

Finally, we would favour a common reflection on the format and modalities of the Regional Conference for Europe, in order to improve its organization and to facilitate discussions and links with the ECA, in the perspective of the next Regional Conference for Europe to be held in Bucharest in 2014.

M. Francois PYTHOUD (Suisse)

La Suisse soutient les recommandations contenues dans le rapport de la 28^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Europe; elle souhaite que, dans le cadre du suivi de cette Conférence et du programme de travail, la FAO s'engage tout particulièrement sur les trois domaines d'activité suivants:

Tout d'abord, la promotion des Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers adoptées en 2012 par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale; deuxièmement, la réduction du fossé entre hommes et femmes en matière d'agriculture, cela est une des mesures les plus susceptibles d'accroître la productivité de manière significative et de contribuer à la réduction de la pauvreté; et finalement la réalisation d'une étude sur le gaspillage alimentaire dans la région Europe et Asie centrale, comprenant également des recommandations sur la stratégie à adopter pour réduire les pertes après récoltes.

Nous souhaitons saisir cette occasion pour remercier le Gouvernement de l'Azerbaïdjan pour l'accueil et l'excellente organisation de la Conférence régionale à Bakou.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Commission wishes to approve the Report of the 28th Regional Conference for Europe? It is so decided and this concludes item 10.3.

10.4 Report of the 27th Regional Conference for Africa (23-27 April 2012)
10.4 Rapport de la vingt-septième Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique (23-27 avril 2012)
10.4 Informe de la 27.^a Conferencia Regional para África (23-27 de abril de 2012)
(C 2013/14 Rev.1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 10.4, the Report of the 27th Regional Conference for Africa held in Brazzaville, in Congo, from 23 to 27 April 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/14 Rev.1.

I invite His Excellency Rigobert Maboundou, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Congo, and Chairperson of the 27th Regional Conference for Africa, to introduce this item.

M. Rigobert MABOUNDOU (Congo)

Au nom de la Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, j'ai l'insigne honneur et le privilège de vous présenter les résultats des travaux de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale de la FAO pour l'Afrique, tenue du 23 au 27 avril 2012 à Brazzaville, en République du Congo. La Conférence a enregistré la participation de 49 sur 53 pays membres et d'autres institutions et organisations partenaires, dont les organisations de la société civile représentées au plus haut niveau.

Je me permets de renouveler, ici, avec grand plaisir, les remerciements de Son Excellence Monsieur le Président de la République du Congo, Denis Sassou Nguesso, du Gouvernement et du peuple congolais à toutes les parties prenantes de la Conférence régionale, et en particulier à Monsieur le Directeur général de la FAO.

Les assises exceptionnelles de Brazzaville sont désormais inscrites comme un grand moment du partenariat que la FAO développe en Afrique. En ma qualité de Président de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, j'ai le plaisir de confirmer aux Membres de la Conférence de la FAO, réunis en sa 38^{ème} session, que le rapport final, adopté et présenté, exprime clairement les conclusions de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale, notamment sur les questions de politiques et de réglementations.

La Conférence a été une opportunité pour revenir sur nos préoccupations communes, à savoir la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, la réduction de la pauvreté et le développement durable, préoccupations qui ont été partagées avec une attention toute particulière pour la corne de l'Afrique et le Sahel; en plus de déclarer solennellement notre solidarité et action vers l'élimination de la faim et de la malnutrition en Afrique, la Conférence de Brazzaville a consacré notre engagement d'État Membre à mieux faire face aux enjeux émergents en tenant compte de nos priorités régionales.

Je sou mets à la Conférence les recommandations concernant le point 10 de l'ordre du jour et portant sur les questions relatives aux politiques régionales et mondiales, et à la réglementation.

Concernant l'enjeu de la mise en œuvre, le programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine pour 2012-13, la Conférence régionale a encouragé la FAO à collaborer avec ses partenaires de la région et du continent, en vue d'une évaluation complète du processus du CAADP (PDDAA : Programme détaillé pour le développement de l'agriculture africaine), ainsi que pour faciliter la transmission de savoirs entre pairs de différents pays, avec pour objectif de recenser les principaux facteurs de succès.

La Conférence régionale a instamment demandé à la FAO de continuer à soutenir les pays, les communautés économiques régionales et l'agence de planification et de coordination du NEPAD, dans le cadre de la collaboration et de la mise en œuvre du CAADP.

La Conférence a, en outre, demandé à la FAO un appui pour l'examen des politiques et des budgets, le renforcement institutionnel et l'établissement de partenariats de financement novateur. La Conférence a plaidé pour que les pays accroissent les crédits budgétaires alloués aux investissements publics, jouant un rôle catalyseur, et pour qu'ils accélèrent les réformes politiques et réglementaires nécessaires pour attirer les investissements du secteur privé.

La Conférence a recommandé aux pays de renforcer l'intégration des associations de producteurs et des organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé, et en particulier celles des petits producteurs, des femmes et des jeunes, dans le processus d'élaboration et de mise en œuvre du CAADP, et aussi de

renforcer leurs capacités à cet effet. Au sujet des partenariats publics-privés pour l'appui aux programmes agricoles afin d'assurer la subsistance et créer de la richesse, la Conférence régionale a demandé à la FAO de conseiller les gouvernements sur les environnements financiers et réglementaires à mettre en place pour favoriser les partenariats publics-privés, et sur les dispositions à prendre pour intégrer ce type de partenariat dans les stratégies, la planification et les politiques nationales d'investissement, y compris les plans d'investissement du CAADP.

La Conférence régionale a demandé à la FAO de fournir des informations analytiques, ventilées et plus détaillées sur les partenariats publics-privés, afin de mieux comprendre ce qui fonctionne en Afrique, qui y participe et quels sont les avantages et les répercussions de ces partenariats sur les petits producteurs, en particulier les femmes et les jeunes.

La Conférence régionale a conseillé aux gouvernements d'accorder une attention particulière aux mesures à prendre pour protéger les intérêts des petits producteurs et des petits transformateurs, notamment les femmes et les jeunes.

Suite au dialogue entre les parties prenantes du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale (CSA), la Conférence régionale a approuvé la recommandation de la 37^{ème} session du CSA concernant l'élaboration d'un Cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire, via un processus multipartite. La Conférence régionale a recommandé que les perspectives et les cadres régionaux soient pleinement reflétés dans les prochaines versions du Cadre stratégique mondial pour la sécurité alimentaire, et a instamment demandé aux organisations et aux parties prenantes régionales de contribuer à cet objectif, tout en tenant compte des avis exprimés aux niveaux national et local.

La Conférence a demandé à la FAO de travailler avec les parties prenantes concernées en vue de faciliter l'élaboration de systèmes de cartographie des actions engagées en faveur de la sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle, et d'en améliorer les performances.

Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs, il faut souligner que la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique a félicité le Président indépendant du Conseil, dont le mandat arrive à terme. La Conférence régionale a également adopté par acclamation, la proposition de candidature de M. Wilfred Ngirwa, ancien Représentant permanent de la Tanzanie auprès de la FAO et Président des Représentants permanents africains auprès de la FAO, en 2011, pour le poste de Président indépendant du Conseil en 2013.

Mesdames et Messieurs, enfin, lors de la 27^{ème} Conférence régionale pour l'Afrique, placée sous le thème « De la vision à l'action: pour une agriculture africaine performante », qui était notre credo pour une mobilisation vers des succès partagés par les États Membres de la FAO, il s'est agi d'un travail important, et nous avons grand espoir que la présente session de la Conférence s'en inspirera au grand bénéfice de tous.

Mesdames et Messieurs, je vous remercie pour votre aimable attention.

Mr Joseph SESAY (Sierra Leone)

Sierra Leone was a very active delegation during the meeting of the 28th Regional Conference for Africa in Brazzaville and we want to confirm that the Report submitted here reflects truly the deliberations, conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Conference. We believe these recommendations, once implemented, will significantly improve the situation of food and nutrition in our regional continent.

I want to take this opportunity also to thank the President and people of Congo for according us a very wonderful reception during the conduct of this Conference and to also thank FAO for the marvelous support during the Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you, this concludes item 10.4.

10.5 Report of the 31st Regional Conference for the Near East (14-18 May 2012)***10.5 Rapport de la trente et unième Conférence régionale pour le Proche-Orient (14-18 mai 2012)******10.5 Informe de la 31.ª Conferencia Regional para el Cercano Oriente (14-18 de mayo de 2012)***
(C 2013/18)**CHAIRPERSON:**

We proceed then with item 10.5, Report of the 31st Regional Conference for the Near East, held in Rome, Italy, from 14 to 18 May 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/18.

I invite His Excellency Izzeddin Al-Dola, Minister of Agriculture of Iraq and Chairperson of the 31st Regional Conference for the Near East, to introduce the item.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

Good afternoon. I would first like to clarify that I am not the Minister for Agriculture of Iraq. Unfortunately, the Minister was unable to join us. He was planning to come here and to present this report. I represent the Minister. My name is Hassan Janabi and I am the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to FAO.

On behalf of the Regional Conference for the Near East, it is an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today and to have the opportunity of presenting the Report of this Conference, that was held in Rome at the FAO Headquarters from 14 to 18 May. It was chaired by Iraq and it was attended by 25 delegations and 20 observers.

The final Report includes a summary of the main recommendations and is contained in document C 2013/14 Rev.1.

The Regional Conference discussed two main subjects, one on Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters and the second on Programme and Budget matters. As you all know, the regulation in FAO requires that the Programme and Budget be presented in two reports and the Iraqi Delegation already presented the outcome of the Programme and Budget matters to the 144th Session of the Council in June 2012. The second, that has to do with Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters, will be presented to this Commission.

Under this category, the Regional Conference discussed three items; one, food loss prevention for improving food security in the Near East; second, actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts on natural resources, in particular the case of fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and livestock in the Near East; and third, multi-stakeholder dialogue on global strategic framework for food security and nutrition, including the outcome of the multi-stakeholder consultation in the Near East.

Regarding the first item on food loss prevention for improving food security in the Near East, the Regional Conference decided to request that FAO assist Member Nations in addressing the key challenges of reducing food waste and losses by conducting comprehensive studies on the impact of food losses and waste on food security in the Region, and to assist in the establishment of a plan to reduce food losses and waste in the Region by 50 percent within ten years.

In relation to the second item on actions to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts on natural resources in the case of fisheries, aquaculture, forestry, and livestock in the Near East, the Regional Conference noted the need to increase participation and awareness amongst all stakeholders including Civil Society Organizations and requested FAO to assist Member Countries in the region in enhancing their technical capacity to deal with and tackle the impact of climate change on forest and range land ecosystems, livestock, fisheries, and aquaculture resources, and to address problems effecting natural resources from an integrated perspective.

In relation to the third item on the multi-stakeholder dialogue on global strategy framework for food security and nutrition, including the outcome of the multi-stakeholder consultation in the Near East, the Regional Conference supported or made several decisions – Resolutions that included supporting the establishment of a regional coordination mechanism that could take the form of a regional committee for food security.

The Conference also endorsed the recommendation of the 37th Session of CFS to develop a global strategic framework for food security and nutrition and that this should be held before the 39th Session in October to look at post-harvest losses, issues in investment in the value chain of agricultural commodities, agro-industries, and to prepare for the 39th Session of the CFS as well as setting the regional priorities to be included in the agenda of future CFS Sessions.

In this regard, a workshop was established and was held for stakeholders in Khartoum in September 2012. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders from within the region. The outcomes of this workshop were reported to the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security. The Conference also requested FAO to provide special attention and necessary technical support to the vulnerable communities living in areas affected by occupation, war and conflicts.

The Conference also requested FAO to assist in developing a regional food security strategy complimented by an action plan for all Member Nations. The Conference also requested that a Near East Side Event be organized during the 39th Session of the Committee on World Food Security in October 2012. A well-attended side event on addressing priorities for food security was organized on 17 October 2012 and was well attended. The topic was addressing priorities for food security in the context of social and political transition in the Near East Region and it was chaired by the Chair of the Near East Group.

With reference to the agenda item on Programme and Budget matters and as I said, it was submitted to the 144th Session of the Council, but on the item on Decentralization issues, the Regional Conference agreed to the proposal to merge the multi-disciplinary team for the Oriental Near East, SNO, in Cairo and to the Regional Office for the Near East which I am pleased to note was implemented as of 1 July 2012.

The Regional Conference also recommended the establishment of an additional Sub-regional Office to be hosted by the Republic of Lebanon, to provide the technical support to the Asian part of the Near East. It was also agreed that a fund be established for the Near East to provide additional resources for the technical support programme of FAO and the countries of the region, but given the transitional phases and the political situation in several countries, this was delayed although there is a real will to implement this recommendation of technical support of FAO to countries of the Region.

Finally, Madame Chair, I would like to thank you for listening and we hope that our efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger will be successful.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

M. Louis LAHOUD (Liban)

Au nom du Gouvernement du Liban et du Ministre de l'agriculture, qui espérait être en mesure d'assister à cette Conférence de la FAO, mais qui en a été empêché pour des raisons d'urgence, je vous transmets leurs salutations cordiales et leurs vifs remerciements et félicitations pour l'action de la FAO au Proche-Orient et ses efforts pour l'agriculture au Liban.

J'aimerais aussi remercier l'Iraq, représenté par son Ambassadeur, qui a présidé notre Conférence régionale et transmettre nos meilleures salutations au Gouvernement iraquien. Nous sommes gré à la Conférence d'avoir recommandé la création d'un bureau sous-régional au Liban. Je confirme que nous avons déjà pris toutes les mesures nécessaires en coordination avec le bureau de la FAO à Beyrouth et le bureau sous-régional pour la réussite de la mise en œuvre de cette recommandation et nous sommes prêts à entendre tout commentaire ou suggestion à ce propos.

Mr Alaa El Din Wagih ROUSHDY (Egypt) (Original language Arabic)

Thank you, Madame Chair, and I would like to thank Dr. Hassan Janabi, who was the Representative of Iraq, for this comprehensive report on the Regional Conference of the Near East. I agree completely with his presentation, but I would like to focus on three important points for our Delegation.

First, the one regarding reducing the waste, especially post-harvest waste which is extremely important for us in the Middle East and particularly in Egypt because we suffer a lot from this problem that requires a lot of hard work and cooperation with relevant Organizations, most importantly FAO.

The second point that Dr. Janabi also mentioned regarding the voluntary contributions fund and we hope that you will conclude studies relating to this fund and implement it as soon as possible.

Finally, and this is an issue that the Near East Group has been demanding for a long time and that is the need for increasing the allocations for the Near East within the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP). We asked for this over and over again but it has not been implemented so far.

Mr Jawad PEIKAR (Afghanistan)

As you know, His Excellency the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation and Livestock of Afghanistan is Chairing the Plenary session, so I am representing Afghanistan's Delegation here. The Delegation of Afghanistan wishes to respond to the areas that have been discussed.

One, on food losses, we fully support the target for the Near East Region to reduce the food losses by fifty percent within ten years. On adaptation, mitigation, and agriculture on climate change, the Near East Region, which faces severe resource degradation, requires a new paradigm of food and agriculture production systems. This is because our soils are heavily eroded. We are faced with water scarcity and some countries are at their breaking point.

Afghanistan being an arid and semi-arid zone faces severe climate change challenges and our farming system has to adapt to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. In this aspect, Afghanistan is making slow progress in terms of adaptation methods, but it needs heavy investments to cope with the challenges, especially in controlling soil erosions and improvements of the range land, water arresting and storage in forestation.

In this connection, we are pleased to note that FAO's Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 foresees a regional initiative on water scarcity in the Near East, a multi-stakeholder consultation on food security. Afghanistan is active in the ECO regional programme for food security which is assisted by the FAO.

Special attention is given to wheat improvement, range management, genetic bank, a network and integrated management of some pests in Central Asia.

Ms Amira GORNASS (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

I would like at the outset to thank Mr Janabi, the Representative of Iraq, and also convey our thanks to the Regional Representative of the Regional Office. Sudan would like first to acknowledge the excellent report that was presented by Iraq and which reflects the proceedings of the Conference. We also have the pleasure to approve the recommendations of the report and would like to call upon the Organization to enforce the technical capabilities of the Member Nations in order to face the repercussions of climate change and notably, fighting desertification and drought.

Finally, Sudan would like to reiterate the importance of the technical cooperation between FAO and our Region and the importance of promoting such cooperation.

Mr Hassan JANABI (Iraq) (Original language Arabic)

I would like to thank the Excellencies, the Ambassadors and the Representatives of Member Nations for their valuable interventions. As far as the food loss is concerned, and specifically the post-harvest loss, I would like to inform you that an expert meeting has convened in order to implement this recommendation. It convened in December 2012 in Cairo, Egypt.

During that meeting, the participants drew a roadmap in order to implement a strategy that is now being prepared. We now have the draft strategy ready and it will be finalized very soon and it will be submitted to the 32nd Regional Conference which will be held in February next year.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the report of the 31st Regional Conference of the Near East? It is so decided. This concludes Item 10.5

10.6 Input from the Informal Regional Conference for North America (3-5 April 2012)

10.6 Éléments d'information issus de la Conférence régionale informelle pour l'Amérique du Nord (3-5 avril 2012)

10.6 Aportación de la Conferencia Regional Oficiosa para América del Norte (3-5 de abril de 2012)
(C 2013/LIM/1)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 10.6, Input from the informal Regional Conference for North America, held in Ottawa, Canada, from 3 to 5 April 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/LIM/1.

I invite Mr Frederic Seppey, Director-General of Trade Agreements and Negotiations Directorate, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to introduce the item.

Mr Frederic SEPPEY (Canada)

As we all know, the Regional Conferences are playing a bigger role in the FAO's planning and priority setting process through the Strategic Framework and Medium Term Plan and Programme of Work and Budget. However, unlike the other Regional Groups, the North American Region does not hold a formalized Regional Conference. For that reason, Canada and the United States have chosen to hold informal Regional Conferences to discuss the FAO's work and governance.

We thank the FAO Secretariat and Membership for granting the results of the informal Regional Conference for North America similar status of those of formal Regional Conferences. To inform our contribution to the North American Region, we met in Ottawa from 3 to 5 April 2012, and considered a number of issues, including the Strategic Framework, priority areas for the FAO's work, and governance matters.

A key outcome of the Regional Conference was our emphasis on the importance of the FAO's normative work, in particular its support for the science-based standards for food safety and plant and animal health. We also emphasized the need for the FAO to continue to focus on partnering with other agencies and Member Countries.

The FAO's work in gender equality is a critical mean to achieving innovation, increase production, and improve nutrition and agriculture, fisheries and forestry was also an important element of our discussion following the 2010 and 2011 State of Food and Agriculture reports on women and agriculture.

Among other priorities, we agreed that the FAO should increase its support to countries on innovative agricultural products and practices, including biotechnology to increase agricultural productivity and improve food security. We also agreed that the FAO should further support sustainable management of natural resources, creating an enabling environment for agricultural development through improved markets.

We also discussed the possibility of formalizing our Regional Conference. However, participants did not wish to place new fiscal pressures on the FAO. In addition, some have indicated that the informal and modest nature of our Conference has allowed for a meaningful discussion and dialogue. Therefore, as long as our results are given similar status to those of formal Regional Conferences, we will continue with the informal. We will be holding an informal Regional Conference in Washington, D.C. on 15 and 16 April 2014. This concludes my report, Madame Chairperson.

CHAIRPERSON

Thank you very much, Mr Seppey, for your presentation. Does any delegation wish to take the floor on the Report of the informal Regional Conference for North America? Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the input from the informal Regional Conference for North America? It is decided. This concludes Item 10.6.

13. FAO Gender Policy and the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (SWAP)

13. Politique de la FAO en faveur de la parité hommes-femmes et Plan d'action du système des Nations Unies pour l'égalité des sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes

13. Política de género de la FAO y Plan de acción para todo el sistema de las Naciones Unidas sobre la igualdad de género y el empoderamiento de la mujer

(C 2013/27)

CHAIRPERSON

We now pass on to Item 13, FAO Gender Policy and the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and women's Empowerment (SWAP).

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Gender Equality and Rural Employment Division)

It is my pleasure to report to you on the progress regarding the implementation of the FAO Policy on Gender Equality as well as on the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

Both are reflections of FAO's strong commitment to reach gender equality and enhance women's empowerment. Closing the gender gaps in agriculture is absolutely critical to achieving its mandates. Women make very important contributions to the rural economy, yet they constantly have less access than men to the resources and opportunities they need to be more productive and to ensure there is enough food on the table for everyone in the household.

Thus closing the gender gaps in agriculture will improve women's productivity. It will enhance food security and it is critical to our efforts towards ending hunger, malnutrition and rural poverty.

This is now widely recognized as the progress we are making in following through on our commitment. So let me first turn to FAO Policy on Gender Equality which has attaining food security goals in agriculture and rural development as its subtitle.

The policy was endorsed by the Director-General on International Women's Day on 8 March 2012. It establishes a framework for meeting significant gender equality milestones in FAO's technical areas of work and support of and in collaboration with Member States.

While FAO has a long history of addressing gender issues, through this policy FAO has formalized its commitment for the first time in a corporate and results-oriented strategy.

The overarching goal of FAO's Policy on Gender Equality is to achieve equality between men and women in all facets relating to sustainable agriculture production and rural development. As said, this is essential in the fight against hunger and poverty.

The policy defines five gender specific objectives which FAO and its partners will pursue in order to achieve this overarching goal. The five objectives are related to gender equality and access to resources, access to services, voice in decision making, as well as to reduce women's workloads and increasing development assistance in support of women's empowerment in gender issues.

These objectives will be pursued through a two-pronged strategy. The first component of this strategy refers to mainstreaming of gender issues in all our work and for this 13 minimum standards have been established, which must be met by 2015.

The second component refers to women's specific targeted interventions, such as the advancement of women's access to nutritious food, access and control over land and other productive resources, and strengthening women's roles in rural organizations. Two minimum standards have been set for this component to be met by 2017.

All these fronts together, the 15 minimum standards, FAO currently exceeds the minimum standards on one front, meets four, approaches nine others and does not meet one.

The policy also clearly defines institutional mechanisms for implementation of the policy. These mechanisms include capacity development for FAO staff and for Member States on how to apply the principles of gender equality, knowledge building through our technical work and what are effective

ways to enhance gender equality, communication and awareness rising. It also relates to partnerships and promoting cultural change to minimize gender discrimination in the workplace.

In the new Strategic Framework, gender has been defined as a cross-cutting theme. This is probably the best possible recognition of the importance that FAO gives to effectuate the gender equality policy.

This also serves to strengthen the gender policy itself in three ways. First, by mainstreaming of gender perspectives throughout the Strategic Objectives and in all field programmes. Second, by providing capacity development initiatives on gender in Member States. And third, by more effective monitoring and reporting, including by the use of gender disaggregated food security statistics.

Also, gender focal points have been appointed to all Strategic Objective core teams. They will work with those teams to ensure that gender equality is embedded in the work on norms and standards and the policy support to Member States throughout the Strategic Framework.

The gender experts will work together in a gender cross-cutting team to ensure coherence and mobilize relevant expertise. This team is further supported by the network of gender focal points now consisting of more than 100 staff and this is FAO's key mechanisms through which gender mainstreaming is carried out throughout the Organization.

The focal points will allocate at least 20 percent of their time to gender related functions. The policy also includes an accountability structure to ensure policy oversight and achievement of results. Aside from having defined measurable standards and targets to meet, a clear monitoring and evaluation framework has been defined and gender audits are to be undertaken annually.

There will be regular reporting to Member States on the progress made. The policy further specifies that Conference, Council and Programme Committee are accountable for the implementation of the policy and by commissioning and approving the policy, assessing and authorizing actions related to the progress reports and independent evaluations, and by approving sufficient funds for the implementation of the policy.

Let me emphasize that the policy is fully in line with international conventions such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, and overarching UN declarations including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In addition it is to be aligned with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women meaning that by implementing the policy, FAO is also working towards meeting UN standards on gender equality and women's empowerment.

So let me therefore now turn to the UN SWAP, the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. The SWAP is the first accountability framework across UN Agencies which will measure progress towards the achievement of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women. The framework was coordinated and developed by UN Women in 2011 and 2012, in a consultation process in which FAO actively participated.

The UN SWAP focuses on six policy related areas, including accountability, results-based management, oversight through monitoring evaluation reporting, UN and financial resources, capacity coherence knowledge and information management. Within these policy areas, there are again performance indicators for UN Agencies to monitor progress in their agenda related work and these, in turn, relate to the indicators, the minimum standards to which I referred before and therefore FAO Gender Equality Policy is fully aligned with the UN system-wide effort.

Madam Chair, this concludes my presentation. The Conference is invited to take note of the updated information on FAO Policy on Gender Equality and UN SWAP, both of which aim to create better conditions, mechanisms and instruments for the achievement of gender equality and women's empowerment. Thank you very much.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

Sra. Julia VICIOSO (República Dominicana)

Nos gustaría apoyar los esfuerzos de la FAO para incrementar las intervenciones específicas a favor de la mujer en los programas a nivel nacional que a nivel regional. Estamos satisfechos de ver que la FAO pretende convertirse en una agencia modelo de las Naciones Unidas para cuestiones de género como parte de sus esfuerzos para combatir el hambre y la malnutrición en todo el mundo. También felicitamos al Director General por los últimos nombramientos de mujeres altamente cualificadas en algunos de los más altos puestos de la Organización.

Señora Presidenta, las mujeres representan un número desproporcionado de los pobres que padecen hambre en el mundo. La República Dominicana apoya por tanto que haya un componente de género en todas las políticas, programas y proyectos a nivel nacional y regional y global de la FAO.

Ms Christina GRIEDER (Switzerland)

We also would like to underline our support to FAO's endeavor to increase until 2017 to 30 percent. Well that's not too ambitious of its operational work and budget to women's specific targeted interventions at the country and regional levels.

This target comes from the FAO policy as we heard and that has been endorsed by the Director-General on 8 March 2012. FAO, as outlined in paragraph 10 of document C 2013/27, is pursuing a two-pronged strategy in pursuing its gender objectives. I don't want to repeat them.

Some challenges may arise due to the organizational and cultural changes led by the FAO's Director-General especially in view of supporting capacity development amongst all Staff Members. Gender targets will not be met if they are not regarded a priority area of work by staff at all levels.

In addition, there are, at present, no human and financial resources to gender market systems applied within the FAO which would allow for tracking the resources allocated to gender programmes and make them visible.

FAO should become a model UN Agency in addressing gender issues addressed in rural areas to combat hunger and hidden hunger. Nobel Prize winner Amartya Sen, when advising the Conference on Saturday, stressed the importance to support in particular women in rural areas to achieve the Zero Hunger Challenge. To support the regional and national professionally and the technical and policy levels, we need a stronger united and highly competent gender unit that needs to be further strengthened at field levels as well.

Gender staffing at FAO is also a valid concern and we count on the Director-General's effort to change significantly the current gender imbalance particularly at higher positions as he already said on several occasions since he took office as FAO's Director-General and we certainly are happy with the nomination of the new Deputy Director-General.

Sra. Emma María José RODRÍGUEZ SIFUENTES (México)

Nos complace participar en la consideración de este tema en particular porque tenemos en cuenta que nuestro Plan nacional de desarrollo ha señalado como un eje transversal el empoderamiento de la mujer y la igualdad de género a lo largo y a lo ancho de los próximos seis años en México. Esta acción es una acción de cumplimiento a las reformas a la Ley de Planeación para la Transversalidad de la Igualdad de Género en las Políticas Públicas y a la Ley Federal de Presupuesto y Responsabilidad Hacendaria que establece la irreductibilidad del presupuesto destinado a la igualdad de género en mi país. En 2011, la FAO, en su estudio sobre las mujeres en la agricultura, señaló que conforme a sus estimaciones, 925 millones de personas estaban subnutridas y que el cierre de la brecha de género en el ámbito del rendimiento agrícola podría reducir esa cifra hasta en 100 o 150 millones de personas. De igual manera, nos indicó que las mujeres representan en promedio el 43 por ciento de la fuerza laboral agrícola de los países en desarrollo. Es necesario cerrar la brecha de género para abonar al desarrollo.

La FAO nos ha dado así una razón clara y concreta, un horizonte y una meta para contribuir de manera decisiva a la reducción del número de personas subnutridas en el mundo. También nos dijo

que las cuestiones de género deberían ser tratadas como parte integrante de las políticas y de los programas.

Señora presidenta, de manera muy reciente la FAO ha presentado el Informe final sobre la Evaluación Externa Complementaria sobre la Perspectiva de Género de los Programas de Fomento de la Secretaría de la Reforma Agraria de México, realizada con un fondo fiduciario unilateral. El Objetivo principal de esta evaluación fue examinar la perspectiva de género en el diseño y operación de cuatro de nuestros programas: Fondo para el apoyo a proyectos productivos en núcleos agrarios; Programa de la mujer en el sector agrario; Joven emprendedor rural y fondo de tierras; y cuarto, Fomento al desarrollo agrario. Los resultados serán de mucha utilidad para mejorar el impacto de estos programas sociales en relación con la perspectiva de género, ya que dicha evaluación cuenta con mediciones específicas diferenciadas teniendo como base nuestros datos, respecto del impacto de dichos programas en las mujeres y en los hombres, así como en la mejora de la situación específica de las mujeres y de sus positivos ejemplos. Solo un detalle para mencionar: el Programa Joven emprendedor rural y fondo de tierras consiguió incrementar la aportación de las mujeres en el ingreso familiar, y gracias al financiamiento se permitió a las mujeres comprar tierras, por lo que se redujo la diferencia de género en el acceso a la tierra.

Refirámonos ahora al Marco Estratégico revisado de la FAO que considera el tema de género como tema transversal a los Objetivos Estratégicos y determina cinco esferas de trabajo entre las que se encuentran las de garantizar la inclusión de las cuestiones de género en toda su labor, y aumentar la atención prestada al establecimiento de normas en los programas y proyectos regionales, subregionales y nacionales. Estamos convencidos que el Marco Estratégico revisado tendrá una contribución muy importante y positiva a la Política de igualdad de género aprobada por el Director General el pasado 8 de marzo, así como a la Estrategia que se señala en el documento que ahora analizamos, que es la Estrategia sobre género elaborada en diciembre pasado.

Finalmente y de manera muy breve, solo deseamos señalar que estamos en espera de los informes que recibiremos muy positivamente señalados en el párrafo 16 así como al señalamiento indicado en el párrafo 17 en el que se expresa que los recursos para la labor de género se mantendrán en su nivel en el actual bienio. Estamos convencidos de la importancia de cerrar la brecha de género, y sabemos que la atención adecuada y comprometida al tema de género, tanto de manera programática como de manera financiera, abona de manera sustantiva a la erradicación del hambre.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the European Union, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the European Union, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

We strongly endorse that FAO systematically address gender dimensions in its work and the dual strategy of mainstreaming gender related considerations across technical work and promoting gender related issues.

The State of Food and Agriculture 2010-2011 provides strong evidence of the need for gender work, lest any were required. Concerns regarding the visibility and prioritization of gender work may arise when the Organization changes from a dedicated Strategic Objective on gender, currently Strategic Objective K, to a cross-cutting theme which is to be addressed as a horizontal theme.

FAO needs to be vigilant and to step up its work in this area. We commend the stock taking exercises that have taken place and assume that they will be carried out across the Organization. Furthermore the gender policy must, of course, be updated as the Organization changes.

It is excellent that gender officers and focal points will now be reinstated as they will provide crucial technical support and guidance. However, it cannot be emphasized too often that gender work must be done by all staff. In this context, the stock taking exercises could be an important tool to raise awareness and thus the capacity of all staff. We underline this issue because the lack of engagement of staff with gender work has been underscored several times in evaluations.

We would also emphasize that strong continued leadership must come from the very top of the Organization in order to send clear messages to staff and ensure that the deep-seated challenge is taken up at strategic levels.

We look forward to reports on the function of the accountability framework as described in paragraph 15. As decided by the 2011 Conference, gender work must be appropriately resourced as the dividend it pays is substantial. We therefore appreciate the clarification in paragraph 17 that the financial commitment will be honoured in the coming biennium.

We commend the process for elaborating the FAO Policy on Gender Equality, as broad consultations internally and externally are the only viable way to reach a functioning result.

We also encourage the Secretariat together with WFP and IFAD to continue to fully engage in the UN wide action plan on gender and women's empowerment and to provide regular reports on progress made as well as challenges encountered.

We need to have precise baselines, targets, and indicators related to gender issues as well as sex disaggregated data in the monitoring of the Programme of Work and Budget and the Medium-Term Plan. This is all the more urgent because of the likelihood that food security and sustainable agriculture will become a goal in the post-2015 agenda, requiring sex disaggregated indicators and data.

Capacity building to support countries with a collection of the relevant data is also necessary. We will continue to follow this question with great interest and look forward to continued dialogue.

Mr Shephard Shingirai GWENZI (Zimbabwe)

My Delegation would like to place on record the important role of women which was clearly stated and clearly highlighted in almost all of these statements by the heads of Delegations and the countries that were awarded certificates for outstanding progress in fighting hunger. FAO needs to be at the forefront in supporting these efforts by these countries and others to provide better support for women food producers.

We hope that in the future, we can recognize also countries that have put in place innovative policies and programmes to support women food producers

Ms Nina MOSSEBY (Norway)

My Delegation would like to thank the Director-General for the update on FAO's gender policy and the UN System-wide Action Plan, UNSWAP, as well as for the presentation given here today.

There is ample evidence of why promoting gender equality and women's empowerment is key to improving food security for all. FAO's State of Food and Agriculture report on women in agriculture captures much of this evidence. It is an excellent report that is widely used both in Norway and internationally.

The same report was also one of the reasons why Members at the 2011 Conference requested that FAO should devote more resources to gender. Today, two years after the 2011 Conference, there is clearly a need to focus on the how rather than the why when it comes to promoting gender equality in agriculture.

FAO's gender policy gives an excellent roadmap for how FAO should move forward to promote gender equality. It is therefore both timely and welcome that you have presented us with an update on your implementation of this policy. The report, however, is not very detailed. Thus, despite the Secretariat's presentation here today, key questions are still unanswered.

Allow me to raise a few of these questions. The first question is related to oversight. In your policy, you say that you will establish an oversight committee to monitor progress towards the achievement of the gender equality goal. What is the status of the establishment of this steering committee?

The second question is related to capacity building. In your policy, you say that all management and leadership capacity-building opportunities promote gender equality issues. What training on gender is

currently being given to senior staff at FAO as well as to other staff, and how is this taken care of in the decentralization process?

My third question is related to the network of gender focal points. We are happy to see that FAO wants to revitalize this network as described in paragraph 13 of the document, and that a focal point will allow twenty percent of their time to gender issues. It will be important, however, that this twenty percent is not considered as an extra burden, and that the focal points are appointed at the adequate level to have the intended impact on FAO's direction and work.

We hope management can confirm that this is the case and that adequate resources are ensured as foreseen in the strategy. Gender work needs both a plan and a budget.

Fourth question; in your gender policy, you also say that a gender policy for human resources is planned for the longer term. What is the status of this?

A final question related to the policy is how the key targets and indicators from the gender policy are being integrated into your resource measurement framework that is currently being developed. This is of course crucial if gender is to be mainstreamed across the five new Strategic Objectives.

Chair, the second section of the document focuses on the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, UNSWAP. In our opinion, this section is also rather general and nondescript in nature and it leaves many questions unanswered. The UNSWAP has specific targets and we would like to know how FAO is progressing on these. In which areas do you have the largest challenges?

We have noted that the two other Rome-based Agencies as well as other UN Agencies have reported on their progress against these targets to their Governing Bodies. We would request that FAO follows their example and make its progress report on the UNSWAP available on the web to the Member States. We look forward to management's response to these questions and we would also like to encourage you to provide us periodically with more detailed reports on these crucial aspects of FAO's work in the future.

Ms Vanessa TANTILLO (United States of America)

The United States applauds FAO on its updated gender equality policy and its decision to make gender a cross-cutting theme of the new Strategic Framework. We agree with the continued funding of this important component of FAO's work with Member Nations at the elevated level of USD 20 million or two percent of net appropriations as first achieved in the 2012–2013 Programme of Work and Budget.

We look forward to the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment annual report being released later this year, to which FAO contributed for the first time in February 2013.

Mr Ross BATCHELOR (New Zealand)

New Zealand welcomes and supports FAO's call to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in law and in practice. We remind delegates of the agricultural benefits of implementing the UN Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and we emphasize that promoting gender equality is not only good for women and men, but also for agricultural development.

New Zealand believes more attention should be given to the efforts of violence against women and the impact this has on women's productive capacity, access to markets and income. New Zealand supports the development of FAO's first-ever corporate policy on gender equality as well as the gender focal points network. We also welcome FAO's first report submitted under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. We recognize and thank FAO for its commitment to gender equality and we call upon the Organization to continue its efforts in mainstreaming gender across its technical and normative work.

New Zealand looks forward to seeing a greater focus on gender across FAO's new Strategic Objectives and the implementation of the Programme of Work, and the advancement of gender equality across the whole Organization.

Ms Courtney HOOD (Canada)

Thank you, Madame Chairperson, and thank you for giving the gender policy the attention it deserves. One request, one suggestion, and a few questions. Firstly, we would request that FAO regularly report to the Conference on progress made in implementing this policy. Like Norway, we would like to enquire about plans and suggest that we consider establishing a means of monitoring implementation of this policy throughout the Organization and track results under the five Strategic Objectives.

Finally, regarding the System-wide Action Plan, the UNSWAP, we would be grateful if you could clarify or confirm FAO's performance against the UNSWAP indicators as well as how FAO will work to meet those UNSWAP standards and how Member States themselves can contribute to that work.

Mr Rob VOS (Director, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

Thanks for your comments and questions. If I may also invite my colleague, Eve Crowley, to answer some of the questions that were raised, who is sitting here on my right. But first, let me thank you all for the support given to the work that we are doing and the policy that we are trying to implement. You've all stressed its importance, which of course we underlined. You have also emphasized some challenges, and we are of course eager to try to overcome the challenges in the best possible ways, and we feel supported by Senior Management of the Organization in trying to do so.

I think that a number of points were raised. The point of stretching the points of gender mainstreaming I think with the crosscutting theme as established in the new Strategic Framework, we try to make sure that that happens across the board.

There is also the question from the European Union, in particular I think also by Norway as to how we would do that and how we would make sure that not just the focal points are addressing these issues but the whole staff. I think what we are trying to do is through the capacity development programme that applies to all staff to make sure that all FAO staff has the adequate levels of awareness and knowledge of gender-sensitive issues to make sure that this trickles down to all staff.

Also, according to the standards set in the performance evaluation monitoring system, all staff is required to make mention of how they will address the work and gender sensitive issues in their day-to-day work. Of course, those are the standards that have been set. What matters is that we can follow through on our hard work and make everybody accountable for it. But in terms of the policy, it has been laid down that accountability should be given to the whole staff, beginning with the senior staff.

We also hope that we can get the guarantee of sufficient budgetary resources so we can keep up the strength that is needed and also move forward with the implementation of the new Strategic Framework, and we hope that the Member Nations will also critically monitor whether the resources that we are receiving live up to that commitment.

Let me just say two things to further the more specific questions from Norway and then give it to my colleague Eve Crowley to address some of the other issues that were raised. You asked about the oversight function and the recommendation to establish an oversight committee. That is still under consideration. The first step at the moment has been taken and it is also explained in Information Note 7 to the Conference related to the Programme of Work and Budget, i.e., that the oversight function will be drawn into the apex function under the direct supervision of the Director-General.

Finally, let me just make a point which you made about the importance of the gender-aggregated data and the monitoring. The first is that also in the new strategy for statistical work to be undertaken by FAO and the leadership of the chief statistician, gender-desegregated data are introduced in that strategy as one of the key, if not the key, priority for the work moving forward.

Also in the definition of the monitoring system for the new Strategic Framework, the gender-crosscutting team supported by the gender network are ensuring that any indicators, as defined for all

of the Strategic Objective Action Plans, that gender sensitive indicators are appropriately introduced to make sure that the gender policy is also monitored throughout the Strategic Objectives.

So that dealt with the easy questions. Let me ask Eve to answer the difficult questions.

Ms Eve CROWLEY (Principal Officer, Gender, Equity and Rural Employment Division)

First of all I would like to thank all of you for the interest and the support that you are giving to this policy which really is a major milestone in the history of FAO and in fact for many actors working in and concerned about gender equality in food and agriculture.

Let's see, the questions that were maybe not addressed – one of them was relating to the gender marker and whether or not we have a system for that, and in fact this is one of the areas which we are working on at the moment. A gender marker is a means of identifying programmes and policies throughout the Organization that relate to gender along a gradient, and then to be able to track those programmes consistently as well as the resources allocated to those programmes. So this is something that we are currently working on with the Office of Strategic Planning, and we hope to be able to have something to report on this in the near future, by the next time we report to this body.

On the issue of the financial commitment, I just wanted to thank you also for the support you gave at the last Conference as well as at this one. One of the areas that is currently missing in the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (SWAP) is the establishment of a financial target. It is the only one that is missing. What does that mean? It's just to determine what the level is that Conference considers to be appropriate as the ear-marked funds for gender. At the moment, it is not an official target but the actual allocation at the moment is 2.1 percent as a result in part of Conference decisions last time. So the issue is whether or not an actual target will be set. All of the other agencies are being asked for something similar so this is something that will require some thought on the part of membership.

The Rome-based Agencies are committed to working together on the SWAP and we have in fact instituted a peer review process. You had asked about how we are doing against that plan, so beyond the missing indicator, and you had a very rough set of numbers, we are meeting requirements when it comes to gender responsive performance management so that 20 percent of staff time from gender focal points allocated in their performance agreements to gender - this is something that was actually a benchmark that the UN used based on FAO practice from the policy. So FAO became the benchmark for that.

We have established it to be at the P4 and P5 level in order to ensure that it is at an adequate level of seniority, but there are still some small elements of that which are missing, and still need to be further developed.

Other areas where we are approaching requirements are relating to strategic planning, monitoring and reporting, and a programme review, resource tracking in relation to the absence of a gender marker so far, and the questions of gender architecture and gender parity, organizational culture, capacity development.

Then the ones where we are currently meeting the standards include the evaluation function we have consistently addressed gender in its evaluations, the gender responsive auditing function, and the parts of capacity assessment, and then the knowledge and information management, knowledge generation and communications. So we have a dedicated site to gender, and the one where we have exceeded the current minimum standards relates to knowledge and information management coherence because we are one of the more active actors in terms of Rome-based Agency engagement together and with the rest of the UN System.

Let's see, the comment concerning the regular reporting to Conference, that is in fact something that is foreseen within the policy, so we are pleased that this is something that you support and we would look forward to being able to report back periodically on how we are doing.

You had asked some questions relating to monitoring in the Programme of Work and the whole results-based framework and I just wanted to mention at the moment, we do have gender experts in

most of the Strategic Objectives with the exception of one where in the core teams, four of the five Strategic Objectives at the moment. We have hired consultants to support each of these, including specific monitoring consultants who have within their terms of reference, ensuring that there are appropriate indicators that will help us to assess whether or not we're achieving and supporting gender equality through the work.

To be a bit more precise in some of the main areas of work, we have tried to define substantively, and I am raising this because I know it was raised in the other Commission session. Substantively, we have identified some priority areas under specific Strategic Objectives where we feel there are real opportunities to support gender equality.

So under Strategic Objective one, it relates to advocacy for gender equality under the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and gender sensitive policies and gender sensitive data. Under Strategic Objective two, we're looking at improving equality and access to resources and services, gender sensitive data, and policies through governance. Strategic Objective three, it's also on policies, value chains, and services as well as social protection which has a very strong gender component to it. Strategic Objective four looks at value chains and food loss, food waste, and financial services, all of which should have a gender dimension. Then Strategic Objective five will be looking at vulnerability assessments and access to services.

And finally, in response to the comment by New Zealand regarding the CEDAW, we are happy to report that this year the CEDAW will actually be focusing on rural women as a result of our efforts and will be looking towards establishing a general recommendation for rural women which is article 14 of CEDAW, and this will be the first time that we can actually provide much more specific guidance to countries on how to enhance rural women's rights under the convention for the elimination of discrimination against women.

So we think that this is also an important turning point for us and it is in large part a result of the series of steps that we have undertaken over the last few years. I hope I have answered your questions.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it then that the Commission wishes to adopt the FAO Gender Policy and UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment? It is so decided and this concludes Item 13.

This brings us to the end of today's work.

In closing, I would just like to remind you that we still are waiting for the name of the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee. Let me again read the Members who will be represented in the Drafting Committee: Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Indonesia, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Sudan and Turkey.

We will resume tomorrow at 9:30 hours and could I please appeal to Delegates that we start on time so that we don't have to wait for a quorum.

The meeting rose at 17.25 hours

La séance est levée à 17 h 25

Se levanta la sesión a las 17.25 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session Trente-huitième session 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
SECOND MEETING OF COMMISSION I DEUXIEME REUNION DE LA COMMISSION I SEGUNDA REUNION DE LA COMISION I
18 June 2013

The Second Meeting was opened at 9.55 hours
Ms Nomatemba Tambo,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La deuxième séance est ouverte à 9 h 55
sous la présidence de Mme Nomatemba Tambo,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la segunda reunion a las 9.55
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Nomatemba Tambo,
Presidente de la Comisión I

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to remind the Drafting Committee to inform me of the name of the Chairperson of the Committee. Once again, the Members are Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Indonesia, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Sudan and Turkey.

The Drafting Committee will be meeting tomorrow, 19 June at 14:30 hours in the Lebanon Room.

11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:****11. Cuestiones mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la reglamentación planteadas en el:**

11.1 Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture (21-25 May 2012)

11.1 Rapport de la vingt-troisième session du Comité de l'agriculture (21-25 mai 2012)

11.1 Informe del 23.º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura (21-25 de mayo de 2012)

(C 2013/22; C 2013/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We will commence our work this morning starting with the agenda Item 11, Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from various committees. These Reports are submitted to the Conference on matters relating to global governance, policy issues and international frameworks and have already been submitted to the Council for matters related to the executive oversight of programme and budgetary matters.

Let us start then with Item 11.1, the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture held in Rome, Italy, from 21 to 25 May 2012. The relevant documents are C 2013/22 and C 2013/INF/6.

I invite the Chairperson of COAG, Ambassador Mario Arvelo Caamaño, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic, to introduce this Item.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture)

Señora Presidenta, distinguidos Miembros de la Conferencia, de la Comisión I y Observadores. Es un honor presentarles el informe del 23º período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, celebrado en esta casa, la semana del 21 al 25 de mayo de 2012.

Continues in English

Madam Chair, esteemed colleagues, the 23rd Session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture, brings to the attention of Conference its findings and recommendations.

In view of global emerging challenges, the Committee held substantive discussions on matters related to global trends and future challenges for the work of the Organization, options for stakeholder dialogue in support of sustainable livestock development, sustainable production intensification, perspectives of land and water resources in a changing climate, improving statistics for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development, as well as the terms of reference for the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership.

The Committee's recommendations on these strategic priorities and programmatic and budgetary issues for the Organization have been already reported and adopted by the FAO Council at its 145th Session.

The main policy matter requiring the attention of Conference is the update of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, which will be presented to you for discussion under a separate item. That is Item 16 and I believe that we will see that in the afternoon session today.

The Committee noted its critical role in agriculture development, welcomed the draft, updated texts and the proposal to present a finalized version for adoption by the Governing Bodies of FAO, the World Health Organization, and the United Nations Environmental Programme.

It is worth noting that the updating of the Code of Conduct on the distribution and use of pesticides followed an extensive and inclusive consultation process among Member Nations and all relevant

stakeholders, with an active involvement of the COAG Bureau as per the request of the 23rd Session of the Committee. As I said, the Code was endorsed by Council at its 145th Session late last year.

Continúa en Español

Señora presidenta, Miembros de la Conferencia, estos son algunos de los puntos destacados del reporte del 23^o período de sesiones del Comité de Agricultura, contenido en el Documento C 2013/22, el cual someto a su atenta consideración.

Deseo, por último, agradecer el extraordinario trabajo realizado desde el 23^o período de sesiones por la Mesa del COAG y por el Secretariado del COAG, el Señor Robert Guei y su equipo de trabajo.

Mr Jawad PEIKAR (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan supports the Report of the 23rd Session of the Committee on Agriculture and wishes to underscore the following four points.

1) We support a global trend which has been further modified under the Reviewed Strategic Framework, which is under consideration by Commission II. Afghanistan subscribed to 11 global trends and considered them relevant to the mandate of FAO.

Among the 11 global trends, five are of direct relevance to the work of the Committee on Agriculture, namely: growing competition, diminishing quality and quantity of natural resources and loss of ecosystem services, high price increase and high price volatility, changing agrarian structures and agro-industrialization and globalization of food production. Climate change will have growing impact on agriculture. Science and technology as the main source for agriculture productivity.

2) We support the global agenda for action in support of sustainable livestock sector development which has evolved after several consultations with different stakeholders and Member Nations. It is a well designed and integrated approach in the promotion of environment friendly livestock development and has strong links with the FAO fresh starts like One Health Initiative and the Global Plan for Action for Animal Genetic Resources.

3) Afghanistan considers sustainable crop production, intensification and crop diversification as the two pillars of this agricultural development strategy and programmes. In this connection we welcome very much such useful FAO publications like Save and Grow, the State of the World's Land and Water Resource for Food and Agriculture, the Global Food Losses and Food Waste, and the Second Global Plan for Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

We support the Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics and consider it as a good roadmap for systemization of agricultural and rural statistics at national, regional and global level.

At the national level we subscribe to the three pillars of the Action Plan, namely a minimum set of core data for international reporting, integration of agricultural statistics into the national statistical system, and a workable and efficient government mechanism for national statistics with emphasis on improving the quality of data and capacity building within production passing an assessment of statistics gathered from the different sources.

M. François PYTHOUD (Suisse)

La Suisse soutient le rapport sur l'état d'avancement des travaux du Comité de l'agriculture. Nous aimerions, dans ce contexte, mettre en exergue les progrès réalisés sur deux thèmes particuliers du Comité de travail sur l'agriculture.

Il s'agit, tout d'abord, de l'agenda d'actions globales pour le développement durable du secteur de l'élevage qui a été mis sur pied au cours de ces deux dernières années comme plateforme pour favoriser le dialogue et renforcer la coopération entre tous les partenaires publics et privés. Cette initiative a fait l'objet d'un événement parallèle, hier, lundi. La FAO doit continuer à s'engager, à la fois pour soutenir cette initiative, mais aussi comme partenaire central pour la mise en œuvre. Des progrès significatifs ont été réalisés au niveau de l'organisation et de la gouvernance de la plateforme et de l'agenda, il s'agit maintenant de passer à l'action et de produire des résultats sur le terrain. Des

projets concrets doivent être rapidement mis sur pied afin d'opérationnaliser les trois priorités thématiques de l'agenda, mais également afin de pouvoir mobiliser davantage de donateurs et associer plus de parties prenantes. Une approche à explorer, comme l'a mentionné le Secrétaire d'État à l'agriculture hier dans son discours devant la plénière, serait dans ce contexte d'établir, pour chaque projet, des consortia incluant tous les partenaires intéressés, à la fois des donateurs mais aussi des partenaires qui exécutent les projets sur le terrain. Ces consortia auraient la tâche de développer et de gérer les projets ainsi que de mobiliser les ressources.

Une deuxième thématique qui s'est aussi fortement développée au cours des deux dernières années est le Partenariat mondial sur les sols, dont la première assemblée plénière s'est tenue la semaine dernière au Siège de la FAO. Cette assemblée a été l'occasion de faire le point sur les efforts déjà engagés par la FAO, les organisations, mais également les nombreux experts, pour traduire le Partenariat sur les sols en actions concrètes sur le terrain. Il s'agit là également pour la FAO de continuer à assurer le soutien à cette initiative, à ce Partenariat, notamment à travers la mise à disposition du Secrétariat.

Pour conclure, ces deux initiatives du Programme d'action, mais également les autres thématiques du Programme d'action mondial du Comité de l'agriculture, sont de l'avis de la Suisse des contributions concrètes à l'agenda post 2015 des Nations Unies pour le développement durable qui est en train de se développer.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding Country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

Agriculture has to contribute to food security and nutrition while being even more sustainable both economically, environmentally and socially in order to face future challenges.

We appreciate that the last session of COAG focused on these sustainability issues. We therefore welcome the progress made and the implementation of the strategy on sustainable crop production intensification through a holistic approach that integrates economic, social and environmental sustainability to production, including the need for complimentary actions along the food chains and sustainable diets.

We would also support the integration of climate response to sustainable crop production and to sustainable agricultural production in general. Particular attention should be paid to integrating actions on sustainable production with improving nutrition, reducing food losses and wastes, more efficient use of water, and the conservation and use of genetic resources as well as soil, water regime and air health.

Referring to recent problems with locusts and grasshoppers, we encourage FAO to strengthen its cooperation with experts in order to enhance preventative control to destroy locusts and grasshoppers before they start swarming.

We appreciate FAO's development of tools and provision of technical assistance on the planning and management of natural resources for food and agriculture, with special consideration for family farms and women farmers.

In the same spirit, we recognize the importance for a multi-stakeholder dialogue in support of improving the sustainability of the livestock sector and can in general support the global agenda for action.

Indeed, there is a need for a more comprehensive oversight and improved inter-sectorial collaboration in order to address all issues relevant to the livestock sector and come forward with concrete suggestions for solutions.

We would support raising the profile of the global dialogue on a sustainable livestock sector in the deliberations of the FAO Governing Bodies and are looking forward to further discussion on the best options for achieving this goal based on a clear proposal to be presented at the next session of COAG.

Regarding the establishment of the Global Soil Partnership, we look forward to participating actively in its implementation and technical assistance. The Global Soil Partnership will be a useful tool for contributing to the sustainable management of soils and land and strive to achieve a land degradation neutral world as underlined in the Rio+20 document, the Future We Want.

Taking into consideration the pending discussions regarding the governance on these two initiatives, namely the Global Agenda for Action and the Global Soil Partnership, we would like to stress the need for developing corporate guidelines for the governance of multi-stakeholder's partnerships where FAO is engaged in line with the recently adopted strategies on partnership with the private sector and with civil society.

We support the Action Plan for improving statistics including sex disaggregated data at national, regional and global levels for food security, sustainable climate smart agriculture and rural development.

Finally, we want to reiterate the unique role of FAO's normative and analytical work for agriculture on issues such as transboundary pests and diseases, food safety, sustainable management of natural resources, including genetic resources, which deserve a high level of priority for our Organization.

Mr Huilai ZONG (China) (Original language Chinese)

We have taken a very close look at this document, the Report of the Committee on Agriculture.

China does feel that everything has been done in an effort to promote development of agriculture in our global thrust and this in order to protect the interests and subsistence of smallholders.

Hence, we must focus on agriculture development as always and pay very close attention to agriculture as a heritage, as a patrimony and cover what it requires in order to pursue its supported tasks.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Nigeria)

Nigeria strongly supports the work of COAG, particularly in the area of crop production intensification and the inclusiveness of different parts of agriculture. Especially when we look at the comprehensive nature of how the global situation is happening, there is the need not to just pay emphasis on the economy of it but also on the social, environmental and cultural aspects of agriculture.

The interaction of using genetic resources, soil, water, and air health is becoming more and more critical and therefore COAG should continually work to effectively get this under control particularly when you are dealing with small holders.

I want to see how best COAG and the Forestry Department could also work together. Recently there was the Forest Conference, that deals with forestry and food security and there they spoke extensively and demonstrated the opportunity of using the four footed animals which includes locusts as a means of protein source.

There is every reason to believe that we could mitigate green gas emission if more and more people tend to look at the four footed animals as a source of protein.

Finally, the sustainability as well as a climate smart agriculture is one that will continually be in the forefront to mitigate climate change and to encourage food security.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

New Zealand supports the Report of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciates the new focus introduced by the Strategic Thinking Programme. We particularly support identifying related Action Plans for important work areas and the COAG mandate which include IPPC CODEX and work addressing market access and trade distortions.

We would highlight and support progress in the global agenda of action and support a sustainable livestock seek to development. We thank FAO for its input so far and recommend that FAO continue its central engagement as the Secretariat of this multi-stakeholder process.

We look forward to active engagement in this process and encourage other Members to participate in discussions to address issues relevant to livestock seek to development. We look forward to further discussions in COAG on this programme.

Mr Robert GOUANTOUEU GUEI (Secretary, Committee on Agriculture)

There were many comments to support COAG Report and more guidance was given by the floor by countries regarding the global agenda on livestock, sustainable production and support to the Global Soil Partnership. The Secretariat has noted those concerns and recommendations and will be reflected in the final Report.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it then that Commission I wishes to approve the Report of the 23rd Session on the Committee on Agriculture? It is so decided. This concludes item 11.1.

11.2 Report of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems (28-30 May 2012)

11.2 Rapport de la soixante-neuvième session du Comité des produits (28-30 mai 2012)

11.2 Informe del 69.º período de sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos (28-30 de mayo de 2012)

(C 2013/23; C 2013/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 11.2, Report on the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems, held from 28 to 30 May 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/23. I invite the Chair of the CCP, Mr Eric Robinson from Canada to introduce the item.

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

It is a pleasure for me to be here presenting to you the Report of the most recent session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

The 69th Session of the CCP took place from 28 to 30 May 2012 and was attended by 98 out of the total of 107 Members of the Committee. In addition, 6 FAO Member Nations, the EU, 2 UN Organizations, 13 International Organizations and 4 NGOs participated as observers.

The Session covered agenda items that were grouped under three major themes. The state of the world agricultural markets, policy developments, international and international action on agriculture commodities.

The Committee's deliberations were supported by the excellent preparatory work undertaken by the Secretariat and three side events were organized on the occasion of the Session. The first on the Italian Commodities Exchange. The second on the theme of enhancing inter-African trade. The third, an animated presentation entitled a Chronicle of Food and Hunger.

In addition, a special event with the participation of the President of Costa Rica celebrating the International Year of Cooperatives was organized. Two special Ambassadors for cooperatives were nominated by the Director-General during this event.

The review of the CCP and the proposals that emerged from the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on CCP reform were key areas of deliberation for the Committee. The committee confirmed that the terms of reference of the CCP are appropriate and remained valid underlining the importance of maintaining the current balance between market and policy analysis.

The Committee agreed to the enlargement of the CCP bureau from three to seven members with one representative from each regional group. With Canada as Chair, the newly elected bureau includes six Vice-Chairs, Australia, Chile, Iran, the Philippines, Portugal and Zimbabwe.

The Committee also agreed that the enlarged Bureau should act as a steering committee to improve the continuity of activities between formal sessions and in addition raise the profile of the CCP.

The Committee underlined the importance of promoting increased involvement of intergovernmental organizations, Civil Society, and the private sector in the work of the CCP. While significant progress

has been made on CCP reform, there is still more to do and the rules of procedure of the Committee need to be finalized and the future of Intergovernmental Commodity Groups and the Consultative Sub-committee on Surplus Disposal needs to be rigorously examined. These issues are the subject of ongoing work within the bureau and will be considered at the next session of the CCP in October 2014.

In addition to its work on CCP reform, the Committee recognized the importance of improved market access to commodities from developing countries as a way to enhance food security and income generating objectives of these countries, welcomed the collaboration with the OECD and Member Countries on which the Medium-Term Agricultural Outlook work is based, recognized the high importance it attaches to Doha Round Agreement for its potential contribution, creating an enabling environment for agricultural development and food security and to responding to high and volatile food prices, and underline the importance of urgent and successful conclusion of the Doha Round.

The Committee recognized the FAO's strong collaboration with other international organizations including the WTO in delivering technical assistance programmes and in conducting studies on markets and trade policy issues and implications for food security. The Committee recognized that increased coordination among countries and enhanced market transparency could contribute to stabilizing markets both domestically and globally.

It noted the information conveyed by the current Chair of the IGG on Tea, on the Resolution adopted by tea producing countries in Colombo, Sri Lanka in February 2012 to establish an international tea producers' forum, a goal that was achieved earlier this year.

It recognized the importance and need for more timely and reliable information on commodity markets, improved food security and vulnerability information, and analytical studies as a measure to enhance market transparency and reduce price volatility.

All of these points are brought to your attention in the box in page 3 of Conference document C 2013/23. The conclusions and recommendations outlined in the report of the 69th Session of the CCP were adopted by Council at its 145th Session in December 2012. This report is put before you for endorsement by the Conference.

In closing, I would once again like to thank the Secretariat and former CCP Bureau members for their hard work and able leadership which have enabled significant progress with the reform of the Committee. I am excited to be working with a new Bureau to continue to improve the functioning of the CCP and to strengthen its position at the center of global debate on agricultural commodity markets, trade, and policy matters. Thank you for your kind attention.

Mr Suseno SUKOYONO (Indonesia)

First of all, we appreciate the Report of the CCP and Indonesia would like also to convey its appreciation to the FAO and look forward to the new Bureau's contribution.

It has been noted that the focus of the CCP discussion was on Food Price Volatility, which has impacted on world food security programmes. Therefore, Indonesia would like to propose to FAO to solve not only the global price index, but also provide information on the nominal price and local price in its Member Nations through cooperation with other international organizations, in addition to OECD, who has contributed a lot on this matter.

My delegation supports FAO actions to support agricultural information systems in order to overcome price volatility. In this regard, we would like to propose to FAO to provide information, in addition to food crops like rice, wheat, maize and soybeans, to also include information on other food commodities, namely beef, milk, and sugar.

Also in this area, we would like to propose that FAO should hold capacity-building on updating data and information analysis in order to support negotiation and outreach forums. Indonesia fully supports the formation of the International Tea Producers' Forum, ITPF, at the 20th IGG on Tea held from 30 January to 1 February 2012, in Colombo, Sri Lanka. We also would like to encourage the forum to proceed with the ratification of the proposal.

Also in this regard, Indonesia is of the view that there is a need to achieve agreement between the countries in terms of planning to ratify ITPF and to formulate ways forward after ratification of the forum.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

We endorse the Report of the CCP and, in particular, we would like to highlight three matters for the attention of the Conference which were noted in the Report and which we strongly support: the importance of improved market access to commodities from developing countries as a way to enhance food security; the high importance of an outcome in the Doha Development Round for its potential contribution to an enabling environment for agricultural development; and noting the strong collaboration FAO has with other International Organizations, including the WTO, in including technical assistance programmes and conducting studies on markets and trade policy to support the implications for food security.

New Zealand would strongly recommend that these activities are continued and remain a priority for the work of the FAO and the CCP.

Sr. Miguel DONATELLI (Argentina)

En primer lugar, la Delegación de Argentina desea agradecer la presentación del Informe del 69º Período de Sesiones del Comité de Problemas de Productos Básicos. Al respecto, se destacan algunos elementos positivos contenidos en dicho Informe y que señalan la atención de la Conferencia en el documento C 2013/23, tales como:

La mención en el apartado 1 a la importancia de mejorar el acceso a los mercados de productos básicos, de países en desarrollo para mejorar la seguridad alimentaria.

El conocimiento mencionado en el apartado 5, de que una mayor coordinación entre países y transparencia de mercado, puede contribuir a estabilizar los mercados. Al respecto consideramos que sigue pendiente una verdadera regulación de los Mercados Financieros Internacionales que combata la especulación financiera que tanto daño genera en la lucha contra la seguridad alimentaria.

La referencia del apartado 7 a la importancia y necesidad de disponer de información sobre el mercado de productos básicos, para una mejor transparencia y reducción de la excesiva volatilidad de los precios.

En segundo lugar, queremos aportar sugerencias para fortalecer el texto de las recomendaciones propuestas, básicamente en dos sentidos.

En relación con el apartado 3, se debe hacer particular referencia a las negociaciones agrícolas de la Ronda de Doha y su mandato. Asimismo, tal como acordó la Trigésimo Séptima Conferencia de la FAO, en relación con los precios internacionales de los alimentos, el problema radica en su alta volatilidad. Por lo tanto, la Delegación Argentina propone la siguiente propuesta de enmienda al apartado 3, presentando la atención de la Conferencia en el documento C 2013/23: *Reconoció que atribuía gran importancia a un acuerdo en agricultura en la Ronda de Doha por su posible contribución a la creación de un entorno propicio para el desarrollo agrícola y la seguridad alimentaria, así como para responder a los precios de los alimentos altamente volátiles y subrayó la importancia de que en agricultura la Ronda de Doha concluyera de forma inmediata y satisfactoria de conformidad con el Mandato Ministerial.*

En relación con el apartado 4, en línea con lo ya señalado, se debería hacer mención al mandato de la Ronda de Doha, por lo que esta Delegación propone la siguiente enmienda a dicho apartado: *Reconoció la estrecha colaboración de la FAO con otras organizaciones internacionales, incluida la Organización Mundial del Comercio, en la ejecución de los Programas de asistencia técnica y la realización de estudios sobre los mercados y cuestiones relativas a la política comercial, abordadas en el Mandato de la Ronda de Doha con implicaciones para la seguridad alimentaria.*

Señora presidenta, la Delegación Argentina planteó oportunamente estas posiciones y objeciones, durante la pasada sesión del Comité e insistimos con ellas en esta oportunidad.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, align themselves with this statement.

First of all, we would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the quality of documents provided and, notably, document C 2013/23, which offers a valuable summary of the 69th Session of the Committee on Commodity Problems.

The above report provides information on a broad range of issues which is timely for a comprehensive discussion, due to the still persistent economic and financial crisis affecting the markets of commodities and, therefore, having negative effects on the livelihoods of the populations involved, notably the poorest, the most vulnerable. Food security and excessive price volatility have become priority issues on the G-20 agenda, in particular through AMIS and the Rapid Response Forum. FAO is playing a key role in this process.

The EU and its Member States believe that the policy responses to high and volatile food prices should be correctly targeted and support a sustainable long-term response. Export restrictions should be avoided, as they export volatility and discourage market signals for much required agricultural investments.

We share the Committee's views on the importance it attaches to a Doha Round Agreement for its potential contribution to an enabling environment for agricultural development and food and nutrition security.

On the current situation, the EU considers that an ambitious, comprehensive, and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round would further enable the agricultural sector to better resist to crisis; in addition, major coordinated action in favor of investments towards small holders producers, would certainly help the most dependent commodity producing countries. As already stated, the EU has shown its long-standing commitment in the Doha Development Agenda, engaging pro-actively with all parties, including developing countries, in order to reach acceptable compromises. The results are still uncertain. The EU still hopes that an ambitious, comprehensive, and balanced conclusion of the Round is still possible and remains a priority for all of us.

The report refers to the progress made in the implementation of the Agricultural Market Information System, AMIS, and of its high relevance to the activities of the CCP and the IGGs.

AMIS is now well-established, as data compilation has progressed well over the past 12 months. We support the proposal to keep the full implementation of AMIS as a priority for 2013, to advance its work on market and policy indicators and strengthen the involved countries' engagement in AMIS.

The report stresses the importance and need for more timely and reliable information on commodity markets, improved food and nutrition security and vulnerability information, and analytical studies as a measure to enhance market transparency and reduce excessive price volatility.

Transparency in both commodity and commodity derivatives markets needs to be enhanced. An adequate supervisory framework needs to be in place in order to control the risk of market abuse and excessive price volatility in these markets. Better transparency of financial activities, as well as physical trading conditions, should allow regulators and market participants to better understand the interaction between financial and physical commodity markets, to mitigate abusive practices, and to ensure that financial commodity markets continue to efficiently serve as instruments that help price formation and allow the hedging of market risk.

The Committee refers to policy interventions and support to smallholder participation in markets, including allocation of appropriate resources for this area of work and the importance of analysis and research to improve the understanding of patterns of smallholder market participation and their determinants. We would like to recall that 2014 has been declared by the UN General Assembly as the International Year of Family Farming. This International Year represents an excellent opportunity to implement the Committee's recommendations on this topic. We reiterate our commitment to

contribute to a fruitful outcome of this year, focusing on a modality of agriculture which will be important in meeting challenges in the medium to long term.

Mr Joseph Sam SESAY (Sierra Leone)

I just want to point out a contribution made by one of the speakers in terms of promoting national data. I think it is very important that national data is collected which can serve as the foundation for collating and analyzing regional as well as global commodity price situations. And for that to happen, the capacity at the national level must also be built to be able to do that and provide reliable data that can be used to aggregate further analysis. Building capacity at the national level is so crucial that, in some countries, it is very difficult for them to do it on their own, without support in the form of capacity building.

Secondly, a lot of the data that is normally used for analysis at the global level is completely outdated and not related to national statistics. I can give you a number of examples in which references are made to data, even though the country has reliable data that they have generated on their own. So I think building the capacity as well as the network to be able to put this data together for whatever level of analysis will be very, very important in trying to create a picture of global commodity prices.

Mr George DOUVELIS (United States of America)

The United States would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for an excellent report. We fully agree with all the suggestions of this report and we are endorsing it as is. We have also endorsed this Report during the session of the Committee on Commodity Problems in May of 2012 and the Council at its 145th Session has also endorsed this Report as is. So therefore, we accept this Report and we would like it to be endorsed and approved as is.

Mr David Hallam (Director, Trade and Markets Division)

The Delegate of Indonesia and also the Delegate from Sierra Leone referred to the importance of national level data. So I would like to mention that besides the things like the FAO food price index which we publish every month which reflects international market conditions, every month we also publish what we call the global food price monitor and this shows local data, local price data for a very large number of countries now, something like eighty or ninety countries, for basic food products and often with multiple quotations for different regional markets within those countries as well. So I draw your attention to that publication. It is something we have been developing over the last couple of years and your feedback on it would be very welcome.

Also on the issue of the timeliness of data, the Delegate from Sierra Leone mentioned this question of the data being outdated. We also do a monthly roundup, at least for cereals, supply/demand balances for cereals which we put out. But again, that is international level, not national.

And then if I could just make perhaps while I have the microphone, one comment on the second amendment to that Argentina proposed in point four of the matters for the attention of Conference. Our trade policy work is much wider than just the Doha Round, so a lot of our work, especially in the last couple of years, has been concerned for example with regional trade agreements, regional trade patents, and their impact. So that isn't referring just to the Doha Round.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

I would like to support the point made by the United States Delegation. We cannot go along with Argentina's request for changing the report of CCP. This was already discussed in the CCP and Council.

Sr. Miguel DONATELLI (Argentina)

Simplemente mencionar que nos gustaría que en los comentarios de la Conferencia, figuren nuestras sugerencias. Muchas gracias.

Mr Anthony Woling AGAMA (Uganda)

Madame Chairperson, allow me to join the rest of the Delegates to applaud the CCP for the work well done.

I would like to point out section 8. I want to make a comment on and to stress the importance of cooperatives. Uganda places a lot of importance on the cooperative movement because by the nature of smallholder producers and women especially, cooperative movements help a lot in developing the marketing infrastructure and this intervention should be supported in building capacity to help the small producers.

I want also to join my voice in supporting the issue raised by the EU on the issue of market research and actually the Committee Chair mentioned the issue of promoting intra-Africa trade.

It is important to emphasize the fact that intra-Africa trade should be promoted but, however, I want to task the CCP to carry on a study on factors that affect intra-market integration in the regional countries because market integration is very fundamental as far as the movement of goods from places that produce more to countries and areas that produce less. Specifically, it is important because it hinges much on food security.

Some areas produce more and yet other areas produce less. So I want to emphasize that the research on market integration is very fundamental to see which factors affect the movement of commodities from places that produce more to those that produce less.

CHAIRPERSON

We conclude that the Conference endorses the document with the recommendations made by some delegates.

Mr George DOUVELIS (United States of America)

Can we clarify what exactly are the recommendations and where could we put the comments of Argentina?

Mr Eric ROBINSON (Chairperson, Committee on Commodity Problems)

My understanding is that the text to the Report will not be changed but the comments will be taken into the Report of this Session.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

We follow what the Chairperson of the CCP just said, but we want the comments to be reported in the Verbatim, not in the Report, because this would be the right way of doing it.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Quisiéramos solicitar que los comentarios que hizo Argentina, en relación a las cuestiones que no quiere aceptar, queden reflejado en la recomendación de la Conferencia. En el Informe de la Conferencia se va a mencionar la aprobación y el apoyo al Informe, incluyendo otras recomendaciones. Sería importante que las preocupaciones de Argentina queden reflejadas en las recomendaciones que hace la Conferencia.

Mr George DOUVELIS (United States of America)

I just want to remind the Commission that we as the Committee on Commodity Problems have not met since May 2012, so any additions to any recommendations from this Committee for the Commodity Problems cannot be taken here.

We would not object to having the comments of Member Nations being reflected in the Verbatim or in other appropriate places, but not in the Report as a recommendation.

Mr David Hallam (Director, Trade and Markets Division)

If I might suggest something, I think there seems to be agreement that what Argentina is talking about is in the record of this discussion. I think that's correct and, as I understand it, what Argentina is suggesting is that in point three on the Matters for the Attention of the Conference, they would like to basically strengthen the emphasis on the agricultural negotiations within the context of the Doha Round.

I would have thought that perhaps most delegations in this environment would emphasize the importance of the agricultural negotiations within the Doha Round, but perhaps there's more to the Argentinean comment than that. I don't know. That was my interpretation of what you were saying. I don't know if that solution would meet with general approval.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

I cannot agree with the Secretariat. It's a question of principle. We have a Report now. We have to adopt it as it is, and a second point is that anyway we wouldn't like to think aloud. Agriculture in the DDA negotiations. For us the DDA negotiations are a whole and it shouldn't be segmented or some part of it should not be singled out. So, definitely we would like to have an interpretation that we adopt this Report as it is, and we would have a reference in the Verbatim to the comments made by Argentina, if Argentina so wishes.

Mr George DOUVELIS (United States of America)

I would like to support the EU and to disagree with David. I think these matters for the attention to the Conference were put together by the Committee when the Report was put together. This Report has been endorsed by the Committee and by the Council. So I would like to adopt it as is.

SECRETARIAT

I'm not suggesting that the Report of the CCP should be changed. I'm talking about reflecting the concern in the few paragraphs which will go into the Report of Conference.

CHAIRPERSON

We can now conclude the discussion on Sub-item 11.2.

11.3 Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries (9-13 July 2012)

11.3 Rapport de la trentième session du Comité des pêches (9-13 juillet 2012)

11.3 Informe del 30.º período de sesiones del Comité de Pesca (9-13 de julio de 2012)

(C 2013/24; C 2013/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We will proceed with Sub-item 11.3, Report of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries held from 9 to 13 July 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/24.

I invite Mr Arni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of Fisheries, to introduce this Item.

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

The 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries was held from 9 to 13 July 2012 and was chaired by Mr Mohammed Pourkazemi of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Chairperson and Mr Williams, from Norway, who was the first Vice-Chairperson and who is now the Chairperson of the next session of COFI, are both unfortunately not available for this Session, so I would like to report on behalf of the Committee on the outcome of the 30th Session of COFI, in particular focusing on global policy and regulatory matters for the attention of the Conference.

Under the new agenda item, world fisheries and aquaculture, status, issues and needs, where the presentation of the latest version of SOFIA, the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012, was also made. The Committee stressed the need to continue to improve the management of fisheries and encouraged FAO to take the leadership in these issues including formulating global guidelines for sustainability as well as assisting coastal developing states and strengthening management capacity.

The Committee also encourages FAO to continue its excellent cooperation with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, OECD, and the International Maritime Organization, IMO.

Furthermore, the Committee received the 8th periodic report on the progress achieved in implementing the code of conduct for responsible fisheries and related instruments including the international Plan of Action and strategies.

The Committee expressed strong support for the standards and norms of the code of conduct for responsible fisheries and its related instruments, and agreed on further effort to facilitate their accessibility and more effective implementation.

The Committee endorsed the Report of the 13th Session of the Sub-Committee on Fish Trade. In doing so, it agreed with development of best practice guidelines for traceability. The Committee reiterated its support for FAO's collaboration with the convention on international trade and endangered species of wild fauna and flora sightings and the WTO.

In endorsing the report to the 6th Session of the Sub-committee on Aquaculture, the Committee supported the establishment of an FAO Advisory Working Group on interactive resources and technology that would advise FAO on matters concerning aquatic genetic resources and technologies to enhance international cooperation on aquatic genetic resource management.

The Committee also requested FAO to develop a confirmative assessment framework for agriculture certification guidelines as well as a draft strategy paper including a long-term strategic plan for the Sub-committee on Aquaculture, and emphasized the specific needs for future work.

The 30th Session of COFI was the first major international meeting on fisheries and aquaculture after the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20, held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012, and an opportunity to review the outcome of Rio+20 under the agenda item on ocean governance and relevant outcomes from Rio+20.

The Committee urged FAO to reinforce its emphasis on fish as food, ensure that these aspects were not lost in the global and regional framework for ocean conservation and management, and assert its leading role in fisheries and agriculture and ocean governance.

The Committee requested FAO to address the issue of hydrocarbon deposits in the oceans and assess possible threats arising from their development.

Under the recent developments and future work in fisheries and agriculture, two issues were discussed: small-scale fisheries and Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing.

With regard to small-scale fisheries, the Committee called for continuous consultation with all stakeholders and the convening of an inter-governmental technical consultation and the development of international guidelines for secure and sustainable small-scale fisheries in May 2013.

It further agreed on the need to development implementation strategies for these guidelines. Regarding the IUU fishing, the Committee agreed that IUU fishing continues to be a persistent and pressing problem adversely impacting the sustainable fisheries and food security.

The Committee endorsed the terms of reference for that working group for the 2009 FAO agreement on Port State Measures. The Committee requested to convene the Second Resumed Session of the Technical Consultation on the Draft Criteria for flag State Performance which was held in February 2013 and completed with the adoption of voluntary guidelines for flag state performance which are expected to be endorsed at the next session of COFI.

The Committee reiterated its support for the global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels.

Concerning FAO's Programme of Work in Fisheries and Agriculture, the Committee was informed of the departmental vision of the future, as well as the FAO strategic thinking process to determine the future strategic direction of the Organization as a whole.

The Committee agreed that FAO should focus on challenges relevant to its core mandate and must join efforts with partners for better coordination and urged FAO to ensure that fisheries and agriculture priorities were reflected under the Strategic Objectives.

The Committee also approved the Multi-Year Programme of Work 2012-15.

Finally, the Committee agreed that the 31st Session of COFI should be held at FAO Headquarters in June 2014 at the date subject to the Director-General's determination and consultation with the COFI

Bureau. The date was approved by the last session of Council in April 2013 and is set from 9 to 13 June 2014.

Madam Chairperson, the Medium-Term Plan 2014-2017 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-2015 under the new Strategic Objectives and the core functions are the main agenda items in this session.

According to my assessment, all decisions and recommendations made by the 30th Session of COFI as I have just reported are fully relevant to the new Strategic Objectives in particular Strategic Objective 2, increased and improved provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner, but also other Strategic Objectives as well as the CSF.

In other words, I believe that all Strategic Objectives and CSF are mutually linked and fisheries and aquaculture could contribute to all of those in a complementary manner.

This concludes my presentation. The Conference is invited to review the conclusions and recommendations of the 30th Session of COFI as recorded in its Report and to provide the appropriate guidance in particular on global policy and regulatory matters.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

New Zealand thought that the 30th Session of COFI was a successful meeting with some valuable outcomes and we would support the Report. We would just like to reiterate a couple of key points.

Firstly, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing remains a serious and increasing concern internationally. Due to the international nature of the fishing industry, New Zealand considers formulating global guidelines for traceability a key tool in tackling IUU fishing. WTO principles should apply to trade measures for IUU purposes.

The next COFI Sub-Committee on Fish Trade meeting will be important in progressing this work and we encourage the FAO Secretariat in its efforts in this area.

Second point is that New Zealand encourages the FAO to continue to take leadership on fisheries management issues including formulating global guidelines for sustainability, as well as assisting coastal developing states and strengthening the management capacity.

Finally at COFI, New Zealand welcomed the inclusion of agenda items such as the Ocean's Governance and the Rio+20 outcomes on the agenda. It shows at increasing maturity in a COFI that is willing to discuss these topical issues and we'd like to see more agenda items like this in the future.

Mr Claudio Roberto POLES (Brazil)

We also thank the Secretariat for the quality of the report and for the quality of the presentation. Populations in many developing countries depend heavily on their natural resources, among which are fisheries in oceans, rivers and inland waters.

As it has been stated in Rio+20 and reaffirmed by Brazil and other delegations at FAO, it is necessary to act urgently to protect the marine biodiversity in high seas and the fishery stocks, as well as to fight pollution and climate change impacts.

Brazil considers that the multi-lateral approach is of fundamental importance to stress our common goals of sustainable productivity, established in several FAO fisheries agreements, and in that regard, commends the progress made in the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

We would like to emphasize the importance for FAO to concentrate its efforts aimed at the economic viability of fisheries and aquaculture activities in developing countries.

Our mutual commitment is very important to ensure food and nutritional security associated with providing increased income to vulnerable populations.

Regarding international trade on fisheries, Brazil reiterates the importance that trade shall occur freely and in a fair way without any measures that create barriers to trade, as they reduce income possibilities for fishermen.

We wish to commend COFI's efforts to combat IUU fishing. Also we commend the progress made in the elaboration of criteria for flag state performance. Brazil supports the development by FAO of the global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels and supply vessels.

Similarly and finally, we also lend our strong support to the continuation of work by FAO in developing international guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries. That concludes our remarks.

Mr Suseno SUKOYONO (Indonesia)

My delegation would like to extend its appreciation to the Assistant Director-General and to the Secretariat for providing us with such a high quality report from the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries.

During the Conference, Ocean Governance and relevant outcomes from Rio+20 were tabled. Many Members recommended to include the Ocean Governance issue on the COFI agenda more equally as it was understood that the term “governance” was broad and generic and that it is not defined by any international agreement or other instruments relevant to the work of this Committee.

Indonesia would like to kindly request the Secretariat to proceed with more details of the term of “governance”. The COFI recognized the importance given to the ocean and fisheries in the final Rio+20 declarations as it was the first time the strategic role of fisheries, food security and alleviation of poverty was recognized in the Rio+20 declarations.

The need for FAO to increase its effort in developing the capacity of Members through the delivery of technical assistance and capacity building is important. In this regard, through this Conference, Indonesia would like to recommend that FAO reinforces the contexts of food security and improved nutrition by emphasizing on fish as food and ensure that this aspect not be lost in the development and improvement of the global and regional framework for ocean conservation and management, which includes by enhancing coordination in the region.

Indonesia would also like to underline the importance of Blue Growth and Blue Economy in enhancing food security and poverty alleviation and at the same time balancing environment sustainability. In this regard, we would like to propose that this issue also be discussed at the next COFI meeting.

With regard to the UN workshop on Marine Protected Areas in 2013, Indonesia supports the request of the Committee that FAO should ensure participants in the workshop be informed about current efforts by flag states and regional fisheries management organizations with regard to fisheries management and conservation.

Indonesia would also like to express its appreciation and support for FAO's efforts to develop *International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries* and the draft guidelines that have already been formulated. Indonesia encourages FAO to continue consultations with all stakeholders, including governments and civil society organizations to comment on the draft guidelines text in the very near future.

Indonesia would also like to reiterate its position on the need for the establishment of a *Sub-Committee on Small-Scale Fisheries*.

Mr Sizwe MKHIZE (South Africa)

My Delegation wishes to thank the FAO for the Report of the Committee on Fisheries. Like other Delegations, we wish to state our support to you, Madame Chair and to the Bureau. The Report of the COFI outlines the global priorities of sustainable fisheries management.

South Africa supports the recommendations of the report, more specifically the following: we urge the FAO to reinforce the emphasis on fish as food and ensure that development and improvement of the

global and regional frameworks for ocean conservation and management address this. We request the FAO to address the issue of hydrocarbon deposits in oceans and assess possible threats to fisheries in food security.

In conclusion, South Africa agrees that illegal fishing continues to be a persistent and present problem. We urge Member Nations to join efforts with other partners to address this.

Mr Bokchul CHUNG (Republic of Korea)

The Republic of Korea fully supports the results and the Progress Report from the 30th COFI Session last year. During that time, COFI's work and the outcome made a great contribution to global sustainable fisheries development, food security, poverty reduction, and international fishery trade promotion. In particular, best practice guidelines for traceability, aquaculture, ecolabelling, and technical guidelines, and the avoidance of IUU fishing, such as in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries would be a good criteria and reference.

After the Republic of Korea setup its fisheries partnership directions we ask the COFI to continue its work. Therefore, we are grateful and thankful for the ongoing Port States Measures Agreement, to the FAO Member Nations and to the Secretariat, and the Republic of Korea would like to deliver a proposal for the development of the Fisheries Official Development Aid Programme.

In order for developing countries to develop their economy and fisheries development, as you would recognize, most FAO Member Nations are actively promoting and contributing to all the aid programmes around the globe. According to 24 Member States from the 2011 OECD Development Assistance Committee, the total amount of the Fisheries ODA programmes account for USD 220 million. However, it is hardly known that Fisheries ODA schemes had an impact on the advancement of industrialization and economic development of the developing countries.

I consider that one of the biggest problems occurring for developing countries is to associate with Fisheries ODA programmes when they have a lack of professional human resources in the recipient country. The Republic of Korea could provide examples of this problem through a number of experiences.

The Republic of Korea proposes that the FAO Conference consider any alternative solution in order to ensure the success of a Fisheries ODA programme. In doing so, I formally ask for a concrete and clear solution to be arranged throughout the 2014 COFI meeting to the 2015 FAO Conference in light of the corresponding mandate. Should the FAO Committee on Fisheries prepare these alternatives, the Korean Government will participate actively in this regard.

Ms Laura SCHWEITZER-MEINS (United States of America)

The United States recommends endorsement of the document by Conference. We would also like to make the following points. The United States agrees strongly with the Committee on Fisheries that FAO's work on deep sea fisheries continues to be important, and we note that the UN General Assembly itself has addressed deep sea fisheries issues and indicated that this work should not be de-emphasized.

We support the ongoing process of the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and were active in the technical consultation in May 2013. While negotiations on the draft document were not finished at that time, we look forward to a fruitful and final Session subject to extra budgetary funding prior to the 2014 COFI Session.

The United States supports development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels, and Supply Vessels. We are not among the Members included in paragraph 67 which states that some Members noted that the development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels, and Supply Vessels should not be highly emphasized because of concerns about duplication and cost effectiveness.

We believe that paragraph 77 regarding references in the document to the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement is not necessary, but we do not object to its inclusion at the request of some other Members.

Mr Samuel ANKAMA (Namibia)

Namibia agrees and supports the report as having been a stakeholder to the COFI meeting in 2012. Namibia is in support of the good work undertaken by the FAO expert advisory panel for the Assessment of CITES.

We are of the opinion that the issues pertaining to commercially exploited living aquatic resources be in the domain of the regional fisheries management organizations. These bodies possess the needed skills and know-how on issues pertaining to sustainability and exploiting living aquatic resources. Wasting commercially important aquatic resources on CITES appendices, will create unnecessary impediments to our noble cause of hunger eradication, particularly for developing countries or nations.

Second, collaboration with the World Trade Organization on fish trade related issues is of paramount importance, due to the fact that the World Trade Organization is a credible international body with trade expertise, and aligning with it on fish trade related issues will aid the process of market access to fish and fishery products from countries such as Namibia that derive a lion's share of their GDP from fisheries.

Thirdly, biodiversity and in particular, genetic diversity, is being lost at an alarming rate. The threats to genetic diversity include a focus on the development and use of only a few commercial crop varieties and breeds of exploited and domesticated biotin neglecting the local adopted varieties and breeds and their important characteristics, and these are caused by the effects of increasing human population pressure to the laws of natural habitats and environment degradation including deforestation, desertification, river basin modification, and climate change.

FAO will be a very important vehicle towards streamlining and managing the effects of our activities on genetic decay. Namibia does urge FAO to establish a vehicle that will treat issues related to genetic management of resources.

Finally, we rally our unwavering support behind measures implemented by the FAO with regard to the prevention of illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and the establishment of proper guidelines for small scale fish farming and aquaculture development, and I thank you for your attention.

Mr Nayon BILIJO (Ghana)

Ghana, like the other speakers, wishes to commend the good work of the Committee on Fisheries and would want to note as follows. First of all, sustainable fisheries management is key to the rational exploitation of our fisheries resources. However, the coastal developing countries lack the capacity to implement such measures and Ghana, therefore, supports the call for assistance to coastal developing countries in strengthening management capacity.

Secondly, in most countries, fish is not considered as food and therefore Ghana supports the inclusion of fish as food in the work of the Committee on World Food Security. In Ghana, fish has been considered as food for many centuries now.

Thirdly, Small-scale Fisheries is the backbone of our fisheries, accounting for over 70 percent of annual fish production. However, management of small-scale fisheries is a challenge and therefore, Ghana supports the development of guidelines for sustainable management of small-scale fisheries.

Fourthly, Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing is still a challenge in coastal developing countries and Ghana, therefore, supports the call to build the capacity of coastal developing countries and small island states to fight IUU.

In view of the above, Ghana wishes to state its support for Korea's suggestion on fisheries for the programme. Finally, while supporting the aforementioned recommendations, Ghana is still worried about the issues of fisheries subsidies within the context of the World Trade Organization and its impact on the small-scale fisheries in our country.

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

My Delegation joins previous speakers in complimenting the Secretariat for their comprehensive report. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation supports the FAO in asserting its leading role in fisheries and aquaculture. In the case of aquaculture, our Ministry of Food Production is actively encouraging the development of a national aquaculture industry.

Some of the key elements of the plan to develop this industry include, one, development of technological packages to support consideration of requests for support investments in the sector and development of appropriate criteria for statutory environmental approvals for aquaculture establishments; two, conduct of farmer training and extensive activities; three, encouragement of the adoption of the Global Aquaculture Alliance (GAA) standards; four, development of a model farm for promotion and testing of models and research for key components in the sector; and five, facilitate access to diagnostic testing services to address the seas identification and control in aquaculture facilities.

Accordingly, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago supports the proposals of the Committee on Fisheries.

Mr Alexandr OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

I would also like to align with the Delegations who have noted the very constructive and good work that is being done by the Committee on Fisheries in its 30th session. The Russian Federation also supports the efforts of the COFI and the FAO to implement all of the decisions taken by the 30th Session of the Committee. We also think that the FAO and the COFI are the global fora where all key issues of global fishing should be discussed.

We also maintain the development of guiding principles on sustainable development at the international level for large-scale fishing and we would also like to welcome the development of voluntary guidelines for state flags. We consider that this is a very important document, in particular in combating phenomena such as Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing. We think that this document could be seen as a good foundation for the development, perhaps, of legally binding documents such as an agreement on Port States.

The Russian Federation also supports the foundation of a global register of fishing vessels and equipment. We think that this would be a good instrument for regulating global fishing and also for evaluating added capacity and taking measures so that the fishing capacity is suitable for the amount of fishing that can be sustainably done.

We would also like to note the importance of the working expert group on the list of commercial fishing facilities which is planned to include the corresponding list for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). At the same time, the Russian Federation would like to note that at the 30th Session, the COFI put forward an initiative to setup a global list of fishing vessels involved in IUU to enter the watch list that exists in regional fishing organizations. The pull from the COFI to the companies who supply and run these fishing vessels was made so they should not supply their personnel to these vessels involved in IUU fishing. And that is because we think that this is one of the most effective ways of fighting IUU fishing.

We can take note of the factory example that in the period 2012-2013, in the Russian economic zone in the far east, there were four ships under flags of convenience that sank while carrying out IUU and people were killed in these sinkings, but no compensation was provided for the families of these fishermen who died and I think these examples can be found not only in the Russian Federation but around the world. And therefore we consider that this initiative is important for global fishing and we advocate this initiative once again and will do so at the 31st Committee on Fisheries.

In conclusion, I would like to say once again that the next 7th Session of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture will take place in St. Petersburg from 7 to 13 October this year and in that regard, we invite all of the representatives of the Member Nations and Government and Non-Governmental Organizations to St. Petersburg to take part in this session of the Committee on Aquaculture.

M. Abdelnacer ZAIR (Algérie)

Merci au Secrétariat pour l'excellente présentation du Rapport. Madame la Présidente, l'Algérie souhaite à son tour vous informer de son approbation quant au contenu et perspectives des questions traitées dans le Rapport de la 30^{ème} session du Comité des pêches en signalant au passage la nécessité de mobiliser davantage de ressources supplémentaires au Département des pêches et de l'aquaculture pour lui permettre la réalisation des actions de son ambitieux programme de travail.

L'accompagnement des pays en développement dans les domaines de collecte de données, d'appui à la pêche artisanale, de développement durable de l'aquaculture et du renforcement des capacités en matière d'accès aux marchés et de valeur ajoutée mérite de trouver son prolongement dans la poursuite des actions habituelles et concrètes d'intervention de la FAO sur le terrain. Nous demandons, à cet égard, à la FAO et au Comité des pêches de poursuivre ses efforts dans ces domaines où l'Algérie, déjà engagée, est pleinement disposée à collaborer activement.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the results of the Committee on Fisheries and acknowledge the large and active participation of FAO Members. Important decisions have been taken. The EU, while recognizing the high value of the State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), as a flagship publication, stresses that FAO should provide more support to countries for the purpose of data collection and quality control. In addition, we hold that the SOFIA report be made available before the meeting in order for COFI to be able to comment on its content.

We would like to stress once more, the importance to attach to the early entry into force on the agreement on board state measures as called for by the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) last year. We therefore invite all states to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible as the measures provided for in the agreement will only be truly effective in combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing if and when globally enforced in a comprehensive, uniform, and transparent manner.

We also welcome the endorsement of the terms of reference for the ad-hoc working group on capacity building for the implementation of the agreement. We support the development of a global record of fishing vessels, refrigerated transport vessels, and supply vessels, and our Committee to actively participate by providing the required data to the global record.

As noted by the Committee on Fisheries, the global record should be funded through the FAO regular budget and the FAO Secretariat should ensure that it is developed in a cost-effective manner.

We wish to highlight the importance of the finalization of the technical consultation which adopted voluntary guidelines for flag state performance. This is a crucial step in the international force developed to stop IUU fishing, together with the global record of vessels and the international instrument for Port State Control among others.

We also wish to highlight aquaculture's potential to respond to the growing demand for seafood and to deliver social and economic benefits while alleviating pressure on wild fish stock fish for human consumption. We share FAO's view that aquaculture production needs to be environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable and welcome future FAO technical support for the development of plans for the sustainable management of aquaculture.

We are looking forward to continuing participating in the technical consultations on the International Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) as agreed by COFI. We would also like to welcome the decision of the Committee on Fisheries to highlight among the priorities of its Programme of Work and Medium-Term Plan, the study of the impact of industrial fishing on low traffic level spaces.

Finally, as stated at the 145th Session of the FAO Council, the EU would like to express once again its satisfaction with the results of the 30th Session of the Committee on Fisheries. We also wish to underline that FAO should focus on challenges relevant to its core mandate, joining forth with partners in better coordination, and ensure that fisheries and aquaculture priorities are reflected under the Strategic Objectives.

Mr Eric W ROBINSON (Canada)

A general priority for Canada is the ongoing development of the Multi-Year Programme of Work for the Committee on Fisheries. This could be a useful tool to manage the lengthy agenda at COFI especially if a themed approach could be taken with a plan spanning several years.

A specific priority for Canada is the development of guidance for traceability for fish products. In our view, the global gap in traceability relates to legality and Canada supports FAO's work in this regard.

Mr Suseno SUKOYONO (Indonesia)

Indonesia so far has been actively hosting South-South cooperation with 26 countries. During 2009-2013, Indonesia has been conducting trainings on food security, fisheries management and sustainability in the framework of South-South Technical Cooperation.

In this regard, we would like to reiterate the importance of human resources to develop economic and fisheries development. Therefore, Indonesia would like to welcome the proposal made by the Republic of Korea with the hope that it could support the South-South Cooperation, in particular in the context of capacity-building in the framework of triangular cooperation.

Mr David TOSWL (Vanuatu)

First of all let me thank you and the Commission for the report that you have been placed forward. From what was a least developed country, we fully support the report and the initiative taken.

Vanuatu recommends that FAO continues to focus on the efforts of the LDC countries. In relation to illegal unreported unregulated fishing, technical support is fully welcome to assist in maintaining sustainable fisheries in LDC countries.

While every effort is being taken to comply with the IUU, fisheries at this time is more global, attention and assistance are required for LDC countries to bring the fisheries to a level supported by the Commission.

Mr Raghav CHANDRA (India)

India supports recognizing the importance of fish as food and as a means of livelihood. Furthermore, in view of the importance and relevance of the subject, we feel that there is perhaps a need for a Sub-committee on Small-Scale Fisheries.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

La Delegación argentina desea apoyar el Informe con las recomendaciones que realizó el Comité de pesca.

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

Thank you your very positive response and comments to the Report.

It will probably take me a couple of days if I was going to do justice to all the things that have been raised here under this item. It is not because we do not appreciate it that we can take two days to do that but however, I would like to highlight a few things that are particularly current and in line with what we are now working on and the Secretariat without prejudice to the issues that I will not be able to mention.

First thing to mention, the emphasis by New Zealand on traceability also expressed by Canada. As we are now preparing in cooperation with the Bureau, the agenda for the next Sub-committee on Trade, I expect this issue to be on the agenda for the Sub-committee in Norway at the beginning of next year.

There we would, of course, also be taking into consideration and discussions, the issues that Brazil highlighted and the comments about international trade freely and fairly without barriers.

The governance of the oceans was mentioned. We have been looking at this issue and we will continue to do that, but definitely as emphasized by Indonesia, the point of view of the sovereignty of the states and the particular role of the Regional Fisheries Management Organizations as mentioned by Namibia which is anchored in international management and possibly also in cooperation within national jurisdiction of the individual countries.

I would also like to mention the issues that Korea raised, the possibility of unofficial fisheries aid programme, and this would certainly be a subject that the Secretariat would be willing to explore further with the Membership and see how this could be found in practical arrangement.

One of the issues that we are putting the greatest emphasis on these days is the small-scale fisheries and we appreciate the support that a continued session on the small-scale fisheries guideline is getting from the commission as mentioned both by the United States and a number of other delegations in fact.

This would, I think, have to be followed by increased capacity support as mentioned by both Ghana and Vanuatu in the direction of small-scale fisheries in the least developed countries. We have also been emphasizing aquaculture as you know, and therefore the comments made both by Trinidad and Tobago, the European Union and others on this are very much welcome. The issue will be highlighted this autumn at the Committee meeting in St. Petersburg.

The core of the departmental work from its earliest founding have been data collection so we take to heart both the comments made by Algeria on data and the EU, and ensure you that we will follow-up on those issues.

The Port State Measures Agreement that the EU mentioned and others, we await in anticipation this agreement can be taken into full force after having reached the required endorsement by the required number of Member Countries.

I would also like to say that we appreciate very much the support that we get on the Commission on fish for food and it is linked to food security as highlighted by South Africa and many others in their comments, and at the end, our appreciation to the very positive comments by Russia and Argentina about the role of the Commission on Fisheries as a global forum for discussion of fisheries and aquaculture management issues.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that the Commission wishes to approve the Report of the 30th Session on the Committee on Fisheries? It is so decided and this concludes item 11.3.

There is a side event on the FAO Regional Conference Chairpersons' meeting on the Regional Priorities and FAO's new Strategic Objectives, at 12:15 in the Green Room here.

The meeting rose at 11.58 hours

La séance est levée à 11 h 58

Se levanta la sesión a las 11.58 horas

CONFERENCE CONFÉRENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session Trente-huitième session 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
THIRD MEETING OF COMMISSION I TROISIÈME RÉUNION DE LA COMMISSION I TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
18 June 2013

The Third Meeting was opened at 14.41 hours
Ms Nomatemba Tambo,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La troisième séance est ouverte à 14 h 41
sous la présidence de Mme Nomatemba Tambo,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la tercera reunion a las 14.41
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Nomatemba Tambo,
Presidente de la Comisión I

11. Global Policy and Regulatory matters arising from:**11. Questions de politique et de réglementation mondiales découlant des rapports suivants:****11. Cuestiones mundiales relacionadas con las políticas y la reglamentación planteadas en el:***11.4 Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry (24-28 September 2012)**11.4 Rapport de la vingt et unième session du Comité des forêts (24-28 septembre 2012)**11.4 Informe del 21.º período de sesiones del Comité Forestal (24-28 de septiembre de 2012)**(C 2013/25; C 2013/INF/6)***CHAIRPERSON**

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me announce that the Drafting Committee will be chaired by Ms Lorena Noemi Patiño from Paraguay, and the Vice-Chairperson will be Mr Daryl Nearing from Canada.

We now move on to item 11.4, Report of the 21st session of the Committee on Forestry held from 24 to 28 September 2012. The relevant document is C2013/25.

I invite the Chair of the Committee on Forestry, Mr Felician Kilaharma from the United Republic of Tanzania to introduce the item.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS (Assistant Director-General Forestry Department)

Unfortunately Mr Felician Kilahama, who intended to represent this report, could not attend, and has requested me to present the Report.

Continúa en español

Buenas tardes. Permítanme presentar el Informe de la Reunión de la vigésimo primera Sesión de COFO, del Comité Forestal a la Conferencia. Evidentemente, es siempre un honor presentar los resultados del Comité Forestal, el cual tuvo lugar en conjunción con la tercera Semana Forestal Mundial con asistencia de 600 delegados de más de 120 países y con 52 eventos paralelos - un número récord.

La agenda del COFO fue determinada por el Bureau de COFO, Comité Forestal, formado por los seis presidentes de las correspondientes Comisiones Forestales Regionales y el Presidente de COFO saliente, el anterior Anders Lönnblad, sobre la base de las recomendaciones que las anteriores Comisiones Forestales Regionales establecieron en cuanto a prioridades temáticas para el trabajo forestal de la FAO. De esas prioridades, se eligió conjuntamente con el Comité de Dirección de COFO, la agenda que fuese capaz de recoger mejor estas recomendaciones.

Quisiera destacar que el Informe del Comité Forestal fue aprobado en la Sesión 145 del Consejo y en la presentación que hacemos ahora recogeremos aquellos aspectos de relevancia global y de regulación que son competencia de la Conferencia. Dentro de los aspectos de recomendaciones a la FAO, el Comité recomendó que el estado de los bosques del mundo – el SOFO- se redactase con una portación de contenido al Foro Forestal de Naciones Unidas. Esto ya se hizo en la Sesión anterior del Foro – en SOFO 2011 - y se recomienda que sea así también en 2014. Igualmente se dio ya una guía bastante clara en cuanto al contenido del próximo SOFO 2014; además, de recibir la Edición del SOFO 2012.

Un segundo aspecto que fue muy central en la discusión es que fue una de las Conferencias más relevantes inmediatamente convocadas, siendo el COFO que siguió a la celebración de la Cumbre del Río Más 20 y por lo tanto fue una primera ocasión para discutir cuáles podrían ser las contribuciones del ámbito forestal a reverdecer la economía teniendo en cuenta los aspectos, tanto de mejorar la contribución de los bosques a los servicios ambientales, como la producción de bienes renovables, sea madera, bambú y otros productos forestales no madereros; y la creación de empleo verde.

El tercer aspecto estuvo relacionado a la integración del manejo Gestión Forestal Sostenible desde una perspectiva territorial. Generalmente se traduce del inglés el “landscape” en su acepción de paisaje, pero el inglés tiene en lo que sería el “landscape” dos acepciones: la “territorial” y el “paisaje”, y al traducir al castellano o al francés se producen confusiones. El concepto “landscape” en inglés, en este caso, se refiere a “territorios” y el concepto de “interacción territorial” para incorporar aspectos del suelo, de la agricultura, de la biodiversidad, del agua, de la reducción de desastres. Un aspecto en el

cual evidentemente el nuevo marco estratégico de la FAO sitúa esta organización en unas condiciones ideales de aportar a una visión en la cual se integre la Gestión Forestal Sostenible desde la perspectiva del paisaje. Esto se relaciona con alcanzar los retos que estableció la Reunión de Bonn Ministerial del 2011 de restaurar 150 millones de hectáreas con restauración forestal en el marco territorial, reforzando la capacidad de los países en la planificación territorial para optimizar los usos del territorio en una visión integrada.

Otro eje de guía a la FAO fue aprobar la Estrategia para el FRA para la evaluación de los recursos forestales mundiales cuya próxima adhesión es en el 2015, estableciendo ya la estrategia hasta el 2030. Paralelamente a la escala de los países, elaborar para la próxima reunión del COFO, directrices para los inventarios forestales en los países; que es un aspecto ligado con la información global del FRA; y con los procesos de red donde la estimación de los stocks de carbono es fundamental y donde el inventario forestal está teniendo una nueva primavera con muchos países solicitando asistencia en cuestión de inventarios, generalmente con fondos red, pero también con otros tipos de fondos; donde la FAO está trabajando con muchos países en este momento para reforzar sus capacidades respecto a alimentarios.

También la utilización mucho más proactiva de la interacción entre el Comité Forestal, las Comisiones Forestales Regionales y las Conferencias Regionales en todas las direcciones. Finalmente también se revisó la Evaluación Estratégica del Programa Forestal, no la respuesta de la gestión “the Management Response”, porque no estaba disponible por motivos de temporalidad, puesto que tenía que estar preparada para el Comité de Programas, pero sí la Evaluación Estratégica. De hecho, la Secretaría ha establecido sobre una hoja Excel todas las resoluciones de COFO y las Acciones que tiene la “Management Response” por parte de la FAO, por acciones y por unidad y responsables para que haya un seguimiento posible tanto de la resoluciones de COFO como de aquellas de la evaluación.

Finalmente, se aprobó el MYPOW 2012-2015, y se priorizaron las recomendaciones temáticas que venían de las Comisiones Forestales Regionales para su inclusión en la programación del Programa Forestal de la FAO.

Respecto a los países y al apoyo de los países, se insistió en la necesidad de reforzar la implementación de la Gestión Forestal Sostenible en el marco de la celebración de 300 años de Gestión Forestal de Sostenibilidad, que tiene un origen forestal y que se celebra este año. Además el refuerzo de la contribución de los bosques y de los productos de origen forestal al desarrollo económico, la promoción de la importante función de los bosques en la Seguridad Alimentaria y una de las actuaciones de consecuencia de esta Recomendación fue la Conferencia sobre Bosques y Seguridad Alimentaria, el mes pasado cuyo objetivo es precisamente que estos resultados sean trasladados al Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria; el conseguir que los objetivos de desarrollo de los países respecto a la dendroenergía – la energía procedente del bosque- se consigan de una forma sostenible con el refuerzo de los mecanismos de gobernanza; el reforzar la base financiera para la Gestión Forestal Sostenible sobre todo en países con bosques con necesidades de restaurar y recuperar, a la vez, condiciones proclives y reforzadoras de la inversión - sea pública o privada – y del refuerzo de los Sistemas de Información Forestal a escala del país, que no solo sean los inventarios forestales sino puedan ir más allá.

En cuanto al Marco Estratégico, el Comité Forestal dio la bienvenida al Proceso de Pensamiento Estratégico de la FAO y de pasar de los Objetivos Temáticos Estratégicos o Sectoriales a otros de naturaleza transversal. No obstante expresó que los Objetivos Estratégicos como definidos en el momento del Comité Forestal en septiembre del año pasado no reflejaban un balance suficientemente adecuado entre los tres grandes Objetivos Globales de la FAO; en concreto, con el tercero relacionado con la Gestión Sostenible de los recursos naturales, observándose un balance bastante imperfecto entre el primero y el tercero. Por lo tanto, el Comité Forestal invitó a un equilibrio mayor entre estos tres Objetivos Globales de la Organización. También dio el Comité Forestal unas propuestas de mejoras en cada uno de los Objetivos Estratégicos que permitiesen reflejar mejor la contribución de los bosques a todos ellos, a Seguridad Alimentaria, a Gestión Sostenible de recursos naturales, a mejora de las condiciones de vida, a la cadena de valor y a la resiliencia. Pidió a FAO específicamente

dar un mayor reconocimiento a la protección de la biodiversidad y a la Gestión Sostenible de los recursos naturales y de los beneficios, sean económicos, sociales o ambientales de los bosques y los árboles. También recogió la necesidad de disponer de un presupuesto adecuado para el Programa Forestal de la Organización y pidió que los Miembros, a través de sus representaciones en Roma, asegurasen que las recomendaciones del Comité Forestal fuesen incorporadas en el proceso siguiente.

Los aspectos que el Comité entendió que eran necesarios de informar a la Conferencia son los siguientes:

El Comité Forestal invitó a los países a enfatizar y promocionar la contribución de los bosques al reverdecimiento de la economía en el contexto de la lucha contra la pobreza y la inclusión social; el refuerzo del diálogo y la cooperación entre el ámbito forestal y otros usos del territorio, especialmente la agricultura; el desarrollo de Estrategias para una financiación adecuada del Manejo Forestal Sostenible; y la inclusión de la lucha contra el fuego y la prevención de los incendios en ámbitos de la política nacional, rural y del territorio.

Quedo a su disposición para aclarar todas las consultas y sugerencias que tengan en cuanto al desarrollo de la sesión del último Comité Forestal.

Ms Fiona DUNCAN (New Zealand)

New Zealand welcomes the report of the Committee on Forestry. We support the recommendation that Member Nations emphasize and promote the contribution of forests to the green economy and the context of sustainable development and note that activities highlighting ways in which forestry and agriculture linkages can be strengthened across sectors and amongst land management policies and agencies to improve food security are welcomed.

New Zealand also supports the Committee's recommendation that Member Nations implement the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry and agree that FAO should support Members to do this.

We note that most drivers of forest loss and forest degradation come from outside of the forestry sector and that better long-term outcomes will require greater collaboration between sectoral institutions within countries.

In addition, these are cross-sector linkages within FAO and other international Bodies and needed. New Zealand supports the Committee on Forestry's recommendation that cooperation between the Committees on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries be explored.

Finally, New Zealand emphasizes that FAO should work towards it strengths in the forestry areas of work. The format to speak of these strengths include collecting and disseminating statistics, capacity building for sustainable forestry management, developing and implementing voluntary technical and policy guidelines, facilitating information sharing, particularly at a regional level, and considering land based cross-sector and cross-institutional issues.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the EU Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the launch of the State of the World's Forest Report, 2012 which highlights once more the fundamental role that forests and sustainable forest management can play in the transition to a greener economy and a more sustainable future.

Forests provide a range of ecosystem goods and services that are crucial not only to tackle global environmental challenges such as biodiversity laws and climate change, but also to maintain the productivity of agriculture and insure food security.

Forests provide livelihood opportunities for a large number of people across the world and contribute directly to their food security through access to fuel, wood, fruits, medicine, fodder, shelter and numerous environmental services.

We welcome the strategic evaluation of FAO's work on forestry and encourage the Secretariat to take into account its recommendations and explore greater cooperation between different Committees and areas of work.

We support the involvement of FAO in assisting countries to enhance the contribution of forests and forest products to economic development as well as in adopting integrators and cross-sectoral approaches and strengthening financing for sustainable forest management at the national level.

We appreciate the important contribution made to the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) process by the FAO chaired Collaborative Partnerships on Forests, the CPF. The 10th Session of the UN Forum on Forests has delivered important outcomes on matters related to forests and economic development and forest financing, and established a clear roadmap for the review of the international arrangement on forests in 2015.

We invite FAO to continue to play a proactive role in supporting the work of the UNFF. We welcome the recent launch of the next FAO global forest resources assessment to be completed in 2015.

Priority should be given to improving the quality of the information and data providers rather than further expanding the already extensive set of indicators and variables.

To this end, more efforts are needed in capacity building and in preparing a set of voluntary guidelines on national forest monitoring, and at the same time, making sure that the information provided by the assessment is accessible for all the stakeholders at local, national and global level.

We encourage FAO to support countries in addressing the challenges of forest governance. We agree with the recommendation that FAO support countries to achieve their goals in strengthening governance mechanisms and integrating forest issues into key environmental and land use policies based on a landscape approach at all levels including through hosting and supporting the forest and farm facility.

We would like to emphasize that FAO supports countries in national efforts to strengthen the financial basis for sustainable forest management including by developing and enabling environment for investment in sector and demonstrating the multiple values and benefits arising from public and private investment in sustainable forest management, and introducing new revenue streams.

Finally, we reiterate the need for FAO's Programme of Work and Budget and Strategic Framework to dedicate the resources necessary to reflect the multi-functional role of forests and sustainable forest management in overall sustainable development and for developing a green economy in the follow-up process to Rio+20.

Mr Pedro Henrique BRANCANTE MACHADO (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes and supports the endorsement of the final Report of the 23rd COFO Session. We believe that especially in this forum, it is important to note that while we strive to eradicate poverty and hunger, we must give due attention to the close to one billion of the world's poorest people for whom forest, trees and farms are a direct source of food.

There has never been a stronger link between forest and the need to provide food for a population through agro-biodiversity, agro-forestry practice and the myriad of ecosystem services forests provide to enhance production.

We believe it is also timely to promote synergies and interaction between the forest and agriculture policies. Those two agendas should walk hand in hand and not drift apart. FAO has recognized expertise to promote such synergies and we believe this is correctly recognized by the COFO Report.

We also believe that the three pillars of sustainable development, environmental, economic and social of the different forest types should not be seen in contradiction or competition, but rather as supportive and complimentary for a weak economic performance of forests is in no one's interest.

At the same time that we promote a sustainable forest based economy, it is important to deepen our efforts to stop deforestation and to preserve biodiversity as well as guarantee sustainable wood supply and livelihood for local people.

Natural forests are to be preserved and semi-natural forests restored and better used. That is establishing suitable land plantations in order to cover the growing fiber and fuel demand of the world.

Brazil would also like to suggest in this Conference that countries are being invited to integrate not only fire management but also broader risk management into national policies related to forests.

Finally, we believe a small amendment is needed in the box named matters requiring “the attention of the Conference” present in document 25 to better reflect the decision we achieved in the COFO Session. In bullet one, which the text was accepted from paragraph 16 of COFO Report, apparently we accidentally left outside the relevant mentioning of the last part of the term agreed in Rio+20 which is “green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication”.

In light of this, we request this to be corrected in the Report of the Conference as well as we hope that in the Report of the Conference we will stick to the terms agreed upon in the COFO Session.

Mr Guy SUMMERS (Australia)

Australia would like to express its support for the Report of the 21st session of the Committee on Forestry. The Australian government notes the key messages of the State of the World's Forest 2012 as considered by the Committee and emphasizes the important contribution of forests and forest products to economic development through sustainable forest industries.

One of the key issues in insuring sustainable forestry management and development is the fight against illegal logging. Australia is pleased to announce their Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012 came into operation on 29 November 2012 and is now law in Australia.

The new law will reduce the harmful environmental, social and economic impacts of illegal logging making it a criminal offense to import illegally logged timber products into Australia.

The new law supports trade in legally harvested forestry products and will enhance international cooperation to combat illegal logging. It is designed to complement similar measures being implemented in the EU and those in place in the United States and is consistent with Australia's international trade obligations under the WTO and relevant free trade agreements.

The legislative requirements will be applied equally to imports from all countries and to domestically sourced timber entering the Australian market.

Ms Laura SCHWEITZER-MEINS (United States of America)

FAO's mandate includes that the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources - including forests - is fundamental to the long-term sustainability of food production and poverty alleviation.

The United States applauds FAO for its efforts to increase the visibility and understanding of the contributions of forests to improved food security and sustainable development. The recently convened Conference on Forest for food security and nutrition brought together experts and stakeholders from the forest, agricultural and other related sectors and provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen cross-sectoral understanding and linkages.

The forest and farm facility is another fine example of an FAO initiative that is bringing together diverse stakeholders and creating effective platforms to address an array of pressing issues including food security and climate change. We encourage FAO to continue its good work in collaborating and cooperating across sectors.

We also commend FAO for continuing to provide critical assistance to countries to improve collection, analysis and maintenance of forest related data. This data allows all of us to continually improve our understanding of the success of various policies and practices for sustainable forest management, the progress we are making towards forest related goals over time and the role forests play in sustainable development.

The United States has long enjoyed a positive and productive working relationship with the FAO Forestry Programme and we look forward to continuing this active cooperation in the future.

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

We are assessing the work of the Committee on Forestry most positively. We consider that its activities are especially required with regard to the sustainable governance, maintenance and management of forests, monitoring their state, assessing forestry resources, improving the collection of data as well as forest fire prevention, etc.

At the same time, we believe that it is necessary to ensure a more in-depth consideration by the Committee of boreal forests, which are especially important from the point of view of climate regulation because of their role in heat radiation and the general cycle. It is a very important source of timber as well and all sorts of ecosystem services.

We positively assess the Report of 2012 on the State of the World's Forests, and we support the conclusions presented in that Report. As regards the need to have proper integration of the forestry complex of issues in programmes which facilitate the economic development within the context of sustainable development and the implementation of the provisions of the final document of the Rio+20 Conference, we agree that it is necessary to adopt a comprehensive approach, which take into account the links between forestry and other branches of the economy having to do with tenure. In this regard, it is very clear what positive development and input we have as the FAO adopts the Voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests, and their input into the policy of the use made of nature within Member Nations of the Organization.

We note the positive effect from the FAO Conference on forestry and forest products at which quite rightly, we had stressed the very important potential of the forestry sector in fighting poverty, hunger and unemployment.

We support the thesis of the importance of having indeed allocated adequate financial resources for the FAO activities with respect to forestry. We are in favor of pursuing consultations, preparing for the UN to conclude a legally binding agreement on forests.

Mme Nathalie YARE ESSIMA (Gabon)

La délégation gabonaise se félicite de la qualité du rapport du COFO et appuie son adoption. Elle voudrait aussi remercier la FAO pour les initiatives et efforts entrepris en faveur de la gestion durable des forêts.

Nous voulons ici donner suite à la Conférence internationale sur les forêts au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de la nutrition, organisée par la FAO et ses partenaires en mai 2013. L'organisation de cette Conférence ayant été une des recommandations du COFO 2012, la délégation gabonaise voudrait d'abord adresser ses plus sincères remerciements à la FAO et ses partenaires pour l'occasion qui a été donnée au Gabon de présenter sa politique en matière de gestion durable des forêts et de sécurité alimentaire, à travers l'allocution prononcée par le Ministre des forêts lors de la cérémonie d'ouverture de la Conférence sur les forêts de mai 2013.

Pour donner suite aux propos du Ministre des forêts du Gabon et pour revenir sur certains points relevés dans le rapport du COFO 2012, la délégation gabonaise sollicite une meilleure prise en compte de la contribution des forêts à la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition. Il s'agit ici des forêts hors zone agricole. Cette approche est importante pour plusieurs pays forestiers où les populations rurales, et même urbaines, restent largement dépendantes des produits issus de la forêt. C'est le cas du Gabon, des autres pays du Bassin du Congo et bien sûr d'autres pays dans le monde. Dans ce contexte, si nous parlons de sécurité alimentaire sans intégrer les produits forestiers qui interviennent dans l'alimentation, cela revient à aborder la question de manière très partielle. Aussi la délégation gabonaise propose-t-elle que la question de la contribution des forêts à la sécurité alimentaire et à la nutrition tiennent désormais une place de choix lors des réunions du COFO. De plus, et suite à ce que nous venons de dire, la délégation gabonaise apporte son appui à la recommandation du COFO 2012, relative à la mise en place d'un groupe d'experts mixte Comité des forêts/Comité de l'agriculture. Cette collaboration passe par une meilleure collaboration au niveau national entre les secteurs des forêts et de l'agriculture, surtout lorsque ces deux secteurs n'appartiennent pas au même département ministériel, ce qui est souvent le cas.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Agradecemos la presentación del Informe del 21° período de sesiones del Comité Forestal que respaldamos. Sin embargo, quisiéramos formular los siguientes comentarios:

En el Informe se observan numerosas referencias a la economía verde que no siempre se encuentran enmarcadas en el contexto de desarrollo sustentable y la erradicación de la pobreza, tal como fuera acordado en la Conferencia de Naciones Unidas sobre Desarrollo Sostenible Río Más 20.

Observamos también que no queda claro el alcance del concepto “reverdecer la economía” en los párrafos 10 y 17; dado que dicho concepto no fue acordado en Río Más 20 ni cuenta con una definición internacionalmente acordada.

En el párrafo 19 se pide a la FAO la elaboración del contenido del conjunto de Instrumentos para el Manejo Forestal Sostenible con inclusión de material pedagógico, directrices voluntarias y plataformas de comunicación para apoyar a los países que sí lo soliciten a sus esfuerzos para implementar el Manejo Forestal Sostenible.

Quisiéramos sugerir una coordinación y cooperación con el Foro de Bosques de Naciones Unidas a fin de no duplicar esfuerzos en lo relacionado con él.

En el párrafo 26 se menciona el concepto de Seguridad Alimentaria Energética y quisiéramos señalar que la Seguridad Energética es un término que no se encuentra acordado internacionalmente.

Por último, Señora presidenta, en cuanto al cuadro de decisión, apoyamos la propuesta de Brasil para enmendar la primera viñeta e incluir la referencia a la erradicación de la pobreza.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Thank you for all the proposals and all the comments that really enriched the debate of COFO and of the last session of the Council. On the tenure issue, I will just recall specific publications that exist on forest tenure and several projects, including an EU-led project on tenure reform in China that was quite important for the Chinese reform of forests.

Regarding the cooperation between the different committees, we are still working on the content areas, but very especially the modalities of work established between the regional Forestry Commissions and COFO and the way to identify, bottom up, the priorities from the regions to the Committee on Forestry have been commended by the other chairs and secretaries of the other technical committees and are going to be incorporated as far as possible into other committees. We have here, Peter Csoka, Secretary of COFO, who is working on that line and we will surely, with his cooperation, deepen the part of content and so the framework is for sure useful to identify these joint areas.

Regarding the United Nations Forum on Forests, there is a deep cooperation: currently we have a secondment thanks to one country supporting it. The cooperation has also been very evident for those who had followed the last UNFF meeting, the number of countries that were able to report on the progress on the four global forest objectives rose from very few to more than fifty thanks exactly to the work that we have done in joint cooperation with UNFF report and the statistical work that FAO is hosting. In that sense, we are also working on the proposal to bring the next software addition as one of the intellectual contributions to the UNFF 2015 session.

On the forest resources assessment 2015, it will be a link together with a remote sensing survey so that we have also a primary source of information in forest areas to check the data that countries are providing. The Forest and Farm Facility were launched in COFO and we are fortunate now to have three donors that allow the Facility to start moving forward. It is still not the optimum financing but we overcome the most threatening moment between the previous phase and the new phase.

As far as the need of a cross-sectorial approach, I would just recall what the secretary for biodiversity mentioned, addressing the Conference on Forest and Food Security, that is the importance to have a vibrant fishery stock in the areas of rivers and where the rivers come to the sea; the state of mangroves and of the riverside forest is also crucial for the amount of fish stocks that you have. So there is a huge interaction that has to be explored and enforced.

On the issues of illegal logging, we are very glad of the initiatives of the United States, the European Union, Australia and other countries, and in fact we are working very closely with the EU Commission on the project of flags in many countries to implement the corresponding agreement.

The issue brought by Russia on the Boreal Forest is a very interesting issue for climatic and other questions, so we will take this proposal very seriously and for sure we will be having bi-lateral discussions with Russia on implementing projects in all of the areas, be it the economic part or be it the inventory part of forest resources. So we are looking forward to deepening this cooperation.

There was as well a mention from Russia regarding the negotiations on a legally binding agreement on Europe. I may recall that the last Regional Conference for Europe held in Baku requested FAO to provide secretariat service to the international negotiation committee. That is very advanced and very especially your country was supporting FAO's engagement in the Secretariat. We hope to close that process soon and that support that was unanimously expressed in the European Region to FAO's engagement will be kept for the future.

The Conference on forest and food security had such a success, as many have commented, that we had no space to incorporate all the different perspectives that were not sufficiently attended like firewood, the issues of packaging coming from forest-based fiber, to packaging or the reduction of reduce food waste. There are many other areas that could not be sufficiently elaborated, pollinisation and so on, and so we are looking forward to having a second conference in the future, and for sure the capacity not only to bring it forward to COFO but as well as I see it, to the Committee on Food Security. It is very important that this approach, as Gabon said, is incorporated in the discussions on food security in the house.

As far as the comment from Argentina regarding green economy, it is evident that all our activities for the forests have to be framed into the sustainable forest management and sustainable development. It would be impossible to understand forestry outside of sustainable development and in fact also outside poverty alleviation, which is the second goal of FAO. So this is just eventually as we are incorporating the three global goals as a kind of self-understanding, maybe in some or other formulation it might not be expressed as well, but it is totally perceived for sure. The report of the session can clarify this issue.

And for sure, the toolbox on sustainable forest management that has been prepared has been discussed with the United Nations Forum on Forest which has more regulatory responsibilities. We have more the technical capacity with global and country support and the final outcome will be shared with the UNFF process so that there is no kind of overlapping or lack of coordination.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the Report of the 21st Session of the Committee on Forestry? It is so decided. This concludes Item 11.4.

12. Reports of the 37th (17-22 October 2011), 38th (Special) (11 May 2012) and 39th (15-20 October 2012) Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security

12. Rapports des 37^{ème} (17-22 octobre 2011), 38^{ème} (session extraordinaire) (11 mai 2012) et 39^{ème} (15-20 octobre 2012) sessions du Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale

12. Informes de los períodos de sesiones 37.º (17-22 de octubre de 2011), 38.º (extraordinario) (11 de mayo de 2012) y 39.º (15-20 de octubre de 2012) del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial

(C 2013/19; C 2013/20; C 2013/21; C 2013/INF/6)

CHAIRPERSON

We continue with Item 12, Reports of the 37th, 38th and 39th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. The relevant documents are C 2013/19; C 2013/20; C 2013/21. These reports are submitted to the Conference on matters relating to global governance, policy issues and international frameworks, and have already been submitted to the Council for matters related to executive oversight of programme and budgetary matters.

I now invite the Chair of CFS, Ambassador Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to FAO, to introduce the item.

Mr Yaya OLANIRAN (Chairperson, Committee on World Food Security)

It is a great honour for me to join you this afternoon to discuss with you the introduction of Reports of the 37th, the 38th and the 39th Sessions of the Committee of World Food Security, which I am privileged to Chair. At its 38th Session, the FAO Conference has the opportunity to approve and move issues forward.

Four years after the reform, the Committee continues to benefit as well as strengthen some of the main features introduced by the reform. One, a more inclusive and expanded stakeholder participation, more focused debates and discussions on the issues relative to the CFS and to food security. This usually is done during the Plenary.

There is the scientific support of a high caliber through the High-level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE) and of course the support of the Secretariat with some other Members of the Rome-based agencies.

It is my pleasure therefore to introduce and to present to you past successes of the CFS. One which you all resonate with has to do with the voluntary guidelines on responsible governance of the tenure of land, fisheries, and forests in the context of national food security. At the special session, this was adopted in May 2012.

The Guidelines promote security of rights and equitable access to land, fisheries, and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment.

The Committee requested the United Nations General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, to further endorse the voluntary guidelines and to ensure their wide dissemination to all relevant United Nations bodies and agencies.

Here I will make a slight comment with respect to the implementation of the voluntary guidelines. I am happy to say that after one year of the adoption, FAO had done a lot of work to encourage countries that are interested so far to begin to implement and only recently, the German Government had a Conference with respect to the application of the voluntary guidelines which was well attended. And during that meeting, the Minister for Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection of Germany, Ms Aigner, quoted an African proverb which says: “if you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together.” And I think CFS has given us that privilege to walk far and walk together.

The other achievement has to do with the Global Strategic Framework (GSF) for food security and nutrition. This also was adopted at the 39th Session. The primary aim is to improve coordination and guide synchronized action by a wide range of stakeholders on food security and nutrition issues. It covers a broad range of topics which I will enumerate: smallholder sensitive investment in agriculture, price volatility, agricultural productivity, nutrition and production, the tenure of land, fisheries, and forests, food security and nutrition in protracted crisis.

The GSF will be upgraded regularly to include future recommendations and other outcomes of CFS. The current issue that the CFS is tackling right now has to do with the principles of Responsible Agriculture Investment (RAI). At present, an opened ended working group led by Switzerland has been established to help guide the process. The zero draft on the RAI principle will be discussed in a series of multi-stakeholder consultations at regional and global levels. The resulting principles will hopefully be submitted to the CFS 41 next year for endorsement by the Plenary.

CFS also has this opportunity of working together in an inclusive way on the agenda for action for addressing food insecurity in protracted crisis. The Working Committee on this is being chaired by United States and Kenya. The main objective in its transformation agenda is i) to stimulate an appropriate combination of political and technical responses to address underlining causes of food insecurity in protracted crisis situations and ii) to harmonize actions at global, regional, national, and local levels.

In an attempt to make sure that CFS keeps an eye on their decisions and also to follow in general what is going on in the world with respect to food security and nutrition improvements, an open ended working group led by Zimbabwe has been established and practically, recommendations along the works of CFS would be looked at i) to monitor CFS decisions and recommendations, and ii) to monitor the outcomes that relate to food security and nutrition at country and regional levels.

These outcomes, which will be a result of a Conference meeting in July this year, will be shared at CFS 40 in October. We also have the reports of the High level panel of experts on food security and nutrition which provides us with scientific background to discuss and look at the issues raised for recommendation.

We have six of them already (land tenure and international investment in agriculture, price volatility, food security, food security and climate change, social protection for food security), and the recommendations from this forum have been presented to the UNFCCC as a step forward for intergovernmental coordination around food security after Rio+20.

Two other reports, Investment in smallholder agriculture in food security and nutrition as well as Biofuels and food security, will be presented in October to the Plenary. Also planned for 2014, a report on the role of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition, and food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems.

All the stakeholders involved are committed to ensuring the CFS meets the high expectations set by the reform. The vision of the reformed CFS is to be the foremost inclusive, international, and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition and this is becoming a reality. The CFS provides the platform where a diverse range of voices contribute to the global community efforts on food security and nutrition. Their opinions are reflected in its decisions and recommendations.

It is truly a collaborative effort to understand the reality, promote policy coherence, and concrete solutions sought. Let me end by saying that success, according to a Latin American proverb, is described as a series of small victories but it requires a lot of patience.

M. Hubert POFFET (Suisse)

La Suisse se félicite des grands progrès faits par le Comité de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale dans l'organisation de ses travaux et la conduite des sessions, ce qui lui a permis de devenir la principale plateforme inter-gouvernementale et internationale en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition sous la conduite, non seulement de la FAO mais également de toutes les agences romaines. Nous considérons important que le CSA mette au point à l'avenir des mécanismes novateurs pour le suivi des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des objectifs fixés en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de nutrition. Il doit également développer, à notre sens, une vision à moyen terme claire de son rôle et de ses activités essentielles.

Pour mon pays, la mise en œuvre des Directives volontaires pour une gouvernance responsable des régimes fonciers applicables aux terres, aux pêches et aux forêts dans le contexte de la sécurité alimentaire nationale doit être une des priorités du nouveau Cadre stratégique de la FAO et des programmes de travail pertinents. Le processus de consultation extensif en vue de l'élaboration de principes pour un investissement agricole responsable, dont le mandat a été adopté par le CSA à sa session de 2012 doit également retenir tous nos efforts. La Suisse, qui assure la conduite de ce processus, est décidée à le mener à bien avec l'appui de toutes les parties prenantes.

Pour terminer, j'aimerais relever que mon pays souhaite que les ressources du Secrétariat du CSA soient renforcées de manière à lui permettre de remplir ces tâches de manière encore plus efficace.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member Nations, the acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

First of all, we would like to reiterate our full support for the CFS and for the proper implementation of its decisions and recommendations. We encourage the Conference to endorse the outcomes of its 37th, 38th, and 39th Sessions.

During the last biennium, two major achievements were the successful negotiations of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests - the first ever global instrument on tenure and their adoption by CFS in May 2012 - and the adoption of the first version of the Global Strategic Framework as a reference for policy coordination and coherence for food security and nutrition.

We would like to compliment all stakeholders involved who worked together in an inclusive and constructive way for these fundamental achievements. Land tenure is vital for the sustainable management of natural resources, increasing agricultural production and investments, and reducing poverty.

The implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines at country level will require the support of all stakeholders. We stand ready to support these efforts. We encourage others to do likewise. We hope that FAO will play a central role in the implementation of the Guidelines, in accordance with its comparative advantages and in close collaboration with others.

We consider the CFS to be a model for inclusiveness in the multilateral system. We especially appreciate the active participation of civil society and the private sector for their support and confidence in the CFS. We would like to emphasize the importance of the full involvement in the CFS of all relevant stakeholders, in particular the Rome-based institutions, FAO, WFP and IFAD, because they have a critical role to play in the political, financial and technical support to the CFS.

We therefore encourage greater collaboration between the three agencies and call on them to allocate sufficient but efficient human and budgetary resources to facilitate the preparation and implementation of CFS decisions.

Consequently, the Conference should recommend that FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-15 takes into account the need to support the CFS's work and to facilitate the implementation of its decisions. We expect that this issue will also be addressed by the Governing Bodies of WFP and IFAD.

We thank the CFS Secretariat for its work, the terms of reference, and the selection procedure for a full-time CFS Secretary should be finalized as soon as possible so that the Secretariat can be truly effective.

Monitoring and evaluation are important to ensure follow-up for CFS decisions. We support the work of the open-ended working group on monitoring and further exploring tools and mechanisms to monitor the food security and nutrition impacts of CFS products at national and regional levels.

A strong and effective communication strategy is also crucial. It is time that the CFS deliberations find resonance in other UN international organizations and fora as well as in the field and at national level. The CFS Multi-Year Programme of Work gives a clear idea of the priorities and work streams for 2012-13. We encourage the open-ended working group on the programme of work and priorities to focus on the most strategic issues and to set priorities for the future.

We give high priority to the roadmap agreed at the 39th CFS Session for the development of shared principles for responsible agricultural investments, and we would like to assure the Chair of the open-ended working group of our full support.

We also support the development of an agenda for action on food insecurity in countries in protracted crisis. We commend the high-level panel of experts' work and the quality of its reports. There will soon be a renewed HLPE steering committee. We would like to warmly thank the experts who have devoted time and expertise to the HLPE and in particular the Chairperson, Professor Swaminathan.

Finally, we would like to thank the Chair of CFS Ambassador Yaya Olaniran for his hard work. We hope that the next Chair will be as committed to adding value to the work of the CFS. We support in

this sense the candidacy of the Dutch Ambassador Ms Gerda Verburg as CFS Chairperson for the next election in October.

Mr Christopher Lee SHEPHERD-PRATT (United States of America)

The Reform of the Committee on World Food Security has had a dramatic and welcome impact on the nature and relevance of the CFS. At the heart of a reformed CFS is a shared vision for a world free of hunger and an inclusive approach that values the participation and contributions of civil society and the private sector.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the context of national food security and version one of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition are good examples of what the reformed CFS can achieve through these principles and hard work.

To see these recommendations taken forward, it is incumbent upon us as Members and participants in the CFS to take its recommendations forward, to champion ideas like the Voluntary Guidelines in our development policies and programmes, and to promote solutions that we have endorsed through the CFS.

While FAO, WFP and IFAD represent a key conduit for change in this regard, and are perhaps better placed than some to promote CFS outcomes because of their technical capacity, experience and in-country presence, it is ultimately Members who need to consider introducing and adopting CFS outcomes in their policies and programmes to promote global policy coherence for food security and nutrition.

We believe the CFS is at its best when it promotes inclusive dialogue that is firmly rooted in best practices and balanced, evidence-based solutions. In this regard, the CFS cannot hope to foster policy coherence if it does not account for the plurality of stakeholders or to offer sustainable solutions to global hunger challenges, if it does not rely upon balanced and evidence-based research to guide its recommendations. Whether in putting together the high-level panel of experts or in guiding the work of the CFS, we urge the CFS and its Members to prioritize these two principles.

In closing, we applaud the accomplishments of CFS 37, 38 and 39, and thank the Members of the CFS Secretariat, and in particular Kostas, for their hard work and invaluable contribution to the reformed CFS and its accomplishments to date.

Mr Mei Rochjat DARMAWIREDJA (Indonesia)

First of all, I would like to thank the FAO Secretariat for the excellent quality of documents provided to us, which offer available summary of the outcome of the 37th, 38th, and 39th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, and follow-up action at the regional and country level.

The Report guides us with information on key areas that need to be addressed to ensure food security and adequate nutrition for all. My delegation also congratulates the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Land Tenure, Fisheries and Forests and hope that the VGLT are included as priority in the new Strategic Framework.

In this regard, it is important to ensure the implementation of the VGLT. Furthermore, Indonesia wishes to request the high-level panel of experts to include in its plan for future work, taking into account available resources, a comparative study of constraints on small investment in agriculture in different contexts, with policy options to address these constraints.

My delegation wishes to highlight the small-holder farmers, many of whom are women, as the prime stakeholders who should have benefit of access to investment in agriculture. Indonesia affirms the importance of international efforts to address the structural costs of food-price volatility and ensure that its impact will not undermine small and marginal producers and consumer rights to food.

In this regard, my delegation endorses the recommendation of the 37th Session of the CFS to develop a Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition to be submitted to the 38th Session of CFS.

Regarding responsible agricultural investment, in order to share enough food for all the populations, we have to facilitate investment in agricultural infrastructure and to enhance food trade and markets within a framework of public/private partnerships. Therefore we have the view that there's a need to promote widely the principle for responsible agricultural investment to relevant users and stakeholders.

Mr Yo OSUMI (Japan)

The Government of Japan recently hosted the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development with participants of all countries in Africa, including some 40 Heads of State and a number of the heads of International Organizations, including FAO's Director-General, Graziano da Silva. We very much appreciate their participation.

The CFS has been discussing many issues, but in TICAD V as well, farmers are recognized as mainstream economic actors. In terms of capacity building, Japan has announced that TICAD V to expand smallholder horticulture empowerment projects approach in 10 countries in Africa. To shape the approach, Japan will assist with increasing the income of smallholders, such as through training in market research.

In addition, as for technology transfer, a CARD initiative, Coalition for African Rice Development, had been launched at TICAD IV to double rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa. Japan will continue its efforts of CARD with new alliance partner countries and international organizations, including IFAD, FAO and the World Bank.

As for responsible agriculture investment Y, which is one of the most important issues of the CFS, TICAD V had a side event on responsible agricultural investment with the presence of wide-ranging stakeholders, including African countries. We are pleased that the FAO Director-General gave a very good opening speech, and meaningful expertise and experience was shared which could be a good input to the CFS discussions.

Japan intends to continuously and actively contribute to the CFS consultation process to develop principles for responsible agricultural investment. We further decided to support the wide working research and analysis programme for responsible agricultural investment as well as the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. On both, FAO will play a critical role.

On the latter, that is the support to the OEWG, we are aiming at among other things disseminating the WIGI, developing toolkits for learning and operating the OEWG and compiling and sharing best practices on land transparency.

With that note, we would like to express our continuous support for the CFS to make a series of small victories with all partners in this inclusive process and with patience, as suggested by the Chairperson of the CFS.

Ms Mary Sibusisiwe MUBI (Zimbabwe)

As it is my first time to take the floor in this Commission I would like to congratulate you for the grace with which you are conducting the deliberations in this Commission. Chair of CFS, my brother Yaya from Nigeria, Kostas the Secretariat, we would like to thank you for this very comprehensive Report of the CFS.

The Zimbabwe delegation supports the work of the Committee in building policy coherence on issues of food security and nutrition. The Global Strategic Framework clearly shows that there are many areas where there is policy coherence including issues on the right to food, but there are still a number of key areas where policy coherence is still required as in the area of trade for example.

We believe that the CFS has a role to play in tackling such areas particularly as they relate to food security and nutrition. The CFS should therefore not shy away from tackling difficult issues. If the CFS Membership could find common ground on land, then common ground can be found in many areas that still remain as impediments to food security and nutrition.

The Zimbabwe delegation is particularly gratified that the Committee's multi-stakeholder and therefore able to bring the collective wisdom and perspectives of farmers, fisher folk, private sector, NGOs, research bodies and governments together in order to craft policy guidelines and principles that are relevant to all sectors operating at various levels and based on research and technical inputs from experts.

We commend the CFS for the important products produced thus far, namely the voluntary guidelines on the governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests within the context of food security and the Global Strategic Framework.

The voluntary guidelines have certainly given impetus to ongoing processes and initiatives at country and regional level in the important area of land tenure. We are encouraged to note that FAO, IFAD are working with the African Union Land Initiative in assisting countries with technical assistance and capacity development.

We hope that more support will be provided to countries who are ready to embark on land tenure programmes, as access to land is a key issue in strategies to increase productivity and address food security, particularly for women and other marginalized groups.

As a Member of the CFS bureau, I would certainly encourage Members to take a copy of the voluntary guidelines, because one of the challenges remains that the voluntary guidelines are not as well-known as we would want, so we certainly hope that they are available for Members to take to their capitals.

We commend the CFS for embarking on a process to develop principles for the governance of investments in agriculture within the context of food security. We welcome this development in light of the kind of process which seeks to generate both domestic and external investment for agriculture. We hope that the principles will provide guidance to countries in crafting investment frameworks that lead to good outcomes with respect to food security and nutrition.

We would urge Member countries to participate in the regional consultations on RAI in order to hear the final product that is relevant to all regions. Within the African region, we have requested that the regional discussions take place within the framework where already countries are discussing investments.

Given the importance of CFS products and policy coherence platforms, CSF must be better resourced and supported by Member countries and the three Rome-based agencies. We welcome the commitment made by the three agencies to CFS and hope that these commitments are translated into budget lines.

As we finalize the post-2015 development Agenda, we believe that the CFS multi-stakeholder model will be emulated in country, regional and national levels as it is becoming increasingly clear that the multifaceted nature of hunger and poverty requires a multi-stakeholder and multifaceted approaches where communities, countries will be the main drivers of development supported by development partners and benefiting from the experience of their neighbours. The CFS provides an excellent fora for the exchange of such experiences and good practices.

In conclusion, the Zimbabwe delegation would like to endorse the Reports of the 37th, 38th and 39th Sessions of the CFS.

Ms Candice VIANNA (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the Reports of the 37th, 38th and 39th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security and takes this opportunity to highlight the achievements of the CFS over the last two years as stated in the Reports.

We also would like to commend the CFS Chair and Secretariat for their tireless work and strong commitment along these years. We reiterate our support to the work of the CSF and the consolidation of the Committee as an inclusive international and inter-governmental platform for a broad range of stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger.

The multi-stakeholder nature of the CFS has promoted broad ownership of its decisions and recommendations as well as accountability and broad engagement of different actors.

Over the last two years, the CFS has achieved concrete outcomes in terms of policy recommendations and has fostered coordination at global level. Particularly, we wish to highlight the endorsement of the voluntary guidelines and responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security during the CFS 38 in 2012, a key document for addressing this pressing issue for food security and nutrition.

We also acknowledge the follow-up activities that FAO has been carrying out as requested by CFS, especially in the area of awareness raising and communication of the voluntary guidelines and also in assistance to countries upon their request.

In Brazil, the voluntary guidelines are being carefully analyzed in regard to domestic legislations and they have already had the indirect impacts especially in fostering the national debate on establishing the human right to land within national context.

Moreover, we welcome the endorsement of the Global Strategic Framework for food security and nutrition by the 39th Session of the CFS in October 2012, which contributes to the improvement of coordination and synchronized actions by a wide range of stakeholders. By providing an overarching framework with practical guidance on core recommendations for food security and nutrition strategies, the GSF aims to promote concerted actions in a rather fragmented and international scenario of different and sometimes uncoordinated initiatives with a shared goal.

We therefore encourage all stakeholders including FAO to promote and make use of this document, further disseminating it throughout the Organization especially to the offices on the field.

Brazil is very proud to have participated intensively in the work of the Renewed Committee since its inception and to have actively contributed along with the other stakeholders to the negotiations that led to the voluntary guidelines and to the Global Strategic Framework.

We also wish to reiterate our support to the focus of the CFS on smallholder food producers especially on women and we further recommend that more attention be given also to elderly people who depend on agriculture as they also constitute a particularly vulnerable group who demands our global concern and action.

Lastly, we welcome the continued support of FAO to CFS through its contribution to the CFS Secretariat and core functions and its close collaboration along with WFP and IFAD to the activities of the Committee. This close collaboration is key to ensuring coordination and relevance of the work of the CFS as well as to help disseminate its decision and recommendations, translating it where appropriate into action.

With this comment, Brazil lends its full support to the Reports presented.

Mr Huilai ZONG (China)

I will also want to thank the Chairperson for his brief introduction. The Chinese Government supports the Reports of the 37th, 38th and 39th Sessions of CFS. The Chinese government appreciates the work of CFS in the past two years in promoting the resolution of the global food security and its achievements and also its active efforts to lay out the priorities of work for the next few years. In order to help CFS to better implement its policies and improve its efficiency, I have two specific recommendations.

First, as to the guidelines for the responsible governance of land tenure and fisheries and forests and the global framework of food security, this is an important outcome of the tough discussion among Member Nations. This was adopted in May last year. This is a very good document. At the same time, it is a voluntary principle so we hope in the implementation of this guideline, we should emphasize the voluntary principle so that to provide better guidance to Member Nations to conduct their relevant work.

Secondly, as to the responsible agricultural investment principles which are still under development, there is a complicated factor influencing agricultural investment, also the factors are rather extensive.

For this, we have to give a high attention. In recent years, there has been a great pressure for agricultural investment in countries which directed an influence in these countries' resolutions of food security problems. So in promoting the formulation for a small-scale agricultural investment principle, we should give full consideration to the fact that this principle should be conducive to encourage the investment in developing countries, particularly for the smallholders, but not restricting or impairing such investment to smallholders, at the same time considering the different situations of various countries, we also have differences in demands. So for responsible agricultural investment principles, during its formulation process, we should solicit extensive opinions from Member Nations so as to avoid rushing into the outcome.

Ms Noncedo Zukiswa Gracious VUTULA (South Africa)

The South African Delegation welcomes the report of the Committee on Food Security, in particular welcoming the outcomes from the two round tables on the following topics: the social protection for food security and nutrition, and food security and climate change.

We recognize the importance of the following points that emerged from the updates on global initiatives and linkages with food securities. These are the advancement of the zero hunger challenge, establishing sustainable development goals, assessing the sustainability of food systems, building and implementing strategies for food security and nutrition, and for farmers. Especially establishing the multi-stakeholder partnerships and adopting landscape approaches that benefit from close linkages with CFS.

We recognize that all global and regional initiatives undertaken in support of the decisions of the CFS should be transparent, accessible to those directing change, capable of influencing outcomes at community level, and yielding tangible benefits for smallholder farmers, especially women.

We would like to mandate the bureau to develop the selection procedures, including the required qualifications and terms of reference for the position of the CFS secretary together with the modalities and requirements for inclusion in the Secretariat of the UN entities directly concerned with food security and nutrition, with a view to submitting the proposals to the Committee during its plenary in October 2013.

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

My Delegation acknowledges the decision of the Committee on World Food Security to endorse the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the Context of National Food Security, VGGT. We note that these guidelines are sufficiently broad to allow Member States the flexibility for implementation within the individual, national laws, yet clear and succinct to guide the implementation process.

While the VGGT are not legally-binding, they are well founded in the principles of good land management and therefore are key to the realization of sound and fair land tenure rights. We wish to highlight that the guidelines take into account the effects of climate change, particularly the increase in frequency and severity of natural disasters, a factor of devastating proportions to small island developing states such as those in the Caribbean. Cognizance is being given to the fact that disaster mitigation measures must be included in the development thrust of Trinidad and Tobago and the region.

Madame Chair, the government of Trinidad and Tobago supports the decision of the Committee on World Food Security to endorse the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security.

Mr Mohamed EL FIKY (Egypt)

At the outset, Egypt welcomes the report of the 37th, 38th and 39th Sessions of the Committee on World Food Security. We also welcome the important role played by the CFS as one of the most important outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals. We also welcome the efforts to support small tenure of land holders and to support their products and their markets. We also welcome the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries, and forests as they

take into account the climate change factors, and we hope that this process will be a model for the regional consultations on good governance in agricultural policies and hoping that this will contribute to the recommendations made to the 2014 meeting.

We also welcome the global strategic GFS and this underlines the importance given by Egypt with this document, including chapter 6, that stipulates the fact that there are issues that require further deliberations such as putting in place global trade systems that take into account the concerns of global food security.

Egypt underlines the importance of a consolidated role by the global community in the area of food security. This requires new mechanisms with a multi-party effort supported by the FAO, the G20, and the EU in the context of Rio+20 in a manner to be reflected in the special report of on food security before this session which also focuses on the number of those affected by malnutrition and hunger continues to be high in light of high prices of food globally.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

La delegación argentina agradece al embajador Yaya Olaniran y a la Secretaría por su incesante labor. Asimismo, expresa su respaldo a los informes presentados, y hace propicia esta oportunidad para destacar la importancia de los trabajos del Comité de Seguridad Alimentaria Mundial.

Kostas STAMOULIS (Director, Agricultural Development Economics Division)

I think the expression of appreciation of the work of the Committee and the suggestions made are encouraging to all of us that are working with the Committee. The – for me, what I would like to say here is that on behalf of the joint Secretariat, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the members and participants of the Committee for encouragement, guidance, and support.

We would particularly like to thank the bureau and the advisory group and the chairs of the working groups with whom we are working in real partnership. We would also like to thank numerous staff from the three Rome-based agencies that support the technical teams of the bureau and the Secretariat. We would like also to thank, last but not least, the Chair of the CFS, Yaya, with his numerous hats, for his encouragement and support. I think I express the opinion of all of you, those that took the floor and those that didn't, that the Committee is on the right path in achieving or in fulfilling the vision of the reform, which to make it the foremost platform, intergovernmental but also multi-stakeholder, that could provide guidance to all stakeholders on issues of food security and nutrition. Thank you again for your encouragement and support to the Committee.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the Report of the 37th, 38th and 39th Sessions of the CFS? It is so decided. This concludes Item 12

19. United Nations/FAO World Food Programme

19. Programme alimentaire mondial ONU/FAO

19. Programa Mundial de Alimentos de las Naciones Unidas y la FAO

(C 2013/INF/2; C 2013/INF/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We shall now consider Item 19, United Nations/FAO World Food Programme. I am pleased to welcome colleagues from the WFP Secretariat, who have joined us on the podium and are going to introduce the reports. I would like to give the floor to Ms Elizabeth Rasmussen, Assistant Executive Director of WFP who will present the Annual Reports of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its Activities in 2011 and in 2012, which can be found respectively in documents C 2013/INF/2 and C 2013/INF/3.

Ms Elizabeth RASMUSSEN (Assistant Executive Director, Partnerships and Governance, World Food Programme)

I am very pleased to have this opportunity to highlight the main elements of WFP's Annual Report for 2011 and 2012 to the ECOSOC and FAO Council. These reports were approved by WFP's Executive

Board. As you are aware, these reports were presented based on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review and the General Assembly Resolution 62/208.

They provide a summary of WFP's contributions to the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations system in achieving the MDGs and bolstering sustainable food security through interagency, multi-lateral, and NGO partnership. We have also included sections on the Rome-based agency collaboration and on humanitarian reform.

Let me start with a milestone 2012 global event, the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development which set the stage for merging the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development towards 2015 and beyond.

WFP was engaged in the preparatory process, working in close collaboration with the Rome-based agencies and the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. The Conference and outcome document strongly reflected food security and nutrition as a top priority area alongside resilience building and gender equality. This laid a strong foundation for WFP's subsequent engagement in the Post-2015 Development Framework and support to the work of the Rio mandated Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which is working on a coherent set of goals for the Post-2015 Development Framework.

Under the auspices of the undg, fao, and the WFP, we, Spain and Colombia as co-sponsors, we co-led the Global Thematic Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition from November 2012 to April this year, in close collaboration with IFAD and with the support of the special representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and a wide group of contributing agency partners, civil society, and private sector representatives.

This included an online consultation, an information consultation with CFS stakeholders, and a high level meeting in Madrid, which aimed at gathering political support at the highest level for its standalone goal on food security and nutrition.

In 2011, WFP contributed to the key fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which adopted Istanbul Programme of Action for the decade 2011-2020. Seventy percent of WFP's operations are in LDCs. In October 2011, our Executive Board approved a decision for WFP to give special attention to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action.

Turning to the system-wide coherence and reform of operational activities for development, as Chair of the Chief Executives Board's High-level Committee on Management, HLCM in 2011, WFP led work to maximize efficiency and effectiveness, harmonize business practices, and develop a new Security Management System, which became operational on 1 January 2011. We also actively engaged in the undg's review of existing funding modalities in support of the Resident Coordinator System. The development of standard operating procedures for delivering as one country, and we contributed to joint undg positions for the General Assembly deliberations on the QCPR, which focused on increasing the coherence and results orientation of United Nations system-wide efforts.

WFP played an active role in the fifth High Level Intergovernmental Conference on "Delivering as One", held in Albania in June 2012, with a participation of the Executive Director of the WFP. And we attended the fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, in November and December 2011. We participated in several joint impact operations and we have been coordinating with the United Nations agencies in the preparation of our Strategic Plan for 2014-2017, that has recently been approved by our Executive Board.

WFP, fao, and IFAD continued to enhance collaboration at the global, regional, and national levels, including strengthening dialogue among senior management on the ongoing reform of the three agencies. WFP fitful purpose strategy identified partnerships, including those among the Rome-based agencies, as well as seven priority areas.

In the 2011, The State of Food Insecurity in the World report was compiled for the first time by all three Rome agencies. We have implemented major activities with fao and IFAD, including on food security information systems and disaster risk reduction. Field based collaboration between Rome

agencies is taking place in a number of joint projects, in 86 projects in 50 countries last year with FAO and with IFAD in eleven projects and nine countries.

Through 2011 and 2012, WFP remained a key partner for the Committee on World Food Security, the CFS. The 39th plenary session in October 2012 brought further momentum to the work of the Committee. WFP shared Policy Roundtable on Social Protection for Food Security, resulting in key recommendations to link social protection systems and food security.

WFP is a full member of the CFS Secretariat, together with FAO and IFAD, and is also an active member of the Advisory Group to the CFS Bureau. In forging strategic partnerships, WFP played a strong role in promoting multi-lateral coherence and action on nutrition as a member of the lead group of the Scaling Up Nutrition, the SUN Movement, led by the Secretary-General, as well as in REACH and as the chair of the Standing Committee on Nutrition, the SCN, working closely with UNICEF as well as WHO, FAO, and others, including SUN and the HLTF members, the World Bank, and NGOs.

WFP continued engagement in G20 food security in development groups under the French and Mexican presidencies. We were working with Rome-based agencies, the HLTF partners, UNDP, the World Bank, ILO, and ILO in particular.

And we achieved concrete results in Los Cabos, confirming the exemption of WFP food from export restrictions, commending SUN, and creating a social protection board, and setting the stage for further work on an integrated approach to a social safety net and food security under the Russian presidency this year. Enhancing collaboration with NGOs at the strategic and policy levels remains the priority. In 2011, several NGO partners helped us to formulate the policy on cash and vouchers. NGO partners were consulted on G20 proposals for a pilot emergency food service system in West Africa. And we work together on building resilience.

The largest every WFP partnership consultation took place in October last year. The event had a broader geographic representation of current and potential NGO partners and set a new tone for a more strategic and frank dialogue and resulted in practical recommendations to further development collaboration between WFP and NGOs. A major priority was support for regional and country led actions to address hunger and food insecurity in collaboration with organizations such as the African Union, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

South-South and triangular cooperation was given a new impetus with the launch in November 2011 of the Center of Excellency in Brazil. In Asia, WFP's new UN HRD, United Nations Humanitarian Resource Depot facility in Subang, Malaysia became responsible for managing a stockpile of relief items.

In 2011, WFP provided technical assistance for governments, assuming ownership of food security programmes and helped to improve the design and management of national food security programmes. The national capacity index, the new Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for Capacity Development was designed and is now included in WFP's strategic results framework. Innovative partnership between WFP-led emergency telecommunication cluster, the ETC, and emergency.LU, are public/private partnerships initiated by the government of Luxembourg, and provided satellite infrastructure and services to the international humanitarian community.

Let me conclude with the highlights in the area of humanitarian reform. WFP continued to play a central role with the IIC. Together with UN HCR, UNICEF, and others in implementing the Transformative Agenda, that was launched by the Emergency Relief Coordinator in 2011, putting into place protocols for rapid deployment, empowered leadership, and enhanced accountability in emergencies. The Transformative Agenda builds on the well-established global cluster system where WFP leads logistics and telecomm clusters and co-leads with FAO, the Food Security Cluster. In 2012, for the first time, WFP hosted the IIC principles meeting and the launch of the 2013 consolidated appeals process.

As leader or co-leader of the three global clusters, WFP worked with several partners to implement an Action Plan for the whole of Africa, which links long-term development resilience and livelihood to

recovery and coordinated responses to major emergencies in the Sahel – in the Sahel, South Sudan, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The two years under review, 2011 and 2012, were rich, active, and productive partnership years in promoting food security and nutrition. We look forward to any comments or queries that you may have on the reports and also on how we can continue enhancing our partnerships to end hunger and malnutrition.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the EU Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We have taken note of the WFP Annual Reports to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its activities in 2011-2012. We commend WFP on their efforts to address the emergency food assistance needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crisis, such as those in Syria, the Sahel, and the Horn of Africa.

We also welcome the new Strategic Plan, which identifies emergency humanitarian assistance as a core strength of WFP. In 2011 and 2012, WFP has participated in several important events such as the Fourth and Fifth high-level conferences on delivering as one, the Fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness in Busan and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio.

We take note of WFP's efforts to improve system wide coherence. We encourage them to continue their efforts to further increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their food assistance, using the most appropriate food assistance tools to meet the needs of the most vulnerable.

We note with satisfaction that the collaboration among the Rome-based agencies have been intensified, especially with regards to Rio post-20 and the post-2015 process, but also in the field on the purchase for progress and resilience joins programmes and strategies.

We underscore the necessity for food security, nutrition and sustainable and climate smart agriculture to find a prominent place in the post-2015 process. We urge WFP, as well as FAO and IFAD, to continue to work closely on the follow-up and to further strengthen the collaboration notably at field level taking into account the new organizational structure of WFP and FAO.

We encourage WFP to continue its involvement in the relevant CFS discussions such as the agenda for action on food and security and protracted crisis. The follow-up of its recommendations on social protection and food security, on the process of Responsible Agriculture Investments (RAI) and to integrate the CFS recommendations in its activities and programmes.

We commend WFP's commitment to the CFS Secretariat, together with FAO and IFAD, and we encourage the WFP Board to discuss how to provide a sustainable, political, technical and financial support to the CFS.

We call attention on the opportunity to build a comparative advantages on both FAO and WFP and to establish strong partnerships between them when working on issues such as resilience. We commend WFP for its contribution to humanitarian reform. We welcome WFP's commitment to the implementation of the Transformative Agenda.

We strongly encourage WFP and all inter-agency standing committee Members and standing invitees to now demonstrate their commitment to the concrete implementation of the Transformative Agenda in the field. The Transformative Agenda helps to improve the leadership, coordination and accountability of the humanitarian system to ensure that the delivery of humanitarian assistance is effective, efficient and timely.

WFP has an important role to play in this regard. We welcome the fact that WFP has consolidated the shift from food aid to food assistance and that the set of tools has been broadened. We encourage WFP to continue to build an evidence based and to collect best practices in order to make informed decisions about where and when to utilize the different tools and to design context specific interventions using the mix of instruments.

Mr Jong Nam MUN (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)

I believe that the Report submitted to this Commission of the Conference by WFP concerning the activities of the past two years has offered us an excellent insight into the details of its work.

Over the past two years, WFP has focused implementation of Strategic Plan to reduce the global hunger and poverty and insure food security in keeping with its humanitarian mission and goals and thus successfully carried out its work to offer food assistance.

WFP promptly responded to the needs of the countries affected by the natural disasters such as floods, wars and conflicts. It has helped to stabilize the livelihood of people affected and recover from the damages. In particular, WFP remains true to the policy of the purchase of products aimed at strengthening food production capacity in developing countries and contribute to the increase of agriculture production in the developing countries by purchasing food with cash from the small holder farmers in the course of closely cooperating with the FAO and IFAD.

On behalf of my delegation, I take this opportunity to give high credit to the WFP for successes achieved in its efforts to resolve the global food crisis and express my gratitude to the staff of the WFP including Madame Ertharin Cousin, the Executive Director, to offer assistance to DPR Korea.

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNANDEZ ESPERON (Cuba)

Los informes sobre las actividades realizadas por el PMA en los años 2011 y 2012 evidencian los aportes del PMA en la lucha contra la desnutrición y el hambre en el mundo, no solo a través de sus propias operaciones, sino mediante las asociaciones desarrolladas con diferentes actores de forma efectiva, de lo que resaltamos las asociaciones realizadas con los mecanismos multilaterales. Resaltamos la movilización de recursos en el año 2012, que constituyó el primer aumento de la financiación del PMA desde el año 2008; y en ese punto debemos, a la vez, reconocer el aporte de todos –sin distinción– los países que contribuyeron con el PMA durante el año. En particular, debe valorarse el aporte de las contribuciones recibidas en el marco de acuerdos plurianuales de asociación estratégica, que permiten una financiación flexible y previsible, así como brindarle asistencia alimentaria a quienes lo necesitan de una manera oportuna. Sin embargo, las contribuciones denominadas “multilaterales”, aportadas sin condición alguna, y que son esenciales para que el PMA pueda realizar sus operaciones oportunamente, comprendieron solo un 12 por ciento de las contribuciones totales. Señora presidenta, son remarcables los resultados alcanzados en el año 2012, con los acuerdos de hermanamiento, que permiten vincular los fondos de los donantes con contribuciones de los países anfitriones, y nuevos donantes para la recuperación total de los gastos de transporte, distribución y seguimiento. Alentamos al PMA a continuar fortaleciendo y desarrollando la reducción de riesgo de desastres y el fomento de las capacidades nacionales para afrontar eventos naturales de diferentes tipos. En ese sentido, reiteramos al PMA la disposición de Cuba para apoyar conjuntamente a otros países, compartiendo nuestras experiencias en las respuestas a huracanes, que tanto azotan a la región del Caribe. La Delegación Cubana no quisiera concluir esta intervención sin antes reiterar su agradecimiento al PMA por el apoyo recibido en la respuesta al huracán Sandy, que afectó grandemente tres provincias cubanas a finales de 2012.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to approve the Annual Reports of the WFP Executive Board to ECOSOC and the FAO Council on its Activities in 2011 and in 2012. It is so decided and this concludes Item 19.

14. Interim Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System

14. Rapport intérimaire sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement

14. Informe provisional sobre la revisión cuatrienal amplia de la política relativa a las actividades operacionales del sistema de las Naciones Unidas para el desarrollo

(C 2013/28)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 14, Interim Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System. The relevant document is C 2013/28.

I will now pass the floor to the Director of the Office of Support to Decentralization to introduce the item. Ms Yuriko Shoji, you have the floor.

Ms Yuriko SHOJI (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

I have the pleasure to introduce the item Interim Report on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the QCPR.

Mandated by the FAO Conference Resolutions 13/2005 and 2/2007, the FAO's implementation of the UN General Assembly resolutions on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system has been active and effective.

These General Assembly resolutions provide the UN system with guiding principles on functioning and coordination at the country level including for inter-agency collaboration. They used to follow a triennial cycle until 2007, the TCPR and has since then moved into a quadrennial one. The latest General Assembly resolution on the QCPR has been approved in December 2012 by Resolution 67/226.

Documents C2013/28 submitted to the present Conference session provides a progress Report on FAO's implementation of the TCPR covering the period 2011-13 and highlights FAO's initial views on the implementation of the newly approved 2012 QCPR resolution.

Similarly to the previous Reports, the document is structured around the following areas. A) FAO funding of operational activities for development. B) Efficiency, effectiveness and FAO's participation in UN system coordination mechanisms. D) Other areas of implementation of relevance to FAO.

Some of the main milestones described in the Report include improved collaboration with other agencies within the United Nations family. This has resulted in quadrupling funds mobilized by the Organization under multi-partner trust funds in the last biennium. The NTPF Office was the sixth most important donor of FAO in 2012.

Increased FAO's capacity to respond to national needs through the country programming Framework, CPF. These address national priorities in line with the overall results of FAO's Strategic Framework, facilitating links to country level action as reflected in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. And other joint UN Frameworks in a clear chain.

Increased FAO's involvement in UN coordination at the country level, the Organization insured that FAO country representatives and staff fully participate in UN country teams including leading thematic groups. FAO also continues to support the Delivering as One pilot initiatives and related independent evaluation advocating the strategic role that specialized agencies play and insuring the technical quality of One UN programmes.

Looking forward towards the implementation of the 2012 QCPR, important elements for FAO include: Development of the UNDG standard operating procedures for Delivering as One. As a result of the independent evaluation, the 2012 QCPR resolution has granted inter-governmental recognition to the Delivery as One, DAO approach though it remains a voluntary action.

The UN Development Group, the UNDG is currently formulating a set of DAO standard operating procedures, SOPs for UN country teams. FAO is contributing to the formulation of the SOPs and had already started integrating DAO best practices in its policies and procedures.

In line with the TCPR and QCPR principles of national ownership and of no one size fits all, the SOPs should keep the DAO approach flexible allowing for governments and UNCTs to agree on which component to implement and to which extent.

Two points are particularly relevant for FAO. There should be no automatic substitution of agency specific instruments such as the country programming framework by either the UNDAF or the UN One Programme. Since the former FAO CPF addresses sector specific priorities in response to constituent's demands, the joint resource mobilization approach should be kept adaptable to country circumstances without conditionality for agencies to give up individual resource mobilization at country level in order to maximize the funds access for relevant fields of UN by all UN Agencies.

FAO's participation in the resident coordinator system including the co-financing, the UNDG principles have agreed on a modality for system wide cost sharing of the resident coordinator system by all UNDG Member entities starting in 2014.

This decision was taken on 4 April 2013 in Madrid at the margin of the Chief Executive Board's meeting. The co-sharing modality agreed will be based on a global funding scenario of USD 121 million with USD 33 million to be cost shared by UNDG Members.

Thanks to FAO's participation in the interagency discussions under the leadership of the Office for Support for Decentralization, the originally proposed amount of USD 152 million was lowered by USD 31 million. FAO's estimated share of the total amount is expected to be around USD 2 million per year therefore slightly less than what initially was documented in the Conference document C 2013/28 in front of you. Any commitment on the side of FAO will have to be approved by the Governing Bodies.

In conclusion, the overall message of the QCPR is clear. The Member States would like to see a strong UN Development System which is strategically relevant, nimble and ready and able to help deliver sustainable development results.

The resolution reaffirms the eradication of poverty as the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. FAO is fully committed to the UN Reform Agenda noting that an inclusive and effective agenda will need to consider the strategic thinking processes and Reform Agendas of the Specialized Agencies.

M. François PYTHOUD (Suisse)

La Suisse remercie le Secrétariat du Rapport intermédiaire qui met en lumière le suivi apporté par la FAO aux résolutions de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies relatives aux activités opérationnelles de développement du système onusien. Nous appuyons l'engagement systématique de la FAO dans la mise en œuvre de ces résolutions et nous soutenons la participation active de cette Organisation au groupe d'actions de haut niveau du système des Nations Unies sur la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. La Suisse s'est fortement engagée en 2012 pour l'adoption par consensus de tous les États Membres de la résolution sur l'Examen quadriennal complet des activités opérationnelles du système des Nations Unies en faveur du développement (QCPR/ Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review). Cette résolution fournit un cadre normatif aux efforts d'amélioration de l'efficacité du système onusien dans son ensemble. Les fonds et programmes sont les plus immédiatement touchés par la résolution du QCPR, mais cette dernière vise aussi les organisations spécialisées et l'ensemble des institutions onusiennes qui participent aux efforts de coordination et en tirent des bénéfices concrets sur les plans normatifs et opérationnels. Un des éléments importants du QCPR est la claire affirmation de la volonté des États Membres de renforcer le système du coordonnateur résident, ce qui permettra une meilleure coordination inter-agences et un dialogue plus cohérent et structuré avec les gouvernements des pays bénéficiaires.

Il est dès lors, important que la FAO se joigne aux discussions qui seront menées sur la mise en œuvre de la résolution QCPR et sur le futur des plans-cadres du Groupe des Nations Unies pour le développement tout en gardant son autonomie opérationnelle.

À l'horizon 2016, il est probable que la FAO devra supporter les coûts supplémentaires liés au co-financement du système de coordonnateurs résidents. Nous proposons dès lors, à cet effet, qu'une partie des ressources du budget ordinaire de la FAO, qui proviendront des gains d'efficacité attendus en 2014-2015, soient affectés au financement du système de coordonnateurs résidents.

Nous prions aussi le Secrétariat de mener la réflexion quant à l'opportunité de créer une ligne budgétaire spécifique à cette fin. S'agissant de l'exercice biennal 2014-2015, nous encourageons vivement le Secrétariat à participer ces prochains mois aux discussions sur ce sujet afin que les intérêts et préoccupations de la FAO soient dûment pris en compte.

La Suisse, de plus, souhaite que le Secrétariat informe les États Membres de l'avancement de ces discussions d'ici la fin de cette année.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We strongly endorse the comprehensive policy review process of the operational activities of the UN System as concerted action from both the UN System and the Member Nations is a fundamental prerequisite for a system-wide coherence in order to provide efficient and effective support for the implementation of national development efforts.

Furthermore, we appreciate the present report which gives information about the Secretariat's efforts to implement the principles on functioning and coordination of the UN System at the country level as laid down in the relevant UN General Assembly Resolutions, including the most recent one, QCPR 67/226 from December 2012 as the resolutions are cumulative.

By the latest QCPR, particular emphasis has been given to strengthening of the resident coordinator system and we expect FAO to further fully support and implement the proposed measures. The present work of further capacity development for FAO's regional offices is vital and a good response to Resolution 67/226, paragraph 124.

We encourage FAO to continue and further engage in the UN development group and in all relevant regional and national groups and networks, in particular UN country teams. We support FAO's steps towards implementation of the management and accountability system of the UN development and the regional committee system and look forward to being kept updated on the impact of this in the individual performance evaluation and management system agreements, as well as on the gender parameters.

We would also appreciate information on the implementation of Resolution 67/226, paragraph 130C, i.e. the mutual assessments being made on a system-wide basis. As there will now be a country programming framework for the large majority of countries, we expect FAO to integrate the relevant activities into the UN development assistance framework.

With the new matrix organization being fully operational from the first of January 2014, we ask that the Secretariat describe how the QCPR work will be structured from that date. As part of the global integration of UN implementation work, it is vital that the Secretariat continue and reinforce its good work on food security and nutrition in the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals.

Evaluations at the correct times are essential to following up implementation and to formulate improvements. Several excellent in-depth evaluations and management responses have been useful for the deliberations of the Programme Committee.

We are presently in the round of large regional evaluations, the overall result of which will be available to the Conference in 2015. In order for this work to continue smoothly, we underline the importance of the timely recruitment of a new Director of Evaluations.

Looking at gender, FAO has previously fallen into the trap of believing the gender equality objectives can be delivered only by gender experts and focal points. We would like to underline that capacity development is necessary in order for all staff to incorporate gender responsibility into their work with the understanding that gender issues involve both men and women.

Table one provides a keyhole view on how the FAO contributes to the resident coordinator system. The Secretariat needs to get to grips with the total picture for all decentralized offices. The funding of UN coordination is critical. The financing of the resident coordinator system must be secured in order to achieve the goals of the QCPR.

It was only a couple of months ago that the UN development group, chief executives board, reached an agreement on how this financing is to be handled by the UN system. As was pointed out in the background document for this agenda item, the core sharing agreement in the case of FAO means that FAO's share is estimated to be between five to USD 6 million per biennium. In this case, FAO as a UNDG Member has an obligation to the UNDG and to the other Agencies involved.

We therefore advocate that the required amount to be further clarified in relevant inter-agency discussions should be included in full in the Programme for Work and Budget for 2014-2015, as FAO's contribution to the coordination of UN activities, in particular the financing of the resident coordinator system. We thank the Secretariat for the good background paper and look forward to continued discussions around the UN System to further increase its effectiveness and efficiency.

Ms Nina MOSSEBY (Norway)

The Norwegian Delegation appreciates the thorough and interesting report on the operational activities for development in the UN system provided in the document C 2013/28. It is of great interest and note from the report that voluntary contributions to finance FAO's operational activities are increasing. This demonstrates that there is trust in the Organization's ability to deliver useful services to the Member Countries.

We have also taken note of paragraph nine in the document where it is stated that improved partnership with other organizations within the United Nations family has resulted in quadrupling of funds mobilized by the Organization under multi-partner trust funds in the last biennium.

We are further encouraged to see that these multi-partner trust funds are increasingly being adopted for development related purposes as a result of the delivering as one initiative. Norway has been a staunch supporter of this initiative and we have been encouraged by reading paragraph 252 of the PWB document where FAO supported delivering as one as a main Member for UN coordination at country level as stated.

Chair, for the UN system to be able to deliver services effectively and efficiently in line with developing countries' needs, the UN development group and its coordinating mechanisms play an important role. We appreciate that FAO has taken an active part in this system as reflected in paragraph 16 and 17 of the document in front of us.

The UN Resident Coordinator System is an essential part of this system at country level. The QCPR resolution calls for funds, programmes, and special agencies to contribute to strengthening the funding of the resident coordinator system. It is important for all agencies including FAO to go along with this recommendation. It is therefore with surprise we learn in paragraph 56 of the document that there is no provision for this in the 2014-15 PWB.

We would like to receive explanation on why such a provision has not been made. Continuing supporting the system on an ad-hoc basis from country representations is not contributing to more predictable funding as required, neither is support given through accounting of staff times sufficient response to the resolution.

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNANDEZ ESPERON (Cuba)

Cuba le brinda la mayor importancia a la relevancia que tiene la revisión cuatrienal sobre las actividades operacionales en la reafirmación de los principios que guían las actividades del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, para fortalecer su carácter intergubernamental y su objetivo ligado estrictamente

al desarrollo. Los países del sur, que son los beneficiarios de la cooperación de los organismos internacionales, necesitan instituciones internacionales útiles que dispongan de recursos crecientes y no condicionados, necesarios para fomentar el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos. Necesitamos instituciones que respondan de manera flexible y neutral a las características de nuestros países y a las diversas modalidades de cooperación que estos decidan implementar. Necesitamos que se respeten los mandatos, autoridad y características de cada entidad de Naciones Unidas, para que no proliferen las diferencias ni los conflictos de intereses entre estas. Cuba continúa desarrollando el proceso de actualización de su modelo económico que le permitirá adaptarse mejor a las difíciles condiciones de nuestro tiempo. Como parte de lo que hacemos, conjuntamente con la FAO en la definición de áreas de trabajo, recientemente firmamos el marco de programación de país 2013-2018. Nos alegra mucho contar con una organización como la FAO, preocupada por apoyar los esfuerzos nacionales de desarrollo a través de una adecuada implementación de las actividades operacionales de las Naciones Unidas.

Mr Alexandr OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original Language Russian)

I would like to thank you for the report submitted by the FAO's Secretariat on this agenda item. Indeed, this is a very important and difficult topic. Russia attaches great importance to the report on the operational activities for development of the UN systems and this in response to the UNGA input on what used to be a triennial cycle and will from now on be quadrennial.

We believe that the whole series of most recent recommendations are already incorporated in the activities of the Rome-based Organizations. In the FAO activities, in particular, there is a lot of attention to the comprehensive inputs, both in the regular and the voluntary budget and also the transfer of the financial powers for onsite activities. Here, we could also fully refer to the partnership with the civilian and private sector.

We have received references to the interaction between the three Rome-based Organizations. We would also like to applaud the interaction between the FAO and the regional commissions.

Mr Juan Manuel CAMMARANO (United States of America)

The United States welcomes this report and encourages the FAO management to continue to work towards achieving the United Nations General Assembly Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review Resolutions. Contribution to improved UN coordination at country level is one way that FAO can increase the efficiency and effective delivery of its Programme of Work and its value for money.

CHAIRPERSON

Commission I takes note of FAO's progress in the implementation of the triennial policy review cycle and of the new elements included in the quadrennial policy review cycle.

Ms Yuriko SHOJI (Director, Office of Support to Decentralization)

I would like to thank the Members for their valuable comments and on the support to the Resident Coordinator System. I would like to add that, in addition to both the contribution in kind and the cost sharing which is already taking place in small measures at the country level, FAO is actively organizing to have direct participation of our staff members as Resident Coordinators through identifying the talent, providing capacity development, and going through the assessment.

On the budget, I would just like to add that the share of the amount of the cost sharing for FAO has been further revised to 4 million by the biennium, so around USD 2 million per year. On the issue on gender, I think my colleague would like to make some additional comments.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

FAO is a very, very strong player in the whole of the UN system, at the global level, UNDG, and other regional and very much so at the country level through the UNCT. Just to compliment what my colleague Yuriko just said, in terms of the funding for the RC system, it was just decided last April in Madrid, so that didn't give us time to incorporate it in the Program of Work and Budget for the next biennium which had already been presented to you and different opportunities had already gone through the Finance Committee and Program Committee.

So we could not do that. That was Norway's comment or question which was why is it not there already. Then of course given that we take this with very high importance, we will naturally put it into the following budgets as soon as possible.

Now, there was a specific question regarding the gender issues and as I would like to emphasize the importance we give to gender issues. For us, every single person in the Organization is responsible for delivering on the gender issues of his or her Program of Work. The way that we ensure that this happens is through a very clear accountability system that goes through the performance evaluations of every staff member and we provide capacity development to each and every one of the staff members, men and women naturally.

All of the managers have in their PEMS and they are accountable for ensuring that the whole of their unit and every single person in their unit does address gender issues and that has to be reflected in the results of the Organization in a measurable way, so we have a very clear accountability system to address that. We are also working together with the rest of the UN system on a capacity development tool that will be obligatory for every single staff member, and we hope that we can also extend that to even people aspiring to work in FAO and why not in the whole of the UN.

Gender equality is one of the principles of the UN. It is even in the UN Charter and therefore people, even aspiring to work for the whole of the UN system, this is something we discuss constantly with our sister agencies, I should be able to demonstrate a minimum, maybe even a minimum gender competence to apply to work in the UN System.

Now the people who are already working in FAO have gone through training. We are ensuring that they all have training. We are developing an e-learning and other ways of addressing gender competency, so as to come up with a FAO-wide gender competency. So thank you for your comments. We would like to reassure you that we take that area very, very seriously.

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I agrees with the proposal to request another progress report at the next session? It is so decided, and that completes Item 14.

The meeting was suspended from 17.15 to 17.50 hours

La séance est suspendue de 17 h 15 à 17 h 50

Se suspende la sesión de las 17.15 a las 17.50

15. Report of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

(15-19 April 2013)

15. Rapport de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture

(15-19 avril 2013)

15. Informe de la Comisión de Recursos Genéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura

(15-19 de abril de 2013)

(C 2013/29)

CHAIRPERSON

Now we'll move on to Item 15, Report of the 14th regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The relevant document is C 2013/29. I would like to give the floor to Mr Arni Mathiesen, Assistant Director-General of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, to introduce the item.

Mr Arni MATHIESEN (Assistant Director-General Fisheries and Aquaculture Department)

The Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture held its Fourth Regular Session from 15 to 19 April this year. Delegates from more than 100 countries and from many observer organizations participated in this session showing the continued interest of Member Countries, partner organizations and of the public in general in the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Commission, with its broad scope covering all genetic resources for food and agriculture, be it plant, animal, forest, aquatic, microorganisms or invertebrate genetic resource, had a very successful

session. Constructive discussions were held and countries showed to be determined to join forces for the protection of one of the earth's most important resources.

The Commission at this session made remarkable progress on a number of issues. Given the limited time I should like to mention just a few of them. The Commission agreed on the Global Plan of Action for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources. The Commission reviewed and devised this Action Plan and asked the Conference to adopt it.

My colleague Mr Eduardo Mansur, Director of Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division in representation of Mr Eduardo Rojas, Assistant Director-General of the Forest Department will provide you with more details on the Global Plan of Action.

Please allow me to stress the close collaboration between FAO's Forestry and Natural Resources and Environment Departments has been crucial to facilitate the Commission's work on this important global instrument.

The Commission revised and adopted the Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture 2014-2023 and agreed to advance the launch of the Second Report on Animal Genetic Resources by two years to 2015.

The Commission adopted a Programme of Work on climate change and genetic resources for food and agriculture. The Commission requested its integral technical working groups on animals, forest and plant genetic resources to prepare in collaboration with up to 14 experts nominated by FAO's regions, draft elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit sharing arrangements for different sub-sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

The Commission requested FAO to develop guidelines for mainstreaming biodiversity in the policies, programmes and national and regional plans of actions on nutrition.

Finally, the Commission stressed the importance of adequate, stable and predictable financial resources being made available for all sectors of genetic resources in a strategic manner over the coming years and it invited FAO to continue to mobilize extra budgetary resources for work in these areas.

Madam Chair, with your permission I should now like to pass the floor to my colleague, Mr Eduardo Mansur in representation of Mr Rojas and he will report on the Global Plan of Action for the conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.

Mr Eduardo MANSUR (Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division)

Already in 1967 at its 14th Session the Conference recognized the importance of forest genetic diversity and requested establishment of a panel of experts on forest genetic resources to help plan and coordinate FAO's efforts to explore, utilize and conserve forest genetic resources.

FAO's activities in forest genetic resources are an integral part of the FAO Forest Program and contribute to other programme components, such as sustainable forest management, plantation development and tree breeding.

In 2007, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture included genetic resource activities into its Multi-year Programme of Work. This development drew attention to the importance of the team and helped focus the Forestry Department's contribution to FAO's cross-sector work on biodiversity and genetic resources which is emphasized in the new Strategic Framework of the Organization.

The Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources presented to the Conference for adoption is based on strategic priorities for action elaborated by the Inter-Governmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources. I would like to mention a few points regarding its nature.

The Global Plan of Action is voluntary and non-binding and should not be interpreted or implemented in contradiction with existing national legislations and international agreements. The Global Plan of

Action constitutes a rolling document that can be updated. The relative priority of its strategic priority and associated actions may differ significantly in different countries and regions.

The 27 strategic priorities of the Global Plan of Action are relevant to the national, regional and international levels and are grouped in four priority areas which are: improving the availability of and access to information on forest genetic resources, conservation of forest genetic resources, sustainable use development and management of forest genetic resources, policies, institutions and capacity building.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the EU Croatia and the candidate countries to the EU Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We wish to thank the Secretariat for providing this Report. It is evident from the Report that the work of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture hereafter referred to as the Commission, has increased significantly from its inception in 1983. In this regard, we support the adoption of the Strategic Plan 2014-2023 for the Commission.

We support the Commission's request to review and revise its budget. We urge FAO to continue providing regular programme funds and technical advice to properly support the Commission's work. We would also like to underline the importance of strengthening arrangements with the relevant international organizations to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

We welcome the Commission's recommendation on the multi-year Programme of Work including timelines for the finalization of the Report on the state of the world's forest genetic resources and the agreement on the strategic priorities for action for forest genetic resources as a Global Plan of Action for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources to be adopted by the Conference.

We support the launch of the Report on the state of the world's biodiversity for food and agriculture. Furthermore we look forward to FAO's work on aquatic genetic resources and in microorganisms and invertebrates.

We support the Report's content on access and benefit sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture and especially the request for increased collaboration with the Secretariat of the convention on biodiversity. Given the Commission's expertise for genetic resources for food and agriculture in order to ensure complimentary and coherence between the work of both fora, in view of the entry into forests of the Nagoya protocol.

We look forward to continuing the discussions on the basis of the Secretariat's work on the distinctive features of the genetic resources for food and agriculture in practices, initiatives and instruments of relevance to the sub-sectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

We agree with the Report's contents regarding the status and profile of the Commission. We are also of the opinion that the profile of the Commission should be raised and that the work of the Commission and its various technical working groups should be brought to the widest possible audience. In particular, we see the need to develop connections between the Commission and the recently established inter-governmental platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services. As in the future, the platform should become an important partner contributing to the work of the Commission.

Finally, the EU reiterates its full support for the International Treaty on Planned Genetic Resources as well as the Nagoya protocol and calls upon parties that have not done so to ratify both.

M. François PYTHOUD (Suisse)

Nous aimerions tout d'abord remercier le Secrétariat pour leur rapport sur les résultats de la quatorzième session ordinaire de la Commission des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture. Cette année est une année importante pour la Commission puisqu'elle fête ses 30 ans d'existence.

La Suisse se félicite des progrès qui ont été accomplis au cours de ces trente ans pour la conservation et l'utilisation durable de la biodiversité agricole au service de la sécurité alimentaire et de l'agriculture durable. En ce qui concerne, le contenu du rapport lui-même, nous souhaitons en particulier relever les avancées dans le secteur des ressources zoogénétiques à travers la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action mondial adopté lors de la Conférence Interlaken en 2007.

Nous sommes très satisfaits, car pour la première fois, dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de ce Plan d'action, 13 projets ont pu être sélectionnés, lancés et financés par la stratégie de financement.

La Suisse est favorable à un renforcement de la collaboration avec la Convention sur la diversité biologique, dans le cadre notamment des actions engagées pour atteindre les objectifs d'Aichi pour la biodiversité pertinents d'ici à 2020. Par exemple, la FAO dispose déjà avec DAD-IS d'un outil performant pour l'évaluation et le monitoring de l'objectif d'Aichi 13 pour le maintien de la diversité des animaux de ferme. DAD-IS a été développé avec le soutien des États Membres. Il est aujourd'hui critique que la FAO mette à disposition les ressources en personnel nécessaires pour assurer son fonctionnement sur le long terme. La collaboration avec la CBD doit également être poursuivie dans l'optique du soutien aux États pour la mise en œuvre efficace du Protocole de Nagoya sur l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation et ce, dans le secteur des ressources génétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture.

La Suisse accueille avec satisfaction le fait que la Commission ait décidé de lancer les travaux de préparation du premier « État de la biodiversité pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture dans le monde ». En prenant en considération toutes les composantes de la biodiversité agricole, y compris les écosystèmes, ce rapport sera une contribution critique pour le suivi et l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre des objectifs d'Aichi.

Finalement la Suisse soutient l'adoption du Plan d'action mondial pour la conservation, l'utilisation durable et la mise en valeur des ressources génétiques forestières.

Mr Daryl NEARING (Canada)

Canada is pleased to welcome the Report of the Commission's 14th Session. The Commission continues to serve Members of the FAO in enhancing the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture to improve crop cultivars, breeds of farm animals and strains of agricultural microorganisms that are needed by producers.

We agree that Conference should adopt the first Global Plan of Action for the conservation, sustainable use and development of forest genetic resources.

Lastly, Canada was honoured to Chair this Session of the Commission and we are gratified to recognize the many useful results that it achieved.

Mr Alexandr OKHANOV (Russian Federation) (Original language Russian)

The Russian Federation first and foremost would like to support all of the previous delegations who have spoken on this question and the delegation from Ireland which spoke on behalf of the European Union.

Indeed, the Russian Federation supports the work that has been carried out as part of the 14th Regular Session of the Committee on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. For us the adoption of a Global Plan of Action for the Sustainable Use and Development of Forestry Resources is very important and that's because as I am sure you understand Russia has a great wealth of forestry resources and therefore for us, this is a subject that is certainly of great importance. It is important including in the context of genetic resources.

At the same time, we would also like to welcome the beginning of the development of a Report on the State of Genetic Resources in Terms of Water Resources. We think that this is also a very important subject and it is one which needs to be worked on in close cooperation with the Committee on Fisheries and working on aquaculture generally within FAO is something we need to continue.

The Russian Federation also supports the adoption of a multi-annual plan and a strategic plan for the period ahead.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Mi delegación desea agradecer la labor de la Secretaría y la presentación de este documento. Con relación al documento C2013/29 que recoge el Informe de la 14 Sesión de la Comisión, mi Delegación desea solicitar que se enmiende una de las referencias mencionadas en la nota al pie número 25 que debería decir CGRFA-14/13/Inf.16 Rev.1; pues el documento mencionado fue revisado durante la 14 sesión de la Comisión. Con esta enmienda, Argentina puede refrendar el informe.

Ms Sagung Mirah Ratna DEWI (Indonesia)

We welcome to the Report on the 14th Regular Session of CGRFA and thank the Commission for the excellent Report and comprehensive Report of the genetic resource issues in the session.

Indonesia recognizes the importance of genetic resources to face the global challenge of food security and climate change especially in the developing countries.

We also recognize three genetic resources we'll be facing due to among others the narrow genetic diversity food base, the climate change and the population pressure as one of the mega biodiversity countries, we therefore welcome and continuously support the work of the Commission in guiding us in our efforts to conserve a sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

As indicated in the Report, there are many challenges ahead of us that require hard work and full commitment. The preparation of biodiversity animal, forest, aquatic genetic resources as well as the implementation of the Global Action Plan in animal, plant and forest genetic resources will certainly require expertise, hard work and funding.

We request to FAO to pay particular attention on the capacity of developing countries where most of genetic resources are originated to prepare such Report and implement the Action Plan.

On the other matter, we particularly welcome to intention of the Commission to closely cooperate with the international community for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. Indonesia is a strong supporter of the treaty and has successfully hosted the four sessions of the Governing Body of the treaty in 2011.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite the Excellencies, Ministers responsible for agriculture of the FAO Member Countries to the Third High-Level Round Table Meeting of the ITPGRFA to be held in Bandung, Indonesia, on 2 July 2013. This will be a good forum for us to solve some issues on the Treaty that need high-level commitment.

Mr Pedro Henrique BRANCANTE MACHADO (Brazil)

Brazil would like to begin by thanking the Secretariat for the presentation and we express our support and our endorsement to the final Report of the Commission, as well as to the adoption of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservations that we'll use for genetic resources.

We commend the Commission for its achievements at its last session which very importantly celebrated its 30th anniversary. Brazil believes the Commission plays an important role in international governance of genetic resources for food and agriculture. We also highlight the relevance of its current work on ABS access and benefit-sharing for genetic resources for food and agriculture. Always in cooperation with both the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Nagoya Protocol of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We look forward to achieving meaningful results in this area at the Commission's next session. To achieve this, as well as all the other challenging objectives, we all said to the Commission that we need adequate participation as well as achieving adequate participation from developing countries in the intersessional process. It is of utmost importance that there be provisions of adequate, predictable resources, especially from the Regular Programme in FAO.

Ms Laura SCHWEITZER-MEINS (United States of America)

I just have a request: if we may hear once again the request for changes to the report by Argentina. This was not quite clear.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Tal vez habría que darle la palabra a la Secretaría para que aclare este tema.

Ms Linda COLLETTE (Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture)

We have been asked to amend the report on page 11. "Rev.1" should be added in the footnote after "CGRFA-14/13/Inf.16".

I would like to thank everyone for their comments, those who provided comments. I think it illustrates the support that the countries are putting towards the genetic resources and the effort and the importance of the Commission. We'll take note of the amendment requested by Argentina.

I would like to say also that in order to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Commission, we will have a side event on Thursday at 18.00 hours in the Iran Room. We welcome everyone to be there where people are going to express their views regarding the Commission, its 30th Anniversary, what we have achieved, and I hope that it is a place to celebrate the work of the Commission.

Mr Eduardo MANSUR (Director, Forest Assessment, Management and Conservation Division)

The Secretariat would like to welcome very much the support received on the preparation of the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development for Genetic Resources and it very much appreciates the comments and the support received for this Commission.

We would like to recognize the financial support provided by Norway, Sweden, Spain, and Germany for the work developed especially by the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group for Genetic Resources, which resulted in one of the largest meetings of forest geneticists that was held here in Rome and generated the report that has been submitted to you.

Thank you very much for the support received by all of these countries, all of these experts, and for the wise conduction of Canada who was chairing the session when it was approved.

CHAIRPERSON

Commission I welcomes the report of the Commission's 14th Regular Session. Can I take it that Commission I agrees with the proposal to adopt the Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources?

It is so decided. That completes Item 15.

16. International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides**16. Code international de conduite pour la distribution et l'utilisation des pesticides****16. Código Internacional de Conducta para la Distribución y Utilización de Plaguicidas**

(C 2013/30; C 2013/LIM/3)

CHAIRPERSON

We now continue with Item 16, International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The relevant documents are C 2013/30; C 2013/LIM/3. I would like to give the floor to the Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, Mr Clayton Campanhola, to introduce the item.

Mr Clayton Campanhola (Director of Plant Production and Protection Division)

The Plant Production and Protection Division of FAO is pleased to place before you a revised version of the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management for adoption by the Conference.

The Code of Conduct provides a voluntary framework for the lifecycle management of pesticides. It is accepted by governments, the private sector, and civil society, and it has been identified as one of the most widely used, invaluable tools in chemical management globally. The code was last revised in 2002 and the revision before you reflects the latest developments and thinking in the management of pesticides including direction from FAO's own Governing Bodies in other international forums such as the strategic approach to international chemicals management, the Rotterdam and the

Stockholm conventions, and globally harmonized systems for the classification and labeling of chemicals and the International Labour Organization.

The new code also strengthens the manner in which it addresses pesticide use in public health as well as the health and environmental impacts of pesticides. In doing so, the revision response to expressions of interest from WHO and the UNEP to have the code adopted by their respective Governing Bodies. The resolution before you includes a recommendation to invite WHO and UNEP to adopt the code.

The process of revising the text of the code has been extensive and exhaustive. It was discussed by FAO and WHO expert panels on pesticide management and joint meetings on pesticide management in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011 with intersessional exchanges advancing the process.

In May 2012, discussion at the 23rd Committee on Agriculture agreed on a process for comprehensive consultation on the proposal revision and finalization of the consensus text. The process was concluded with a joint meeting of the COAG bureau, an FAO/WHO joint meeting on pesticide management in October 2012 which also included representatives of the private sector and civil society.

The revision was agreed upon by all participants. That version of the code was presented to the 145th FAO Council meeting in December 2012 which recommended endorsement of the code by the 38th Session of Conference. We have taken note of the discussion and report of the 145th Council meeting that asked or translation of the new Code of Conduct text to be carefully checked for accuracy and consistency, particularly in relation to technical terminology. This has been done for the Code of Conduct to be published following Conference approval.

A detailed description of the rational process applied to the revision is provided in document C 2013/30, while the resolution to be considered by the Conference together with the text of the code is in document C/2013/LIM/3. Having received valuable guidance and support from the Committee on Agriculture and the approval of Council, we are pleased to bring this matter for the decision on the part of this Conference. The Plant Production Protection Division is looking forward to advancing work on pesticide management whose importance to sustain the classification of agricultural production, health, and environmental protection, and food safety and trade have been highlighted by so many Member Nations and other stakeholders.

I thank you for your attention and ask for your support for the resolution before you.

Ms Laurence ARGIMON PISTRE (European Union)

I am honored to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

The EU and its Member States endorse the resolution adopting the updated International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides on the understanding that certain remaining comments made by the EU and its Member States at the 145th Council Session in December 2012 be considered in future revisions of the Code. The EU and its Member States welcome the updated Code as a very important framework for helping countries to implement lifecycle approach to the management of pesticides. We will strive at implementing and using it as a reference in all of our regulatory activities concerning pesticides, in particular to adopt integrated pest management, integrated bacteria management, IPM, IBP practices in order to halve environmental risks associated with the distribution and use of pesticides. Finally, the EU and its Member States would encourage pursuing integration and concrete interaction of the three involved UN Bodies, namely FAO, WHO, and UNEP, with the view of an efficient implementation of the Code of Conduct.

Ms Laura SCHWEITZER-MEINS (United States of America)

The Code of Conduct has long been a cornerstone of international collaborative work in the public and private sectors to promote sound pesticide management, and its voluntary implementation complements other international and multi-national agreements and programmes. The United States

shares FAO's commitment to the promotion of the long-term viability of agriculture production in conjunction with public health and environmental protections.

Further, the expansion of the Code's scope to include pesticides used for public health purposes is commendable and reflects the constructive contributions of the World Health Organization to this activity.

The United States strives for allegiance to the principles of scientific integrity as the basis for decisions, and transparency is the foundation for a credible decision-making process. Our domestic processes allow opportunities for robust stakeholder participation consistent with appropriate legal frameworks as well as complete documentation and evaluation of public comments.

We believe these principles to be the key to ensuring that all countries, especially developing countries, have comprehensive and accurate information that support safer pesticide use, practices, and risk-based decision-making, appropriate to their circumstances.

The United States can at this time endorse the code as is and recommend its adoption by the Conference. We also concur with the proposed change in its name.

Mr Pedro Henrique BRANCANTE MACHADO (Brazil)

Brazil would like to thank the Secretariat for the presentation and express its support to the approval of the Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. In line with the suggested action to be taken by the Conference in document C2013/30, Brazil would like to stress the need for continued discussions in COAG about possible strategies to promote greater participation of civil society and the private sector in the implementation of the Code.

Sr. Jorge Enrique FERNANDEZ ESPERON (Cuba)

La Delegación Cubana desea reconocer el trabajo que realizó la mesa del Comité de Agricultura, para alcanzar el consenso entorno a este texto, como culminación de un largo proceso de negociación.

Cuba apoya la aprobación del texto. La actualización del Código permite tomar en cuenta nuevos conceptos en el manejo de plaguicidas, resultando esto muy útil, especialmente para los países en desarrollo con vistas a lograr Prácticas Agrícolas Sostenibles sin peligro para la salud humana y el medio ambiente.

Sra. Andrea REPETTI (Argentina)

Mi Delegación también está en condiciones de aprobar el Código.

Sr. Mario ARVELO CAAMAÑO (Presedente del Comité de Agricultura)

Yo quiero tomar la palabra como Presidente del Comité de Agricultura, para llamar la atención de todos sobre el extraordinario trabajo realizado por un magnifico equipo de profesionales aquí en esta casa. El Señor Matt Davis, que está aquí a mi izquierda, y su equipo de trabajo en el área de pesticidas. El Secretario de Comité de Agricultura, Doctor Robert Grey y a su equipo también. A los Oficiales del área legal, Marta Prado y Carmen Bullón. A la mesa del COAG no pude dejar de ver que fue justamente uno de los miembros de la mesa, el Señor François Pythoud de Suiza, quien fue el primero en comenzar la aprobación que ha hecho la Conferencia de este nuevo Código de Conducta. Los Miembros de la mesa estuvieron trabajando día y noche hasta lograr el compromiso de este documento que ustedes han aprobado. A las intervenciones que se han producido aquí sobre la naturaleza de este Código de Conducta, quiero recordarles - para tranquilizarles y para que todos lo sepan y consten en las actas de esta Reunión – que el Código de Conducta es un instrumento vivo. Es un instrumento que está basado en la ciencia y la ciencia no tiene verdades últimas.

La ciencia se mueve hacia adelante a medida que el conocimiento humano va progresando y ya hay toda una serie de comentarios que el Señor Davis – del Secretariado de la FAO – tiene ya en sus manos para la próxima interacción de este documento. Esta es la quinta versión del Código de Conducta en dos décadas de vida. Comentarios de la Unión Europea, de Chile, de China, de Japón, de Uruguay y de otros países ya obran en manos de la Secretaria, y los que continúen llegando van a formar parte de este nuevo Código de Conducta.

La FAO, como foro neutral para reunir expertos en temas técnicos, ha cumplido de nuevo el trabajo que los Países Miembros le han encomendado. Hemos trabajado, como ha dicho el Señor Campanhola, con el sector privado, con la sociedad civil, con la academia, con los centros de investigación, con las asociaciones de productoresY, por supuesto, con expertos en la materia, tanto en el Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, como de la Organización Mundial de la Salud y de otras agencias del sistema.

Los pesticidas son una de las columnas fundamentales de la intensificación sostenible de la producción agroalimentaria y es una de las bases con las cuales vamos a alcanzar la erradicación del hambre y la malnutrición.

Muchas gracias por la confianza que han puesto en nosotros y la confianza que todos hemos puesto en la FAO y continuamos adelante.

CHAIRPERSON

I call upon all Members and civil society and private sector organizations to implement the updated Code of Conduct and use it as a reference in all of their activities. This completes item 15 and if there are no further requests, I would like to conclude on this item and thank you all very much for your contributions, and we shall meet again tomorrow morning at 9:30.

The meeting rose at 18.32 hours

La séance est levée à 18 h 32

Se levanta la sesión a las 18.32 horas

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session Trente-huitième session 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
FOURTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I QUATRIEME REUNION DE LA COMMISSION I CUARTA TERCERA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
19 June 2013

The Fourth Meeting was opened at 10.02 hours
Ms Nomatemba Tambo,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La quatrième séance est ouverte à 10 h 02
sous la présidence de Mme Nomatemba Tambo,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la cuarta reunion a las 10.02
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Nomatemba Tambo,
Presidente de la Comisión I

17. Preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition ICN-2**17. Préparatifs de la deuxième Conférence internationale sur la nutrition (CIN-2)****17. Preparativos para la segunda Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición (CIN-2)**
(C 2013/31)**CHAIRPERSON**

So we will start with Item 17, Preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition, ICN2. The relevant document is C 2013/31. I would like to give the floor to the Assistant Director-General of the Economic and Social Development Department, Mr Jomo Sundaram, to introduce the Item.

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

It is my pleasure to present the document C 2013/31, preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition or ICN2.

This document provides information on preparations for holding the Conference in FAO Headquarters in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014. It contains information on the background to the Conference making reference to the 1992 First International Conference on Nutrition and to the progress made in nutrition since, problems that remain and new challenges and opportunities for improving nutrition.

The document describes the key objectives, scope and expected outcomes of ICN2, preparatory activities so far and activities to be undertaken including the preparatory technical meeting in November 2013.

Linkages between ICN2 and other events and activities are mentioned. Jointly organized by FAO and WHO in collaboration with several UN and other organizations, ICN2 will be a high-level inter-governmental ministerial Conference on nutrition which seeks the proposed flexible and appropriate policy framework to adequately address major nutrition challenges and to identify priorities for international cooperation on nutrition in the years ahead.

ICN2 will bring together senior national policy makers from agriculture, health and other relevant ministries and agencies with leaders of United Nations agencies and other Inter-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society including researchers, Non-Governmental Organizations, the private sector and consumer associations to identify policy priorities on how national and global food, health and related systems and reforms can improve nutritional outcomes.

As further political and policy coherence alignment coordination and cooperation among food, agriculture, health and other sectors are urgently needed to improve the global nutrition situation, ICN2 is a proactive global, political and policy response to malnutrition challenges.

It will consider changes in the global economy food systems, advances in science and technology, and new options for improving nutrition. Conference preparations will also contribute to the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and insure a higher degree of policy coherence at global, regional, national and sub-national levels and seek to enhance global partnership for development at all levels including implementation of the Zero Hunger Challenge.

In preparation for ICN2, a preparatory technical meeting will be held at FAO Headquarters from 13 to 15 November this year which will feed into and inform the Conference in November 2014.

The Conference is invited to comment on actions taken and propose for the preparation organization of ICN2. This includes organizing the programme for the high-level ICN2 Conference in 2014 around themes identified by the preparatory technical meeting.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

Ms Nina MOSSEBY (Norway)

My Delegation welcomes the information given in the document before us and the presentation given here today on the ongoing preparations for next year's Second International Conference on Nutrition.

We concur with the analysis on nutrition trends since the last Conference in 1992. We have some comments and questions though regarding the suggested action by the Conference as spelled out on the first page of the document.

We suggest that other important global frameworks and processes could be highlighted in addition to those suggested by the Secretariat. Allow me to explain why I would like to suggest a broadened scope of the box.

We note that Non-communicable Diseases (NCDs) are mentioned in part five of the document, however there is no mention of the follow-up or the Declaration on NCDs adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2011 nor the NCDs global monitoring framework adopted in WHO by the World Health Assembly in May this year. It is important that ICN2 represents a new step forward along the same lines. We would like to have reassurance that this is the case.

In part nine of the document, reference is made to the Post-2015 Agenda and the role of nutrition in this regard. Other relevant processes are also mentioned but only very briefly. We would ask the Secretariat to elaborate on how these different processes are linked and how ICN2 is meant to contribute.

In Rio last year, there was agreement that food security and nutrition must be placed high on the agenda when we develop a new set of development goals. ICN2 should be a natural arena to discuss how nutrition can be integrated in the overall food security and development agenda.

Furthermore, I would like to emphasize the importance of highlighting nutrition in the deliberations of the Committee on World Food Security. The reformed CFS is to be the central UN Committee on Food Security broadly defined and nutrition and thus preparations for the ICN2 should be a natural part of the debate in that forum.

We must tackle undernourishment if we are to tackle child mortality. Recent figures published in the Lancet show that as much as 45 percent of mortality for children under five years can be traced directly to undernourishment as the underlying cause.

Studies published in the Lancet show that more than just access to food must be addressed when food security programmes are designed. Such programmes should also focus on changing diets and how food is distributed within families and also that the food is nutritious and prepared properly. This suggests that we must work across organizations and foray to insure food and nutrition security.

The high-level meeting "Nutrition for Growth: Beating Hunger through Business and Science" in London earlier this month demonstrated the increasing awareness and attention to these issues. ICN2 could have an important role here in drawing the map and setting the goals for further action.

Ms Candice VIANNA (Brazil)

Brazil welcomes the FAO and the WHO initiative to organize the Second International Conference on Nutrition in 2014 and its preparatory meeting next November.

We believe these events can contribute to keep the issue high in the international agenda and to strengthen the commitment of various stakeholders to address the challenge of tackling under-nutrition.

Urgent and effective actions are needed to eradicate under-nutrition especially stunting and wasting. Our inability as international community to adequately tackle this issue is leaving hundreds of thousands of children stunted and another thousand suffering from severe wasting.

We are therefore losing generations after generations who are deprived from physical, mental and social development affecting various scopes with lasting consequences in their lives.

Nutrition can strongly contribute to breaking the inter-generational cycle of hunger and poverty allowing children to develop and achieve their full potential. In this sense, the human right to adequate food is intrinsically linked to the human right to adequate nutrition. We should not only guarantee that every child has access to an adequate amount of calories but that they intake also the right set of micronutrients, which will allow them to fully develop as human beings.

We therefore urge the ICN2 to promote the human right to adequate nutrition as we believe there is no other way to frame this debate. We recognize that promoting nutrition demands a cross-sector integrated approach that fully integrates nutrition into different policies in maternal newborn and child health, education, agriculture, water, sanitation, gender equality and social protection. Political commitment and coordination are thus fundamental in providing the right answers to under-nutrition.

We also recognize the simple and cost effective interventions can also have significant impacts on child nutrition and maternal health. Nevertheless, these programmes are often underfunded and not implemented in a continuous way.

Moreover, Brazil believes that there is a significant potential for further cooperation in the area of research, innovation and nutrition. A deeper scientific knowledge about the issue can surely contribute to a better understanding of the challenges we face and, therefore, to a more adequate response to it.

We hope the ICN2 can also provide the opportunity for further collaboration in this field with the involvement of the private sector and the scientific community.

Finally, Brazil would like to refer to the High-level Meeting "Nutrition for Growth: Beating Hunger through Business and Science" co-hosted with the United Kingdom and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) which was held this month in London and its outcome document Global Nutrition for Growth Compact. This event represented a milestone for international efforts towards the elimination of the scourge of under-nutrition within our lifetime, establishing a broad set of commitments to achieve this objective.

We therefore urge the ICN2 and its preparatory meeting to build upon Nutrition for Growth results.

The Nutrition for Growth event represented a milestone for international efforts towards the elimination of the scourge of under-nutrition within our lifetime, establishing a broad set of commitments to achieve this objective.

We also recall that the government of Brazil has committed to host a High-level event on "Nutrition for Growth" during the 2016 Olympic Games to take place in Rio da Janeiro to review progress and move forward in addressing this challenge.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States, the acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

We welcome the ICN2 initiative. As the document notes, micronutrient deficiencies or hidden hunger affect around two billion people. At the same time, obesity affects around half a billion adults increasingly in low and middle income countries. There is, therefore, a need for a concrete and result oriented response to global nutrition challenges.

We appreciate the focus given to developing countries and, more specifically, to the poorest and most vulnerable households. We suggest expanding this focus to include the resilience dimension as nutrition is a key to address chronic vulnerability.

ICN2 is a joint initiative between the WHO and FAO. We urge FAO to proactively engage with the WHO for the organization of the Conference and the Preparatory Technical Meeting. This meeting should be the opportunity to explore how agriculture, health, social and all other aspects of nutrition can be addressed in a global context. Bringing together other partners through the Conference for multi-sector action on nutrition that is aligned behind country leadership and commitments.

The FAO/WHO regional meeting in Tel Aviv in March 2013, was an opportune moment to outline the main interdisciplinary issues that will be discussed. First, a technical level in November 2013 and subsequently a ministerial level in 2014.

We would also welcome a closer dialogue and collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies and in particular WFP for their experience on the matter and with the aim to insure maximum complementary and sequencing between humanitarian and development interventions on nutrition.

We look forward to further updates on progress towards ICN2.

Mr James BULLOCK (Australia)

Australia supports the FAO's focus on nutrition and housing food systems to address the serious issue of malnutrition or hidden hunger. In this area, we would support further consideration of how partnerships can be developed with civil society organizations and the private sector.

Regarding the draft programme for the Preparatory Technical Meeting, we support the five broad areas being discussed, given the attendance of the three Rome-based agencies, FAO, IFAD and WFP. However, we would encourage the inclusion of UNICEF in the discussions on social protection for nutrition and measuring malnutrition.

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

We thank the Secretariat for the Report on the preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition. We welcome the proposal by the organisers for a Conference which takes a comprehensive approach to the issues surrounding nutrition which stipulates interaction between the food and agriculture sectors as well as healthcare, social welfare and education.

Russia has indicators in the area of nutrition and has set out these indicators until 2025. These are as established by the World Health Assembly on and also the Rome Principles and the Principles of Global Food Security as adopted in 2009.

Obligations on the right of each person to access to safe adequate and nutritious food have been confirmed in the RIO+20 Conference. The subject of food is particularly important in the context of the cooperation on international development. We maintain the need to take account its efficiency when drawing up the UN Agenda on development for the post-2015 period.

We also support the implementation of the initiative of the UN Secretary-General on Zero Hunger. We give great importance to the issues of nutrition as part of Russia's help to nations. In particular working together with the World Food Programme of the United Nations, we have a programme to support the systems of school food which include a range of countries in the Caucasus Region, Central Asia and the Near East, as well as in North Africa. To implement these programmes in 2012-2015, the Russian Federation has accorded around USD 50 million to the WFP Fund.

Mr Mei Rodhijat DARAWIREDA (Indonesia)

Indonesia thanks the Secretariat regarding preparation for the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) discussed during 38th Session from 15 to 22 June 2013. Following the first ICN which took place in 1992, which mandated its countries to prepare plans of action for nutrition, Indonesia created a national food and nutrition action plan which was updated every five years. This document has been translated into local food and nutrition action plans and applied in 33 provinces.

Two documents are integrated into a food and nutrition planning document which consists of five development pillars, namely household food safety and resilience, nutrition improvement, lifestyle improvement, physical and institution activities. This is important as reference in formulating integrated food and nutrition planning in central, provincial and regional levels.

In order to decrease nutrition problems, especially stunting, Indonesia has joined a scaling up nutrition movement through a national movement of nutrition improvement with the priority of the first thousand days of life, pregnant woman and children under two years old.

Regarding this draft, Indonesia proposes issues to be included in thematic sessions. First, offer the nutrition issue to be included into long-term target of food and nutrition programmes. Second,

aquaculture methods should be fully discussed as this item is important to increase protein intake. Indonesia has huge capacity in terms of aquaculture commodities to meet community and nutrition needs.

Third, regional and global cooperation enhancement, to increase country capacity through sharing of expertise, best practices, particularly in recent development and community involvement. Fourth, food and nutrition research and development enhancement to support evidence based decision making and planning.

Sra. Lorena Noemi PATIÑO (Paraguay)

Agradecemos el documento presentado. A nosotros nos gustaría conocer cómo será enfocado el tema sobre el acceso a los alimentos. Hay países que producen alimentos, pero sin embargo, sufren de la malnutrición por falta de conocimiento sobre el acceso a los mismos y la elección de los buenos alimentos. Por lo que consideramos, respetuosamente, sea tenido en cuenta durante la 2.^a Conferencia Internacional sobre Nutrición.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India welcomes the renewed focus on nutrition especially in the post-2015 FAO Agenda and the Zero Hunger Initiative. However, we feel that the focus on nutrition would benefit ICN meetings if held at more frequent intervals than on gaps of 12-13 years. A review after 12 years may not perhaps be the right interval for affecting any course correction in this regard.

Madam Chair, we very rightly concentrate all our energies and finances in poor developing countries. India feels the problem of the middle income countries which are unique and distinct from the poorer countries should get a distinct treatment in the ICN Conferences.

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

Allow me to express my appreciation to all the interventions. These have been very useful and I will assure you that they will enrich our preparations. Let me also assure you that many of the comments have already been taken care of. If I may say so, much of our understanding of nutrition issues is reflected in the State of Food and Agriculture for 2013, which was launched before the London Summit.

Precisely, it is our contribution on how food systems can contribute to enhancing nutrition. This was a very important contribution to the Hunger Summit and the Director-General has been invited to be a Member of the panel which will carry on work in nutrition over the next three years.

We were not able to mention some of the latest findings of the Lancet in the document but I can assure you that these findings have been fully taken care of as was the earlier Lancet issue of five years ago.

At the risk of oversimplification, we recognize three sets of challenges in dealing with malnutrition. Problems of under-nutrition of which we see two main challenges; that of macronutrients which we generally associate with hunger as many of the comments have emphasized, and the more daunting challenge of micronutrients. Micronutrient deficiencies are particularly acute and serious when they affect the young children and mothers.

And we are especially committed at FAO to seeking low cost affordable options and solutions which are derived from the food systems, from food production agriculture, fisheries etc.

We are also very mindful of the comment suggested earlier about social protection and in fact in connection with the preparations for the preparatory technical meeting, we are currently engaged in an online discussion consultation on the specific question of nutrition and social protection. This is especially important because the whole question of social protection on which there is now an international consensus after the General Assembly approved the idea of a social protection floor in its 2011 session, this idea is especially important in connection with nutrition because it is very unlikely given the economic conditions in the world today and for the near future that we will be able to make any significant major breakthrough on nutrition without some major social protection initiatives.

But we are looking at affordable social protection initiatives which even poor countries can afford. And last night there was a session on the Least Developed Countries where progress made by some of the poorest countries in the world, on questions of nutrition, demonstrated very clearly that even the Least Developed Countries can overcome hunger and can overcome malnutrition with appropriate policies and requisite support. These are all issues which we are very concerned with and I can assure you that they are very much part of the preparations. If we were to redraft that document today we would obviously take into consideration some of the recent development which have been correctly drawn to the attention to this meeting for our attention.

As far as collaboration is concerned, we are working very closely with a range of stakeholders. Of course the others involved in the organizing committee are very important. But in addition there are very important initiatives on nutrition such as SUN, which has been mentioned in several interventions, as well as REACH, and other interventions, where we try to work closely and listen as to what we can learn from them, from these contributions. We have been working with CFS, as well, and I will try to ensure that there will be greater involvement of working with CFS on these particular issues.

To be quite honest, part of the difficulty is that the preparations for this conference do not have much funding. The modest funding from the regular budget is quite inadequate even for the preparatory technical meeting in November this year. And this is partly constrained our preparatory work.

I would like to invite Members to try to ensure that the National level preparations for ICN2 involve not only Agriculture Ministries or Health Ministries but the combination of Ministries which need to be mobilized to overcome the scourge of malnutrition. This is essential because malnutrition tends to be an orphan falling between ministerial stools, falling between silos, and it is impossible to overcome malnutrition without an effort that transcends those kinds of ministerial boundaries.

The same could be said about hunger. Production alone will not solve the problem of hunger. Complementary measures are needed. But the challenge is even greater with malnutrition because of the very complex and specific interventions that are needed at particular moments of the life cycle to enable us to overcome the challenge.

I also wish to thank all of you for these interventions and to assure you that the Secretariat, in making its preparations for ICN2, is always open to suggestions and contributions, even critical contributions, because that is the only way we are going to be able to learn quickly to strengthen our preparations going forward.

Ms Angela DANNISON (Ghana)

The ICN2 is long overdue, but I understand that the Director-General indicated a problem of funding and probably that is why we should support the increase of budget to FAO to enable them to carry out these meetings, and as it is said “it is better late than never.” So we welcome the ICN2 that is going to take place in 2014.

Madame Chair, the estimate of one in eight people in the world being undernourished as the document says is really unacceptable and I know in Sub Saharan Africa it might be worse. It might even be one in four.

Madame Chair, we therefore agree and support the efforts that are going on because as we all know, under nutrition is debilitating on the development of our economies. Just as the EU President said during the Plenary, stunted children lead to stunted economic growth and therefore stunted economies.

In support of the national plan of actions that are being done by nations and in support of the G8 initiatives, the SUN and REACH, Ghana would want to suggest that at this ICN2 Conference, just as we've pledged a declaration to commit ten percent to agriculture, developing countries in particular should pledge to commit specific budgets for the implementation of these policies as their national plan of actions on nutrition, in a coordinated manner.

Ms Eklas MOHAMMED MOHAMMED ALI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to welcome the initiative of the Secretariat to prepare for ICN2 and we support all of the efforts being deployed in this regard. The government of Sudan is sparing no effort in order to improve the nutrition state in our countries and to deal with the negative repercussions of the lack of food. We are also double-checking the safety of food products and fair distribution among the different groups of our population.

The government has adopted several effective policies to this end. We have adopted a supportive policy encouraging local producers of food in order to expand, diversify, and intensify agricultural production and to reduce the cost of production by exempting agricultural production from several taxes. We are also working in order to introduce the state of the art production technologies while focusing on expanding some of the basic crops like maize and wheat which are very important for the nutrition of Sudan.

Wheat, as you know, is being exported to the different countries of the region and imperative to all of that, we have been introducing new food technologies. We have launched a new expedience for using wheat to produce new kinds of bread and food products. We are also using the available raw materials in the food production processes.

CHAIRPERSON

I take it then that the Commission agrees to holding a preparatory Technical Meeting at FAO from 13 to 15 November 2013 with a view to organizing the programme for the high level ICN2 Conference in 2014, around themes identified by the Technical Meeting, and we expect there will be high participation. If there are no other comments, then we have completed Item 17.

18. International Years and Days: (C 2013/LIM/15)**18. Années et journées internationales:****18. Años y días internacionales:*****18.1 Evaluation of the International Year of Forests 2011******18.1 Évaluation de l'Année internationale des forêts – 2011******18.1 Evaluación del Año Internacional de los Bosques (2011)****(C 2013/32)***CHAIRPERSON**

The next item on our agenda is Item 18, International Years and Days, document C 2013/LIM/15 refers. We will start with Sub-item 18.1, Evaluation of the International Year of Forests 2011. The relevant document is C 2013/32. I invite Mr Eduardo Rojas Briaies, Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, to introduce the item.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

I am going to present to you the evaluation of the 2011 International Year of Forests that may be helpful for planning forward other international days. As you may recall, the General Assembly declared 2011 the International Year of the Forest and it established the UN Forum on Forests in New York, in UN-DESA, which would serve as a focal point for the implementation of the year, and FAO as Chair of the collaborative partnership on Forests was expected to support the implementation of the year.

The purpose of the year was to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation, and development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, and you see to the right, the correspondent logo.

FAO invested during the year, around a quarter of a million USD that went to several actions that I am going to briefly describe to you. About USD 30,000 were invested in a spot that received approximately 3.5 million value of free air-time on TV, especially on global channels. The investment returns were priceless as the forests message reached hundreds of millions of people, more than ever.

And of course this had to be quantified, even the extent of co-sponsored events, publicity press releases, and other concrete work produced during the year by many partners.

The spot lasted of 60 and 30 seconds. There were two kinds, and it was produced in the six languages and was aired very frequently, hundreds of times by CNN, ABC, Euro News, NHK, Deutsche Welle, and others.

The launching of the International Year of the Forest was held in New York on 2 February 2011 in the frame of the General Assembly and FAO contributed significantly with the most important document, State of the World Forests 2011 (SOFO). It was launched at a launching ceremony and there were as well several press conferences and I had the privilege to share with the late Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai, a press conference. Unfortunately, later in the year she passed away.

A week later in here at FAO with many of you, with the staff and the Permanent Representatives, there was a briefing presenting the International Year of Forests activities that was scheduled and the SOFA report as well as the Unasylva edition.

In order to support countries and partners to take advantage and to upscale the potential that the International Year of the Forest had and knowing that in many cases our main partners, countries' forest services, may not have all of the communication capacity that would be desirable, the Forestry Department developed an International Year of Forests toolkit that was web-based - but was produced as well in the form of DVD - in order to prepare a range of tools that were available for countries and partners to be able to upscale their capacities on the International Year of Forests and they would not need to develop from the very early stages but would take advantage of this prepared material that was prepared in the six official UN languages.

Knowing that web-based heavy information is sometimes difficult to be available, also DVDs were produced and distributed to five hundred individuals and institutions, the Member Countries, and our partners. This included key messages, outreach suggestions, video spots, the video feature, the logo, posters and banners, and you saw for months the banner of the International Year of Forests outside the FAO building. That photo database, selected key FAO publications that I will comment on later, many interviews, and so on, and here you have as well the link.

There was of course an International Year of the Forest website with updated information including this toolkit and it became the third most visited website of FAO forestry, and you have to consider that is very special as the one on data, on the forest resources assessment, is always very heavily visited as a website, so it was really a very critical website during the year.

We took also advantage, especially using project resources to produce or coproduce several video features of about 10 minutes each that would highlight the projects and activities in the several continents in all the areas of the world and the first one was produced in the Philippines. That was more or less the lead one for the year and by chance, this project received in the previous Conference, the Eduard Saouma Award, this Assisted natural regeneration project in the Philippines and this was complemented by the Acacia project video in Senegal, a video in Ecuador, in Mongolia, and Rwanda. While in partnership with the European Forest Institute, we had one on Europe and another one with Canada for North America so that we were able to have at least a video of each of the regions.

In the activities, we also tried to engage as much as possible the FAO ambassadors and especially singer Anggun and Carl Lewis. We were very active. Also Dee Dee Bridgewater took part in the activities during the International Year of Forests. You see them in several occasions, Carl Lewis, for example, was in Haiti wearing the t-shirt of the International Year of Forests. There was as well a tree planting activity that was conducted with the Host Country, Italy, in the autumn of 2011 with the staff of the Forestry Department.

Also the regions were very active and you see here pictures from Bangkok, as well as Chile with a rock concert, with Lollapalooza, Italy with Earth Day, a common Mountain Day in Germany, Zimbabwe, in the UN Headquarters in Geneva, and so on. So there has been quite a lot of activities and I would like to highlight a very interesting initiative of our office in the Asia Pacific. There is the Miss Earth initiative based in the Philippines which is strongly linked to environmental issues, not

only to the beauty of women but as well with an environmental message. And Miss Earth 2011 was devoted to forests and it was really an interesting initiative to upscale communication outside of the typical forest community. So we tried to make the message come out of the typical already convinced community.

In the frame of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests that is formed by the fourteen substantive UN and international bodies working in forests and chaired by FAO, there was a decision, before the year started, to communicate in a streamlined way to avoid the different agencies from the biodiversity convention to UNEP, FAO, UNFF and other bodies which might have the risk to communicate in a competing and even contradicting way.

Thematic items were identified as forests related as you see, to forest community-based management, to women to health, to environment, to dry lands, to poverty to food security, to climate change. All these crossroads where forests are a very cross-cutting issue were identified and at the international day a big conference, was identified in the calendar and about two press releases were issued every month on each theme. These were dealt by a lead agency as collaborating agencies and cleared by the plenary of the CPF and this allowed to have a constant flow of information on forests from very different angles by engaging the FAO and CPF members in a not competing but collaborative approach. I think this was quite interesting and recently we gathered all these press released into a web publication. It has not been printed but it is in the website and a link is here with you.

There were several international meetings that of course highlighted the International Year of the Forest. All opportunities were used to highlight the Year from the meeting in Spain on ecosystem and landscape level approaches, to sustainability, to the centenary of the *Silva mediterranea* network, which has been established earlier than FAO in the UN System, so it was incorporated into the FAO governance in 1948. The Africa dry lands week around desertification, the three tropical basins Summit in Congo, the World Landslide Forum held here in Italy, and very interestingly the International Conference on Exhibition on the Art and Joy of Wood in India to showcase how especially through art, forest products can contribute to social development and as well to cultural heritage, and two regional forestry commissions in Europe and Asia Pacific, specially the one in the Asia Pacific held in conjunction with Asian Pacific forest week that mobilized thousands of people and was really a very big event arranged in Beijing China, and finally the presence in forest day in the Gulf.

Here you see all of the partners that made it possible, the success of the Year, which we worked to achieve, really a successfully year. And finally, regarding the closing event held here in Rome just before Christmas, the most tangible output was the publication of fruit trees and useful plants in Amazon life, produced together with CIFOR, where the producers/sellers came here and those who were onboard may recall how emotional and how substantive their contribution was on these issues.

The second element was the release of the first ever remote sensing survey on forests that gave sound information on forests covered with a single methodology for 1990- 2000 and 2005 and we are preparing the date for 2010 at this very moment, including a video here from Rome showing how important are for high level cuisine are forest products.

And finally there was the generosity of the Chief of the Medical Service, Dr. Dumont, to sponsor an art product, the tree of light. It is now available in the entrance of the library.

What is the way forward? After the proposal of the last Conference to move forward in establishing an international day of the forest, in late 2012 the General Assembly declared 21 March - already celebrated by about 40 countries - as the official international day of forests and this was approved by the General Assembly on 21 September, the day that some people thought the world would end d. So here we had a better legacy than the predicted one.

You see the logo of the International Day of the Forest that was also outside Headquarters building and in this resolution, the General Assembly requested that the international day, the UN Forum on Forests and the FAO to implement the International day of the forests together with countries and other partners. And you see here the event that was arranged on 21 March. There were several events: one here in Headquarters with the presence of the Director-General, but there was as well the official

launching in Algeria, the country which, as Chair of the G77 and China, proposed in New York the resolution and in conjunction with the third Mediterranean rainforest week. The launching of the day was celebrated there as well.

And in many countries, we got about thirty or forty information of activities held despite the time between December and March was not too long to prepare for the day. And since there was no time for the collaborative partnership of forests to prepare a strategy, in two weeks there will be here in Rome a retreat of the heads of the Global partnership on forests agencies in order to agree to a mid-term strategy for the international day of the forests so that we replicate the same streamlining and coordinating approach that we did with the International Year of Forests.

This is the most important element that I would like to highlight, but in any case, we have had also for the international day of the forests, there was a website prepared and also a communication toolbox. So the same methodology that we have placed for the Year has been also implemented for the Day so that countries can have all of the material prepared, including a specific video that has been translated into nine languages and that has been aired very much in CNN, Deutsche Welle, Euro News, and other television broadcasting companies, and in that sense we are committed to supporting the countries in the implementation of the International day of the forests. The CPF may decide to focus each year on a specific thematic issue, that could be water, energy, food security, and so on, in relation to forests, and this we will share with countries in order to try to streamline the communication.

I would also like to highlight that we are strongly engaged in supporting the communication capacity of the countries, not only through this one-way channel of websites, toolboxes, etc, but specially creating capacity through communicators' networks. I think that this is an occasion for forests. Forests are in a society that is getting more and more urban. Forest activities are hardly understood by a very urbanized society. Easily there are lots of prejudices coming around forests where they should be the driving force for a greener economy. Frequently activities like felling trees and so on are seen as an environmental offense, so it is very important that forests are communicated practically.

In that sense, in order to avoid that countries have to reinvent the wheel, we are setting forest communicators networks based on the people that are working in communication in forest services of the countries and partner organizations in each of the regions. There is an exciting one in Europe for fifteen years and we have practically, except for one or two regions, established already networks and meetings of them in all of the regions and we are finalizing a project proposal in the hope that some countries will join in will join in supporting this initiative which is not very costly, but has an enormous software effect on getting really positive, enabling environments for forest investment. It is difficult for communities and local people that are requested to stop the deforestation to value the forest. If they do not see a value in these forests, then the option of deforestation will continue and in that sense, we see it very strategically to invest in forest communications from FAO side.

CHAIRPERSON

I would just like to explain that we will do all the presentations and then open the floor for comments on the International Years and Days. Each item will have a separate Report.

18.2 International Year of Cooperatives 2012

18.2 Année internationale des coopératives – 2012

18.2 Año Internacional de las Cooperativas (2012)

(C 2013/33)

CHAIRPERSON

So with that being said, we now proceed to Sub-tem 18.2, International Year of Cooperatives, 2012. The relevant document is C 2013/33 and I invite Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy to introduce this item.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

It is my pleasure to be with you this morning to go over the International Year of Cooperatives that took place in 2012.

One of the objectives of this International Year was basically to increase awareness of the fantastic contribution that cooperatives do to social economic development, to agriculture, to rural development, and to hunger eradication. They give a fantastic contribution in terms of poverty reduction, generation of employment, economic growth both in the agriculture sector and the overall economy.

Another objective of the year was to highlight that diversity and the resourcefulness of cooperatives and as well as the resilience to shocks that they bring. We were able to see, throughout the different countries in the world, that during the food price crisis in 2007-2008 those farmers who were organized in cooperatives or producer organizations suffered much less the impact of that crisis. They give a very important contribution to increasing resilience.

A final objective was to encourage governments to establish the policies, the laws and the regulations that are conducive for cooperatives, for their formation, and for their growth.

Now FAO has been renewing its efforts and its attention to the issues of cooperatives and producer organizations. Our Director-General has expressed a very, very strong support and recognition to cooperatives and producer organizations as key partners and indeed he has identified four main partners for us to be able to significantly contribute to the agenda of eradication of hunger.

One of them is cooperatives and producer organizations. So there is an office space that has been opened for the International Cooperative Alliance and the World Farmers Organization here in FAO. We had Goodwill Ambassadors throughout the year. The World Food Day topic of last year was about agricultural cooperatives and then we had events in over 150 countries that brought awareness to the fantastic contributions that cooperatives make to food security.

We are also hosting COPAC which is the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives here in FAO Headquarters. And we are increasing the capacity here at Headquarters and throughout the Organization in the field to address issues of cooperatives.

Looking back at the year, we have major achievements in four main areas regarding advocacy, policy influence and dialogue, second, knowledge generation and sharing, third, capacity strengthening and fourth, developing innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Let me look at each one of these very briefly. Regarding advocacy, policy influence and dialogue, we were able to contribute to global awareness on the role of cooperatives through numerous events that took place worldwide. I will not go into the detail of those but we also saw increased participation of cooperatives and producer organizations in global, regional and national policy making processes.

We facilitated policy dialogue processes throughout different regions of the world and we wanted cooperative members to be able to participate in these dialogues to bring forward their points of view of what means are needed to have an enabling environment in a country. What are the elements that are necessary for cooperatives within laws, within the institutional environment for them to be able to flourish and to be highly productive.

Now regarding the generation of knowledge, we brought forward an enhanced body of knowledge from ourselves, from the rest of the world in terms of the contribution of cooperatives. We gathered best practices in building innovative rural institutions to increase food security. We thoroughly analyzed the contribution that cooperatives make to food security and to social development. We were able to share all this knowledge at different levels with our different stakeholders throughout the world.

We also produce annual Report of what we are doing in this area and it is available.. And we do it of course through our partners including World Bank, IFAD, and many others.

Capacity strengthening. We were able to promote the strengthening of cooperatives in terms of their institutional areas and in terms of how they can better come together to make the contribution that

they are able to make. So we provided technical support and we developed a body of materials including learning module which we believe is going to have very, very big impacts and we also developed a very interesting new methodology to strengthen institutional cooperatives which is called coop equity and basically sees how cooperatives through becoming more equitable, more inclusive, more democratic can be more effective in terms of their own goals, in terms of increasing their production, their productivity, and very specifically contribute to the eradication of hunger.

Finally, the support for innovative partnerships at country, regional and global level. This is a very important part of the legacy that the year of cooperatives is going to have for us. This is actual work that is happening at the country level and we were able to develop a very interesting methodology which is based on farmers helping farmers. Peer to peer. So it is farmers from the north and not only from the north helping farmers from the south in terms of strengthening their organizational capacities.

We started in a few countries and we hope to take this model which is also very interesting complimentary model to South-South Cooperation. It is a different way of addressing strengthening through farmers helping farmers, peer to peer we call it. We've been already in Burkina Faso, Morocco, Niger, Ghana, Kenya but we hope to expand this model further to other regions and to other countries.

We also work through our partners and we have partnerships with the World Farmer's Organization, with the International Cooperative Alliance and with the Global Fund for Cooperatives which has been formalized and which will be mobilizing resources, mobilizing knowledge and technical assistance throughout the different countries of the world.

Finally, ways forward. At this time there is a discussion for a UN decade for cooperatives. The International Year was very successful and we think had quite a bit of impact and therefore there is discussion of taking this forward and having a full decade on cooperatives.

What we did throughout the year of cooperatives is going to be directly feeding into the International Year of family farming which we will be discussing in a few minutes. And we will be continuing to develop this kind of innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships and different kinds of approaches that we think can take the issues of cooperative development further in a sustainable way and will be contributing in a very clear way to improving food security throughout the world.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

Can I take it that Commission I wishes to endorse the document with the suggested action by the Conference?

It is so decided. This concludes Item 18.2.

18.3 International Year of Quinoa 2013

18.3 Année internationale du quinoa – 2013

18.3 Año Internacional de la Quinua (2013)

(C 2013/34)

CHAIRPERSON

We now move on to Item 18.3, International Year of Quinoa, 2013. The relevant document is C 2013/34. I invite Mr Raúl Benítez, Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of the Regional Office of Latin America and the Caribbean to introduce this item.

Sr. Raúl BENÍTEZ (Assistant Director-General/Regional Representative, Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean)

El año 2013 ha sido declarado por la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas como el Año Internacional de la Quinua, en reconocimiento a los pueblos andinos que han preservado este cultivo

excepcional como alimento para generaciones presentes y futuras, y por su potencial para contribuir al a seguridad alimentaria y nutricional del mundo. El propio Secretario General de Naciones Unidas, el Señor Ban Ki-moon, se ha referido a la quinua como un actor relevante en apoyo al Desafío Hambre Zero, no solo por su valor nutricional, sino también porque la mayor parte de la quinua es producida actualmente por pequeños productores agrícolas. Nuestro propio Director General, el Doctor Graciano da Silva, ha llamado a la quinua “*un aliado en la lucha contra el hambre y la inseguridad alimentaria*”, y muchos otros investigadores se han referido a la misma como “*el grano de oro*”. Como parte del Año Internacional de la Quinua se desarrolló un Plan maestro con tres componentes básicos: información y comunicación, investigación, tecnología y marketing, y mecanismos de cooperación y movilización de recursos.

Este Plan está siendo implementado a nivel internacional a través de una serie de actividades específicas, destinadas a desarrollar estos tres componentes. En diferentes países se han formado comités nacionales, por ejemplo en Argentina, mi propio país, Perú, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Chile y Francia, convirtiéndose estos actores en actores estratégicos en la coordinación de la visión de este Año Internacional con las realidades locales.

Me complace destacar la nominación de dos embajadores que han tenido un papel excepcional en la promoción del Año Internacional de la Quinua: el Presidente del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia, el Señor Evo Morales, y la primera dama del Perú, la Señora Nadine Heredia de Umala, quienes han realizado el lanzamiento mundial del Año Internacional de la Quinua, realizado el 20 de febrero de 2013, en la sede de Naciones Unidas en Nueva York, con la participación del Secretario General de la ONU y el Director General de FAO.

El lanzamiento recibió una amplia cobertura de prensa a nivel mundial y ha generado gran interés por este alimento, más allá de la zona andina, en países como Yemen, Moldavia, Lituania, China, Marruecos, Kenia, India, Pakistán, Irán, Corea, e incluso, acá en Italia. Gracias al aporte de nuestros Países Miembros, como Bolivia, Ecuador y Perú, se están desarrollando actividades de promoción como la Feria Itinerante de la Quinua, la cual ya ha sido presentada en Holanda, Nueva York, Washington y Japón, y que estará viajando a diversos continentes para llegar a Roma el día 16 de octubre, durante el Día Mundial de la Alimentación. Otra actividad importante es el Congreso de la Quinua, que se desarrollará el próximo mes en Ecuador, o el Concurso Internacional de Innovación Tecnológica, entre otros. En colaboración con las universidades e institutos de investigación, se está generando información científica sobre la quinua, como por ejemplo la publicación *Estado del arte de la quínoa en el mundo, catálogos de variedades de la quinua*, y una interesante publicación llamada *Quinua para todos*.

Acá vale destacar la amplia adaptación que tiene este cultivo, que se puede desarrollar tanto a nivel del mar como a más de 4000 metros de altura, que tolera distintos regímenes de lluvia, que tolera distintos climas. Se está preparando también un recetario internacional de la quínoa, con la participación de los mejores chefs del mundo y representantes de las comunidades originarias, en el marco de la Iniciativa Chefs contra el Hambre, que será lanzado durante el mes de octubre.

A la fecha, los impactos ya han comenzado a ser visibles, ya que países no productores de quinua están solicitando apoyo técnico para comenzar a cultivar este grano. El Comité Internacional de Coordinación y la Secretaría Técnica, en su rol de facilitador, están apoyando a dichos países en la elaboración de proyectos para la producción sostenible de la quinua, como parte de un sistema agroalimentario que beneficia a los pequeños productores. Por ejemplo, en la República Popular de China, se ha comenzado con este cultivo de quinua para apoyar el desarrollo de pequeños agricultores familiares, y se ha comenzado a acelerar el movimiento científico relacionado con la quinua en Japón, Estados Unidos, Francia, Marruecos, Ecuador, Perú, Italia, Argentina, Bolivia, entre otros países.

Hemos publicado en la página web del Año Internacional de la Quinua, en los seis idiomas oficiales de la FAO, lo que ha contribuido a que la imagen gráfica del Año Internacional de la Quinua esté presente en muchos países del mundo, más allá de la zona andina y en diversos sectores de la sociedad; incluso en este evento, lo podemos ver reflejado en nuestros collares que sostienen nuestra identificación. Es importante destacar que los saberes ancestrales, junto con las nuevas tecnologías

están siendo compartidos a través del intercambio del conocimiento entre países; por ejemplo, hay una misión de especialistas peruanos que están visitando Yemen para transferir sus conocimientos.

Para terminar, me gustaría alentar a los países, instituciones académicas, al sector privado, ONG, asociaciones de productores, sociedad civil y consumidores, a unirse a la celebración del Año Internacional de la Quinoa, proporcionando apoyo financiero y generando proyectos y programas que promuevan la producción sostenible y el consumo local de la quinoa, especialmente en los países que sufren hambre y desnutrición.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

At this time I would like to invite His Excellency Yukol Limlamthong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives in Thailand and His Excellency Mehmet Mehdi Eker, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Livestock of Turkey, to sit on the podium.

18.4 International Year of Family Farming 2014

18.4 Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale – 2014

18.4 Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (2014)

(C 2013/35)

CHAIRPERSON

We will now consider Sub-item 18.4, International Year of Family Farming 2014. The relevant document is C 2013/35 and I invite Ms Marcela Villarreal, Director of the Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy to introduce this item.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

It is now my pleasure to talk about the International Year of Family Farming which will take place next year. So right now we are in full preparations for what that year is going to be.

What we would like to achieve with the Year is to have a better recognition and understanding of the tremendous value that family farming brings to food security and to poverty reduction. Family farming is a cornerstone of food security. It is key to inclusive rural development and it is an essential part of our sustainable future.

Family farming brings huge value to agriculture and to rural development. It is not only the farming itself, the agricultural production but a number of other associated values like for example natural resource management or for example biodiversity and they do play a very important role in revitalizing local economies especially when there is a good policy environment that takes into account the social aspects and the social needs of family farms.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2014 to be the International Year of Family Farming and asked FAO to facilitate its implementation, of course with all of our partners, where the World Food Programme and where IFAD are natural Rome Based Agency partners but very specifically with civil society, with the private sector and with all of our usual partners.

The main objective will be to recognize and to support the contribution that family farming and small holder farming make to eradicating hunger, to reduce rural poverty, to achieve food security through sustainable production and sustainable development.

We have set up an International Steering Committee with the participation of 12 Member Nations and with the participation of all of our partners that are coordinated, many of them are coordinated through the World Rural Forum, the World Farmers Organization and many of their own associated organizations.

We are foreseeing three main lines of action for the International Year of Family Farming very importantly promotion of dialogue in policy and decision making processes. This is extremely important. What we would like to see coming out of the Year is, in addition to having a better

understanding of the contribution of family farming, what policies need to be in place to be able to support family farming in the future.

In order to do that, we need to have better understanding of the policies, which policies work, in which contexts, under which environments and how we could be able to promote those so that family farming could flourish and could attain the levels of production and productivity that it has potential for.

We will be capitalizing on the relevant knowledge, on existing policies in order to do that and this is going to be an exercise that is going to happen region by region because of course there is huge variety between regions. And we will of course very strongly be using outreach communication to be able to ensure that the knowledge is shared, understood and will finally incorporate it into the relevant policies.

Most of the activities and most of the action for the International Year of Family Farming is going to take place at country level and at regional levels. At global level here at Headquarters, we will be doing quite a bit of coordination, getting people to talk to each other but the bulk of the action is going to happen at country level and therefore we hope that all of you will be participating very, very actively.

There are a number of activities that are already starting to take place. We are gathering all of the activities that are happening and putting them in a place where it is easily reachable by all. It is going to be on the internet but for the time being, just let me give you a couple of events that are coming up.

We are having a side event at ECOSOC next month but even tomorrow and you are all very kindly invited, we will be having a side event to this FAO Conference on *The International Year of Family Farming and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure: Opportunities for Civil Society Engagement* is going to be tomorrow at 13:00 hours in the Austria Room.

Quite importantly throughout the rest of this year and in order to prepare for the Year itself which will be launched at the end of this year, we want to engage in regional policy dialogues on family farming. So region by region we want to start hearing from the farmers, from the policy makers, from all the different stakeholders in each region, what are the issues? What are the constraints? What are the enabling factors? Where are the best practices? Where is the best policy?

We would like to gather that, start already gathering all this year to be able to feed into all of the activities which will be happening starting next year in the Year of Family Farming.

Now very importantly, next year World Food Day is going to be on family farming and equally important the SOFA, State of Food and Agriculture, our flagship publication will be on family farming. Through this, we want to ensure that we capture the knowledge that we have and that that is fed into processes and we will be using the World Food Day which is an activity that happens in every single FAO Member Country to bring awareness to what family farming is and the contributions that it has to world food security.

So your participation is essential. Please contact us for any information, for any activities, and we will be happy to work together with you.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

18.5 World Soil Day**18.5 Journée mondiale des sols****18.5 Día Mundial del Suelo***(C 2013/36)***18.6 International Year of Soils****18.6 Année internationale des sols****18.6 Año Internacional de los Suelos***(C 2013/LIM/16)***CHAIRPERSON**

We will now go to Sub-item 18.5, World Soil Day, which will be followed by Sub-item 18.6, International Year of Soils. The relevant documents are C 2013/36 and C 2013/LIM/16. I would like to invite his Excellency Yukol Limlamthong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand, to the podium to make a statement of World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils.

Mr Yukol LIMLAMTHONG (Thailand)

Soil is one of the well-known natural resources covering one fourth of the planet's surface. Soil resources contribute enormously to global food security which is the greatest interest to the world population. However, utilization of the soil today seems not to conserve.

In Thailand, we are very fortunate that his Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej has a great interest in soil science for the purpose of economic and social development as well as the conservation of natural resources and the environment for the wellbeing of Thai people. His Majesty declares it is time to start with Thai soils to identify soil problems and how to solve them by scientific means.

As a consequence, his Majesty initiated and established six rural development soil centers to develop plans and solve agricultural problems by conducting research, training, and extension activities continuously for farmers.

In tackling the soil problem, his Majesty initiated a project in the southern province of Narathiwat where we are facing the problem of peat swarms from the floods in rainy seasons. Draining of water from peat swarms result in acid flow-fed soil whose grain is not suitable for agricultural. With the intention and in an attempt to overcome this complication, his Majesty had set up a resource project, as reactivation of acid solvent soil that can control rural developments study center. The technique is repeatedly switching soil from soaking wet to dry to make it extremely acidic, then applying treatments to revitalize this extremely acidic soil for cultivation.

Another example is in the northern part of Thailand. Thailand cultivation is mostly effected by the loss of top soil and soil erosion. His Majesty the King initiated studies and experiments on the use of vetiver grass. Vetiver grass is an easily grown plant of which numerous roots spread deeply down like a wall. So it helps with the soil sediment while keeping the soils intact. Therefore, it would effectively prevent soil erosion to the slope or outside areas and around the banks of rivers and canals. His Majesty's vetiver grass initiative earned him two prestigious awards in 1993 from the International Erosion Control Association and the World Bank. There are more cases for dry land, as in soil and sand soil, that can be solved his resourceful studies.

By recognizing the importance of soil, we all place soil development and management at the top of the government agenda. Currently, the Thai Government has launched the new policy of the ecological soil system which farmers will select crop, livestock, and fisheries by matching types of soil with the interested commodity. It is perceived to increase the agricultural products and the quality of the products as well.

To a priority system, soil will be the key factor that farmers need to manage soil, quality of soil such as how to put high soil and utilize it in a sustainable manner.

With reference to the 145th Session of the Council which approved the proposal to establish the observation of the World Soil Day to be celebrated on 5 December, which is His Majesty King

Bhumibol Adulyadej's birthday. It is our honor that every Member Country recognizes His Majesty the King's work in this area.

Thailand has played an active role to the global level and the Global Soil Partnership. This assembly will be the important mechanism to secure healthy soil for a food secure and healthy world. Madame Chair, we will create the awareness and highlight the importance of soil resources to societies in Thailand and all Country Members as a fundamental factor for food production and global food security. Thailand supports 5 December to be the World Soil Day in order to raise awareness of the importance of soil and agrees to draft a resolution for International Year of Soil in 2015 to be put forward to the United Nations General Assembly, for approval.

Moreover, I would like to urge all Member Countries to support FAO by joining, promoting the vital role of soils as the International Year of Soil in 2015. Thailand reaffirms that it will play an active and constructive role in recognizing the crucial role of soils in sustainable management and provision for food security.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

CHAIRPERSON

I now invite Mr Arni Mathiesen, Officer in Charge of the Natural Resource Management and Environment Department to introduce the Sub-item on World Soil Day and the International Year of Soils.

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

I would like to introduce the item observance of the World Soil Day. Soil is a limited natural resource. Because it is everywhere, we tend to overlook the fact that soil is indeed a limited natural resource. But soils are not everywhere and their quality varies from place to place.

It is crucial to raise awareness on this important fact, especially considering that healthy soils are much needed. Actions such as awareness raising are much needed to prevent the degradation of the foundation of agriculture and where food production takes place.

The International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) tabled a Resolution on 14 August 2002 to celebrate 5 December as the Day of The Soil. The date was chosen to honor His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej as a notable soil scientist. However, this day was not endorsed by the UN system and only the soil science community was organizing some events without much impact.

Under the leadership of the Permanent Representation of Thailand and facilitated by the Secretariat, the requests for Observance of World Soil Day, 5 December, was presented at the 145th Session of the FAO Council.

Also, it is important to inform you that the GSP Secretariat delivered a Letter of Recognition to His Excellency, Minister Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, for his leadership in requesting the Observance of World Soil Day and International Year of Soils.

Finally, World Soil Day is a crucial awareness raising event that has no financial implications for the Organization as the GSP Secretariat, together with its partners, will facilitate its implementation.

Towards the International Year of Soils 2015, soils are very important as they constitute the basis for the provision of food, fiber, fuel and additional products; store and release water, both for plant growth and water supply; are the greatest pool of soil organic carbon; regulate carbon, oxygen and plant nutrient cycles; sustain biological activity, diversity and productivity; are a habitat for seed dispersion and dissemination of the gene pool; play a central role in buffering, filtering and moderation of the hydrological cycle; and constitute a platform for urban settlement and as material for construction.

However, soils are a finite resource. Under natural conditions, it takes between 1000 to 2000 years to form 10 centimeters of soil. In 2011, 24 billion tons of soils were lost by soil erosion. Soil degradation

has an estimated annual cost of 70 USD per person and if considered by the global population, it is an astronomic amount. Environmental and social costs are not included, as these directly affects peoples' livelihoods.

With the population growth, there are challenges ahead. It is estimated that a 60 percent global increase in food production and ecosystem services will be required. There will be further pressure on soils for shelter, food, energy, to store and filter water, for clothes, to recycle nutrients, to sequester carbon, and constitute a buffer against flood.

As I speak to you now, our soils in some regions are disappearing. Are we ready for the challenge ahead posed by population growth? Unfortunately, we cannot give a positive answer as awareness of the importance of soils is very poor. Soil is a second priority in the decision making processes. Investments in soil-related activities are far lower than those required to boost healthy soils. Soil degradation continues and very limited efforts towards addressing it and restoring it are in place. Soil information is outdated and yet used to predict food production scenarios by 2050.

Recognizing advocacy and support for promoting sustainable management of soils is the only alternative to guarantee healthy soils for a food secure world. The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has proposed, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, the International Year of Soils as a platform for raising awareness of the importance of sustainable soil management as the basis for food systems, fuel and fiber production, essential ecosystem functions, and better adaptation to climate change for present and future generations.

The request was presented to the 146th Session of the FAO Council, and Members endorsed the proposal declaring 2015 the International Year of Soils as a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soils for food security and essential eco-system functions. The Council also agreed that the Draft Conference Resolution be submitted to the 38th Session of the Conference for adoption

On 11 and 12 June 2013, the GSP held its first Plenary Assembly and there its members agreed on the following: confirmed its full support to the proposal for the establishment of the International Year of Soils in 2015 and invited the 38th Session of the FAO Conference to support these proposals; endorsed the organization of a side event on 5 December 2013 to raise awareness on the importance of soils and invited partners to suggest potential topics and strategies; requested the Secretariat, in the case of a positive outcome in the concerned bodies, to facilitate the process so as to ensure maximum impact of these key awareness raising platforms.

To summarize, we consider that the International Year of Soils 2015 will greatly contribute to raising awareness on the crucial role of soils for food security and sustainable development, especially now that soils are facing a concerning degradation process.

In case of a final endorsement, the GSP Secretariat will act as a Secretariat, and its partners are very willing to take an active role in its implementation; therefore, there is full commitment from them to contribute to its realization.

Applause

Applaudissements

Aplausos

18.7 International Year of Pulses

18.7 Année internationale des légumineuses

18.7 Año Internacional de las Legumbres

(C 2013/LIM/17)

CHAIRPERSON

Let us now turn to Sub-item 18.7, International Year of Pulses. The relevant document is C 2013/LIM/17. I invite his Excellency Mehmet Medhi Eker, Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock of Turkey, to make a statement which will be followed by a short video on the subject.

Mr Mehmet Mehdi EKER (Turkey)

The initiative for the proclamation of 2016 as the International Year of Pulses has started last year with the support of main pulse producer Member Countries.

We strongly believe that pulses will play a major role in addressing the future global food security and the environmental challenges as well as contributing to a balanced and healthy diet. According to the latest FAO reports, total pulses production of the world countries is around 62 million tons. Eleven million tons are traded, which has a value of 7 billion USD. Pulses have been adapted very well to different climatic conditions and as a result, they are grown in various regions of the world.

This makes pulses an important player in global food security. Smallholder farmers, especially in developing countries, depend on pulse production for their living. Female farmers have a greater share as a labor force in pulse cultivation. Pulses are known as poor men's meat in various cultures worldwide due to their high nutritional value as a low priced and easily accessible alternative source of protein. They are the main diet in developing countries.

In developed countries, they are mostly consumed as pulse-related processed products such as pulse flour, noodles, bread, dumplings, and snacks. Pulses have a low footprint in both carbon and water. They have less water demand in production, making them suitable for climate change adaptation purposes, especially where droughts may be likely to occur. Their nitrogen fixation property also creates an opportunity to reduce the use of nitrogen fertilizers.

Pulses also play a major role in crop rotation as a soil healer in order to avoid soil degradation due to intense farming. Cultivation of pulses contributes to the reduction of the fallow areas. Having low cholesterol, high fiber, and mineral intense content, they are recommended as an invaluable part of a healthy diet by health organizations, for preventing non-communicable diseases, mostly occurring in developed countries. These include cancer, obesity, diabetes, and heart diseases.

Pulses are also low in fat and are trans-fat free. They contain essential vitamins and minerals and small traces of sodium, serving to a balanced diet. They are gluten-free and hence are a great option for the patients with celiac disease.

We should not undermine how tasty they are. Pulses are a major part of various traditional cuisines. Dry beans served on rice is one of the famous traditional Turkish dishes that are falafels and hummus in the Middle East, Dall in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and bean paste burritos, soups, and stews in Latin American countries. There is also chick pea flour bread, known as *socca* in France, *farinata* in Italy, and *fainá* in Argentina. We should not forget the famous Mexican *chilli*.

We believe that the celebration of the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses would create a unique opportunity to encourage linkages throughout the food chain. It will raise the awareness on the contribution of pulses in terms of food and nutrition security, production, sustainable agriculture, and environment.

Turkey being the center of the region, is in the fourth rank in chickpea production and third rank in the lentil production in the world. The archaeological remains found in Anatolia prove that ancient agricultural production of chickpea and lentils date back to 8000 years BC. Today, wild relatives of lentils and peas are still observed in South East Anatolian region of Turkey.

Ladies and gentlemen, before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation for the support of Member Countries to this initiative.

Applause

Applaudissements

Applausos

CHAIRPERSON

I would also like to mention that the Turkish Delegation has kindly offered some pulse snacks which are available outside.

Video Presentation
Présentation vidéo
Videopresentación

CHAIRPERSON

Now I would like to give the floor to the Director of the Plant Production and Protection Division, Mr Clayton Campanhola, to present the item.

Mr Clayton CAMPANHOLA (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division)

We are pleased to introduce this item on behalf of FAO Plant Production and Protection Division. As you may know, the governments of Pakistan and Turkey in consultation with other Member countries submitted a proposal to declare an International Year of Pulses in 2016.

The 146th Council agreed that the draft Conference resolution be submitted to the 38th session of the Conference for adoption. The Council also reiterated the application of the FAO policy on the proclamation and presentation of International Years including the requirement for an evaluation following each International Year.

The main objective of the Year of Pulses would be to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food and nutrition security and to alleviate hunger and rural poverty.

The Year would provide an opportunity to draw attention to the benefits of pulses as already have been emphasized by His Excellency, the Minister for Food, Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Turkey and by the video that we have just watched. The pulses crops are a critical source of plant-based proteins. Pulses are used by humanitarian agencies as a valuable part of the general food basket.

The nitrogen fixing properties of pulses to make it available to successive crops means that they are an eco-friendly environmentally sustainable food choice. Health organizations around the world recommend eating pulses as part of the healthy diet to address obesity and prevent and manage known communicable diseases. However, it's important to keep in mind that should the UN General Assembly decide to declare 2016 as International Year of Pulses, there are budgetary implications for FAO since the Organization could be requested to take the lead in its development and implementation.

There are no provisions for this work in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget for 2014-16. Extra budgetary funds in the range of USD 2.5 to 3 million would be needed starting late next year for staff and administrative secretary to plan and implement activities in connection with International Year.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in view of the above, the Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in the annex of this Conference document and request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with a view of having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider as its next session, declaring the year 2016 as International Year of Pulses.

Applause
Applaudissements
Aplausos

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

My comments are pertinent to the evaluation Report on the International Year of Forests. Permit me to express sincere thanks and commend all those who contributed to that comprehensive and well-presented evaluation Report.

Madam Chair, Trinidad and Tobago joined its global counterparts in commemorating the International Year of Forests in 2011 with a series of programmes and activities. The activities highlighted natural resources and the need for good environmental practice by all persons.

In February 2011, our Ministry of Housing and Environment announced that the major activities included the launch of the forest fire protection plan in February, celebration of World Forestry Day

on the 21st of March 2011 and the national tree planting ceremony where 110,000 seedlings were planted across the nation.

In keeping with the main theme of the International Year of Forests, forests for people, the Forestry Division launched a community initiative known as the Community Green Space Challenge. This challenge was aimed at engaging the national community through civil societies to transform neglected and abandoned spaces within neighborhoods into green spaces for the entire community to enjoy.

Madam Chair, the government of Trinidad and Tobago endorses the evaluation Report on the International Year of Forests and recognizes the achievements of the IYF in raising awareness on the contribution of forests to sustainable development. We fully support the theme Celebrate Forests Every Day.

Ms Makiko UEMOTO (Japan)

Allow me to share our activities and contribution to the International Year of Forests. Japan hosted the kick-off event of the International Year of Forests with attendance of the Director of the United Nations Forum Secretariat in Ishikawa Prefecture Japan.

We also held various policy campaigns through newspapers, television programmes, forums, field events and so on, to raise awareness of people for promoting measures on forests and forestry revitalization in Japan, and sustainable forest management worldwide, in collaboration with the private sector as well as our national movement on fostering beautiful forests.

As for the observance of the World Soil Day, we consider it will be a significant platform to raise awareness on soil's important contribution to the global food security as a foundation of food production.

Ms Thi Thu QUYNH NGUYEN (Viet Nam)

Viet Nam is speaking on behalf of the Asia Group. The Asia Group is the presenter for the information on International Year and World Soil Day.

We believe that the implementation of those International Years will certainly help to raise international awareness and attention to priority concerns and eventually to contribute to the attainment of the FAO objectives.

At its Session in December 2012, the FAO Council approved the proposal to annually celebrate World Soil Day on 5 December and recommended that a Draft Resolution to be submitted to the 38th Session of the Conference for adoption. Accordingly the Director-General was requested to transmit the Resolution to the United Nations General Assembly in order to institutionalize the annual observance of the World Soil Day on the 5th of December, as a platform for raising awareness of the importance of soil for food security and ecosystem functions.

Moreover, in the framework of the Global Soil Partnership, on 5 December, a celebration of World Soil Day at FAO Headquarters has been arranged by FAO and Thailand with attendance from the FAO Director-General, Ministers, Ambassadors, Permanent Representatives, who together with the Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Thailand, were also keynote speakers for the future implementation of the World Soil Day at international level.

Madam Chair, soil is a key element and foundation for all agricultural development, ecosystem function and food security. No plan, no fodder, no fibre, no food, no rice can exist without soil. Therefore, healthy soil is essential to reduction of the world hunger and poverty in a sustainable way. This is in line with FAO regional mandate.

Moreover, in response to the urgent need to raise awareness and to promote and facilitate action to a sustainable management of showing in order to contribute to the agreed sustainable development role of a Zero Hunger and land degradation neutral world. As stated at the RIO+20 Conference and in view of the momentum offered by the adoption of the global soil partnership.

The Strategic Work Plan of the Asia Group therefore supports the Draft Resolution on the Observance of World Soil Day on 5 December and on the Proclamation of the year 2015 as the International Year of Soils and on the Proclamation of the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses.

We call on all the FAO Members to support the Draft Resolution. We also augur that the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 be a great success.

Mr Vimlendra SHARAN (India)

India associates itself with the statement of Asia Group and Viet Nam and commends the work done during the International Year of Forests and Cooperatives and the work being done in this International Year of Quinoa.

India also welcomes the forthcoming International Year of Family Farming, International Year of Soils, and International Year of Pulses along with the declaration of the World Soil Day.

Madam Chair, India is a country which derives its major proteins inputs from pulses while the annual requirement is 20 million tons, we are producing not more than 15 million tons annually. We have launched a food security mission with special emphasis on pulses to meet this deficit. We fully support Turkey and Pakistan in their effort to give pulses its rightful place in the food chain.

India also wishes to underline the importance of the International Year of Soils and declaration of the World Soil Day. Madam Chair, soil is the link between the rock core of the earth and the living things on the surface. While the other two natural elements, air and water, have received much attention of the international community and the national governments, soil has remained a poor cousin and has not received the importance it deserves.

We, therefore, congratulate Thailand for bringing this to the forefront and wholeheartedly support the adoption of the soil year and declaration of the soil day.

Sr. Luiz María PIO CORRÊA (Brasil)

Quería referirme al Año Internacional de las Cooperativas. Para Brasil, el tema de la agricultura familiar tiene un papel central en la promoción de la seguridad alimentaria y esta íntimamente asociada con la promoción de las cooperativas, que además tienen un rol esencial para la economía agraria en el país.

Tanto el tema de la agricultura familiar cuanto el tema de las cooperativas constituyen objeto de políticas públicas que reflejan la diversidad de situaciones regionales del país en las acciones del gobierno. Esas políticas buscan, además, corregir eventuales fragilidades del sector, darle acceso a crédito y tecnologías adecuadas.

La unión de pequeños productores es una palanca para su fortalecimiento, ya que a través del esfuerzo conjunto, se eliminan intermediarios, es posible tener mejor acceso a la tecnología, a crédito y a los mercados, y consecuentemente, obtener mayores ingresos.

Las cooperativas en particular tienen como características: la organización democrática, la eficiencia, sin perder el carácter social y el liderazgo asociativo que aseguran su éxito. Casi el 50 por ciento de la producción agropecuaria del Brasil tiene origen en las cooperativas, una demostración clara de su eficiencia y su condición de sector clave en la economía del país.

Brasil apoya las iniciativas de la FAO en el sentido de facilitar la formulación de políticas públicas que creen un ambiente institucional propicio al desarrollo de las cooperativas, y que refuercen sus capacidades técnicas y económicas.

Sobre el Año de la Agricultura Familiar voy a hablar en inglés.

Continues in English

The family farming sector in Brazil is of extreme relevance, responsible for almost 70 percent of all agricultural and livestock production. It is also a very diverse sector of the economy with important regional differences. Public policy in Brazil aims at supporting the sector which is responsible for the livelihood of the vast majority of the rural population.

Government actions aimed at attending to the different needs of the sector with great attention given to the participation of civil society in order to adapt public actions to the different needs of communities in a vast country like Brazil.

For all these reasons, Brazil supports the successful implementation of the International Year of Family Farming and proposes that the Organization of the event take place at the local and national levels and is undertaken in an inclusive way. Brazil is part of the steering committee which is overseeing the implementation of the International Year and would like to praise the work done so far by FAO.

I'd like to comment on the Year of Soils as well and the World Soil Day, just a brief comment. Brazil, a founding Member of the Global Soil Partnership, supports the resolution declaring 5 December as the World Soil Day and proposes the establishment of national local commissions to organize the events related to that date.

Brazil also gives its support to the implementation of the International Year of Soils.

M. Grégoire NKEOUA (Congo)

Je voudrais remercier l'ensemble des personnes qui nous ont présenté ces communications. Le Congo se félicite du travail qui a été réalisé dans le cadre de la célébration de la Journée internationale des forêts. Cependant, nous voulons souligner qu'au point 10, l'activité qui a été menée dans la sous-région Afrique centrale n'a pas été reportée. En effet, avec l'appui du Coordonnateur sous-régional pour l'Afrique centrale, qui est basé à Libreville, nous allons organiser des activités de terrain, notamment l'entretien d'une réserve forestière à Brazzaville et un séminaire a eu lieu, au cours duquel de nombreuses thématiques ont été abordées. Au point 12, nous voudrions savoir comment la FAO a fait le choix des pays avec lesquels elle a coopéré, à moins que ce ne soient les pays qui aient sollicité l'appui de la FAO.

Le Congo se réjouit de la proposition qui a été formulée de consacrer une journée spécifique aux sols, qui constituent un élément essentiel du développement de nos pays. En ce qui concerne le premier alinéa, je me demande si ce n'est pas une erreur lorsqu'il est dit « [ils] jouent un rôle dans l'atténuation du changement climatique et de la perte de la biodiversité », je pense plutôt qu'il faut dire « de la conservation de la biodiversité ».

Le Congo se réjouit également que l'on consacre une année aux légumineuses, mais je pense qu'un aspect important a été oublié, ce sont les légumineuses forestières. Vous savez qu'il y a des associations entre les légumineuses forestières et les cultures vivrières qui permettent de stabiliser l'agriculture et sont donc une solution à l'agriculture itinérante très dévoratrice des forêts; je souhaiterais par conséquent que cet aspect soit pris en compte.

M. Frédéric SEPPEY (Canada)

Le Canada se réjouit de pouvoir apporter son soutien à la proposition de désigner 2016 comme Année internationale des légumineuses.

Tel que l'a mentionné avec éloquence le Ministre de l'agriculture de la République de Turquie, les légumineuses sont une excellente source de protéines végétales pour de nombreuses populations dans le monde. Elles sont un élément clé du panier alimentaire standard utilisé par le Programme alimentaire mondial en réponse à des situations d'urgence alimentaire et peuvent également jouer un rôle positif dans l'amélioration de la durabilité de l'agriculture.

Nous aimerions remercier le Gouvernement de la Turquie, ainsi que la communauté internationale des légumineuses, pour le travail qui a été entrepris et accompli dans la préparation de cette année internationale des légumineuses et nous espérons que ce travail et cet effort se poursuivront tout au long de sa mise en œuvre.

Le Canada aimerait également remercier les autres États Membres de la FAO pour leur appui à la reconnaissance de l'Année internationale des légumineuses et de l'importante contribution que celle-ci apporte à la sécurité alimentaire mondiale, à la nutrition ainsi qu'à une agriculture durable. Au-delà de l'année internationale des légumineuses, le Canada aimerait également exprimer son appréciation

pour les rapports qui ont été présentés aujourd'hui sur les Années internationales des forêts, des coopératives, ainsi que les rapports de situation fournis sur les Années internationales du quinoa, de l'agriculture familiale, ainsi que des sols.

En outre, le Canada aimerait souligner l'excellent travail de la FAO dans l'appui que l'Organisation a apporté à ces différentes Années internationales, et nous aimerions reconnaître en particulier l'importance et l'utilité des évaluations qui ont été faites sur leur impact. Ceci est en effet très important pour pouvoir évaluer de quelle manière elles contribuent à la reconnaissance des enjeux agricoles, ainsi qu'à s'assurer d'une utilisation efficace des ressources dans les activités liées à ces années internationales.

Par conséquent, nous demandons à la FAO de poursuivre ces évaluations pour les années internationales à venir.

Mr Noel DE LUNA (Philippines)

I would like to address some of the items under discussion. Under the International Year for Family Farming, I just would like to share with you that the Philippines will soon be setting up its national committee for the International Year for Family Farming. We look forward to a very active and robust participation by farmer organizations, civil society organizations, and other NGOs under the wings of the World Rural Forum and other partners.

I would also like to state that my government is prepared to host a closing event or a conference on the International Year of Family Farming in the Philippines, subject of course to the approval by this international Steering Committee and the availability of funds. There will be more funding in my country during December.

For the proposed World Soil Day and International Year of Soils and the International Year of Pulses, my government aligns itself with the Asia Group, as stated by Viet Nam and expresses its full support.

Mr Moses MAURIHUNGIRIRE (Namibia)

Namibia takes the floor with regard to the International Year of Cooperatives. Namibia has taken note of the presentation on the International Year on Cooperatives, which highlighted the nature of the International Year of Cooperatives' achievements at national and regional and international levels.

The call by FAO with regard to the proclamation of agricultural cooperatives as key to feeding the world as the theme of the 2012 World Food Day has been timely in Namibia. Cooperatives are an important vehicle to economic, social and other developmental issues in Namibia, and in particular at rural artisanal levels. Cooperatives in agricultural related to crop and livestock production have been very instrumental in a cycle of production to marketing of these agricultural commodities, thereby strengthening the buying power of artisanal farming communities.

Namibia supports the efforts of FAO with regard to the advancement of cooperative ideology as this is a systemic and appropriate methodology to complement the development of rural subsistence agricultural practices.

Our Delegation, Madame Chair, calls on FAO with its expertise, to support Namibia and others in establishing conducive conditions with regard to policies, economic incentives, legal frameworks and consultation for appropriate user organizations and cooperatives in order to allow them to develop and thrive.

Madame Chair, in our inland aquaculture, we have seen and experienced cooperatives empowering their members and strengthening communities. They promoted food security and enhancement opportunities for small aquaculture producers. They are very much better positioned to rural needs and better aligned to serve as vehicles of local growth. By pulling resources at these levels, they improve access to information and so on and so on.

Namibia has seen and realized that cooperatives are also critical in supporting the marginalized and those that face discrimination at various levels. With this, we welcome the report on the Year of Cooperatives.

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

We are positive about 2011 being held as the International Year of Forests and we thank the Secretariat for having prepared a very detailed report on that Year. The Russian Federation has a fifth of the forestry resources on the planet and is very serious about this international initiative. As part of the preparations for the International Year of Forests, Russia adopted a special governmental resolution and approved a plan for corresponding events for that year.

The organizational committee was headed by the First Deputy of the Government. Across the country, there was broad participation from the public and there were a number of different events on forestry and forest reconstruction, on cleaning up forests, and on the prevention of forest fires, as well as competitions for children and environmental fora; Spartaciads and Olympiads, as well as forest conferences and scientific conferences on forest-related issues.

In particular, in May 2011, as part of the International Year of Forests, Russia held the first national day for planting trees. This action involved more than 190 000 people. On that day, around 25 million seedlings were planted of different species of tree across 7 000 hectares. Since 2011, this event has been held annually.

We think that the International Year of Forests provided us with a good opportunity to draw attention to the issues that are related to the forests of many countries and also provided an impetus for the better participation from the public across the world in activities connected with forests.

This initiative once again stressed that forests and sustainable forestry may make a significant contribution to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty as well as to reaching the goals of development as agreed at international level.

Ms Ann DERWIN (Ireland)

I am honoured to speak once again on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States. The acceding country to the EU, Croatia, and the candidate countries to the EU, Iceland, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Turkey align themselves with this statement.

Regarding item 18.1 on the evaluation of the International Year on Forests 2011, we are happy to note the role and impact of FAO's activities. FAO also worked with country and Collaborative Partnerships on Forest partners to support the International Day of Forests. We note that the IYF programme was run with a low budget, yet the impact was significant. This is a model we would like to see replicated within all international years.

Regarding item 18.2 on the International Year of Cooperatives 2012, we are happy with FAO's promotion of the International Year of Cooperatives, using agricultural cooperatives - key to feeding the world as the theme for the 2012 International Year. We are satisfied that the international year has reaffirmed the contribution that cooperatives can make to improving food security and reducing poverty.

Regarding item 18.3 on the International Year of Quinoa 2013, the report highlights the challenge of finding sufficient financial support to meet the aspirations of International Years. Regarding 18.4 on the International Year of Family Farming 2014, we consider that family and smallholder farming play a key role in finding food and nutrition security, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and improving their livelihoods to contribute to sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

We welcome this International Year of Family Farming 2014, which clearly offers an exceptional opportunity to raise public awareness of the significant contributions of family and smallholder farming around the world, but also to highlight the challenges faced by many of the world's agricultures and the people who depend on them.

In this regard, we would like to stress the need for increased coordination and collaboration with all of the main actors to promote mutual benefits and to foster sustainable development.

The EU is organizing a conference on family farming on 29 November 2013 in Brussels, which intends to feed and to enrich further debates ahead of the International Year on Family Farming,

especially for the European Regional Conference. An online e-consultation is also planned, encouraging a bottom-up approach to the event.

It is important to underline that the promotional activities of the Year should not turn into isolated events but build on the basis for a continuing process and future targeted activities.

Regarding Item 18.5 on the observance of the World Soil Day, and Item 18.6 on the International Year of Soils 2015, we support the draft resolution submitted. We attach great importance to raising awareness of the importance of soils globally. These two initiatives will definitely contribute to that aim.

Regarding Item 18.7 on the International Year for Pulses in 2016, we acknowledge the importance of pulses as a source of protein for the human diet and their benefits as part of a balanced diet, as well as their environmentally sustainable cultivation. We can support the draft resolution submitted.

For future proposals, we would note our support for the FAO policy on the proclamation and implementation of international years.

Mr ZONG Huilai (China) (Original language Chinese)

Soil is essential, as we know, for sustainable development of agriculture and is also of essential importance for food security as a result of its importance in agriculture and its development at large. Hence we see the essential importance of soil. Hence we are willing to endorse what was said by the Asia Group and support what was said in the statement regarding activities in the Asia region.

In order to do the necessary awareness-generation work or awareness-heightening work, all of these things are necessary, and also to reinforce soil protection. In this regard, we support the proposal presented by Thailand and the holding of a World Soil Day on 5 December and, in 2015, the International Year of Soils.

Madame Chair, in order to foster progress in the area of nutrition and in order to attain the objective of good quality nutrition and to increase the income of farmers and people who produce food, we support the proposal made by Pakistan and Ethiopia to have 2016 declared the International Year of Pulses.

Madame Chair, in order to properly protect the earth's soil resources and in order to foster, promote, and protect biodiversity, family farming quite obviously plays a very important role. It is for this reason that we also support the proposal to have 2014 as the International Year of Family Farming.

Ms Eklas MOHAMMED MOHAMMED ALI (Sudan) (Original language Arabic)

We would like to express our appreciation to what was done by the Secretariat during the International Year of Forests and especially reinforcing the linkages between focal points and launching the internet website.

We have, however, to focus on the importance of forests and the role they play, considering that the surface of forest is decreasing worldwide and this is having negative repercussions on climate change. We hope that promoting the importance of forests will not be limited to the year 2011. It is important for this to become a continuous process.

Sudan pays great attention to this vital sector and therefore we have organized on the International Day of Forests, several activities which brought together the different authorities and ministries. Sudan is also trying to overcome the consequences of the decrease in forest surfaces and we would like to reiterate the importance of forest products in achieving food security and safety.

By the same token, we would like to reiterate our support to declare 2016 the International Year of Pulses, considering the importance of pulses in the human diet and considering that they are an importance source of proteins when we lack animal proteins.

The representative of the Secretariat mentioned that celebrating this International Year of Pulses requires financial resources. Therefore we wonder whether you are suggestion any formula to provide any necessary financial resources and what are the forms of support that you are suggesting? Can a given country contribute to those resources?

To conclude, I would like to associate myself to the representative of Canada in thanking Turkey for what it has done and for the efforts that were deployed to prepare for this forum, and once again we also reiterate our support to the proposal of declaring the International Year of Pulses.

Sr. Victor Hugo VÁSQUEZ MAMANI (Bolivia)

Primero, deseo agradecerles por haber hecho posible que 2013 sea el Año Internacional de la Quínoa.

Segundo, Bolivia, como primer país productor de quínoa en el mundo, está haciendo los esfuerzos necesarios para que se cumplan los objetivos planteados en este Año Internacional; sin embargo, solicitamos a los otros países a hacer un esfuerzo financiero para que, se cumpla de manera objetiva todo aquello que se ha planteado en la Agenda del Año Internacional de la Quínoa.

Tercero, apoyamos a todas las solicitudes, las resoluciones de los Años Internacionales de Legumbres, Bosques, Suelos.

Mr James BULLOCK (Australia)

Australia is supportive of FAO's work on international years and days and recognizes their role in promoting international collaborating and awareness-raising. We support the observance of the International Day of Forests and International Soil Day.

As a general observation, we would encourage FAO to avoid overly proliferating such years and days going forward, such that these tools retain their impact and such that fatigue around them is avoided. We recall the policy on the proclamation of and implementation of international years at paragraph 4, which says that there should be an interval of at least two years between two international years and a longer interval between years concerning similar subjects.

We would also encourage FAO going forward to be innovative in seeking resources to fund these activities other than from the core Programme of Work and Budget, such as from private sector stakeholders.

Sr. Manuel Eduardo CLAROS OVIEDO (Venezuela)

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela agradece la presentación de los documentos e informes relativos a los años internacionales y días internacionales.

En referencia al Día Internacional del Suelo, el tema 18.5 y al Año Internacional sobre los Suelos, tema 18.6, reiteramos nuestro apoyo a las propuestas presentadas, en especial, queremos recordar que el Grupo de los 77 más China durante el año 2012, bajo la presidencia de Venezuela, llevó adelante esta propuesta presentada por Tailandia, que luego fue endosada por los 144º y 145º períodos de sesiones del Consejo.

La celebración del Día Internacional del Suelo, cada 5 de diciembre, permitirá resaltar la importancia de este recurso natural para el bienestar humano a través de su contribución a la alimentación y la agricultura.

En cuanto al Año Internacional, igualmente deseamos reiterar el apoyo que había sido dado por el Grupo de los 77 a la iniciativa del reino de Tailandia para la proclamación del 2015 como Año Internacional del Suelo. Como ya hemos dicho, este es un recurso natural muy importante para el resguardo de biodiversidad, para la alimentación y la agricultura. También, el G-77 había dado este respaldo en el 146º Consejo, celebrado en abril.

Gracias y enhorabuena a todos los por la aprobación y felicitación de todos los miembros a estos días y años internacionales.

CHAIRPERSON

I am afraid we cannot continue with the discussion now. We will resume at 14.30 hours in this same room for the final comments and for the response from the Secretariat.

The meeting rose at 12.36 hours

La séance est levée à 12 h 36

Se levanta la sesión a las 12.36 horas

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session Trente-huitième session 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
FIFTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I CINQUIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I QUINTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
19 June 2013

The Fifth Meeting was opened at 14.47 hours
Ms Nomatemba Tambo,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La cinquième séance est ouverte à 14 h 47
sous la présidence de Mme Nomatemba Tambo,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la quinta reunión a las 14.47
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Nomatemba Tambo,
Presidente de la Comisión I

18. International Years and Days: (continued) (C 2013/LIM/15)**18. Années et journées internationales: (suite)****18. Años y días internacionales: (continuación)***18.1 Evaluation of the International Year of Forests 2011 (C 2013/32)**18.1 Évaluation de l'Année internationale des forêts – 2011**18.1 Evaluación del Año Internacional de los Bosques (2011)**18.2 International Year of Cooperatives 2012 (C 2013/33)**18.2 Année internationale des coopératives – 2012**18.2 Año Internacional de las Cooperativas (2012)**18.3 International Year of Quinoa 2013 (C 2013/34)**18.3 Année internationale du quinoa – 2013**18.3 Año Internacional de la Quinoa (2013)**18.4 International Year of Family Farming 2014 (C 2013/35)**18.4 Année internationale de l'agriculture familiale – 2014**18.4 Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar (2014)**18.5 World Soil Day (C 2013/36)**18.5 Journée mondiale des sols**18.5 Día Mundial del Suelo**18.6 International Year of Soils (C 2013/LIM/16)**18.6 Année internationale des sols**18.6 Año Internacional de los Suelos**18.7 International Year of Pulses (C 2013/LIM/17)**18.7 Année internationale des légumineuses**18.7 Año Internacional de las Legumbres***CHAIRPERSON**

We continue the discussions with Item 18

Ms Laura SCHWEITZER-MEINS (United States of America)

The United States approves the draft resolution for the International Year of Soils and for the International Year of Pulses, however, only if they will be fully financed through extra budgetary funds.

Given the limited time remaining, I will limit further remarks to item 18.5 on the observance of World Soil Day. The United States wishes to endorse the observance of World Soil Day on December 5th. We further commend FAO and the Global Soils Partnership for their efforts to raise the level of understanding and awareness about the importance of soil for achieving food and nutrition security and healthy ecosystems.

Soil is a critical component of the natural system making vital contributions to food, water and energy security and to the mitigation of biodiversity loss and climate change. Maintaining healthy and productive soil is thus paramount and important for agriculture and ecosystems worldwide.

Devoting a day to celebrating soil will serve as a powerful means of educating people and has the potential to catalyze actions around the globe in support of sustainable soil management.

Another item I would like to note is the importance of continuing to give careful thought to the activities carried out to promote and celebrate future global soils days to ensure that the regular budget and Human Resources of the Organization are not impacted.

Any financial expenditure that is made must come from extra budgetary funds.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

La delegación argentina desea referirse a varios temas de la Agenda. Sobre el Año Internacional de la Quínoa, la Resolución 66/221 de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, que decidió declarar 2013 Año Internacional de la Quínoa, ha puesto de manifiesto el reconocimiento internacional de la quínoa y su importancia, ya no solo para los pueblos indígenas andinos, sino para el resto de los pueblos del mundo.

La quínoa es un cultivo milenario natural que cuenta con más de 3000 variedades o de cotipos, tanto cultivadas como silvestres, capaz de crecer en las condiciones más duras. Como alimento, se destaca por su elevado valor nutritivo, por lo que se puede constituir un gran aporte para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición de la humanidad. Por eso, la Argentina ha apoyado, desde un principio, que se declare 2013 Año Internacional de la Quínoa.

En este sentido, queremos felicitar al Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia y a todos aquellos Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas que han emprendido acciones concretas de promoción respecto del papel que juega la quínoa con su versatilidad agronómica, su gran biodiversidad y su elevado valor nutricional para el logro de la seguridad alimentaria y la nutrición y para la erradicación de la pobreza, lo cual contribuye a la consecución de los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio y, particularmente, del FODM1, erradicar la pobreza y el hambre.

En relación con la implementación del Año Internacional de la Quínoa, el establecimiento del Comité Internacional de Coordinación del Año Internacional de la Quínoa, del cual la Argentina ejerce la relatoría junto con Francia, ha sido clave para articular la participación conjunta de los actores interesados a nivel local, nacional y regional. Siguiendo los lineamientos previstos en el Comité Internacional, Argentina conformó el Comité Nacional para el Año Internacional de la Quínoa, cuyo papel fundamental es diseñar e implementar las actividades nacionales relativas al Año Internacional. Estas actividades son fundamentales para que el Año Internacional de la Quínoa se traduzca en programas y medidas concretas, y no se agote simplemente en su declaración y celebración.

Para concluir este punto, Argentina desea renovar, una vez más, su apoyo a las labores de promoción de la quínoa a través de diversas acciones; en particular, aquellas emprendidas conjuntamente con la FAO y con el Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia.

No cabe duda de que la promoción de las propiedades nutritivas, económicas, ambientales y culturales de un alimento como la quínoa constituye un paso concreto en la lucha contra el flagelo del hambre y la erradicación de la pobreza. Sobre el Tema 18.4, Año Internacional de la Agricultura Familiar, la delegación argentina desea destacar la importancia de la agricultura familiar y de las acciones preparatorias que se llevan a cabo durante dicho año.

Sobre el Tema 18.5, Día Mundial del Suelo, y 18.6, Año Internacional de los Suelos, la Argentina es un país que reconoce la necesidad y la importancia de la conservación del recurso natural suelo, ya que se trata de un recurso natural estratégico no renovable que hace a la soberanía de la Nación.

En este sentido, cabe destacar que, en la Argentina se ha hecho una amplia adopción del sistema de siembra directa, esto es la implantación de cultivos sin remoción de la cobertura, lo cual contribuye ampliamente a la disminución de la tasa de erosión y al secuestro de carbonos. Así mismo, cabe señalar que en la Argentina se está trabajando activamente en programas y proyectos vinculados a la salud del suelo desde distintos organismos del gobierno.

Por lo expuesto, Argentina apoya la aprobación por parte de la Conferencia de las resoluciones con miras a la celebración del Día Mundial del Suelo el 5 de diciembre y la Declaración del Año Internacional de los Suelos en 2015. Por último, con relación al tema 18.7, Año Internacional de las Legumbres, apoyamos que se declare el año 2016 Año Internacional de las Legumbres.

Mr Mei Rochjat DARMAWIREDDJA (Indonesia)

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Chair of Group 77 and China. First of all, let me congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of Commission I.

Speaking on agenda items 18.5, 18.6 and 18.7, the Group recognizes that soils are the foundation of agricultural development and ecosystem sustainability. They provide the basis for food, feed, fuel and fiber production, clean water, nutrient cycles, organic carbon stock, one-quarter of global biodiversity and also serve as a platform of soils for construction. However, it is also a finite natural resource and it is non-renewable on human timescale.

Despite the role of soil in the life of humanity, degradation is increasing due to inappropriate practices, growing population pressure and inadequate governance of this essential natural resource.

In this regard, the group highly commends and supports the initiative motivated by Thailand plus to identify World Soil Day and declare 5th December for it to be observed every year and second declaration of International Year of Soils in 2015.

The Government of the Kingdom of Thailand has proposed within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership that International Year of Soil will be celebrated in 2015. Similarly the group also supports the proposal to declare an International Year of Pulses in 2016 presented by the government of Pakistan and Turkey.

The main objective of this initiative is to raise awareness of the contribution of pulses to food security. As we all know, pulses are important food crops and offer significant nutrition and help advantages due to their high protein and essential amino acid content as well as being a source of complex carbohydrates and several vitamins and minerals.

The group accordingly endorses all resolutions presented to this Commission for its approval.

Mr Md. Mafizur RAHMAN (Bangladesh)

I would like to thank all the Reports under item number 18. Particularly we thank the Reports and the draft resolution of all the International Years. I would like to mention here only the International Years that will be celebrated in the future. That means 2014, 15 and 16.

We all know the role of the family farming. Actually it will be very much contributing for achieving food security in the globe. So Bangladesh strongly supports the celebration of the International Year of Family Farming.

And also regarding the soil and soil day and International Year of Soil, actually the celebration of this day or year actually will increase the awareness among the globe to maintain the soil fertility and quality because we all know that due to several reasons the soil fertility is actually going down so we support the celebration of International Year of Soil.

Regarding the International Year of Pulses, definitely we all know that for the poor this is an important source of protein, after animal protein. Those who cannot buy, those who cannot afford, pulses are very important for the poor countries and also poor people.

So Bangladesh supports all the International Years that will be celebrated in the future and that already celebrated but we do not like to see only these focused celebrating. We want to see that these celebrations should really have some complications for the development of ensuring food security as well as to maintain the environmental quality of the globe. Thank you Madam Chair. Thank you all here for giving me the floor and for questions here.

M. Rachid BENAÏSSA (Algérie)

J'aimerais intervenir sur tous les sujets qui ont fait l'objet d'une discussion ce matin, mais plus particulièrement sur le sujet concernant les forêts. L'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies avait déclaré l'année 2011 comme Année internationale des forêts afin de sensibiliser le public à la gestion durable, la conservation et le développement durable de tous les types de forêts.

Les forêts fournissent des abris, elles sont source de nourriture, de médicaments et d'eau propre. Elles fournissent un large éventail de services environnementaux, dont la conservation de la biodiversité, l'approvisionnement en eau, la séquestration du carbone, le contrôle des inondations et une protection contre l'érosion des sols et la désertification. Elles jouent donc un rôle clé pour le maintien d'une

stratégie climatique environnementale globale. Les forêts jouent un rôle vital pour la survie et le bien-être des peuples à travers le monde pour l'ensemble des sept milliards d'habitants de la planète.

Tout cela est indiscutable et la gestion, le maintien, le développement et l'extension de cet espace vital et rural convergent, bien entendu, vers la sécurité alimentaire avec, bien sûr, la lutte contre l'envasement des barrages, les plantations contre la désertification pour éviter la disparition des zones arables utiles pour l'agriculture et, grâce à tout un plan d'actions initié dans notre pays, l'Algérie a été le point focal pour l'année 2012 de la Journée internationale des forêts. Les programmes ont été nombreux et ils convergent tous vers la sécurité alimentaire.

Je ne voudrais quand même pas négliger d'autres sujets discutés ce matin et qui sont tout aussi importants que ceux des forêts, comme la programmation de la Journée internationale des sols. Nous félicitons les pays qui ont pensé, plus particulièrement je crois l'Indonésie, à cette ressource naturelle. Comme cela a été évoqué, on a beaucoup donné pour l'eau et d'autres ressources naturelles, mais les sols semblaient avoir été oubliés. Je crois quand même qu'en tant que pays de l'Afrique du Nord, qui présente un déséquilibre écologique et où l'érosion fait des ravages avec la désertification, nous devrions adhérer complètement à cette journée internationale pour lui donner toute la considération voulue et que ce thème soit traité dans tous ses paramètres, afin qu'il soit durable et que l'on puisse compter sur une sécurité alimentaire pour l'avenir.

Les cultures vivrières sont des cultures familiales et occupent un espace très important dans le contexte rural. Elles ont besoin de plus d'équilibre pour assurer la sécurité alimentaire et augmenter les productions agricoles. Je crois que dans notre pays, le vécu actuel est le développement rural appelé gestion des espaces ruraux. Cela signifie la prise en charge des populations rurales avec protection de toutes les ressources naturelles et création d'activités économiques: cultures et agriculture familiale pour un développement et un équilibre écologiques et pour une augmentation du système de production alimentaire.

Un sujet important aussi est celui des légumineuses. En tant que forestier, j'aimerais ajouter un mot sur les légumineuses. Il s'agit de plantes herbacées et nous sommes intéressés par leur production, mais aussi par le fait qu'elles aident à lutter contre l'érosion. Les pays initiateurs de ce sujet, tels le Pakistan et la Turquie, sont aussi à féliciter. On doit donc continuer à donner du poids au développement des légumineuses, car c'est une production agricole qui converge vers la sécurité alimentaire et aide aussi à la lutte contre l'envasement des barrages et l'érosion d'une façon globale. Quant à la culture du quinoa, pour nous, en Algérie, cette plante nous est inconnue, mais comme il s'agit d'une culture céréalière, je pense qu'il est juste de la développer.

Mr James BULLOCK (Australia)

We would just like to make a couple of additional comments to clarify our support for the International Year of Pulses which I had meant to mention before.

As a major exporter of pulses, Australia sees the proposed initiative to declare 2016 as the International Year of Pulses as an important element in our role as a reliable global supplier of food. An International Year of Pulses would help to raise awareness of the nutritional benefits of pulses and their contribution to global food security as a substantive food base for the poor.

Pulses are also a valuable contributor to sustainable agriculture. The Australian Government supports the proposal for 2016 as the International Year of Pulses.

Mme Irène Marie Cécile MBOUKOU KIMBATSA (Congo)

C'est juste que, nous avons, comme nous, d'autres pays dans la salle qui ne connaissent pas cette plante, le quinoa. Ça aurait été bien qu'on puisse assister à une projection comme tout à l'heure, avec les légumineuses. Ça aurait été une bonne chose de connaître cette plante-là.

Mr Eduardo ROJAS BRIALES (Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department)

Regarding the first item on the International Year of the Forest, may I express my thanks to the several Delegations that have commented on the different activities in their countries and activities led by FAO. We are very thankful to all of your comments.

A specific comment brought forward by Congo regarding activities in Central Africa. We regret that they were not sufficiently recorded but we understand that the activities around the globe have been so numerous that the limited Secretariat could not attend all of them. For sure, regarding the role of leguminous trees as well as for soils, and as well as for animal feed and the different environmental and productive roles is well noted and we will take into account this very interesting proposal that is in the frame of the enlargement of the role of agro-forestry very especially in the tropics or dry or humid tropics. So we take account of the proposal.

Ms Marcela VILLARREAL (Director, Office for Communication, Partnerships and Advocacy)

I would like to address both items that I spoke about this morning so I will start with the International Year of Cooperatives and then I will just follow immediately with Family Farming.

I would like to thank all Members especially for all of the support expressed for the work in both of these international years. Regarding the International Year of Cooperatives, I thank you for your comments and I would like to ensure that we will continue the work as you have both suggested, Brazil and Namibia. We will continue to work on identifying policies, economic incentives, legal frameworks that are conducive to cooperatives so that they can be fostered and very productive.

Now, regarding the International Year of Family Farming, we take note of the Philippines' suggestion to host a closing event and we take note of their institution of a national committee and I would like to express that FAO will redouble its efforts in order to enhance collaboration and coordination of all of the different activities, and we already have quite a lot of activities starting to be lined up.

I would like to underline that we are seeing how we coordinate among these activities so that they effectively build upon each other. So the first round of activities this year, the regional consultations, will provide the knowledge base and on which we will build activities and increase knowledge for the upcoming year. So we are developing a plan to see how exactly these activities feed into each other and therefore build synergies. We will not have isolated events from this point of view.

And I would like to also reassure you that for us, the international years are not only a way of celebrating these very important aspects, but of building up a programme of work that will ensure impact regarding reduction of hunger in the world.

Mr Clayton CAMPANHOLA (Director, Plant Production and Protection Division)

Thank you very much to all of the countries that have expressed support for the International Year of Pulses. I just want to re-emphasize the need for resources so we need to find different sources of resources besides our regular budget since we don't have any prediction or any budget specifically allocated to the International Year of Pulses. The way we can do it, responding directly to Sudan Delegates, we can consider the contributions by the private sector in some activities and also voluntary contributions by countries. The Member Countries and the stakeholders are most welcome to contribute to a mechanism that we are going to create for supporting, the managerial coordination of different issues to run a in a very efficient and efficacious way, the International Year of Pulses.

Mr Pasquale STEDUTO (Officer-in-Charge, Land and Water Division)

Concerning the World Soil Day and the International Year of Soil, we thank you for all of the great support that has been demonstrated and I would like just to say two things. One is the intervention and suggestion from Congo about the right wording on the mitigation for climate change and the conservation for biodiversity. This is something that will be accommodated.

The second point is about the resources, financial resources. We are counting only on extra-budgetary resources, no regular programme, as there is a big engagement by all of the Member Countries and Membership within the Global Soil Partnership. So we are in very good shape in the resource strategy for additional mobilization.

Video Presentation

Présentation vidéo

Video presentación

CHAIRPERSON

I would like to conclude now on Item 18. On Saturday, the Plenary Session of the Conference will decide on the suggested action for the International Year of the Pulses.

I would like to say that the Drafting Committee will now continue in Mexico Room and the countries who need to be there are Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, France, Indonesia, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Paraguay, Sudan and Turkey.

The meeting rose at 15:23 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 23

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.23 horas

CONFERENCE CONFERENCE CONFERENCIA

Thirty-eighth Session Trente-huitième session 38.º período de sesiones
Rome, 15-22 June 2013 Rome, 15-22 juin 2013 Roma, 15-22 de junio de 2013
SIXTH MEETING OF COMMISSION I SIXIÈME SÉANCE DE LA COMMISSION I SEXTA REUNIÓN DE LA COMISIÓN I
19 June 2013

The Sixth Meeting was opened at 15.11 hours
Ms Nomatemba Tambo,
Chairperson of Commission I, presiding

La sixième séance est ouverte à 15 h 11
sous la présidence de Mme Nomatemba Tambo,
Président de la Commission I

Se abre la sexta reunión a las 15.11
bajo la presidencia de la Sra. Nomatemba Tambo,
Presidente de la Comisión I

Adoption of Report / Adoption du Rapport / Aprobación del Informe

(C 2013/I/REP/10; C 2013/I/REP/11.1; C 2013/I/REP/11.2; C 2013/I/REP/11.3; C 2013/I/REP/11.4; C 2013/I/REP/12; C 2013/I/REP/13; C 2013/I/REP/14; C 2013/I/REP/15; C 2013/I/REP/16; C 2013/I/REP/17; C 2013/I/REP/18; C 2013/I/REP/18.1; C 2013/I/REP/18.2; C 2013/I/REP/18.3; C 2013/I/REP/18.4; C 2013/I/REP/18.5; C 2013/I/REP/18.6; C 2013/I/REP/18.7; C 2013/I/REP/19)

CHAIRPERSON

We would like now to start our duties of today with the adoption of the report of Commission I. I thank and complement the members of the Drafting Committee for the dedication and their good work, and also the chairperson, Ms Lorena Patiño.

I should like to inform you that by adopting the Report, the Commission is also endorsing the three Resolutions which are: the Observance of World Soil Day on 5th December, the International Year of Soils in 2015 and the International Year of Pulses in 2016.

These Resolutions could not be adopted yesterday because we could not reach a quorum. I give the floor now to the Chairperson of the Drafting Committee Ms Lorena Patiño to introduce the Report.

Sra. Lorena Noemi PATIÑO (Paraguay)

Quisiera agradecer a los países participantes del Comité de Redacción, el señor Vicepresidente representante de Canadá, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Francia, Indonesia, Malí, Nueva Zelanda, Noruega, Omán, Sudán y Turquía. De igual manera, quisiera agradecer a la Secretaría de los intérpretes, quienes nos han apoyado en toda la labor durante la larga noche de ayer.

Hemos analizado las propuestas del Consejo de la FAO, durante las sesiones 145.º y 146.º y el Comité propone la adopción de las resoluciones referentes al Día Mundial de los Suelos, el Año Internacional de los Suelos y el Año Internacional de las Legumbres.

La delegación argentina solicitó agregar a las resoluciones relacionadas a la seguridad alimentaria, la palabra “nutrición” en todos los textos, por lo que la redacción final sería la siguiente: seguridad alimentaria y nutrición.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Quisiera agradecer el trabajo que usted asumió anoche, presidiendo una sesión que terminó a las 23 horas y también a los miembros del Comité de Redacción por su buena disposición para trabajar. Sin embargo, observamos en estos Proyectos de resolución que en algunos falta la referencia “seguridad alimentaria y nutrición”. Lo mismo estamos observando en el texto del Proyecto de Informe, que en algunos lugares se escapó incluir la referencia a la nutrición, por lo tanto pedimos que lo tengan en cuenta en la revisión final del Informe.

Sra. Lorena Noemi PATIÑO (Paraguay)

En relación al tema 11.3 quisiéramos solicitar que se corrija la definición en el texto en inglés de la abreviación “ODA” en el Informe que será aprobado en la sesión plenaria del sábado, por lo que la redacción final sería “*official development assistance*”. Después de reflexionar sobre el trabajo del Comité de Redacción y los compromisos hechos para lograr un consenso, propongo a la Comisión I adoptar en bloque el Informe del Comité de Redacción con los cambios acordados.

Sra. Andrea Silvina REPETTI (Argentina)

Simplemente para observar que por falta de tiempo, la versión en español no fue adecuadamente revisada. Lo haremos ahora y enviaremos nuestros comentarios a la Secretaría si encontramos que no coinciden las versiones como hemos observado en español y en inglés.

CHAIRPERSON

After reflecting on the work of the Drafting Committee, and the compromises made to reach a consensus, I recommend to Commission I to adopt *en bloc* the report of the Drafting Committee with the agreed changes. I am happy to conclude the Commission I. Thank you for your positive participation.

The meeting closed at 15:16 hours

La séance est levée à 15 h 16

Se levanta la sesión a las 15.16 horas